



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Cover : *Rajnath Singh elected as new BJP National President.*

HISTORIC PICTURE



Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other on the stage at the Lucknow Adhiveshan on 1960.



vFk pSua fuR; tkra fuR; a ok el; I s e'reA
rFkfi Roa egkckgks uSa 'kkSprægFI AA26AA

And, Arjuna, if you should suppose this soul to be subject to constant birth and death, even then you should not grieve like this

— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 26)

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“Congress has vitiated the atmosphere not just within India, but also weakened the country's position internationally too as it has allowed Pakistan to take advantage. Someone has to stop the Congress and its govt.” -**Rajnath Singh**

“Politics can be practised to the extent that it benefits the Congress or even harms the BJP but should not be taken to a level where national interest is affected.” -**Sushma Swaraj**

“Today, a large number of people are moving to the cities and in such an atmosphere it would be incorrect to view Urbanisation as a challenge, Instead, we must view it as an opportunity.” - **Narendra Modi**

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde`s irresponsible and dangerous remarks certainly damages national interest. Party before country must not be entertained. Shinde misused his public position and misused voters trust. The Congress must discourage its leaders who act against national interest. Sacking Sinde will be a warning against those Politicians who put his party first and nation last. Vote-bank politics must not be at the cost of nation`s interest.

-Shailendra
Delhi



*Kamal Sandesh Parivar
wishes a Happy
Vasant Panchami
to all of its esteemed readers.*

Attention Readers !

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BJP an example in the world of cut-throat politics

Editorial...

The memory of Jansangh days has become fresh in our mind. "Where are you, you have to reach Delhi immediately and accept the post of president, it is the decision of the party". Those who were to get responsibilities used to remain far off from this kind of news. Before accepting the responsibility they used to say that this responsibility can only be accepted when all the others were ready to take responsibility together as the post of president was only a means. Organisation functions on the basis of collectivism. After so many years it has happened again that while Shri Rajnath Singh was touring his constituency Ghaziabad, he was informed over phone that this is the decision of the party that you should become the president and was called to Delhi. Therefore the memory of Jansangh days coming to the mind is natural. When cut-throat competition is the order of the day in politics, if a party presents an example like this in such a time, then it would definitely earn applauses. Congratulations BJP! What not the people do to get a post and then to hang on to it and to remain clinging to it for ever!

The significance of the courage which the outgoing president Shri Nitin Gadkari showed in resigning from his post is nothing less than the significance of Shri Rajnath Singh getting elected to the post of president which in itself takes BJP on the path of being a "party with a difference". The statement of Shri Nitin Gadkari that he will not take any post unless proven innocent signifies the character of a Sangh swayamsevak. If we fail to keep this political culture alive then India would drift away in the path of distraction and deviation.

It is a long story of the grim condition of the Indian politics. Congress has started a perverted political culture in India which is not only dangerous for Congress but for the entire nation. The game of personal attacks in politics and attempt to tarnish the image of opposition leaders with political vendetta will take Congress nowhere. It is now a proven fact that Congress is perverted in politics and BJP is cultured.

Year 2013-14 is a year full of challenges for Indian politics. Congress would want to see the suppression of opposition leaders so that it keeps clinging to power somehow. While the sentiments in the country is just opposite to the aspirations of the Congress. In such a time as a main constituent of NDA, BJP has greater responsibilities on its shoulders. Shri Rajnath Singh will have to bring NDA in power while keeping the image of BJP as the "party with a difference" intact. He is experienced. He is energetic. He has been a good administrator. The post of president is not new to him. He is humble. He has come to the post from being a simple karyakarta. The essence of being a karyakarta is always present in him. That's why soon after taking the responsibility of the party president he said categorically that we all had made up our mind that Shri Gadkari should become president for the second time. The constitution was amended for that to happen. But the manner in which Congress tried to tarnish his image will not be allowed to succeed. Not only this, he said, "Nitin ji entire party is behind you". Today BJP needs that kind of unity.

Outgoing president Shri Nitin Gadkari is endowed with rich imagination power. He has unflinching faith in innovations. To undertake new experiments and to implement them is his basic nature. He is constructive in his approach. He has taken politics not as a profession but as a tool to serve the nation. He continued with the ►►

Jankranti Party (Rashtrawadi) merges with BJP

UP has not seen a better chief minister than Kalyan Singh, says Rajnath



In a significant development Jankranti Party (Rashtrawadi) was merged with the BJP on January 21 in Lucknow. The merger was announced by son of former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Kalyan Singh and Jankranti Party (Rashtrawadi) National President Shri Rajvir Singh in a rally. The five-hour long rally was packed with top BJP leaders including the present National BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh, the then National Party President Shri Nitin Gadkari, former BJP National President Shri Murli Manohar Joshi and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Sushri Uma Bharti.

The emotions ran high when Shri Kalyan Singh said, "I have returned to the BJP because my ultimate wish is to get wrapped in a BJP flag when I die." He further declared, "I will now devote the rest of my life to the BJP." He also lashed out at Union Home Minister Shri Sushilkumar Shinde for his remarks on BJP and RSS during the Congress conclave in Jaipur, and sought an apology from both Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh and Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi over the issue. "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress President Sonia Gandhi should apologise to the Hindu society for the minister's statement," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated Shri Kalyan Singh for his leadership and said, UP has not seen a better chief minister than Kalyan Singh. Describing Kalyan as father like, Sushri Uma Bharti told the gathering, "I owe a lot to Kalyan Singhji from whom I learnt my politics and could even claim to have more right over him than his son Rajvir." Prominent among those who spoke on the occasion were senior BJP leader Shri Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, BJP National Vice President Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Uttar Pradesh BJP President Shri Laxmi Shankar Bajpai. ■

►► tradition of including many in the party. Many young people joined the party in his time. New consciousness came in the party. He deserves to be congratulated because he preferred prestige over post. And his moral courage would definitely give a new dimension to the Indian politics. On the other hand people would also pay attention to the fact that

setting-plotting, cut-throat competition, fraud and perverted political approach would not earn them post and if a person has patience and perseverance then the post itself would follow him to adorn itself.

Politics is the name of engaging in *rajdharm* through patience, perseverance, courage, hard work, daring, morality,

probity, awakening, watchfulness, readiness to struggle in time of need, willingness to serve, aim to change the society through power, nationalism and good governance. Politics is not a child's play, it is a serious path to adorn and decorate the country by taking it to *param vaibhav*.



Rajnath Singh elected unopposed as new BJP National President

From Our Correspondent

Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh was unanimously elected as the new BJP National President on 23 January, 2013 after the completion of the term of the incumbent BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari. The committed, soft-spoken and articulate farmer leader who came from a very modest family background from Uttar Pradesh returned to the position in the party in which he found himself about seven years ago, when he was chosen by the party to head it on 24 December, 2005.

Shri Singh who emerged as the sole consensus candidate after Shri Nitin Gadkari handed over his resignation on 22nd January taking a moral stand by deciding not to contest for a second term till his name was cleared of all false charges, was the only candidate to file the nominations for the post of the National President of BJP and

soon after the announcement of the result by the Election officer Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot in the presence of BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani, former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley and former BJP National Presidents Dr. M M Joshi and Shri M Venkaiah Naidu and other senior leaders, Shri Rajnath Singh was declared elected unopposed.

From a college lecturer in Physics, Shri Rajnath Singh's rise in politics has been gradual and steady during which he had been BJP National President from 2005 to 2006 and again from 2006 to 2009 and earned the reputation of being an able administrator as Union Minister twice and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Currently a Lok Sabha member from Ghaziabad, Shri Singh has emerged from the ranks as a national leader in the party largely due to his non controversial image and

BJP Parliamentary Board appreciates Nitin Gadkari for his leadership

The Parliamentary Board of the BJP met at BJP Headquarter in New Delhi on 23rd January. The Board placed on record its sense of deep appreciation for the leadership provided by Shri Nitin Gadkari to the Party during his tenure as the President of the BJP. Shri Gadkari's dynamism, good work and open mindedness helped immensely in expanding the support base of the party. Shri Gadkari displayed qualities of an ideal karyakarta and was always available to party workers.

leadership qualities. After taking over BJP's reins from veteran leader Shri LK Advani in December 2005, Shri Rajnath Singh sought to rebuild the party by focusing on basic ideologies and said there would be "no compromise" on the ideology of the party. Under his leadership BJP has performed well and won various State elections in MP, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal, Punjab and Jharkhand.

Shri Singh was born in a family of farmers in a small village of Bhabhaura in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district on July 10, 1951. Shri Singh obtained MSc degree in physics from Gorakhpur University and was appointed lecturer in the K B Post graduate degree college in Mirzapur in 1971. Shri Singh's association with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh began in 1964 when he was only 13 year old. Even as lecturer he remained attached to RSS.

As a committed *Karyakarta*, he began his political innings with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in 1969 as its Organizing Secretary in Gorakhpur and later shouldered the responsibility of the Secretary of the then Bharatiya Jan Sangh's Mirzapur unit in 1974. During the Emergency, Shri Rajnath Singh joined Jaiprakash Narayan's movement and was arrested in July 1975 before being released in 1977.

Shri Singh made his debut in electoral politics when he became an MLA in Uttar Pradesh in 1977. In 1983, he became State Secretary of BJP and a year later he found himself leading the Uttar Pradesh unit of BJYM. He later given the responsibility of National General Secretary of BJYM in 1986 and subsequently he became the National President in 1988. In the same year, Shri Singh was elected Member, Legislative Council in Uttar Pradesh, a position he held till 1994, serving in between as Education Minister in the Kalyan Singh government until it was dismissed in December 1992 following the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya. Shri Rajnath Singh became education minister in the first BJP government in Uttar Pradesh in 1991. As Education Minister in UP Shri Singh had gained popularity by enacting the Anti-Copying Act. However, the opposition parties had up in arms against him during that time. During this period, he introduced Vedic mathematics to the State syllabus. He would later hold many important positions, including that of UP Chief Minister and several portfolios in the central government during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA regime.

