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Fortnightly Magazine

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"2G Spectrum, Adarsha Housing scam and CWG scams, steep price rise and country-wide plight of the farmers have exposed the Congress government at the Centre. Congress party was never serious about the problems of the poor and peasants in the country. After ruling the country for the most number of years since independence, it was the Congress leaders and workers who became richer, not the poor common man. More than ten lakh farmers have committed suicide in the past due to the Congress-led government's poor economic policy. The government has Rs.70,000 crore to buy aeroplanes, but has no money to prevent farmers' suicide".

-Nitin Gadkari
BJP National President

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Letters to the Editor...



PM disappointed the nation

Dear Editor,

Shri L K Advani is right when he says that Manmohan Singh is the weakest Prime Minister in Independent India's history as the country today is not in able hands. It is absolutely unimaginable that our PM, who is considered clean apart from being a renowned economist, can become so subservient to the party president that he can shut his eyes to the open loot and innumerable scandals indulged in by his ministerial colleagues. Officers with dubious past are appointed in anti-corruption watchdogs like CVC by the PM himself. Country's prestige is bartered to protect the organizers of CWG who brought disrepute to the entire nation. No man with self respect can act in such a way as to make himself a laughing stock leave alone the Prime Minister of the biggest republic. This is an insult to the Indian nationhood that post of the PM is devalued with party chief wielding more power than the government. If the PM had been indeed competent; India would not be facing its biggest ever governance crisis like today. Whom to look up to when the Government is out to protect few thieves who looted the country black and white and parked their money in tax heavens? The least that was expected from a renowned economist like Dr. Singh was to run the economy smoothly but the PM has not only disappointed the nation he has disappointed himself as well.

Siba Prasad
Berhampur
Odisha



Write to us
The Editor,

We welcome
Your views & Suggestions

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BJYM Rashtriya Ekata Yatra has awakened the nation

Omar Abdullah has said that he will not allow BJYM to hoist the tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on 26 January 2011 as it might lead to unrest in the valley. Can a person giving such statement and stopping the hoisting of national flag in India on the ground that it might lead to unrest deserve to hold the office of the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir even for a single minute? Can such a helpless chief minister ever help in attaining the goals enshrined in the unanimous resolution of the Indian parliament which says, "Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and we will have to take Pak occupied Kashmir in our own possession".

Can such a chief minister be considered committed to the unity and integrity of India? What has gone wrong with the Congress led UPA government? Is it also helpless and handicapped? The kind of policy that the Congress led UPA is pursuing in Jammu and Kashmir makes it clear that it is more concerned to continue in power than Jammu and Kashmir. If it was not so, Omar Abdullah might not have been able to continue in his office after what he has said. Congress led UPA government which is neck deep in corruption has become completely toothless. It doesn't appear as if any government exists in the country. In the last 63 years after independence the country has never been witness to such a government.

It appears that Congress led UPA government at the centre and Omar Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir thinks that the decision of BJYM to hoist tricolour at Lal Chowk is a political stunt. It is a completely wrong assumption. BJYM is trying to awaken the nation to the threats posed to Kashmir and the worsening condition therein and it is getting tremendous response from the people. The BJYM Rashtriya Ekata Yatra under the leadership of BJYM president Shri Anurag Thakur will reach Lal Chowk in Srinagar after covering more than 3,000 kilometers. No one can deny that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is not a political issue but a national one; it is not an issue related to any political party but an issue that belongs to the entire country. The Congress led UPA government at the centre and the Omar Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir should have welcomed this courageous decision. But alas, this could not happen.

It is an irony with our country that even on the national issue we are not united and to remain in power the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the nation is put at stake. What can be more shameful than this? The government might not allow the BJYM Rashtriya Ekata Yatra to reach the Lal Chowk. It may so happen that the satyagrahis might get arrested on their way. But it will surely hang the heads of UPA government at the centre and Omar Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir in shame. Is Lal Chowk not a part of India? If yes, then why tricolour can not be hoisted there? Is it not a proof of the fact that by not allowing the hoisting of tricolour there the UPA government at the centre and Omar Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir have bend their knees before the separatists? The BJYM Rashtriya Ekata Yatra will be successful in any of the circumstances - whether it hoists the tricolour at Lal Chowk or it is stopped from doing so. BJYM wanted to bring the reality of Kashmir in front of the entire nation and it has come to the fore completely. BJYM should be congratulated because it has brought a national issue before the country and carried a massive awareness campaign among the people.

Entire country will have to stand together on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. If it does not happen then the day will not be very far away when due to the ill conceived policies of Omar Abdullah and Congress the crisis ridden Jammu and Kashmir will further fall into danger zone. We will have to wake up everyone, the entire nation. ■



Congress only enriched itself, never cared for poor : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

On the occasion of *Bhrashtachar Hatao Rally* against corruption on January 17 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha around 3 lac BJP Karyakartas and supporters trooped into the capital city from the nook and corners of Odisha, raising slogans like 'Jai Sriram', 'Bharat Mata ki jai' and beating drums, blowing conches in unison turning the city saffron with posters, banners and flags. While the Capital City was choked with BJP workers from various destinations the crowd seemed disciplined and proactive. The rally was a part of the nationwide campaign against corruption that the BJP launched in New Delhi.

Addressing the massive rally BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari declared a political war against the Congress led Union and the Odisha government and made it clear that BJP was the only alternative before the people.

He said the 2G Spectrum, Adarsha Housing scam and CWG scams, steep price rise and

country-wide plight of the farmers have exposed the Congress government at the Centre. Similarly, in Odisha, the Naveen Patnaik led BJD government stands guilty of extending undue favours to Vedanta, POSCO and other multinational companies.

Announcing that the BJP in Odisha is determined to avenge the BJD's betrayal of 2009 Shri Gadkari said that the state government has lost the moral right to rule the state in the wake of the judicial pronouncement against Odisha government's dubious role in the acquisition of land in the Vedanta case and the Supreme Court's observation favouring a CBI probe into the multi-crore scam in the implementation of MNREGA.

Shri Nitin Gadkari said Congress party was never serious about the problems of the poor and peasants in the country. After ruling the country for the most number of years since independence, it was the Congress leaders and workers who became richer, not the poor

common man, he alleged. Shri Gadkari said more than ten lakh farmers have committed suicide in the past due to the Congress-led government's poor economic policy. Blaming the Congress led UPA government for the increasing plight of the poor and the farmers, he said, "The government has Rs.70,000 crore to buy aeroplanes, but has no money to prevent farmers' suicide".

Accusing Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of failing miserably on economic front due to wrong policies, Gadkari said UPA Government failed to control sky-rocketing prices of essential commodities, while repeated hikes in petrol products placed unbearable burden on the poor and hit progress.

He said more than six years' rule of the prime minister has been a saga of utter failure. He also said the Congress party's wrong economic policy was the reason behind the country's unemployment, poverty and price rise.

Accusing the UPA of looting the country in broad daylight,

Shri Gadkari said Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi, the key accused in the Bofors gun deal scam has close proximity with Congress president Sonia Gandhi and demanded the latter to come clean.

The BJP President also described the affidavit submitted by the Centre in the Supreme Court defending the appointment of controversial CVC P J Thomas facing a corruption case in a Kerala court as "unfortunate". Stating that the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj had opposed Thomas' appointment, he wondered if Centre felt there was no need for consensus of the three-member committee on CVC's appointment, for what purpose the panel was formed.

Naveen government has failed on all fronts

Shri Gadkari said that the BJD government of Naveen Patnaik in Odisha was in tandem with the UPA and was looting the state and not lagging behind the Congress in corruption. He said when we talk of corruption at Delhi; the BJD in Odisha is not far behind. Tum Delhi looto, hum Odisha lootenge is the slogan of Naveen.

He wanted to know why the state government has not so far arrested the culprits behind the murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and whether justice was delayed as the Swami was a Hindu.

Describing the Patnaik Government as the most corrupt, ineffective and callous one in the country, Shri Gadkari said BJD government has miserably failed

on all fronts due to its lackluster approach in tackling the core issues faced by the State and its people. So, the people of Odisha have lost their trust on the Chief Minister's ability to rule. He accused Naveen Patnaik of criminal neglect of the State's interests in vital areas of socio-economic development, particularly in the KBK and the underdeveloped districts of the state. Naveen regime has looted crores of rupees in the name of providing roads and safe drinking water to the poorest of the poor people of KBK he said.

On that occasion Shri Nitin Gadkari ruled out any further alliance with the ruling BJD in Odisha and said BJP would go it alone in the next election.