"I accept this not as a post, but as a responsibility" : Rajnath Singh

After taking over Shri Rajnath Singh said, "I accept this not as a post, but as a responsibility" and said he would take the battle to a decisive end by bringing BJP to power in all the



upcoming elections. Shri Singh said he was taking over the charges of the party in not very conducive conditions in the wake of false allegations leveled against the outgoing BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari.

He said though the party wanted Shri Gadkari to continue as party President for a second term, but he took a moral high by deciding not to contest for a second term till his name was cleared of all charges. He further said BJP will stand behind Shri Nitin Gadkari in his fight to clear his name of all false charges.

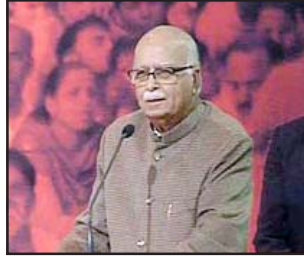
Shri Singh condemned home minister Sushilkumar Shinde's Hindu terror remarks, which he termed as irresponsible and said it indicated the Congress party in power at the centre was not serious about its fight against terrorism. He charged Congress with trying to divide the nation on communal lines and said it did only vote-bank politics.

The BJP National President said the country was going through troubled times and blamed the Congress for it, as it had ruled the nation for a maximum period, it is responsible for corruption and terrorism.

He exuded confidence of steering the party in the forthcoming assembly elections in various states later this year and expressed the hope to see formation of a BJP led NDA regime in the next general elections. "I firmly believe that the BJP led NDA will form the government in 2014," said Shri Singh, adding that 'only BJP can tackle the country's problems and people expected it to rid the country of its troubles'.

Rajnath Singh has power to bring people together : Advani

Congratulating Shri Nitin Gadkari for frustrating the party's political opponents, BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani said, "Rajnath Singh's biggest responsibility will be to ensure that there is no compromise with any immoral act in BJP." He said Shri



Singh has power to bring people together and hoped the party will resolve to win lost ground in Uttar Pradesh, from where he hails. Shri Advani said Rajnath Singh has focused on agricultural issues and farmers and exuded confidence that he will take the party forward on these principles.

He also said that the BJP was considered an urban party, but the results have proved otherwise. "For years we have never got success in urban areas as we have won in rural areas," he said, citing the example of Madhya Pradesh which has seen the highest growth in agriculture sector.

Shri Advani said only the BJP can tackle the country's problems and rid the nation of its troubles and people were looking up to it for this.

He said, "Rajnath has focused on agricultural issues and farmers. I'm sure he will take the party forward on these principles. It is his special responsibility that there should be no compromise with anything that's not moral. Then we can live up to being the 'party with a difference'", he said.

If any party can change the future of the country, it is the BJP : Gadkari



In his address outgoing BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said people believe that if any party can change

the future of the country, it is the BJP and hoped Shri Rajnath Singh will take everyone together and his leadership can lead us to victory in 2014. On his second term, Shri Gadkari said, there has been a political conspiracy to malign him on issues he was not connected with.

He said it was an honour to be the President of this party, and a grassroot worker who was a polling booth manager, who rose to this high office, is only possible in the BJP.

Nationalism is our ideology, and through good governance we want to carry forward our work. Before everything else we must consider the welfare of the country first, he said.

He said Shri Rajnathji was the party President before me - he will take us all together and his leadership can lead us to victory in 2014. People believe that if any party can change the future of this country, it is the BJP. I request all workers and leaders to work together to ensure that we are victorious under Shri Rajnath Singh. ■

Diesel price hike will have cascading effect : BJP

The common man in the country is reeling under the pressure of continuous price rise. The government needs to give relief to the people by taming inflation. Instead government is heaping further load on the people by raising prices from rail to oil. BJP condemns government decision to raise diesel prices under the garb of allowing OMCs to review prices periodically. This is escapism of the government from its duties. BJP charged the government that it has already planned for Rs 10/li hike in diesel prices in few days from now. The government has not declared its Hydrocarbon Pricing Policy though promised in the UPA manifesto and President's address. There is no consistency in policy and decisions. It changed Petroleum Ministers 4 times and changed pricing decisions 15 times. This adhocism is causing irreparable loss to the economy. Diesel price hike will have cascading effect and will push the general price line further. It will increase all transport costs passengers as well as goods. It will increase prices of irrigation, tractors and other agricultural inputs. India is experiencing high tax regime as far as petroleum products are concerned. The Central government will collect upto Rs 2 lakh crores as taxes from this sector alone this fiscal. The figures of the under-recoveries are also doubtful and much part of it is notional. ■

Nation-wide BJP protest against Shinde's communal remarks

The BJP took to the streets in many cities in the country on January 24, threatening to carry its protest against Home



Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde for his "Hindu terror" remarks to Parliament. The Party declared it would raise the issue vociferously in Parliament as well. The BJP wants the minister sacked and an apology from UPA chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh. Leading the BJP's protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, the party's National President Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Today we are protesting on the streets but if the government doesn't remove Shinde and express regret, we will take the battle to Parliament."

He also scoffed at the Congress saying, "What came out of the chintan shivir? One was Rahul Gandhi; the other maybe that in the camps conducted by the RSS, BJP workers are learning lessons on terror."

The BJP has said that Shri Shinde's remarks are "an insult to us". The BJP has taken umbrage to the words "saffron terror" too. Leader of Opposition in the Lok

Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said at Jantar Mantar, "Saffron and terrorism are two words opposed to each other. When the BJP and RSS wasn't there, saffron was there. If the Home Minister wants to see the power of the colour saffron, let him go to Allahabad where the MahaKumbh is being organised."

Asking Shinde to not cross his limits, Smt. Sushma Swaraj said politics can be practised to the extent that it benefits the Congress or even harms the BJP but "should not be taken to a level where

n a t i o n a l interest is affected". The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, who was addressing a protest rally at Jantar Mantar, added that the party wanted an apology from Congress p r e s i d e n t Sonia Gandhi. "Sonia Gandhi s h o u l d apologize to the nation and sack Shinde," she said. "You have hurt n a t i o n a l interest at a

time when Pakistan is coming and beheading our soldiers. You are not attacking Pakistan but attacking the main opposition party," she said about the home minister.

"What do you want to tell the world? There might be terror camps in Pakistan, but here the main opposition party runs a terror camp! Do you want to say, terrorists are sitting in Parliament? The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha is heading a terror organization?" she asked.

Shinde had said in Jaipur during the Congress's Chintan Shivir on Sunday: "Whether it is BJP or RSS, their training camps are promoting Hindu terrorism." ■

List of newly elected State BJP Presidents In the ongoing country-wide BJP organisational elections, more than half of the BJP new State Presidents have been elected. The newly elected BJP Sate Presidents are:

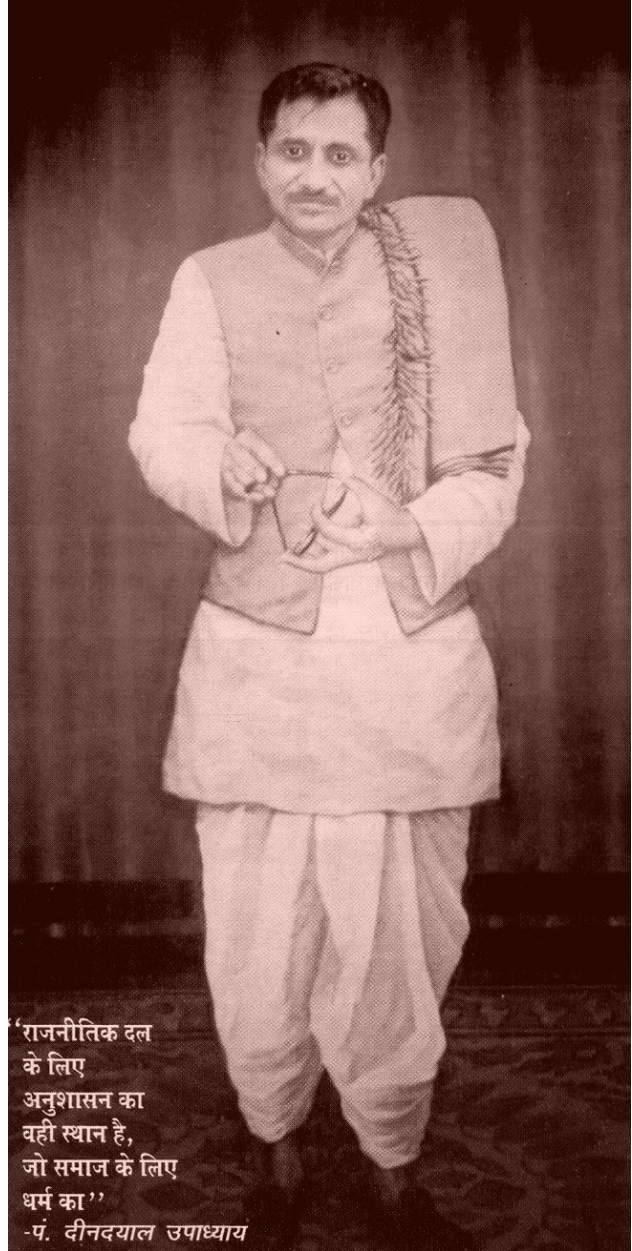
STATE	PRESIDENT
Bihar	Shri Mangal Pandey
Laxdeep	Dr. K. P. Muthu Koya
Punjab	Shri Kamal Sharma
Chandhigarh	Shri Sanjay Tandon
Andman Nicobar	Shri Vishal Jolly
Pondicherry	Shri M. Vishveshwaryan
Tamilnadu	Shri Pon Radhakrishnan
Tripura	Shri Sudheer Das Gupta
Sikkim	Shri Padam Bahadur Chettri
Jammu & Kashmir	Shri Jugal Kishor Sharma
Manipur	Shri Th Chaoba Singh
Madhya Pradesh	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar
Assam	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Goa	Shri Vinay Dinu Tedulkar
Uttar Pradesh	Shri Laxmi Kant Bajpayi
West Bengal	Shri Rahul Sinha
Dadar Nagar Haveli	Shri Digvijay Parmar

There is a fundamental error in the thinking of the Pandit Nehru

By Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

The Merger of Nagar Haveli and Dadra into the Indian union is a move in the right direction. That the Government of India should have taken seven long years to make this simple decision only shows that mental state of indecisiveness of the rulers. What Sardar Patel could do within days in the case of Janagadh, Pandit Nehru has taken years to accomplish. Besides the inordinate delay, there is a basic difference towards the issue of liberating, and integrating, areas laying outside the pale of considered it the Government's duty to actively work for their freedom and merger and he was his armoury to achieve his objective. Pandit Nehru it seems is not prepared to shoulder this responsibility. Neither is he prepared to go to the lengths to which Sardar Patel went in the case of Hyderabad.

Apart from temperamental weaknesses and hesitancy, there is a fundamental error in the thinking of the Prime Minister. He thinks within the frame-work of the Government of India Act of 1935 or the India Independence Act of 1946. The Sovereignty of India accordingly is limited to the territories handed over to her by the Britisher and/or to States that join the dominion. In all other cases the people of the different areas are to be the architects of their fate and their future. If they desire to be independent, they must struggle. The status that they would enjoy is also to be determined by them. This line of thinking ignores the basic fact of India being one. It does not recognise the existence of an Indian nation, which by historical accident came under the dominion of a number of Western powers. If the tiny territory



‘राजनीतिक दल
के लिए
अनुशासन का
वही स्थान है,
जो समाज के लिए
धर्म का’

-पं. दीनदयाल उपाध्याय

What Sardar Patel could do within days in the case of Janagadh, Pandit Nehru has taken years to accomplish. Besides the inordinate delay, there is a basic difference towards the issue of liberating, and integrating, areas laying outside the pale of considered it the Government's duty to actively work for their freedom and merger and he was his armoury to achieve his objective. Pandit Nehru it seems is not prepared to shoulder this responsibility.

of Goa was, and is ruled by Portugal while the rest of the country was under the British rule and now independent, it did not and does not in any way create a separate Goanese people. The people of Goa are part and parcel of the Bharatiya Nation. The struggle for the liberation of

French have given it peacefully, it can be credited to their good sense or common sense, but it cannot confer upon them any legal title to hold the areas even technically. Our Constitution gives us a right to acquire territories and we should act accordingly. Let the French take

the correct direction. For the first time after Sardar Patel, Government spokesmen have asserted that the military can be used for the purpose which it is being maintained for. But there is a feeling in the people that all this talk is meant only to please the electorate.

Whatever be the motive, liberation of Goa is desired by all. But when shall the Government do it? Will they take some active steps or simply fight a verbal battle? The people, who have been accustomed to such declarations, will not feel satisfied without any practical steps. Pandit Nehru will be wrong if he thinks that he can dupe the nation simply by verbal assurances.

these territories is therefore an integral part of our freedom struggle. Those who say that the people of Goa themselves should fight for their independence are propounding a theory which is dangerous and unnational.

The merger of Nagar Haveli and Dadra has been effected in accordance with the wishes of the people of these areas. It is good and natural that these people have chosen to become part of the political set-up of the country. But any insistence on the right of these people to determine their future deprives the people of India their fundamental sovereignty over the whole land. It is on this account that the French enclaves in spite of their de facto transfer to India have not yet become part of the India union. The Government is waiting for a legal fiat by the French Government. Why should we look to the French for legalising the transfer? The territory is ours and if the

care of their Constitution. Let them amend or mend it, and at leisure. But we cannot delay the process of our national integration.

Nagar Haveli and Dadra, like the French enclaves, have been kept as a separate unit. They are to be administered under the External Affairs Ministry. It is wrong. The areas should be straightway merged with the adjoining districts. That alone will demonstrate our unity with these people.

With regard to Goa, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh had all along felt that the problem can be solved only by police action. It is a matter of satisfaction that the political opinion in the country has veered round to this view. Even the Prime Minister, who had all these years persistently refused to take resort to military force, has said that military action cannot be ruled out. It is a major change in the Government's policy and is in

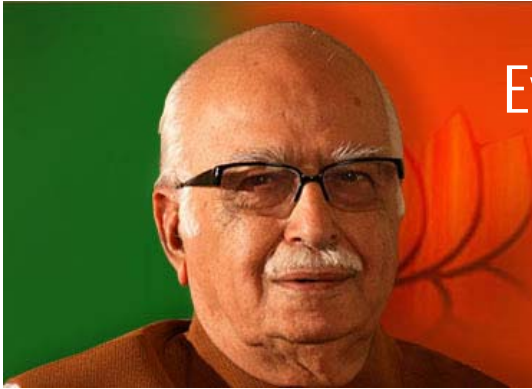
The stiffness on the Goa issue is also meant to divert the attention of the people from the Government's failure on other fronts, notable the China and the Pakistan fronts. It is for this reason that the communists who had practically forgotten Goa have again become active and a new committee headed by Srimati Aruna Asaf Ali has been formed.

Whatever be the motive, liberation of Goa is desired by all. But when shall the Government do it? Will they take some active steps or simply fight a verbal battle? The people, who have been accustomed to such declarations, will not feel satisfied without any practical steps.

Pandit Nehru will be wrong if he thinks that he can dupe the nation simply by verbal assurances. Let him fulfil his assurances not within his lifetime but before the elections if he wants to reap its advantages for his party.

Even before steps for the liberation of these territories are taken, it would be desirable that the Goans living in the Indian union are granted Citizenship and franchise rights. It will establish our bona fide and demonstrate that we look upon these people as part and parcel of our nation.■

(The article was published in Organiser, on 28 August, 1961)



Even Nehru's secularism was based on Hindu foundations

By L.K Advani

www.blog.lkadvani.com

An outstanding book I have run into these days is one by a renowned Harvard scholar Diana L Eck. The book is titled, "INDIA: A Sacred Geography."

Some historians say that Indians lack a sense of history. In chapter 2 of the book, captioned "What is India?" the author of this extremely well-researched book refers to such remarks, but goes on to affirm that it is however, "remarkable to discover that they (Indians) had a detailed sense of geography." Diana adds:

Even in a time when travel throughout the length and breadth of the land must have been very difficult, there were traditions of geographical knowledge to suggest that such travel was indeed undertaken. And it is remarkable that even in a time when the subcontinent had no political unity whatsoever, those who described this territory to Alexander's company thought of it and described it as a single land...

They also attested that India was roughly quadrilateral in shape, with the Indus River forming the western boundary, the Himalayas and the Hindu Kush stretched along the north, and the seas skirting the other

two sides. They even cited its measurements: the length of the River Indus; the distance from the Indus to Pataliputra and from there to the mouth of the Ganges; the distances along the eastern and western coasts.

Alexander Cunningham, who under the British became Director of the Archaeological Survey of India, wrote in 1871:

"The close agreement of these dimensions, given by Alexander's informants, with the actual size of the country is very remarkable, and shows that the Indians, even at that early date in their history, had a very accurate knowledge of the form and extent of their native land."

When the Britishers ruled our country one school of so called orientalist keen to promote the Empire were scornful of the idea that India was one country and that Indians were one people.

A prominent representative of this school was a British Civil servant, Sir John Strachey. Speaking at the University of Cambridge in 1888, Sir Strachey said "What does this name India signify? The answer that has more than once been given sounds paradoxical, but it is true," he said. "There is no such country, and this is the first and

most essential fact about India that can be learned. India is a name, which we give to a great region including a number of different countries."

Sir John Strachey argued that Europe had more of common culture than India. "Scotland is more like Spain than Bengal is like the Punjab...There are no countries in civilized Europe in which people differ as much as the Bengali differs from the Sikh, and the language of Bengal is as unintelligible in Lahore as it would be in London."

Diana Eck, the author of this book is a professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies at Harvard University. While her book Banaras, City of Light is regarded a classic in the field, this 559-page tome painstakingly projecting how Hindu mythology, interwoven with India's Geography is a powerful and convincing refutation of the imperial thesis that India is not one country, and that Indians are not one people.

This book recalls Pandit Nehru's incarceration in the Ahmednagar Fort where he wrote his Discovery of India. It was in this book that he reflected how his travels across the country during the freedom struggle

made him acutely alive to the impression of the country's unity. Nehru wrote:

"Though outwardly there was diversity and infinite variety among our people, everywhere there was that tremendous impress of 'oneness', which had held all of us together for ages past, whatever political fate or misfortune had befallen us. The unity of India was no longer merely an intellectual concept for me: it was an emotional experience which overpowered me."

Diana comments: "Nehru's vision of India surely included all its caste and regional communities, as well as its religious diversity. Although he espoused an ardent secularism throughout his political life, from his rising leadership of the Indian National Congress in the 1930s to his death as the first prime minister of India in 1964, it was a secularism that was somehow built on the kinds of deep, presumptively Hindu foundations we are describing."

The BJP and the RSS hold that the basis of Indian nationalism is our culture. When in October 1961, the AICC held its session at Madurai, Pandit Nehru remarked that India has "for ages past been a country of pilgrimages." He added: "All over the country you find these ancient places, from Badrinath, Kedranath and Amarnath, high up in the snowy Himalayas down to Kanyakumari in the south. What has drawn our people from the south to the north and from the north to the south in these great pilgrimages. It is the feeling of one country and one culture and this feeling has bound us together. Our ancient

books have said that the land of Bharat is the land stretching from the Himalayas in the north to the southern seas. This conception of Bharat as one great land which the people considered a holy land has come down the ages and has joined us together, even though we have had different political kingdoms and even though we may speak different languages. This silken bond keeps us together in many ways."

Pandit Nehru's Madurai speech clearly spelt out India's ancient but constantly self-renewing culture as the 'silken bond' that unites our diversities into 'one country'.

Hearty compliments to Umashree Bharati for the successful completion of the First Phase of her Ganga Samagra Abhiyan, to mark which a formal function was held at the Constitution Club on January 7, 2013.

The Abhiyan had two main components: one, a five-week yatra lasting from 20 September, 2012 to 28 October, 2012, from Ganga Sagar to Gangotri and secondly, a Manav shrinkhala (a Human Chain) all along the banks of the Ganga on December 2, 2012.

Sadhvi Uma Bharati's campaign is aimed at two objectives. (i) Shuddh Ganga, (ii) Aviral Ganga.