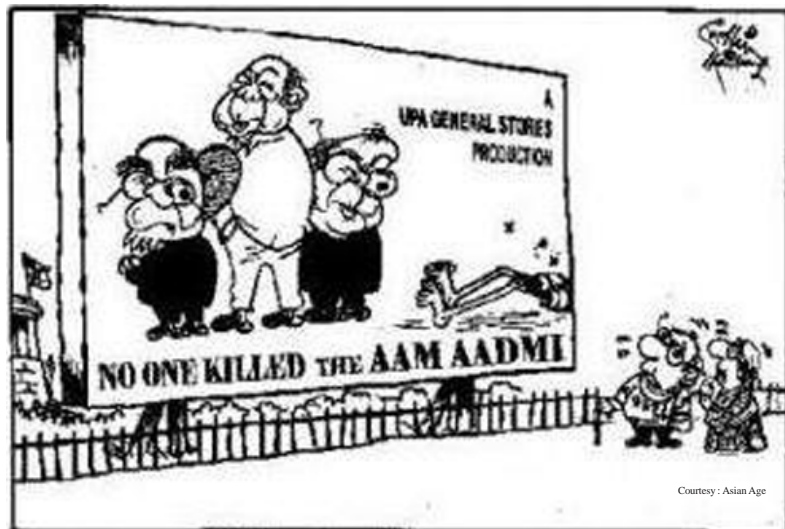
Assuring to provide a corruption-free, development-centric, stable Government, if voted to power, he said the BJP has decided to strengthen its rank and file in the State.

BJP State President Shri Jual Oram slammed Naveen Patnaik for BJD's massive corruption. On

corruption and scams, former Congress chief minister Janaki Ballav Patnaik, known for his record of corruption, would now have to take lessons from Naveen, he said. Reminding the 2009 betrayal by the BJD Chief, Shri Oram vowed that the BJP would definitely avenge Naveen Patnaik's backstabbing.

BJP National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said the massive gathering from all parts of the State is a clear indication that the people want change both at the Centre and the State. If Karyakartas work tirelessly till the next election, there is every possibility of BJP coming to power, he said.

Among others, Odisha BJP Prabhari Shri Santosh Gangwar, Shri Balbir Punj MP, senior State leaders Shri Bijay Mohapatra, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan, Shri KV Singhdeo, former state president Shri Suresh Pujari and Shri Nayan Mohanty addressed the gathering. ■



Courtesy: Asian Age

UPA should bring back money stashed abroad : Advani

From Our Correspondent

NDA Acting Chairperson Shri L K Advani on January 16 welcomed the Supreme Court's move to make public the details of black money stashed away abroad by Indians.

Speaking at the Mahasangram rally of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) against corruption and price rise in Mumbai Shri Advani said, the Supreme Court pulled up Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam and asked him why the government could not divulge the details of those who had kept black money abroad.

Shri Advani said that he would appeal to the court to take the steps on this front to a logical conclusion. The Indian

government must ensure that all the money abroad was brought back and it must punish the people involved and make special laws, if necessary on this issue. He called on the Congress which had belittled him when he raised key questions on black money and said it must reply to NDA's letter on this issue and called the party to account. This had happened in other countries, the U.S. and Germany got back money and there was a law on this subject, he said.

Linking the issue of black money in foreign banks to February 1-15, 2011 ○ 8

corruption and scams, Shri Advani said this was the key issue related to corruption. "In 2009, I said black money by those who have earned it through nefarious means, is kept in countries like Switzerland, where banking norms allow having secret accounts and no one will even ask you. Banking secrecy laws are there in many countries. Now there is a chance, the U.S., Germany felt that their money should return to their

in foreign banks. Global Financial Integrity, an international group published a small booklet and estimated the Indian money abroad at Rs. 20.85 lakh crore, Shri Advani said. Quattrocchi had deep relations with the Gandhis: Gadkari

Addressing the NDA rally on corruption and scams BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari came down heavily on the Congress and the Maharashtra government. He said this was a government which looted its people by making laws to suit them. For instance, for the Commonwealth Games, there was a rule that contractors had to have previous experience with such games and thus all the Indian contractors were ruled out.

He said lakhs of farmers have committed suicide and there were reports which said that in India 70 per cent of the people spend less than Rs. 20 a day. On the one hand, while Shri Pawar was Agriculture Minister, foodgrains were rotting, there was no storage facility, gas prices were spiraling, he said. Challenging the Congress to reply to all allegations of corruption, Shri Gadkari said that he had all the evidence of Win Chaddha's son's accounts and also proof that Quattrocchi had deep relations with the ►►



Gadkari flags off BJP's 'Save Kerala' march

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari flagged off Kerala Raksha Pada Yatra by handing over the party flag to BJP State President Shri V Muraleedharan, leader of the march, at the northern border town of Uppala in Kasaragod district on 16 January.

The march undertaken with the determination to 'open account' in the State Assembly in the election due in April-May, would culminate at Thiruvananthapuram on February 26. It would traverse 70 Assembly constituencies spread in 12 of the 14 districts of the State. Party workers and followers from Wayanad and Idukki districts would accord reception to the march in their adjoining districts.

The Yatra would turn out to be an extensive campaign against the anti-people policies of both the LDF Government in Kerala and the UPA regime in the Centre, the rampant

corruption under the two regimes and threat of terrorism.

BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L.K Advani, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh and other national leaders will participate in the programme at the culmination of the march on February 26.

Flagging off the march, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the successive governments led by the Congress and the CPI(M) in Kerala had neglected the need of industrial development in the State. Presently, Kerala was an economy dependent on the money orders from outside the State and Gulf countries.

Shri Gadkari said a huge



leap in industrial development was needed in Kerala and for this the State should emulate the example of Gujarat. He said the successive regimes in Kerala had also neglected the agricultural sector of the State. Referring to the gruesome tragedy that took place at Pullumedu in which 102 Sabarimala victims were killed, Shri Gadkari said that the governments in Kerala had failed in arranging basic facilities for the pilgrims. He emphasized the need of a meeting of chief ministers of all the southern states in the context of the tragedy. (FOC) ■

►► Gandhis.

He also reiterated the NDA's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into 2G scam and asked the Congress "what wrong we have done by asking for a JPC?" The Congress was afraid because their faces were already blackened and they were afraid that more scams would spill out.

NDA acting Convenor Shri Sharad Yadav said this was a fight for justice. He said a majority of the parties wanted a JPC probe into the 2G spectrum and the Commonwealth Games

scam, even the Congress allies were in support, but the Congress with 206 seats was not relenting. "Even during the meeting with Pranab Mukherjee all of us had agreed to the JPC probe from 1998. It is the Congress which by its refusal has put a lock on Parliament," he said.

Shiv Sena Executive President Shri Uddhav Thackeray said the Congress and its allies had no shame. He said an economist heads the country and a farmer's son is the Agriculture Minister. Yet farmers are committing suicide and

prices are going out of control. Referring to the Adarsh Society, he said, while the Environment Minister suggested that the building be demolished, the question of the Lavasa remained to be seen. Shri Sharad Pawar's 'connections' with the Lavasa implied that little was said about it, he alleged.

He dared the Environment Ministry not to clear the Lavasa. If the Adarsh was not demolished by the government then common people would take the law into their hands, he warned. ■

Certain parties impeding consensus building on Uniform Civil Code : Jaitley

From Our Correspondent

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley decried certain political leaders and parties for impeding the process of consensus building on Uniform Civil Code in the country in sheer pursuit of vote bank politics. The result has been the denial of equal rights and privileges to women enshrined in the Constitutions of India.

Speaking on a Panel Discussion on "Personal Law Reforms and Women" organized by BJP Mahila Morcha on January 13 Shri Arun Jaitley stated that the founding fathers



of the Constitution had opined in favour of achieving the goal of uniform civil code. Yet the scourge of vote bank politics had reached such a nadir that if Dr.

Ambedkar were to speak in favour of Uniform Civil Code today, he would have been dubbed communal and reactionary.

On the distorted public discourse seeking to discourage nationalist forces and encourage separatist mentality

Shri Arun Jaitley referred to the recent example of "perversion of political thought" in the country whereby the blatantly anti-national and separatist views expressed by certain people are condoned in the name of freedom of speech while the attempts to unfurl the national flag in any part of the country to promote unity and integrity of the country are condemned.

The views by certain elements in favour of disintegrating the country and dubbing India as an "unnatural combination" were supported in the name of freedom of expression by the self-proclaimed votaries of civil liberties and free political discourse.

However, the same champions of civil liberties and freedom of thought are criticizing and questioning the BJP's programme to hoist the national flag in different parts of the country.

This according to Shri Jaitley is a classic example of perversion of political thought and discourse in the country which views the people expressing views against the unity of country are considered free speakers while those espousing the cause of national unity are perceived as unjust.

It was this perversion of political thought which was providing a fillip to separatist forces to indulge in anti-national propaganda in the name of free speech with impunity.