At this well attended function Bharati ji gave the gathering an impressive account of the very enthusiastic response the Abhiyan had received from all communities and sections of society.

At the function held at the V.B.P. House, my daughter

Pratibha's 30 minute highly engrossing and educative film "Ganga" was screened.

In this book on Sacred Geography, there is a separate chapter on "The Ganga and the Rivers of India".

In this chapter, Diana says: "There are few things on which Hindu India, diverse as it is, speaks with one voice as clearly as it does on Ganga Mata. The river carries an immense cultural and religious significance for Hindus, no matter what part of the subcontinent they call home, no matter what their sectarian leaning might be. As one Hindi author writes, "Even the most hardened atheist of a Hindu will find his heart full of feelings he has never before felt when for the first time he reaches the bank of the Ganga." Or, we might add, when the Ganga reaches him. The use of Ganga water to evoke sentiments of unity among people of diverse regions and multiple Hindu traditions should be wholly benign. After all, this is a symbol that bears only beneficence, only the brimming water pot and the lotus.

Volunteers for Umashree's campaign had gone to all MPs, MLAs and thousands of public representatives to present them with urns of gangajal. Umaji herself had gone to present gangajal to the Rashtrapati, the Hon'ble Speaker and several other distinguished VIPs.

All those who were part of this Gangajal presentation programme were, however, unanimous that the reverence which these urns commanded was not confined to Hindus but Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs etc. all alike. ■

Poll bugle sounded in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura BJP poised to emerge as a major force

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

The trumpet of a crucial election year ahead was sounded with the Election Commission declaring schedule of election program for the three North-Eastern states of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura on 11 January 2013. With the issue of a statutory notification the Commission set the process rolling for the February Assembly polls in these States. With it the Model Code of Conduct has come into effect immediately from the date of notification. As per the schedule, elections will be held in Tripura on 14 February, while elections to the Meghalaya and Nagaland Assemblies will be held on 23 February respectively. All the three States have a point in common i.e. all three will elect a 60-member State Assembly. Counting of votes will take place on 28 February in all the three poll-bound States.

As per the notification the terms of the Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland Assemblies will expire on 10 March, 16 March and 18 March respectively. Voters in these states number 1.4 million, 2.3 million and 1.1 million respectively. As per the Election Commission notification there are 2485 polling Stations in Meghalaya, 2023 in Nagaland and 3018 in Tripura. While most of the Assembly seats in Meghalaya and Nagaland fall under the reserved category of scheduled tribes (STs), Tripura has 10

reserved seats for scheduled castes and 20 for scheduled tribes (STs).

In Tripura the candidates can file their nomination papers from 21 January and the last date of filing them is 28 January. The scrutiny of nominations would take place next day (i.e. January 29). The last date for withdrawing nominations is January 31. In Meghalaya and Nagaland the candidates can file their nomination papers from 30 January and the last date of filing them is 6 February 2013. In these two states the scrutiny of nominations would take place on 7 February. The last date for withdrawing nominations in Meghalaya and Nagaland is 9 February 2013.

The peculiarity of the political situation in the North-Eastern states has to be understood in the larger context of India's national politics. Basically, all the present North-Eastern states barring Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Manipur, were once the hill districts of Assam. Over the years bowing to social compulsions, the State of Assam has been bifurcated into various states carved out of Naga, Khasi, Jaintia, Garo, and Mizo hills districts. The Annual Budgets of these states were supported by the Centre as their revenue generation capacity was insufficient to meet their demands and requirements. Naturally, the governments in these states had to pledge their

allegiance to the party that ruled the Centre. It so happened at times that entire ruling dispensation changed their party affiliations overnight consequent upon the change of government at the Centre!

With the changing political scenario the people of the North-East have started looking at the BJP as a viable alternative to Congress Party. In this light, the forthcoming elections have given a chance to the BJP to improve its numerical strength and expand its support base in these states. Of the three poll-bound states Congress is in power only in Meghalaya; while Nagaland and Tripura are ruled by Naga People's Front and CPM-led Left Front respectively.
Tripura

In Tripura the major political parties in the poll fray are the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)-led Left Front, Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress and its ally Indigenous Nationalist Party of Tripura. The elections in Tripura are considered to be critical for the survival of the Left parties as it is the only state in which the Left Front is in power after losing the polls in West Bengal to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Kerala to the UDF in 2011.

Ahead of the Assembly elections in Tripura, the Congress received a jolt with 32 tribal leaders raising the banner of revolt and quitting the party to field their own candidates. The

party's tribal department chairman Phani Bhusan Bhowmik and general secretary Debabrata Koloj were among the

alone and is making a serious bid to open its account in Tripura Assembly. As per sources, many senior leaders of

the Party will hit the campaign trail in the State in favour of its candidates and to highlight the pathetic condition of the State in the developmental front under the Left Front rule. Nagaland As the Assembly Election campaigns quietly begin in Nagaland, the very principle and the motif of the Joint Legislature Forum (JLF) floated last year by the 60 legislators of Nagaland assembly seems to be on the wane. Noteworthy, JLF was formed for pressing the Central government to expedite the ongoing Naga peace process. And due to Congress duplicity the Naga peace process has not progressed on the expected lines. In Nagaland, the issue of settlement with the NSCN-IM seems to be a major bone of contention between the ruling NPF and Congress at the Centre. The leaders in Nagaland wanted

<u>PARTY WISE SUMMARY 2008</u>	
Tripura	
PARTY NAME	SEATS
Communist Party of India	1
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	46
Indian National Congress	10
Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipra	1
Revolutionary Socialist Party	2

32 who sent their resignations to the Congress president. The dissident tribal Congress leaders have fielded candidates in 21 assembly segments, including 18 seats reserved for tribals. Of the 30 reserved seats, the Congress-INPT alliance had won only one seat in 2008. However, despite the bickering between the Trinamool Congress and the Congress in West Bengal, the former will support the latter in the ensuing elections in the State.

The condition of the ruling Left front has been looking critical this time. Owing to the comprehensive defeat in West Bengal and Kerala the Left Front is in the verge of extinction from the political scenario of India. Therefore, the rift in the ruling Left Front in Tripura is quite visible and wide open this time. However, it is clear that the CPI-M has been fighting this year's election to keep the Left Front alive and relevant in the fast changing political landscape.

In the last Assembly elections in Tripura, the BJP and United Democratic Front had contested the elections jointly. But this time the BJP is gearing up to face the electoral battle

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Nagaland

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<u>PARTY WISE SUMMARY 2008</u>	
Nagaland	
PARTY NAME	SEATS
Bharatiya Janata Party	2
Independent	7
Indian National Congress	23
Nagaland Peoples Front	26
Nationalist Congress Party	2

progressed on the expected lines. In Nagaland, the issue of settlement with the NSCN-IM seems to be a major bone of contention between the ruling NPF and Congress at the Centre. The leaders in Nagaland wanted

deferment of polls as they preferred settlement of the NSCN issue. Meanwhile, the Naga People's Party (NPF) has alleged that the Congress has made every effort to hijack the agenda of the Naga issue without any sincerity in solving the problem. The NPF further said that "the Congress should not take the intelligence of the people for granted by trying to confuse the people". Earlier, the NPF had also accused Congress leaders of hobnobbing with Manipur Chief Minister Ibobi Singh. The NPF had called Ibobi Singh as one of the bitter enemies of the Nagas. This war between the NPF-JLF and Congress has already surcharged the political atmosphere of Nagaland on the eve of the elections and made the turf very difficult for the Congress party this time.

So far as the BJP is concerned, which had won two seats last time is trying its best to make its presence felt this time by fielding maximum candidates in Nagaland. BJP and the NPF have decided to come together in a pre-poll alliance. Joining hands with JD (U) the three parties have forged this alliance under the name Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) for the upcoming Nagaland Assembly Election. The DAN with a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) is collectively contesting the elections to ensure continuation of a people friendly government

that will continue to work towards accelerated development and progress of Nagaland and facilitate the peace process in order to usher in lasting and permanent peace in the State. Meanwhile, the BJP has constituted an Election Committee with Shri M. Chuba Ao as ex-officio and Shri K. Medon Angami as its Convener.

In the mean time, the former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has also visited extensively in Nagaland addressing rallies in various places of the State. This has created a solid platform for the BJP and the Party with its allies is preparing to provide an alternative to the Congress and NPF in Nagaland.

Meghalaya

Political divorces and remarriages are not missing from

Meghalaya on the eve of elections. The Congress has already declared its candidates for the upcoming polls to the 60-member assembly in Meghalaya. The list, released by the party has 55 candidates belonging to scheduled tribes. However, on the other hand the A'chik National Volunteers Council (ANVC) has alleged that Congress has failed to resolve the issues raised by the ANVC for the Autonomous Council and has ditched it. Therefore, in the interim, the rebel A'chik National Volunteers Council (ANVC) has scaled up its demand for the creation of Garoland Autonomous Council. Noteworthy, ANVC, a powerful rebel group fighting for the

creation of a Garoland Autonomous Council, entered into a tripartite ceasefire with Central and State governments on July 23, 2004. The group, which operates in five impoverished districts of Garo Hills in western Meghalaya, has scaled down its demand for creation of a separate Garoland state to an autonomous council in line with the Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam after the ceasefire agreement. However, the ANVC-B, a

contest the Assembly elections with BJP in Meghalaya and is ready with the names of its candidates. The alliance of BJP and NPP will certainly offer a stiff challenge to the ruling Congress. NPP becoming a part of the BJP led NDA will certainly strengthen the NDA not only in Meghalaya but also it will influence the polity of the North-East in the upcoming elections.

So far as the election results of last time are concerned, of the three state Assemblies which

have 60 seats each BJP had won one seat in Meghalaya, while it managed two seats in Nagaland and had no presence in Tripura Assembly. However, the BJP is gearing up for Assembly polls this time in the states of Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland and

looking for possible alliances in the three north-eastern states.

After the spectacular and massive victory in Gujarat, the BJP will be looking for expansion of its base in the North-Eastern region.