Although the Constitution mandates that no law in violation of Article-13 of the Constitution (enshrining right to equality and right to life including the right to live with dignity) can become a law, yet an erroneous interpretation by the politicians and judiciary has put the customary practices of minorities, both religious and cultural, in the ambit of 'laws' while some of these clearly transgress and deny equality of opportunity and rights to women and are in essence in violation of the basic tenets of the Constitution. This erroneous interpretation has even made the judiciary weary of striking these down on the ground of not hurting the sentiments of the minorities and not infringing on the religious practices and

Continued on page.....28

Petrol price hike is totally unjustified & nothing but loot of common man : Javadekar

From Our Correspondent

Interacting with media persons in New Delhi on January 16, 2011 BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar MP said if general price rise is the failure of the economist Prime Minister, the Food and Petrol price hike is the Congress conspiracy against the *Aam Aadmi*. When the world is witnessing a stable price regime and the food prices are actually going down in major part of the world, India is experiencing turbulent price regime because of lack of any cohesive policy on the part of the UPA government. The double dose of price hike of petrol in one month is totally unjustified and is nothing but loot of the common man by the govt. he said.

He said when people are reeling under general price rise of + 10% in WPI and 18% of food prices, the govt. should have applied the balm and offered



relief, instead govt. chose to burden the common man with double dose of petrol price hike, which is Rs. 5.50 per liter in one month. In the name of decontrol it is actually the cartel of oil companies, which is raising the prices under govt. protection. The worst is the insensitivity displayed by the UPA ministers. They have shown audacity to offer any reason under the sun

for the price rise but their own policy failure. Shri Sharad Pawar says he is responsible for price rise of only 5 items. Rahul Gandhi says that coalition politics is responsible for price rise. DMK feels it is natural calamity. The Prime Minister as usual promises that the "Prices will soften in next two

Coalition partners of UPA must come out, if concerned about rising prices : Shahnawaz Husain

The Bharatiya Janata Party asked the non-Congress coalition partners in the UPA Government to come out of the alliance if they are genuinely concerned about the rising prices. The alliance partners should withdraw support to the UPA Government on the issue of failure to check the price rise. Otherwise the blame would be on them, said BJP National Spokesman Shri Shahnawaz Husain talking to media persons in Jaipur on January 17. Shri Husain held the existing differences among the various groups within the ruling Congress party as well as within the Cabinet responsible for the failure to control the price rise. He said petrol and onions are now sold at the same price.

The Centre, while trying to pass the blame to the State Governments for failing to control prices, is forgetting the fact that the Congress has governments in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Jaipur and other places, he said.

He said the viewpoints of certain Congress members in the UPA Cabinet did not concur with those of the Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and others. There are differences



between Home Minister P. Chidambaram and Dr. Singh. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Manmohan Singh and Pranab Mukherjee share similar viewpoints in economic policies but others differ, he said. He further said it appears that the Centre is not bothered about the people's problems. The Government is against the common man. It has not learnt any lessons from the setback it received in the recent Bihar elections as well, Shri Husain said.

months". He offers a fresh promise after two months. It is a complete policy paralysis and lack of political will and vision, which is the root cause for uncontrolled price rise.

He said the govt. defence is that the international prices are rising and companies are suffering. Both the reasons offered by the govt. are wrong and bogus. Under recoveries is a notional phenomenon and oil companies are actually making profits and paying dividends. Govt. has already increased prices substantially when the international prices were well above \$120 per barrel. Now, they are ruling \$90 per barrel. The real reason is that the govt. has no policy and the baseline prices are faulty. Government has decontrolled the petrol prices and is going ahead with decontrolled of diesel prices as per Kirti Parikh

committee. Govt. has not made companies accountable on efficiency index. Govt. expects consumers to pay for the inefficiencies of the oil companies. They are over staffed. Their procurement and transaction cost is high. They do price rigging at every stage. Govt. does not want to hurt vested interests in Kerosene adulteration racket. It has not accepted the suggestion of having Price Stabilisation Fund, which can be used in the event of turbulent international prices. The Govt. has regarded petroleum sector as a milking cow to garner large revenues. This year govt. will collect nearly Rs. 1.76 lac crores from this sector. India is the highest taxation on petrol.

He said BJP demands immediate roll back of recent petrol price hike and a Concrete Action Plan to tackle inflation effectively in one month. ■

Economist Prime Minister has proved a disaster : Rudy

Press statement issued by BJP National Spokesperson Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy MP on January 14, 2011



The inflation is now approaching 9 per cent and the United Progressive Alliance government is busy hoodwinking the people by stating that the country's

growth rate is "good". Food inflation is hitting the highest ever in recent times while overall prices of essential commodities has made common man run from pillar to post for his everyday survival. What good is such a growth which keeps the 'aam aadmi' away from his daily ration. The fact remains that the economist Prime Minister has proven a disaster. He has not only let down the government but the whole nation while he and his government remains clueless of the current situation. The government and the Prime Minister is unaware of the ground realities.

The principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party is aghast by the statement of the Prime Minister's media advisor that the price rise is an "unexpected" phenomenon. "Closely monitoring" and to state that it is "unacceptable" is not the solution but action on the ground and sincere effort was the solution, for which precious time has already been lost.

In a recent meeting, it is understood that the

Agriculture minister Sharad Pawar has said that the actions of the commerce ministry has acted in opposite direction in the crisis situation of prices. This is a characteristic situation under UPA of the left arm not knowing the actions of the right arm under the nose of the learned Prime Minister.

It is high time that the Prime Minister and the government stops hoodwinking and admits his failure to the nation.

FOOD SECURITY BILL

The recommendations of the National Advisory Council (NAC) on Food Security Bill has been rejected by the expert committee of the government constituted by Prime Minister and headed by C Rangarajan, the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

While Arjun Sen Gupta committee has said that more than 70 per cent of the country's population lives below poverty line, the expert committee has completely disagreed the possibility of such a move to benefit the people living below poverty line.

The Congress had been drum beating the initiative as a welfare scheme which has been now stone-walled by another committee of the government. It is a case of an yet another attempt the government to mislead the people of the country. It proves the fact again that the government is not serious for the welfare of the poor. ■

Corruption and inflation has undermined national self-confidence

By L K Advani

By all evaluations the Manmohan Singh Government is passing through the worst crisis of its six and a half year tenure. The spectrum scam, the Commonwealth games scam and the Defence land scam of Mumbai have come all together in a manner as to make the

everyone; they administered such a spanking to the Congress Party that never again will they even think of invoking the Emergency Art. 352, except, of course, during a war.

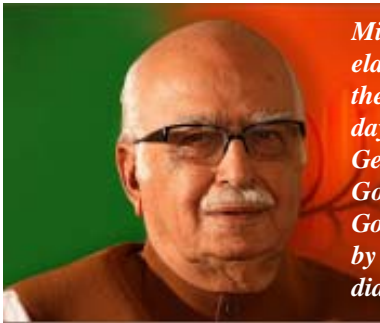
When in the seventies, democracy became imperilled, Parliament let down the people. So did the media. It was only the

his family cannot knock at the doors of a court. Justice H.R Khanna recorded a powerful dissent and earned a permanent place in judicial history

A couple of weeks back, in this blog I had referred to the PIL petition filed by Ram Jethmalani, Subash Kashyap and K.P.S Gill urging Supreme Court to compel

Government to get back India's wealth deposited in tax havens overseas.

Millions of newspaper readers must have been elated to read on January 15 morning that when the matter came up in the court on the preceding day, the Court sternly admonished the Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam when he said that Government had received from the German Government all details about the monies deposited by Indian citizens in Liechenstein Bank but GOI did not wish to make those details public.



Millions of newspaper readers must have been elated to read on January 15 morning that when the matter came up in the court on the preceding day, the Court sternly admonished the Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam when he said that Government had received from the German Government all details about the monies deposited by Indian citizens in Liechenstein Bank but GOI did not wish to make those details public.

common man feel that many in the government today are not just making money on the sly, but they are brazenly looting the country.

More worrisome is the fact that this is a crisis not only for Government but also for the country. The present level of corruption and inflation undermines the nation's collective self-confidence.

Such a situation always reminds me of the grave crisis that confronted Indian democracy in 1975-77. Then too the nation had lost all hope that the pre - 1975 climate of freedom would ever return.

Thanks to Government's gross misassessment of the nation's mood, an election was ordered. The voters surprised

judiciary that showed guts.

Almost all the High Courts rejected GOI's contention that under the Indian Constitution when an Emergency is clamped on the country no prisoner has a right to move a *Habeas Corpus* petition. At no point of time can the *Habeas Corpus* right be suspended, the High Courts held. Nineteen H.C judges were penalised for this stand by being transferred to other States.

However, the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice A.N. Ray (He had become Chief Justice by virtue of the supersession of three senior judges namely Justices Hegde, Shelat and Grover) agreed with the Attorney General Niren De that even if a prisoner is shot dead because of some official's personal *animus*,

admonished the Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam when he said that Government had received from the German Government all details about the monies deposited by Indian citizens in Liechenstein Bank but GOI did not wish to make those details public.

The S.C bench comprising of Justice B. Sudershan Reddy and Justice S. S. Nijjar asked Subramaniam: "What is the privilege you are claiming for not disclosing the information about those who have money deposited in foreign banks?" The Court further said it would like persons like Pune based businessman Hassan Ali Khan who is being probed by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged black

Sabarimala stampede Kills more than 100

More than 100 people were killed when a stampede broke out among 200,000 pilgrims gathered at Sabarimala temple, Kerala which is a major Hindu shrine in south Indian. The stampede, one of the worst pilgrimage tragedy of recent times, happened on 15 January night in Pullumedu area about 7 km from the hillshrine when a huge crowd of devotees heading home after the 'Makar Jyoti' darshan of the Lord Ayyappa.

Expressing displeasure over the neglect of warnings by it on the safety of Sabarimala pilgrims, Kerala High Court asked the state Government to file a detailed report on the stampede that claimed more than 100 lives.

The court also observed that there had been lack of co-ordination among various departments involved in conduct of the festival at Sabarimala, which attracts millions of pilgrims during the two-month long season from mid-November to mid - January. ■ (FOC)



Gadkari expresses deep shock at the loss of lives in Sabarimala

Condolence Message by BJP President, Shri Nitin Gadkari, on the unfortunate death of pilgrims at Sabarimala Shrine in Kerala on January 15, 2011

The BJP President, Shri Nitin Gadkari has expressed his deep shock and dismay at the loss of lives in an unfortunate accident at the holy temple shrine of Sabarimala in Kerala and in the resultant stampede. Shri Gadkari has conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families who have lost their near and dear ones in the tragedy.

Shri Nitin Gadkari has appealed to the State Government of Kerala to provide all necessary medical assistance to the injured immediately and has hoped that evacuation operations will be undertaken on a war footing to provide succor to the victims. Shri Gadkari also appealed to the State Government to provide ex-gratia relief to the families of the victims.

The BJP President has hoped that the State Government will make requisite security and management arrangements to facilitate smooth

organization of the *darshan* of the holy shrine by devotees recognizing the religious sanctity and cultural significance of the festival of Makar Sankranti and other similar events at the Sabarimala Shrine.

The BJP President has also exhorted the Prime Minister to take the initiative of calling a meeting of the chief ministers of the five southern states of Kerala, Tamilnadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka with a view to devising an institutional mechanism to ensure safety and well-being of the pilgrims visiting all the religious shrines in these states so that such tragedies could be avoided.

Shri Gadkari has urged the Chief Minister of Karnataka to rush immediate relief and rescue assistance to the neighbouring state of Kerala in their need of hour. ■

Rashtriya Ekta Yatra marching towards its goal



From Our Correspondent

BJYM Rashtriya Ekta Yatra has completed more than half of the stipulated distance of 3066.54 KM. During the Journey, the Ekta yatra has passed through many cities and villages of India. The Ekta yatra is marching ahead and people's support to it is increasing in the same proportion. Place to place meetings are being held. The meetings are being attended by local youths in huge number. The Yatra flagged off from Kolkata by the BJP President Nitin Gadkari on January 12, 2011 and by January 20, it has covered cities like Bardhaman, Asansol, Dhanbad, Chauparan, Gaya, Patna, Buxar, Varanasi, Sultanpur, Amethi, Luknow, Jhansi, Gwalior and New Delhi. The Yatra will conclude at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on January 26, 2011, with the hoisting of National Flag by BJYM National President Shri Anurag Thakur .

WEST BENGAL

Addressing the huge gathering in Kolkata BJYM National President Shri Anurag Thakur said that the Beginning of national integrity movement under BJYM was taking place from Kolkata because it was the land of youth ideals like Swami Vivekanand, Netaji Subhash Chand Bose and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. During this Yatra in 11 states 180 public awareness meeting would be organized, he added. In his speech he declared that those who have sacrificed their lives for the unity and integrity of nation would be honoured during the Yatra. The very purpose of "Rashtriya Ekta Yatra" from Kolkata to Kashmir to create harmony and brotherhood among the people and it will be a milestone for the integrity and unity of

the Nation. Despite the efforts by a section to create a controversy the youth of this country are enthusiastic about this Yatra. This youth-power will win over the destructive powers, he stated.

He alleged that a particular section living within India has always protested every effort of national integration, the history is witness to this fact. But this is also a truth that such forces could not succeed in their ill designs. This is why the solution to the Kashmir could not be found although the efforts to cut it from India were also failed miserably. Congress is mainly responsible for the Kashmir problem. If the then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru would have taken appropriate steps at the time of accession of Kashmir this problem would not have been grown into a cancer.



They messed it in such a way that it cannot be solved even after 60 years. Despite that the Congress is engaged in repeating the same mistake as it had committed in 1947, he said. Thakur warned the Congress party to stop using Kashmir for its petty political aims as it was the duty of the Government to ensure the national sovereignty and Congress is the ruling party at the centre.

Charging Congress of acting against the law of the land Shri Thakur said that instead of making efforts to solve the Kashmir problem from its roots the ruling party is creating new problems. The negotiators appointed by the central government are speaking the language of separatists. The main objective of this march is to strengthen integrity and unity of the nation. Opponents of this March knows very well that if youth become aware of the Kashmir issues, they will lose the political ground. That is why they are creating controversies on the march and trying to give it a political colour.

JHARKHAND

Addressing a public meeting during Ekta Yatra in Jharkhand BJYM President Shri Anurag Thakur said that Ambitions of separatists have become bold due to weak attitude of Central Govt. He accused Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullallah of "encouraging" the separatists by opposing the party's plan to hoist the tricolour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. "Omar is indirectly supporting the statements of Hurriyat and JKLF over the flag hoisting issue. Being an Indian it is my fundamental right to hoist the national flag at any corner of the country," he said at the Godhra ground in Dhnabad. The Yatra in Jharkhand was





welcomed by Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda. While welcoming the Rastriya Ekta Yatra Shri Munda said that people of Jharkhand are with him.

BIHAR

BJYM President Shri Anurag Thakur vehemently criticized the 'anti-people' policies of Central Government in huge public meetings of Buxar and Ghazipur and held the divisive policies of Central Government responsible for the violence and stone pelting in Kashmir. Addressing a public meeting in Buxar Shri Thakur said "The very purpose of the journey is to pave the way for a solution for the Kashmir issue." He

demanded to repeal Article 370 of the constitution which gives special status to J&K and reiterated that problem could be solved only by constitutional measures which is not being used.

UTTAR PRADESH

After crossing the Bihar the journey on 5th day started from Varanasi and reached Amethi via Jaunpur and Sultanpur. In Badlapur of Varanasi over 5,000 people attended the public meeting and extended their support to the Yatra which increased to 20,000 in Amethi, the constituency of Congress General Secretary Shri Rahul Gandhi.

In Varanasi BJYM demanded that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) should not be diluted in Jammu and Kashmir and Article 370 that gives special status to the state be abrogated. Speaking in public meeting in Varanasi Shri Thakur said that the gap between the state and rest of the country could not be bridged without abrogating the Article 370. BJYM received a grand welcome and unprecedented support in the



parliamentary constituency of Congress scion Shri Rahul Gandhi. The huge crowd in support of the *Yatra* was evident of the fact that the people of the country are now fed up with the so-called legacy of Gandhi family.

MADHYA PRADESH

A very warm welcome was extended to the *Yatra* in Datia and Gwalior. The *Yatra* saw record crowd in Gwalior. BJP National General Secretary Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, BJP State President Sh. Prabhat Jha, and BJYM State President Shri Jitu Jirati received the *Yatra* there. Addressing the meeting, BJYM National President Shri Anurag Thakur lambasted the opponents of the *Yatra* and said that the persons, who are opposing the *Yatra* and have threatened to prevent it, are traitors and they should be put behind bars. He said that Tiranga is the symbol of India's honour and self-respect. To hoist it anywhere is a constitutional right. Hence, punishable action should be taken against the anti-national persons who create hurdles in hoisting tricolour at Lal Chowk as is done against the traitors. Shri Thakur has said the motto behind organising *Rashtriya Ekta Yatra* throughout the country is to make the people aware of serious situation in Kashmir.

The common man of the valley wants to remain with India, but certain people are trying to separate them from the main stream. Whether it is Congress led UPA Govt. or Omar Abdullah's National Conference State Government having Congress support, both are proving incapable of handling the situation in the valley. Omar Abdullah Govt.'s scheme of rehabilitation of terrorists residing in PoK will further deteriorate the situation in the valley. The statements of the interlocutors sent by it can judge sensitiveness of Central Govt. concerning Kashmir. The interlocutors themselves speak the language of separatists, which is causing serious threat to the national security. Use of hired stone pelters, pelting of stones on security forces and frequent changing of policy of deployment of

security forces are the factors due to which the morale of security forces is going down. The decisions have been taken during the recent past show the weak political will of Central and State Govts.

DELHI

After covering 2200 KM distance through seven States in nine days, the *Yatra* reached Delhi on January 20, 2011. '*Rashtriya Ekta Yatra*', aiming to hoist the national flag at Kashmir's Lal Chowk, received a hearty welcome in Delhi by BJP members led by their state President Shri Vijender Gupta. The fleet entered the city through Badarpur Border.