The party has already scripted a pre-poll pact with Naga People's Front in Nagaland and has carved an alliance with the NPP led by P. A. Sangma in Meghalaya. The seat sharing formula with the regional satraps of the poll-bound states and the consistent efforts of the BJP for the development of the North-Eastern region is likely yield rich dividends and strengthen BJP-led NDA in the North-Eastern region. ■

PARTY WISE SUMMARY 2008

Meghalaya

PARTY NAME	SEATS
Khun Hynniewtrep National Awakening Movement	1
Bharatiya Janata Party	1
Hill State People's Democratic Party	2
Independent	5
Indian National Congress	25
Nationalist Congress Party	15
United Democratic Party	11

breakaway faction headed by Bernard N. Marak, stuck to its demand for a Greater Garoland in the western Meghalaya. Now both these groups are active, demanding the Autonomous Council are severely opposed to the Congress party at the Centre for not creating the Autonomous Council. This development has put the Congress in a fix and it is going to face serious challenges from the BJP-NPP led opposition and the ANVC.

Meanwhile the Former Lok Sabha Speaker Shri PA Sangma, who broke away from the NCP last year to contest the Presidential elections, launched National People's Party (NPP) and joined hands with the BJP-led NDA. The NPP would

Two different meanings to the word 'Consultation'

By Arun Jaitley

The Supreme Court on 11th January, 2013 has delivered the Judgement in the Karnataka Upa Lokayukta case. I had made a detailed comment on January 3rd 2013 on another judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on January 2nd, 2013 on the subject matter of appointment of Lokayukta in Gujarat. I have read and re-read the two

on the advice tendered by the Chief Minister in consultation with Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, the Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council, the Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly, the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council and the Leader of opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly."

after consultation also with the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, or if there be no such Leader, a person elected in this behalf by the members of the Opposition in that House in such manner as the Speaker may direct."

A reading of the provisions of the Karnataka Act leads to an irresistible conclusion that the person to be appointed as Upa Lokayukta in Karnataka should have held the office of a Judge of a High Court, and shall be appointed on the advice tendered by the Chief Minister to the Governor. Before tendering the advice the Chief Minister must consult the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Council and the Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. The material words used in this section is 'consultation'.

The procedure mentioned in the Gujarat Act is that the appointment is made under the seal of the Governor. The Governor, as rightly held by the Supreme Court, will act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The Chief Minister/ Council of Ministers will consult the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Leader of

The issue is whether the word 'consultation' in the Karnataka Act can mean differently from the same word used in the Gujarat Act. The Karnataka Judgement restores the balance between the Executive and the Judiciary. It follows the golden rule of interpretation i.e. the literal interpretation which clearly expresses the intention of the Legislature.

judgements delivered nine days apart from each other. The law declared by the Supreme Court in both the judgements appears to be significantly different; leaving many in doubt with regard to the primacy of the Chief Justice's opinion delivered in the appointment of Gujarat Lokayukta.

The Provisions

Section 3 of the Karnataka Act deals with the appointment of Lokayukta and Up-Lokayukta. Section 3 (2)(b) of the said Act reads as under:-

"(b) A person to be appointed as an Upa-lokayukta shall be a person who has held the office of the Judge of a High Court and shall be appointed

The provision (section 3) as contained in the Gujarat Act reads as under:

"For the purpose of conducting investigations in accordance with provisions of this Act, the Governor shall, by warrant under his hand and seal, appoint a person to be known as the Lokayukta.

Provided that the Lokayukta shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court and except where such appointment is to be made at a time when the Legislative Assembly of the State of Gujarat has been dissolved or a Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution is in operation in the State of Gujarat,

Opposition. The material word used in the Gujarat Act also is 'consultation'.

The issue is whether the word 'consultation' in the Karnataka Act can mean differently from the same word used in the Gujarat Act. The Karnataka Judgement restores the balance between the Executive and the Judiciary. It follows the golden rule of interpretation i.e. the literal interpretation which clearly expresses the intention of the Legislature.

The Karnataka View

The Supreme Court in the Karnataka Judgement has

Karnataka. I am, therefore, of the view that the various directions given by the High Court holding that the views of the Chief Justice has got primacy, is beyond the scope of the Act and the High Court has indulged in a legislative exercise which is impermissible in law.

I, however, make it clear that there is no primacy in the views expressed by any of the consultees and after due deliberations of the names suggested by the consultees including the name if any suggested by the Chief Minister, the Chief Minister can advise

from the Chief Minister and only the recommended by him should be considered. As far as section 3 (2)(b) of the Act is concerned the primary responsibility for appointment of the Upa Lokayukta rests with the Chief Minister who has to advise the Governor. Since the Chief Justice is not the only constitutional authority required to be consulted by the Chief Minister before his advice is tendered to the Governor, it cannot be said that only his views will prevail over other constitutional authorities."

The Judgement of the Supreme Court in the Karnataka's case while upholding that there must be meaningful consultation with various consultees including the Chief Justice, gives primacy to the Chief Minister and not the Chief Justice of the High Court. Gujarat View

In the Gujarat Lokayukta case the opinion of the Supreme Court is completely at variance. The Supreme Court has held that – "The purpose of giving primacy to the opinion of the Chief Justice is for the reason that he enjoys an independent status and also because person eligible to be appointed as Lokayukta is from amongst the retired judges of the High Court and the Chief Justice is, therefore, the best person to judge his suitability. As the Chief Justice has primacy in the appointment in the said matter, the non-acceptance of his recommendation by the Chief Minister remains insignificant. Additionally, a person possessing limited power (Chief Minister!) cannot be permitted to

The Judgement of the Supreme Court in the Karnataka's case while upholding that there must be meaningful consultation with various consultees including the Chief Justice, gives primacy to the Chief Minister and not the Chief Justice of the High Court.

rightly opined that the consultation must be meaningful and effective. The names which the Chief Minister desires to recommend to the Governor must be referred to all the consultees. The two concurring opinions of the Supreme Court in the Karnataka case give the following rationale:-

"The advice tendered by the Chief Minister will have primacy and not that of the consultees including the Chief Justice of the High Court.

In my view that this the scheme of Section 3(2)(a) and (b) of the Act and however, much we strain, nothing spells out from the language used in section 3(2)(a) and (b) to hold that primacy be attached to the opinion expressed by the Chief Justice of the High Court of

any name from the names discussed to the Governor of the State for appointment of Upa Lokayukta under the Act."

The concurring second opinion of the Supreme Court similarly reads as under :-

"Ordinarily, it must be the Chief Minister since he has to tender advice to the Governor and in a sense the appointment is his primary responsibility. It must not be forgotten that the creation of the Upa Lokayukta is a consultation process involving several constitutional authorities and in the context of the Act no constitutional authority is subordinate to the other. I am, therefore, in agreement with the High Court that the recommendation for appointing the Upa Lokayukta under the Act must emanate only

exercise unlimited power.”

The Contradiction

Within a period of nine days two clearly conflicting opinions on the appointment of Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta have been expressed by the Supreme Court. How can the law in Gujarat be different than the law in any other State. The reasoning given in the latter judgement that the scheme of the two Acts is different, does not appear to be sound as both the Acts contemplate consultation by the Chief Minister with various consultees including the Chief Justice of the High Court. Much to the contrary, the scheme of both the Acts is almost identical.

Two diametrically opposite views leaves me as a Legislator in doubt. On a future date, if the Parliament provides for a collegium to appoint the Lokpal will the Chief Justice be merely a consultee and a participant or will his opinion have primacy and be binding on the other members of the collegium. This ambiguity requires to be removed and clarity introduced in the interpretation process.

To give a word a different meaning even when the context are similar has no precedent in history. A majority in the House of Lords during the Second World War preventive detention case gave a different interpretation to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the State in detaining Nazi spies from the interpretation that it gave during peace times. In what was one of the greatest dissents in legal history, Lord Atkin in *Liversidge vs. Sir John Anderson* dissented. I can only reproduce his momentous words - “ In this country amidst the clash of arms

the laws are not silent. They may be changed, but they speak the same language in war as in peace.I protest, even if I do it alone, against a strained construction put upon words with the effect of giving an uncontrolled power of imprisonment to the Minister. To recapitulate. The words have only one meaning; they are used with that meaning in statements of the common law and in statutes; they have never been used in the sense now imputed to them; they are used in the defence regulations in the natural meaning; arid when it is intended to express the meaning now imputed to them, different arid apt words are used in the defence regulations generally and in this regulation in particular. Even if it were

relevant, which it is not, there is no absurdity or no such degree of public mischief as would lead to a non-natural construction. I know of only one authority which might justify the suggested method of construction. “When I use a word,” Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, “it means just what I choose it to “mean, neither more or less.” “The question is,” said Alice, “whether you can make words mean different things.” “The question is,” said Humpty Dumpty, “which is to be master – “that’s all”

The word ‘consultation’ can have only one meaning, be it Gujarat, Karnataka or the rest of the country. ■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha)

UPA failed to protect nation's honour : BJP

Stepping up pressure on the Centre over the prevailing tension along the LoC, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) attacked the government saying it has failed to protect nation's honour and evoke confidence among the people. “This government has shown that it is neither capable of protecting the boundaries nor the dignity of its citizens. This government is not doing anything substantial and does not evoke any confidence in the minds of the people,” senior party leader Murli Manohar Joshi told reporters here. “This option is to be decided by Army and government. But if necessary to save the honour of the country, if it is decided by Army or by government, we will support it,” Dr. Joshi said. He observed that government's policy regarding national security is very weak and it is not treating Pakistan the way it should be treated. “Government must answer why it is not happening, why this government is behaving like this, why are they silent, why are they not assuring the country that it is safe with them,” he said. Dr. Joshi, CPI leader A B Bardhan and JD(U) chief Sharad Yadav were interacting with reporters during a joint press conference to oppose the Centre's decision to allow FDI in multi-brand retail.

Dr. Joshi also said the Army should take appropriate action and weed out its weak commanders in wake of the incident. “We want to tell Army that it should weed out such weak commanders. Someone beheaded (our soldiers) and there is no response to it. Army should have immediately responded in a dignified and appropriate manner, which did not happen,” he said. ■

India's outrage : The people of the country have decided that enough is enough

By Jaswant Singh

Last year ended for India on a note of public outrage that has burdened the country with anger, frustration and pessimism. The cause, as all the world knows, was the fatally brutal rape of a young woman on a moving bus, after which she and her male companion — himself beaten nearly to death — were thrown, naked, into the street on a freezing night.