At constitution club in New Delhi a function was organized to welcome the *Rashtriya Ekta Yatra*. Former deputy Prime Minister of India and BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L.K Advani addressing the BJYM youth leaders in the function said, the efforts to halt *Rashtriya Ekta Yatra* and to stop the BJYM from hoisting the national flag at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Republic Day was in keeping with the agenda of the anti-national elements.

"The *Yatra* is not challenging any Government or the people of the country. It is but an open challenge to the separatists who are opposed to the national integrity.

Instead of stopping the youth from unfurling tricolour at Lal Chowk, he (Abdullah) should lead the way to espouse the national cause," Shri Advani added. He accused the J&K Government of playing in the hands of the separatists who have been seeking the pre-1953 position in the State. Shri Advani maintained that the Constitution of India allows every citizen to hoist national flag in any part of the country.

The party activists raised slogans '*Lal Chowk jayenge, Tiranga wahin fehrayenge*' and '*Jahan huye balidan mookerjee, wo Kashmir hamara hai*' while BJYM National President said why did not CM Omar Abdullah himself hoist the flag at Lal Chowk.

Shri Thakur said that every citizen has the right and moral duty to hoist tricolour. ■



"Ready for any sacrifice to unfurl National Flag at Lal Chowk" : Anurag Thakur



BJYM President, Shri Anurag Thakur, MP on January 12 launched upon the Rashtriya Ekta Yatra from Kolkata flagged off by BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari. Yatra will conclude on January 26 with the unfurling of National Flag at Lal Chowk, Srinagar. He made his debut in a bye-election to Lok Sabha in 2008 when the second-time MP created a record by winning with the highest ever margin from Hamirpur parliamentary constituency in Himachal Pradesh with the highest number of people to the armed forces. Shri Anurag Thakur has embarked upon a very challenging task before him igniting enthusiasm and a spirit of nationalism in the youth of the country. His yatra has been threatened by the secessionist/pro-Pak elements. Even Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has criticized the step. Yet he remains unfazed. "We are determined to achieve our national objective, come what may", he declares exuding confidence and determination.

For Kamal Sandesh National Convener of BJP Literature & Publication Cell Amba Charan Vashishth interviewed him in New Delhi a few days before he left for his yatra. Some inputs were collected on phone during the yatra. Excerpts:

What motivated you for the Yatra?

The activities of the separatists and pro-Pakistani elements in Kashmir have posed a great threat to the unity and integrity of India. This motivated me to undertake this *yatra* to once again assert that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and no power on earth could snatch it from us. Kashmir is not a religious issue. Kashmir as much belongs to India as much does India belong to Kashmir.

Highlights of the Rashtriya Ekta Yatra?

Commencing from Kolkata, the *janmasthali* and *karamsthali* of Swami Vivekanand, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, on January 12, the birthday of Swami Vivekanand, the *yatra* is to conclude on Republic Day on January 26, 2011 at Lal Chowk in Srinagar (Dr. Mookerjee's *balidansthali*) with the unfurling of the National Flag after passing through 11 states covering 3066.54 kms. On the way about 150 public meetings will be organized and families of martyrs honoured at different places in the course of *yatra*. On January 25 a massive rally will be held at Jammu in which lakhs of youth will participate to display their solidarity with the people of Kashmir, particularly the youth

What are the objectives?

Our objectives are that Article 370 should be abrogated; Armed Forces Special Power Act should be left untouched; the unanimous resolutions passed by the Indian parliament resolving to get back Pak-occupied Kashmir should be honoured; safe, secure and exploitation free life should be assured for the Kashmiri youth; the Kashmiri pandits forced out of Kashmir should be honourably rehabilitated within Kashmir; political and economic discrimination against Jammu &

Laddakh regions should stop and uniform development of all the three regions ensured.. Word and spirit of the Constitution should be respected while evolving any solution.

What has been the response during the past about one week of your yatra?

It is tremendous. I find great enthusiasm among the people, particularly youth, for the cause for which the yatra has been launched. Yatra has received massive support and at times our caravan got delayed at places by six

your yatra?

I don't care the least for it. It is for the State and Central government to curb their threats and activities. As nationalists to the core I and my BJYM brethren are going to Srinagar to exercise our constitutional right and perform our legitimate national duty in a most peaceful manner. It is the duty of both the State and the Central governments to provide us security and curb the anti-national activities of others. For this we are ready to make any sacrifice, even our lives,

to safeguard the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. Let the secessionists and government do anything, we are determined to achieve our national objective, come what may.

As BJYM President you are in direct

confrontation with the Congress youth icon Rahul Gandhi. How do you see it?

Rahul Gandhi is making efforts to bring more and more youth into politics. And this is what I too am doing in my own way. I welcome it as far as this effort is concerned. Efforts of both of us are complementary to each other.

Youth of the country are mad about Rahul.

It is only a media hype. What has Rahul done for the youth that they should go mad about him? What has he done to remove poverty and unemployment among the youth? A visit to a dalit home does not banish poverty of the dalit community. Today the Youth Congress seems to have vanished from the scene and only Rahul is visible. Who is the national president of Youth Congress, people don't know.

According to reports, about half of India's population, in which more than half are the youth, cannot spend more than ' 20 a day for their living. I challenge both our economist prime minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Rahul to frame a model family budget for these people so that they can have at least two meals a day.

How do you assess Rahul's performance?

It is not for me but for the Congress and the people

About half of India's population, in which more than half are the youth, cannot spend more than ₹ 20 a day for their living. I challenge both our economist prime minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Rahul to frame a model family budget for these people so that they can have at least two meals a day.

hours even. Yet, the people waited patiently to express their solidarity with the cause of the yatra. A crowd of 25/30 thousand has been thronging for the rallies at almost all the places.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah has advised your party to abandon the yatra as he thinks it a threat to peace in the State.

Strange! He visualizes no threat to peace by the activities of separatists and anti-national elements which he dreads to rein in. He finds no threat to peace when Hurriyat and other leaders indulge in seditious activities and openly preach secession exploiting the freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the Indian constitution. When they challenge the Constitution which recognizes J&K as a State of the Indian Union, Omar feels at peace. But he feels threatened by our wish to unfurl the national flag in Srinagar in a most peaceful manner. Congress-NC government in J&K and UPA government at the Centre extend to secessionists the freedom to preach sedition in any part of India, including Delhi but wish to deny us the freedom to show our respect to the National Flag in Srinagar.

The secessionists have also issued a threat to
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to see for themselves what he has done for the *aam aadmi* by whom they swear daily. He shies away from opening his mouth on burning problems of the country – on removing unemployment and poverty among the youth, on Kashmir problem, on prices and inflation which have made the life of the common man miserable.

Congress entertains high hopes from Rahul and is hopeful of reviving itself in States where it had lost heavily in the past.

They have every right to entertain very high hopes from him. His achievements since he was made the Congress general secretary are visible to the naked eye. These are dismal. All his innovative steps to galvanise the youth have come a cropper. NSUI has lost

student body elections in Delhi, Himachal and elsewhere. Congress has suffered badly in Bihar assembly elections where its tally has been reduced by half to just four MLAs. In Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and elsewhere Congress has fared badly.

How do you plan to help the youth of the country?

I wish to provide the youth with a platform to express themselves on the burning problems facing the country and come out with their suggestions to solve these. And I think it is only the BJP and BJYM that can provide them such a healthy environment and opportunity to give out their best and to rise on the strength of their merit, intelligence and hard work. ■

Gadkari in China on 5-day good-will visit

BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari reached Beijing on January 20, 2011 on a goodwill visit, the first-ever by a head of the party, to interact with the country's top leadership on a host of issues, including the India-China relations. The visit is aimed at promoting party-to-party high-level contacts.

Shri Gadkari accompanied by party general secretaries Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, Shri Vijay Goel, joint organizing secretary Shri Saudan Singh, Secretaries Shri Laxman Kova and Arti Mehra, his political associate Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and joint convener of the party's foreign affairs cell Vijay Jolly was accorded a warm and cordial welcome after they arrived for a five-day visit heading a high-level delegation of the party.

"I am glad to be in China to meet the Chinese leaders. China is our largest neighbour. We share a 3,500 km long boundary with China. We also enjoy civilization links which date back to over 1600 years," he said upon his arrival.

"Over the years our relationship has evolved, has grown, has matured, and it has become truly multifaceted. There is consensus across the political spectrum in India for cooperative and cordial ties with the People's Republic of China," he said.

Shri Gadkari's itinerary includes a meeting with the leaders of the Chinese Association for Bamboo and Vine Industry. He is also scheduled to visit the Bamboo and agricultural products processing enterprises.

A visit to Yanqing County for a field study of the new energy development and recycle project in the rural area, a visit to one of the largest solar power plants in China and a visit to the new energy research institute have also been planned.

The BJP delegation will have an interaction with the leaders of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and visit the local neighbourhood community in Guangzhou to study the party building at grass root level. ■



Rising prices a UPA phenomenon

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been summoned by a Chandigarh court on the issue of spiraling prices and unrestrained inflation in the country. Though it may seem somewhat unusual to political observers but the order is significant given the desperation of the people who fail to witness even a single step by the government to retrieve the situation. Continuously rising prices have become a permanent phenomenon in the country with the government refusing to take any relief measures. The order is significant for acknowledgement of the fact as to where the real power of the Congress led UPA government lies and who owns the real responsibility. The court order on the petition of a NGO symbolizes the frustration of the common man from the government which is fast losing credibility in public eye.

The order comes days after the public sector oil companies hiked petrol prices by Rs 2.50 per litre making it costlier by more than Rs 10 per litre within a short period of last seven months. This works out to a crippling 22 per cent increase. The government has claimed that there was no way out but to raise the price of the fuel mainly due to rise in the prices of the crude oil in the international markets but the facts suggests otherwise. If we compare with the prices of the crude oil in the international market with that of prices that prevailed in 2008, it is obvious that the crude oil is being sold in the international market at almost the same price they were in 2008, but the prices for oil in Indian market is almost up by 30% since 2008. It is clear that the government is trying to fudge the figures to hoodwink the nation.

At the same time the country is grappling with unprecedented food inflation with the prices of onions and other vegetables crossing the

imagination of even the doomsayers of the economy. The year 2011 started with a whopping food inflation rate of 18.32% with the prices of onions up by 82% per cent from a year ago, vegetables by 70.73 per cent, rice by 1.34 per cent, fruits by 17.71 per cent, milk by 13.20 per cent and eggs, fish and meat by 16.70 per cent. The situation seems to be out of control with no one taking responsibility in the government.

Who is responsible?

In our parliamentary democracy a system has been envisaged wherein accountability and transparency are the hallmark of the functioning of any government. But the situation is very shocking under the Congress led UPA government.

Open blame game is the order of the day with no one caring to take responsibility. Congress general secretary has blamed the compulsions of the coalition politics for unabated price rise and corruption indicting his coalition partners. It might be a smart move on part of Rahul Gandhi and his party to pass the buck to his coalition partners but his allies were not



enthused by his remark. NCP which was in fact the target of his remarks as its leader Sharad Pawar is the union agriculture minister could not stop itself from hitting back reminding him of the principles of collective responsibility.

In another bizarre instance Sharad Pawar shifted the blame of food inflation to farmers who were according to him shifting to other crops. "If a farmer chooses to harvest *bhindi* instead of tomatoes or onions what can the government do?" he replied when asked about the rising prices of tomatoes and onions. It only shows a callous and insensitive approach of the government which has failed to provide relief to the poor of the country. Other explanations like the 'weak supply side led

crunch' causing unprecedented rise in onion prices finds little justifications in the face of the facts. A study on onion prices has recently concluded, "A time series analysis of the trends in areas and production of onions revealed that there is significant increase in onion production resulting in a rise in market arrivals. However, due to unseasonal rains, the production of onions declined by about 20% in three major growing states during 2009-10 and 2010-11. To some extent this reduction in production was offset by marginally higher production in other states like Rajasthan and MP. The magnitude in decline in production did not affect arrivals in the market very much. The astronomical increase in the prices of onions was a result of hoarding of the stocks in anticipation of a rise in price and higher retailers markup." (Purushottam Sharma, KC Gummagolmath, RC Sharma; Prices of Onions: An Analysis; EPW; p.25, Jan 8-14, 2011)

In its manifesto for 2009 Lok Sabha elections the Congress had promised of "maintaining high growth rate with low inflation, particularly in relation to prices of essential agricultural and industrial commodities" (Manifesto of the Indian National Congress, Lok Sabha elections 2009; p. 16). At the time of assuming office the Congress led UPA government had again 'pledged' to bring prices under control within 100 days but it could not honour its commitment and miserably failed in reining in the prices. Earlier its leaders tried to explain away the phenomenon of price rise by attributing it to drought or flood situation in the country but now that the monsoon is also normal they are at the loss of words in explaining their failure in containing the rising prices.

UPA and rising inflation

Under the Congress led UPA government India has been continuously pushed into the vortex of inflationary pressure. The economic indicators of the UPA government particularly those related to inflation are in complete contrast with that of the time of NDA government. The period of NDA rule which for the first time witnessed high growth rate of 7% to 8+% can be remembered for remarkable control over inflation which was restrained between 3 to 4 per cent. When NDA came to power the country was reeling under extremely high inflationary condition with the inflation touching very high figure of 13.231% in 1998 (on average consumer prices; see table A). After the NDA came

to power a continuous downslide in rate of inflation was witnessed as it dipped to 3.767% in 2004. The period witnessed a stable price regime with the prices of essential commodities remaining within the reach of the common man.

On the contrary UPA rule has witnessed an era of high inflation with market volatility affecting the poor the most. UPA has rarely been able to control the prices and its monetary and fiscal policies have resulted in high inflationary pressure on the people. Starting from 3.767% inflation in 2004, the rate of inflation has been rising and it has been recorded at 13.187% in 2010. It has reached almost from where NDA had started in 1998

Table A : Figures based on average consumer prices

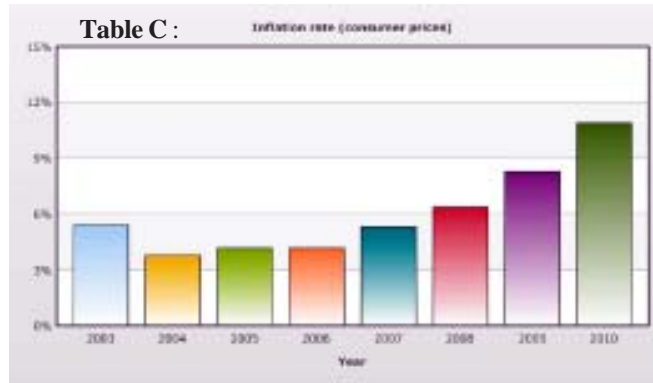
Year	Inflation	Percent Change
1980	11.365	
1981	13.115	15.40 %
1982	7.887	-39.86 %
1983	11.869	50.49 %
1984	8.322	-29.88 %
1985	5.556	-33.24 %
1986	8.731	57.15 %
1987	8.799	0.78 %
1988	9.385	6.66 %
1989	6.159	-34.37 %
1990	8.971	45.66 %
1991	13.87	54.61 %
1992	11.788	-15.01 %
1993	6.362	-46.03 %
1994	10.212	60.52 %
1995	10.225	0.13 %
1996	8.977	-12.21 %
1997	7.164	-20.20 %
1998	13.231	84.69 %
1999	4.67	-64.70 %
2000	4.009	-14.15 %
2001	3.779	-5.74 %
2002	4.297	13.71 %
2003	3.806	-11.43 %
2004	3.767	-1.02 %
2005	4.246	12.72 %
2006	6.177	45.48 %
2007	6.372	3.16 %
2008	8.349	31.03 %
2009	10.882	30.34 %
2010	13.187	21.18 %

(From www.indexmundi.com -Source: CIA World Fact Book)

(13.231%) and paved a path for economic recovery through its popular policies of heralding an era of high economic growth with low inflation. The Congress led UPA government has completely reversed the trend and an era of high inflation is back in the country. The poor management of economy and fiscal mismanagement worsened by cases of corruption and scams has badly affected the economy resulting in high prices and miserable condition of the poor.

Earlier the Congress led UPA government used to find excuse in the global economic crisis citing reasons which were apparently beyond the control of the government. But even at that time the UPA while extending such excuses never tried to underline the fact that Indian economy was not so dependent on global indicators. In the time of NDA when several kinds of economic sanctions were clamped down on India, its economic indicators were never allowed to falter and prudent economy policies resulted in not only a sustainable economy but one which could thrive and move ahead even in the face of sanctions. The country under the UPA has been witness to high inflationary pressure and its position in the world has been sliding. While it was ranked at 92 in 2004 on the basis of consumer prices, its rank was downgraded to 134 in 2005, 125 in 2006, 139 in 2007, 148 in 2008, 130 in 2009 and 197 in 2010 (Table B). The inflation has always been on rise in the time of UPA rule (Table C).

soar at the cost of poor of the country. Its policies it seems are guided by the vested interests of different cartels, hoarders and speculative trade in essential items and fuel prices. The cases of



corruption and scams have exposed the real face of the Congress which is busy shielding the culprits and extending patronage to the corrupt even the face of strong public outrage. The prices are rising because the government is more interested in safeguarding the interests of the profiteers, scamsters, hoarders and black marketers and it has least interest in protecting the interests of the poor people of the country who are now forced to live on a meager amount of Rs. 20/- per day. The stubborn resistance of the Congress to any suggestion of policy change is guided by such considerations. All the economic indicators point to a callous and insensitive approach towards the people and their problems.