The savagery and wanton cruelty of the attack shocked the country to its core. But there is more behind the spontaneous protests that have choked the great central vistas of Delhi (to such an extent that the government was forced to change the venue for meetings with visiting Russian president Vladimir Putin).

The anger that has poured onto the streets of Delhi and many other Indian cities was fuelled by a great accumulated discontent — at the bestial rape and murder, yes, but also at pervasive public and private corruption, the absence of governance and accountability, and much more. Years of pent-up rage are now flowing out.

Of course, the government deserves — and has received — no quarter. The government failed to prevent the crime, then failed again when its unresponsive, inefficient and crooked police force was unable to respond appropriately. A wholly moribund and sclerotic administration simply did not know where its duty lay.

When protests erupted, the government, in a fit of blind idiocy, set the police upon peaceful

The savagery and wanton cruelty of the attack shocked the country to its core. But there is more behind the spontaneous protests that have choked the great central vistas of Delhi

protesters, men and women, with long batons, water cannon, and tear gas. This heavy-handedness of course resolved nothing. Citizens' fury deepened into grim resolve; the government's repressive impulse was challenged and defeated. Since then, tokenism has replaced leadership. Not one government official had the courage, skill or decency to rise to the occasion. The opposition, too, floundered, doing no more than simply faulting the ruling establishment.

Then, in another mindless act, the victim, struggling for life, was flown to a hospital in Singapore. No one would or could say why. It was there that she died — some say that she arrived already brain-dead. Her body was then hurriedly flown back to India, where it was quietly, almost surreptitiously, cremated. If the government feared her alive, it was petrified of her dead. All of India was shamed by this callous and inhuman folly.

As a result, India's Congress-led government has irretrievably lost the public's confidence; the establishment's authority has evaporated. A blunt question is now being asked frequently and openly: "Is this India's Tahrir Square?" Even if it is not, how can an internally roiled India respond

adequately to its many external tests, the severity of which was underscored recently by Pakistani troops' killing of two Indian soldiers along the Line of Control in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, as India flounders, Northeast Asia has been astir choosing new leaders, who have now been installed in China, Japan and North and South Korea. With an assertive China, ongoing regime change in Myanmar, a troubled Bangladesh, a constitutionally stymied Nepal and continuing ethnic tensions in Sri Lanka, India's eastern challenges are many and mighty.

But they are even more severe to India's west, with Pakistan heading into elections (one hopes) in the spring of 2013 and NATO troops withdrawing from Afghanistan. Indian diplomacy faces a time of trial in both countries.

Moreover, India no longer appears to be the vigorous economic dynamo that was the darling of global investors only five years ago. Already some say that the "I" in Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) should now stand for Indonesia. India is running high current-account and fiscal deficits; food-price inflation is in the double digits; and the rupee has weakened.

Can outrage turn to catharsis? Clearly, the current government is unable to bring about any of the necessary changes. A possible answer lies in an early election: a new mandate for an India that is in desperate need of renewal. ■

(The writer is a former Union Minister)

Neither protest nor talk to Pakistan, but act firmly

By Yashwant Sinha

Dealing with Pakistan is a subject which has baffled Indian policymakers for the past 65 years. It is this lack of clarity which has always put India at a disadvantage vis-a-vis Pakistan. The time has come to give up all vacillation, hesitation and prevarication, and deal with Pakistan as it should be dealt with: Firmly and with determination.

On the other hand, Pakistan even today believes in the policy of bleeding India through a thousand cuts. It considers India an enemy state and has always striven for military parity with India. This is typically reflected in the autobiography of General Pervez Musharraf that he had published when he was president of Pakistan.

In this biography, he has repeatedly referred to India as an enemy state and argued that Pakistan must teach India a lesson whenever necessary. We must remember that the Pakistani state is controlled by the Pakistan military and this supremacy depends on enmity with India. Pakistan military will never like to loosen its grip over the Pakistani state and it is, therefore, essential for them to continue to treat India as enemy number one.

In this background, let us look at what has been the Pakistani attitude to the incidents of cross-border terrorism that they have been perpetrating against India for the last 25 years. The first is denial. They will deny Pakistan's hand in any such incident. They had even denied, for instance, that Ajmal Kasab was a Pakistani citizen. For them, all terrorists are freedom

fighters.

The second is to argue that non-state actors in Pakistan are responsible for these acts and the Pakistani state has nothing to do with it. On January 6, 2004, in a joint press statement issued during the visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Islamabad, Pakistan had clearly and unequivocally agreed not to allow its territory or territory under its control to be used for violence against India. At that point of time they did not tell us that this applied only to the Pakistani state agencies and not to non-state actors operating from Pakistani soil.

Clearly, it was an afterthought in the wake of the 26/11 terrorist attack in Mumbai. The third argument is that they are also equally victims of terrorism, so we are both at par. The present government accepted this argument in the summit level talks at Havana. The fourth argument is that India is equally guilty of spreading violence in Pakistan, an argument they succeeded in persuading us to accept through the mention of Baluchistan in the joint statement issued at Sharm el Sheikh. Fifth, Pakistan always tries to internationalise the issue through the involvement of third parties.

So, even after the gory incident, which took place at the Line of Control recently, the Pakistani suggestion was to get the matter inquired into by the United Nations. And finally, whenever you bring these incidents to Pakistan's notice in bilateral talks, their argument is to forget the past and move on.

Forgetting the past means not

only forgetting incidents which may have happened a day, a week, a month ago but also agreements which may have been signed in the past.

The NDA government was criticised for failure of the talks at Agra but how many of us remember that talks at Agra failed because we insisted on referring to the Simla Agreement in the joint statement, which was not acceptable to General Musharraf?

In contrast, when Musharraf came to India for his first dialogue with Manmohan Singh after the NDA government demitted office, he insisted that there should be no reference to the joint press statement of January 6, 2004, and Manmohan Singh meekly surrendered before him even against the advice of the Ministry of External Affairs.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the 65-year-old history of India-Pakistan relations is not only a history of three-and-a-half wars, it is a history of Pakistan breaking every promise it has made to India, reneging on every commitment it has entered into and of violence and cross-border terrorism unleashed by it against India.

Those who speak of friendship with Pakistan deliberately forget this history and allow history to repeat itself with monotonous regularity. How should we deal with Pakistan then? First of all, the alternative to no-talks with Pakistan is not necessarily war with Pakistan. There is a huge diplomatic and military space between no talks and war. ■

*(The writer is a former Union Minister)
(Courtesy: The Economic Times)*

Crowning of the crown prince

By Prabhat Jha

The elevation of Rahul Gandhi to the post of Congress vice-president has been projected by the party as a great event expected to change the destiny of the party. But can he deliver? Everyone doubts his capability. He has failed in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat. He has not been able to do much for the Youth

he, when he is simply not around. The truth is that Mr Gandhi represents nothing more than the Congress culture of nepotism and dynastic politics. The Congress has made itself so dependent on the politics of dynasty that it is left with no option today but to offer itself to be led by Mr Rahul Gandhi.

It is a pity that the Jaipur

any sense to the people of India who are agitated and anguished?

Mr Gandhi made a lot of noise against the system at Jaipur but failed to say who was responsible for the system deteriorating. Think about it — the Congress has been ruling the country since Independence, barring a few years. It has been in power for the past nine years, as the head of the UPA. In this time it has offered the country only scams, corruption, misgovernance, economic slowdown, adding up to a failure on all fronts. But the Congress, instead of showing signs of introspection at Jaipur, has re-endorsed dynastic politics.

Mr Gandhi was earlier general secretary and has now been raised to vice-president. Can the Congress hope to revive its fortune through such a cosmetic change? While he has already failed in his earlier position, his elevation can only be viewed as a change in the packaging, nothing more. He was already taking decisions in the party and failing to deliver. If the Congress thinks that it can fool the people again by projecting Mr Gandhi as its leader, then this party is only fooling itself. People are not going to fall for such tricks. It has been proved once again that the Congress has nothing to offer, not even a capable leader.

(The writer is MP (Rajya Sabha) and former BJP President of MP)

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Congress and NSUI, which were under his direct charge. He has not shown any political vision for the country and no one knows his ideas on history, politics, foreign policy, security, or the economy.

When the entire country debates and discusses any major issue, or the masses hit the streets to seek answers to their problems, Mr Gandhi is conspicuous by his absence, preferring to maintain studied silence. He is projected as a leader of the youth, but does he inspire confidence in the younger generation? How can

Chintan Shivir of the Congress — an occasion billed for reflection and brainstorming — turned out to be a “chinta shivir”, a discourse on the party’s anxieties. Indeed, at this session, the Congress could not find answers to the problems of the people. Nor were the people offered any concrete plan that might alleviate their suffering.

Mr Gandhi’s speech was aimed at making Congressmen emotional so that they may blindly accept his leadership in the name of the family he comes from. But does any of this make

If only we had listened to him

By JS Rajput

Swami Vivekananda had said a century ago that Indians must learn to treat women better. He held the Western way as an example. Had our society honoured his words and heeded the clarion call, there would not have been such a rise in crimes against women today

India celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda at a juncture of history that would have caused him immense pain and anguish. The deplorable events in the last fortnight of 2012 has truly shamed the country. It was an awful commentary on how inhumanely we treat our women. But more shocking were the numerous statements that came from politicians and even self-styled, corporatised godmen. Their proclamations brought to the fore how shortsighted our 'educated' and 'enlightened' leaders are.

Over a hundred years ago, Swami Vivekananda had forcefully articulated the cause of India's downfall: "In India there are two great evils, trampling on the women, and grinding of the poor through caste restrictions".

Those who ascribe the crimes against women to the influence of Western culture may like to recall the Swami's admiration of the way the West treats its women: "Here (America) men treat their women as well as can be desired, and hence they are prosperous, so learned, so free, and so energetic.

Over a hundred years ago, Swami Vivekananda had forcefully articulated the cause of India's downfall: "In India there are two great evils, trampling on the women, and grinding of the poor through caste restrictions".

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But why is it that we are slavish, miserable, and dead? The answer is obvious."

The Swami goes on to elaborate that though our scriptures describe women as Shakti; our treatment of them is just an appalling example of the amount of dishonour and disrespect we heap on them. That is also one of the reasons why "our country is the weakest and the most backward of all countries".

Known to call a spade a spade, Swami Vivekananda pointedly asked how sex discrimination could be practised by those who accept that the same conscious 'Self' is present in all beings. He was very clear that "there is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of woman is improved".

In the Indian context, he knew it clearly and repeatedly reiterated that the only key to improving the lot of the women was education. Indian women have many and grave problems

but "none that is not to be solved by that magic word, education". That alone would be the path to prepare them to "acquire the spirit of valour and heroism".

How prophetic were his words when he said, "In the present day it has become necessary for them also to learn self-defence". In the present times, it appears to be the most critical lesson that has to be imparted to every girl and every woman. He wanted that Indian women be taught sciences and other things which would be of benefit not only to them but to others as well. These were radical and bold statements for the times he lived in, given that girls were found suitable to read science and mathematics only after the 1968 National Policy on Education based on the recommendations of the Kothari Commission, was implemented.

Even at that stage, many State Governments were unwilling to implement it, citing various reasons. The Madhya Pradesh Government conducted its first Class X examination under this scheme only in 1986. Such delays and reluctance indicates how tough it has always been to change the age-old perceptions on education and intellectual capabilities of women.

Addressing the American audience Swami Vivekananda had said, "I should very much like our women to have your intellectuality, but not if it must be at the cost of purity." He emphasised on the importance

of chastity and purity; it was not restricted to just women but imperative for men too.

Swami Vivekananda also wanted the priestcraft to be removed. It may be relevant to recall his experiences in America which appear relevant in the present context. Once he became known in America, there was no dearth of admirers of all age groups. It included young women who were charmed by his mental strength and attractive appearance. He was pursued by hoards of them practically all the time. Many of them offered huge wealth inherited from their parents with one simple request: Accept me also with it!

The lady host was worried that the learned monk, furiously being pursued by the young ladies, may fall for their charm. "If you could resist this challenge, you would be just God", she is supposed to have told him. But to Swami Vivekananda, they all were embodiments of mother force. He was convinced that the prosperity of United States was because of the contribution made by its women who were not shackled by the domination of men. He wanted women the world over treated as equals, unfettered by social restrictions and religious taboos. His solution was simple: "Educate your women first and leave them to themselves; then they will tell you what reforms are necessary for them."

But what put education uppermost in his mind? It was the key to transforming the lot of millions of his suffering countrymen, women prominently included.

His concern for the weak manifests in words that present-day management gurus would find golden: "Material civilisation, nay even luxury, is necessary to create work for the poor. Bread! Bread! I do not believe in God who cannot give me bread here, giving me eternal bliss in heaven". To him, these common people "have suffered oppression for thousands of years, suffered it without murmur, and as a result have got wonderful fortitude." Further, these people "have got strength that comes of a pure and moral life, which is not to be found anywhere else in the world." In India that has been sustained by its women against all odds.

The young of India have shown a readiness to shoulder their responsibility to create a new India. They would need tremendous perseverance and tremendous will. They shall not permit despair to arise even in the worst of conditions and situations. Vivekananda advises

the young to be ever strong, "strength is life, and weakness is death".

Every young person must seriously ponder over what Swami Vivekananda had said to his followers when he was training them at the Belur centre after his return from abroad in 1900: "Tell me what you have done. Couldn't you give away one life for the sake of others? ...Let this body go in the service of others – and then I shall know you have not come to me in vain."

His vision, imbued with his concern, manifests so clearly in the following words: "A hundred thousand men and women...nerved to Lion's courage by their sympathy for the poor and fallen and downtrodden, will go over the length and breadth of the land, preaching the gospel of salvation, the gospel of help, the gospel of social raising up – the gospel of equality."

Will the young of India rise to that expectation? ■

*(The writer is a former Director, NCERT)*

## NPF enters into pre-poll alliance with BJP, JD-U

In a significant development the ruling Naga Peoples' Front (NPF), along with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Janata Dal (United), have agreed to enter into a pre-poll alliance.

The three parties on January 16 in Dimapur resolved to have a pre-poll alliance under the nomenclature of Democratic Alliance of Nagaland (DAN) for the February 23 assembly polls.

The decision was jointly taken at a meeting held on January 16 and a resolution to this effect was appended by Shri P B Acharya, BJP election in-charge of Nagaland, Shri Tapir Gao, BJP National General Secretary, Shri A K Srivastava, National General Secretary, JD(U), Shri Mhonjan Lotha, President of JD (U) Nagaland, Shri K G Kenye, Secretary General of NPF and Shri Abu Metha, a member of NPF's core committee.

According to alliance resolution, the DAN will have a Common Minimum Programme and collectively contest the elections to ensure continuation of a people-friendly government that would continue to work towards accelerated development and progress of Nagaland and facilitate the peace process to usher in lasting peace in the State. ■



# Hear the silence of our human rights activists

By Sandhya Jain

Above the sound of gunfire and improvised explosive devices was the deafening silence of the human rights industry. Binayak Sen, Arundhati Roy, Mahasweta Devi et al, quick to berate Government for alleged atrocities against Maoist marauders, did not squeak when Maoists in Jharkhand planted IEDs in the bodies of two CRPF jawans last week; 17 persons including 12 jawans lost their lives in the operation in the Latehar district forests.

Two issues are pertinent in this regard. First, Jharkhand Director General of Police has said that the Maoists are receiving support from outside India. Second, the connection between mineral wealth and the Maoist or Red Corridor can no longer be ignored. In Latehar district alone, there are 20 coal blocks, eight of which are in the private sector.

The situation calls for deep introspection. In Africa, countries have been torn apart by rebel militias that have seized control of rich mines by terrorising the countryside; they are exceedingly well-armed and have links with international corporations. In India, Maoists thrive in the mineral-rich districts of Odisha (15), Jharkhand (14), Bihar (7), Andhra Pradesh (10), Chhattisgarh (10), Madhya

Pradesh (8), Maharashtra (2) and West Bengal (1). According to conservative estimates, they extort over Rs14 billion from these districts annually.

Human rights activist Suhas Chakma warns that Maoists acquire huge amounts of explosive substances and detonators from mining companies and pose a major threat to the country. In a

empowered the Maoists in recent years; they no longer need to confront security forces but can simply plant mines through detonators obtained from the mining industry. In large swathes of Maoist-affected districts, the writ of the Indian State is confined to fortified camps of the security forces.

But in these same districts, mining companies operate

***Maoists plant explosives in the abdomen of CRPF jawans and put them to brutal death. But the regular band of bleeding hearts that cries out when the state targets Red terrorists, has not squeaked a word in protest now.***

presentation to the parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in 2011, he said the security forces recovered 1,50,940kg of ammonium nitrate explosives, 60,511 detonators, 8,000 rings for grenade making and 1,964kgs of gelatin and 1,918 gelatin sticks from Maoists between January 2009 to September 2010. In the same period, security forces say the Maoists snatched 54,500kgs of explosives. These figures are only indicative.

It is pertinent that all these explosives are issued from Government factories to various licencees. The easy access to explosives has enormously

successfully. Possibly Maoists force the mining companies to handover/provide explosives to them. The flip side – which deserves investigation – is that Maoists help the companies engage in illegal mining (beyond the licensed area) by keeping locals and snoopy officials at bay.

As the recent power sector and coal block allocation scam has shown, the mining industry cannot be viewed as a pure source of energy for India's development. Besides a proven obsession with disproportionate profits, it has a disturbing potential as an internal security threat. It would therefore be in the fitness of things for

Government to strictly monitor the procurement, stocking and end use of all explosive substances issued to licencees. Strong action including cancellation of licences must be taken against those found guilty of financing or in any way supporting terrorism and unlawful activities through direct or indirect actions or under threat which may result in Maoists acquiring or taking possession of explosives issued to the licensee.

The Prime Minister has often stressed that Maoists are the biggest internal threat to the nation. Despite this, the Government has shown little interest in protecting the tonnes of explosives held by at least the State-owned mining companies. Coal India Ltd, for instance, buys explosives worth Rs1,500 crore annually for mining purposes, which is nearly 30 per cent of the total explosives used in the country. The explosives, including gelatin and detonators commonly used by Maoists in landmines, are stocked in 150 storehouses across eight States, seven of which are in the Maoist belt. The security arrangements here are utterly inadequate, despite instances of Maoists looting the depots.

The lack of concern afflicts the political level as well. There has been no amendment of the Explosives Act, 1884 or the Explosives Rules (revised 2008) to ensure that explosives sold or sanctioned to licensees are used only for lawful activities or purposes allowed under the Act and the Rule. Nor is there any provision for monitoring end use of explosives by physical inspection on-site; there is only

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a banal Rule 24 of the Explosives Rules, 2008 which calls for "maintenance of records and submission of returns". End-use monitoring could meaningfully curb the menace of illegal mining.

As of now, explosives are sanctioned by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Thus, the anti-terror bodies such as the Multi-Agency Centre under the Union Home Ministry, or State Multi Agency Centre, are unaware of the explosives and other materials being sanctioned by PESO.

The human costs of easy access to detonators and explosives are devastating. According to South Asia Terrorism Portal, from January 2005 to 14 November 2010, Maoists triggered 533 explosive devised bombs of which 380 explosions were fatal and caused

the death of 442 persons and injury to 422 others. Between January and December 2011, Maoists triggered 72 bombs damaging public properties like bridges, school building, police stations, rail tracks and killing 50 persons including six civilians. The failure to regulate mining is putting India's security forces and civilian lives at grave risk.

Maoists operate in regions rich in iron ore, coal, bauxite, manganese and other minerals with the potential to attract large investments (and provide handsome extractions). No one should be under the illusion that Maoists are fighting on behalf of poor villagers and tribal communities whose resources are being exploited; they have killed more than 9,200 civilians and security personnel since 1998.