The government has so far failed to act strongly on the issue of price rise. It has merely engaged itself with tokenism failing to provide any visible results till now. It has turned a deaf ear to the voice of people being raised by opposition parties in parliament and on the streets. The massive *Mehangai Virodhi Rally* by BJP at Ramlila Maidan on 21st April 2010, *Bharat Bandh* organized by NDA on 29 June 2010 and countrywide protests have failed to move the Congress led UPA which has only paid lip service to the issues without taking any concrete action. The country is today in the grip of rising prices and when the Congress led UPA government is refusing to act transgressing all principles of accountability and transparency, there is no option available to the people but to seek relief from courts. Let's see whether the courts in the country are able to make the government act. ■

Table B : Figures based on average consumer prices

Year	Inflation rate	Rank	Percent Change	Date of Information
2003	5.40 %	64		2002 est.
2004	3.80 %	92	-29.63 %	2003 est.
2005	4.20 %	134	10.53 %	2004 est.
2006	4.20 %	125	0.00 %	2005 est.
2007	5.30 %	139	26.19 %	2006 est.
2008	6.40 %	148	20.75 %	2007 est.
2009	8.30 %	130	29.69 %	2008 est.
2010	10.90 %	197	31.33 %	2009 est.

(From www.indexmundi.com- Source : CIA World Fact Book)

Conclusion

The Congress led UPA government at the centre has utterly failed in providing relief to the people by reining in prices which continues to

“Marching Ahead... a Year of Journey” released

Marking the completion of a year as President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, “Marching Ahead... a Year of Journey” is being released by the party. Aimed at the party activists, this document focuses major initiatives of the Party during the last one year. The document is prepared with a view to making a small beginning towards greater accountability within the organisation, a point often stressed by Party President.

In February, 2010, at Indore, the National Council was taken into confidence about various proposed initiatives aimed at strengthening the organization in multiple ways. In the same spirit, initiatives in training of party workers, Good Governance related activities, Antyodaya Programme adopted by the party, new cells established in the organisation and issues taken up at the national level have been documented in this publication.

Three major issues were taken to the people down to the taluk level. They were: price rise, corruption and the misuse of the CBI for political purposes. A massive national rally in the capital held in April, a successful Bharat Bandh, as also public awakening activities on corruption through rallies, exhibitions and other activities were the highlights of the series of activities.

A new Good Governance

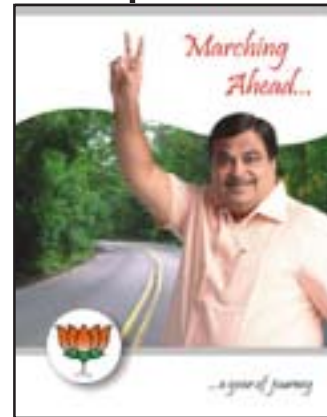
Cell was established. In all four conferences were held involving Chief Ministers and ministers of BJP ruled states and Mayors-Deputy Mayors of BJP ruled municipal corporations. Replicable projects and varied experiences were discussed and documented.

Party has always stressed the need for developing cadres as Human Resources. Capacity



***Press statement issued
by BJP National
General Secretary and
Chief Spokesperson
Shri Ravi Shankar
Prasad MP, on
January 11, 2011***

building and gaining the synergy of teamwork were aimed at during all the training sessions. There has been great enthusiasm and the response to the training sessions is motivating. Implementation of a new three phased training programme has



already started and over 15000 party workers have already participated in different training programmes. Preparations for starting e-learning programmes for party cadre as well as new members are already afoot.

The document also talks about Special Committees, which looked into sensitive matters of national importance. Their reports triggered the party to take pro-active steps to bring relief or to design intervention strategies for policy making.

Year 2010 also marked the launching of Antyodaya programme. Through this earnest efforts were made to further sensitise party workers and restore the spirit of social work to politics.

The document also records various new initiatives on organisational front. It talks about efforts for greater use of modern Information and Communication Technology including video-conferencing, in Party administration.

It is hoped that this document will generate the necessary discussion for all of us to attain greater clarity, sense of purpose and motivation to march ahead from strength to strength. ■

Summit has become a model for economic success for many states : Modi



From Our Correspondent

The fifth edition of Vibrant Gujarat summit concluded with the inspiring speech of Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In his valedictory speech, he spoke about the achievements of the State through the Vibrant Gujarat 2011 Summit. He mentioned that the hallmark feature of this summit has been, being able to forge partnerships not only in the industry space but also in the areas of technology, innovation, academics and in social sectors. He mentioned that this time, the State had focused more on branding the state as a business hub where business and knowledge partnerships are forged, rather than just an investment destination.

In a gradual deviation from previous events, the 5th edition of the summit had been renamed as 'Vibrant Gujarat 2011: The Global Business Hub, as a result of which the event saw participation from many Countries, Indian States and Companies, using the Vibrant Gujarat's platform, to show case their strengths in various sectors. More than 13 national and State

seminars were organized during the 2 day long summit. These seminars were a great success and all these seminars were able to garner huge participation and investors' interest.'

Shri Modi said the Vibrant Gujarat Summit has become a

model for economic success for many states. This event provides a great opportunity to the State to display its strengths, progressive stance, initiatives taken to improve governance, investor friendly climate and art & culture of Gujarat. The event

Nitin Gadkari congratulates Gujarat Government

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has hailed the Vibrant Gujarat conclave as a phenomenal achievement and congratulated Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his wonderful performance in "scaling new heights in economic growth and successfully attracting record investment in the State." Shri Gadkari, in a letter of congratulation to the Gujarat Chief Minister, has said that party takes pride in the fact that one of the states



under its rule has become a role model of development for the entire country. He said, "The success of the Gujarat government in attracting record investment is a testimony of the confidence that the investor community has repeatedly reposed in the Government of Gujarat under Shri Modi's leadership". Shri Gadkari said that in Gujarat a perfect balance has been struck in rural and urban development and that has made lives "more livable", and has "added to the investment-attractiveness of your State". He further said "We have been stressing the need for setting examples in Good Governance in the States where we are in power. Vibrant Gujarat, we believe is one such illustrious success that will encourage other governments and inspire our Party rank and file. " ■

not only gives local players an opportunity to interact with national and international players, but also with top Government officials from various departments and sectors. This event encourages the bureaucracy, and motivates government workers and agencies to work hard and get organized.

During the last summit in January 2009, MoUs worth \$240 billion were signed. The last summit had witnessed participation from nearly 45 countries. As against the achievements of the 2009 summit, this Summit had participation from 101 Countries, with over 1400 foreign delegates. About 7,936 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed for Rs. 20,83,000 (\$ 450 billion) crore at Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2011. Around 100 tie-ups with leading institutions from across the globe for exchange of knowledge were forged. Another distinct feature of this edition of the summit was the participation of large number of national and international speakers for various seminars and discussions. Over 350 speakers had participated in more than 30 seminars. The event also provided excellent networking opportunities through b2b meeting arrangements, network dinners, buyer seller meets, export pavilions and catalogue shows. This year a state of the art permanent structure "Mahatma Mandir", was constructed for organizing the summit.

It is clearly evident that Gujarat is definitely poised to become the Global business hub

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of India, under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Chief Minister Narendra Modi. Under his inspiring guidance, the State of Gujarat has been able to create a very positive impact on international investors and has generated confidence amongst investors, where; Gujarat is now seen as a place where promises are not only kept but also executed in timely manner. Vibrant Gujarat 2011 succeeded

in establishing Gujarat as the most favoured destination of India along with sharing of knowledge and technology from across the world. Participation of different Countries and Indian States who used the platform for showcasing their strength has contributed towards 'Vibrant Gujarat' summit transforming itself into the premier business and knowledge summit of the Country. ■

SC criticizes central Govt. calls black money abroad a 'national plunder'



The government has come in for sharp criticism from the Supreme Court for its handling of slush funds stashed in foreign bank accounts by industrialists and others.

According to the *Indian Express* the court said on January 19,2010 "It is a

pure and simple theft of the national money. We are talking about mind-boggling crime...it's not about treaties."

The scathing remark came when solicitor general Gopal Subramanian's sought to explain various steps taken by the government under the Double Taxation Avoidance Act.

The case has come up on a petition filed by former law minister Ram Jethmalani and others who want the government to retrieve the black money hoarded in foreign banks. The government has submitted to the Supreme Court a list containing names of 26 Indians who have maintained accounts in tax haven Liechtenstein's LGT Bank. The government however claims the names should not be made public as it would violate an agreement between India and Germany. The case will next come up for hearing on 27 January of this month when the government would be asked to explain the reason for withholding the names of the account-holders from the public. Terming the stashing of ill-gotten money in foreign banks as a 'national plunder', the Supreme Court today asked the government to share all information it had on Indians who have siphoned off their illicit money in tax havens.

The apex court bench of justice B Sudarshan Reddy and justice SS Nijjar pulled up the central government for limiting the petition's scope to the siphoning off black money to Liechtenstein Bank and not providing information on Indian citizens parking their money abroad. ■

money stashed in foreign banks to be impleaded as a party in the petition.