At Latehar, the authorities hoped to nab Maoist central committee member Dev Kumar Singh alias Arvindji. But information of the raid by 300 CRPF and anti-Maoist Jharkhand Jaguars was leaked and the group ambushed. In a deadly surprise, Maoists booby-trapped the bodies of two jawans with IEDs. The body of Baidyanath Kisku exploded when moved, killing four villagers. Luckily, the body of Babulal Patel did not explode when airlifted to Ranchi district hospital for postmortem, where doctors suspected mischief and called the police who recovered a 2.75kg IED from the abdominal cavity. A search of the surrounding jungles revealed that the Maoists had practised this ghastly tactic on innocent animals. ■

(Courtesy : The Pioneer)

**GUJARAT**

**Modi inaugurates GIFT City one UN, IMF, UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF to open offices in Gujarat International Finance Tec city**

On 10 January, 2013 Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Gujarat International Financial Tec-City (GIFT) One on the outskirts of Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Addressing on the occasion Shri Modi said that it is a project that is blessed both by Goddess Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth) and Goddess Saraswati (Goddess of knowledge). The Chief Minister pointed that GIFT



will be an inspiration and a point of reference for such initiatives coming up in the future and termed it as a catalyst that would enhance the development process.

Shri Modi pointed out that trade, commerce and finance are in the veins of the Gujarati people and added that if we join these strengths of ours with modern technology we can create a new services sector. "That is why we are going ahead with GIFT," he affirmed.

The Chief Minister shared that as far as GIFT City is concerned the Government is working with a long-term vision in mind. He opined, "We are working with a long-term thought. We are working for the future of those who will work here as well!" Among the many salient features of GIFT, Shri Modi pointed out that environment and green technology have been given immense importance in this project. He avowed that all sectors related to the economy including the cooperative sector could benefit immensely from a project such as GIFT. He declared, "The facilities at GIFT are for everyone. He said the second tower will be ready soon."

According to reports, Banks from Singapore,

agencies of the United Nations, UNESCO, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will open offices in Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT), that is coming up on the outskirts of Gandhinagar, Gujarat creating a million jobs and catapulting the state capital into South Asia's only international financial services centre.

An IFSC on the lines of Dubai and Singapore will facilitate companies and organizations to conduct transactions in foreign currencies from within India. At present, these kinds of transactions are done from foreign shores. According to GIFT estimates, \$80-billion worth of cross-border transactions are done by Indian companies as well as by foreign-based multinational companies for their Indian operations. "All these transactions are now possible from within India at GIFT City," director of GIFT Company Ltd, the company that manages the project, said. The project is expected to create ten lakh new jobs in ten years, he said.

**KARNATAKA**

**Eight Atal Bihari Vajpayee schools to be opened in State**

The Karnataka State Cabinet decided to open eight Atal Bihari Vajpayee residential schools in four revenue divisions of the State. The schools will be established on 20 acres at Doddahalli in Tumkur and Bangarpet in Kolar (Bangalore division), Varuni in Mysore and Chikmagalur (Mysore division), Mudhol in Bagalkot and Shiggaon in Haveri district (Belgaum division), and Gulbarga Rural and Yadgir (Gulbarga division).

Each school will provide education from classes 6 to 12 in English medium. From 2013-14, 80 students will be admitted to class 6 in each school (40 students to a section). Half the seats would be reserved for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, 25 per cent to those from the Scheduled Tribes and 25 per cent for other backward classes. General category students will not be admitted to these schools. Half the seats will be reserved for girls.



## UTTAR PRADESH

## BJP memo to Governor over rising rape cases in UP

The State Bharatiya Janata Party has submitted a memorandum to Governor Shri BL Joshi requesting him to take cognizance of the rape incidents and send his report to the Union Government.

The BJP delegation led by State BJP President Shri Lakshmikant Bajpai met the Governor and submitted the memorandum to him. The BJP claimed that during the 10-month-old regime of the SP government 327 rape incidents took place in the state out of which 75 happened between December 16, 2012 and January 10, 2013 when the entire nation was expressing its anguish over the Delhi gang rape incident.

The BJP memorandum alleged that the State government has not taken any lesson from the Delhi incident and its attitude towards the security and safety of women was lackluster. "The State government was not discharging its constitutional duties and the time has come for the Governor to intervene to handle the situation," the BJP said. It also demanded to set up a fast-track court and shift the trials of rape cases to them preferably with a woman as a judge.

The BJP also demanded the dismissal of those ministers from the Council of Ministers who were facing rape charges. Besides Shri Bajpai the BJP delegation also included senior party leader Shri Om Prakash Singh, Shri HN Dixit, Rajya Sabha member Ms. Kusum Rai, Mayor Shri Dinesh Sharma, party MLAs Ms. Savitri Bai Phule and Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti etc.

## MADHYA PRADESH

## Krishi Karman Award for Madhya Pradesh

The Union Government presented the prestigious Krishi Karman Award to Madhya Pradesh on



15 January. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has congratulated farmers of the State for this achievement. It is noteworthy that Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee gave away Rs. 2 crore award and citation to Madhya Pradesh for three categories including maximum food grains production in the country. The award was received by Chief Minister Shri Chouhan and Agriculture Minister Shri Kusmaria.

Soon after the start of the Cabinet meeting, details regarding receipt of the Krishi Karman Award by Madhya Pradesh were given to the members. All the members of the cabinet expressed their happiness by clapping hands and congratulated the Chief Minister. At the cabinet meeting, citation received from the Union Government was also read out by the Agriculture Minister.

It is noteworthy that Madhya Pradesh has been conferred awards of 'Pioneer State in Agricultural Production', for initiating constitution of Agriculture Cabinet' and 'Construction of Balram Talabs and Developing Facilities for farmers'. Madhya Pradesh has also been adjudged as the best state in productivity of farm inputs besides wheat production. ■

### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates night shelter for poor on private property in Burari

Shri Nitin Gadkari on January 9, 2013 inaugurated Delhi's first ever night shelter on private building for poor during winters. BJP National General Secretary Shri Vijay Goel also President of Lok Abhiyan said that With a severe cold wave sweeping the whole of North India people in Delhi whose buildings are lying vacant or unused should come ahead and offer such properties to operate temporary night shelters. He said that the facility which can accommodate upto 200 people would remain operational until 30th January to all the poor and destitute who want to avail it. Those coming to the shelter would be provided with mattresses, blankets and quilts to help them beat the severe cold conditions. ■

# Kumbh : Mother of all Gatherings

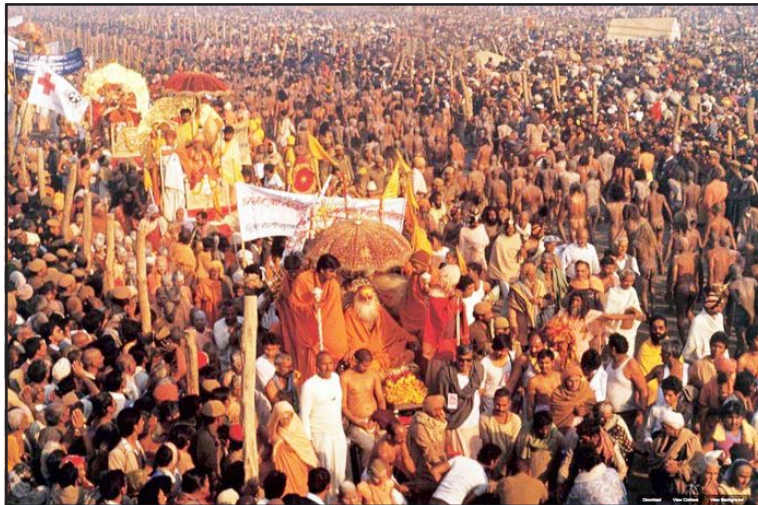
Indic culture is the most complex and colourful culture on the planet. You will see, the way people look, their language, food, way of dressing, music and dance, everything is different every 50 or 100 kilometers in the country. To experience the complexity of this culture in one place, you must go to the Kumbh Mela. You don't have to bathe in the river – just look at the variety of people.

In 2001, during the Mahakumbh, 75 million people gathered in Allahabad. I have never had a longing to go to such places, but there was so much talk happening, so to see a grand event of unimaginable scale, I decided to drive from Coimbatore to Allahabad.

It was one the most incredible sights in the world. I went there at around 2 AM and people from different parts of the country and from across the world were there. Many had no place to sleep, so they had little fires going with their own song and dance, culture and language. The worst and the best of humanity landed up there – if there were crooks, there were also many yogis of great accomplishment.

Diverse people have been meeting like this for thousands

of years. It is a tradition and a culture that has remained alive over time. Apart from having its social relevance, the Kumbh gathering has a certain spiritual strength. The earth and moon journey in cycles, and so too is your life, cyclical. These cycles can remain as cycles of bondage or they can become a means of transcendence –from one cycle of life to another. One who is longing for liberation is



constantly seeking how to become free from the cycles one has created. There are various kinds of cycles, the longest being 144 years; once in 144 years, distinctive occurrences happen in the solar system and these are observed during the Mahakumbh Melas.

Kumbh Melas are held at specific spots in the country around which a whole energy system was created. Because the earth is spinning, it creates a centrifugal force. From 0 to 33 degrees latitude, this force is largely working in a vertical

manner in your system, and particularly at 11 degrees, the energies are shooting straight up. So, the ancients calculated and marked out points on the planet where there is a supportive influence on people. Many points happen to be confluences of rivers and there is a benefit to bathing in those areas. If one is at that spot on a particular day, rare possibilities become available, so people moved there to benefit from this. Nowhere else on the planet does such a large number of people long for liberation with such intensity.

Most Indians are unaware of the depth of mysticism and spiritual process that has happened and continues to happen in India.

This land has always been known as the spiritual capital of the world, simply because no other culture has looked at the inner sciences with as much understanding. Here, liberation or mukti has been the highest goal, and even God is considered just a stepping stone towards that. Despite several geographical, social and political disruptions over the years, the basic ethos of the spiritual process has survived. It is time that we reap the benefits of this profound tradition in its full glory. (Source : Tol) ■