In response to the Court's observations, the Solicitor General said that he would seek instructions from the Government. Last week, the NDA held a special meeting to consider this entire issue. All the NDA floor leaders in Parliament attended this meeting and a strong letter addressed to the Prime Minister was drafted. Three important paragraphs of this letter read as follows:

"Our apprehension is that the reluctance of the UPA Government to take proactive steps on this front is motivated by the fear of self-incrimination. After all, the Volcker report of a Committee appointed by the United Nations in the 'Food for Oil' scam had named the Congress Party as one of the beneficiaries. The investigations of our investigating agencies and our Revenue agencies have conclusively proved as reflected in the order of the ITAT that amongst the beneficiaries of the kickbacks in the Bofors bribery case was Ottavio Quattrochi through front companies like AE Services and Cole Bar Investments. The relationship of Ottavio Quattrochi and his wife Maria with the first family of the Congress Party is a matter of public knowledge and cannot be disputed.

"The investigative report in a Swiss journal, 'Sehweizer Illustrierte' dated 19/11/91 have named 14 global leaders of the Third World countries with accounts in Switzerland. The name of a former Indian Prime Minister was also mentioned. This report has never been denied. Some startling revelations in a book "The State

within a State - The KGB hold on Russia in past and future" by Dr. Yevgenia Albats mentions the benefits received by a former Prime Minister of India and his family for benefits accruing from commercial dealings with the Soviets. "These are researched pieces put out as articles or books. The targets of investigations have not denied these allegations formally nor have they taken action against the impugned publications. It is important for government to ensure that the fair name of India and its leaders, past and present, including any former Prime Minister, is not sullied. So, either these allegations must be effectively rebutted or they must be investigated.

An NGO doing excellent work to ensure transparency in the global economy is Global Financial Integrity. A revealing report of Global Financial Integrity released last month says this about India:

"From 1948 through 2008, India lost a total of \$213 billion in illicit financial flows (or illegal capital flight). These illicit financial flows were generally

the product of: Corruption, bribery and kickbacks and criminal activities." Illicit financial flows pertain to the "cross-border movement of money that is illegally earned, transferred, or utilised"; they generally involve "the transfer of money earned through illegal activities such as corruption, transactions involving contraband goods, criminal activities, and efforts to shelter wealth from a country's tax authorities".

The Report adds: "The present value of India's total illicit financial flows is at least \$ 462 billion. This is based on the short-term U.S. Treasury bill rate as a proxy for the rate of return on assets." The country expects the Supreme Court to pursue this matter to its logical end. \$ 462 billion is a huge amount. In rupee terms it means 20 lakh 85 thousand crore rupees, which is wealth that can bring about a miraculous metamorphosis in Indian conditions. Let the Supreme Court earn the lasting gratitude of the Indian people by forcing Government to bring back all this wealth. ■

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customs.

The practice of vote bank politics has deliberately created these insecurities in the minds of the minorities with an eye on their votes. The fact that the rights of women to live with dignity, pride and equal rights are being trampled upon by non-promulgation of uniform civil laws although uniform laws have no bearing on the customary practices and customs of any community.

Shri Jaitley cited the perverse and immoral precedent set by the passage of "The Protection of Muslim Women Act" by the Congress Government in 1980s to alter the Supreme Court judgment in the Shah Bano Case. The Act achieved everything except "protect" the rights of vulnerable women.

Shri Arun Jaitley urged the lawmakers and the judiciary to work in unison to achieve the objective of ensuring equal rights to women and to ensure that efforts to prevent the fusion of personal laws with uniform civil code are not allowed to succeed. ■

MADHYA PRADESH

BJP staunch supporter of communal harmony : Prabhat Jha

The Bharatiya Janata Party is a staunch supporter of communal harmony. Both the Geeta and the Quran give the message of humanity we hold them both in equal respects, said Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Prabhat Jha MP said while inaugurating the first State executive of the party minorities' cell on January 20, 2011 in Bhopal.



He said terrorism neither has a colour nor a religion. To identify those who indulge in such acts on the lines of religion are naïve. To identify terrorists with religion is not only an injustice with the religion but a crime, which would not be tolerated, Shri Jha warned.

The BJP State President further described nationalism as the greatest religion and underlined the contributions of the Muslims to the nation building.

Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Shri Arif Beg said, "The Congress accepted the partition of the country on religious grounds. And, after independence it divided the society along the same lines by adopting the policy of minority appeasement." The Minorities Cell has to unmask the conspiracy of the Congress and bridge the gap between the minority and majority communities, he added.

Shri Beg called on the workers of the minorities' cell to initiate this struggle by hoisting the saffron flag in the Bhopal North Assembly constituency. The fear of the BJP, created in the minds of Muslims by the Congress, is diminishing, but still a lot needs to be done to bring them to the party-fold.

During the first meeting of the BJP Minorities' Cell both the Geeta and the Quran were kept on stage. All those who attended the meet paid respect to both the religious books by bowing their heads. The Minorities' Cell of the BJP by keeping both the religious books equally set an example of communal harmony, which was lauded by one and all.

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UTTAR PRADESH

Work hard to form the next Govt. in UP : Rajnath

Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh MP in Lucknow on January 16 asked party activists in Uttar Pradesh to work with the target of forming the next government in the state, claiming that people were fed up

with most of the political parties including Congress, BSP and SP.

Addressing district presidents, incharge and senior party functionaries at a meeting in the state capital to chalk out the strategy in view of the 2012 assembly polls, Shri Singh said during his tour of 18 districts of the state he felt people were desperately looking for an alternative.

Exhorting party workers to set themselves the target of forming the next government in the state, Shri Rajnath Singh said they should start preparing for the polls with the objective of winning at least 200 of the 403 assembly seats.

In the meeting BJP State President Shri Surya Pratap Shahi said the party's *Gaon Chalo* campaign was also reviewed at the meeting and it was decided to extend it up to January 31.

He said the party has decided to launch a statewide agitation against the wrong policies of the Congress led Central government and the BSP government in the state between February 12 to March 15.

ANDHRA PRADESH

BJP demands rollback of petrol price

The BJP has criticised Chief Minister N. Kiran Kumar Reddy for going back on his promise. At a press conference in Hyderabad BJP National Secretary Shri K. Laxman referred to the recent hike in petrol prices and wondered why the Chief Minister did nothing to lessen the burden on the common man.

Petrol price was hiked over six times in the last few months without any concern for the common man and middle classes, he alleged and said the hike in petroleum prices would have a cascading effect on all sectors, because the cost of transporting goods was something no business could avoid passing the burden on to the end user.

Shri Laxman said despite many requests to ease the burden on the common man by reducing the sales tax component, it was not happening. He said only for the wrong economic policies of the Congress led UPA government the petroleum prices and the prices of other essential commodities are skyrocketing.

He said while the sales tax on petroleum in Andhra Pradesh was the highest at 33 per cent, it was 22.5 per cent on high speed diesel. The State's revenues by way of sales tax on petroleum products alone were an estimated Rs. 3,700 crore in 2004. It was now Rs. 7,000 crore, working out to 22 per cent of sales tax on all products, he added.

UTTRAKHAND

BJP women activists protest against petrol price hike

Hundreds of BJP women activists staged protest in Dehradun on January 17, 2011 against the recent hike in the petroleum products. Incensed members further threatened to intensify their agitation if the Congress Government does not roll back the recent hike in petroleum prices.

Incensed over the inflation, thousands of BJP activists from the women cell took out symbolic funeral procession from the office to Clock tower in Dehradun. Agitators also shouted anti-government slogans during the procession and burnt the effigy of UPA Government and Ministers.

While addressing the gathering, Cell President Smt. Brijlesh Gupta, said that memorandum highlighting our demands which include roll back of recently hiked in the petroleum products was submitted to officials and further threatened to intensify their agitation if the Government does not take effective steps to roll back the recently hiked prices of the essential commodities.

She further said that the UPA Government has completely failed to control the spiraling hike in the prices of the essential commodities. She said

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it would be now very difficult for a common mass to survive as the prices of essential commodities has been rising month after month and the Government is not taking any effective steps to control prices.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

BJP highlighted the issue of discrimination against Jammu & Ladakh

On their third visit to the Jammu region, the Centre's interlocutors interacted with state BJP leaders and termed their first meeting with the party as satisfactory.

Facing criticism for not giving importance to Jammu-based political groups, the interlocutors, who are in Jammu on their third visit to the region, made it a point to reach out to the BJP and the Panthers Party.

Meanwhile, interacting with mediapersons after the meeting, the newly appointed Chief spokesman of the BJP, Dr Jatinder Singh, said the party highlighted the issue of discrimination against the Jammu and Ladakh regions.

"To substantiate our allegations, we provided documented proofs to the interlocutors and they were convinced with our arguments", Shri Singh claimed, and added "the interlocutors informed us that they had already sought records of funds allocated to different regions in the last two decades".

The BJP delegation also drew their attention to the disparity in the creation of Assembly segments. "We have forcefully put forth our demand for the constitution of a delimitation commission to remove the disparity with the Jammu region", he said.

"We asked the interlocutors to enquire from the state government about the criteria adopted for creating Assembly segments", Shri Singh said, and added the party delegation informed them that despite having more voters and more geographical area, Jammu had less number of Assembly seats as compared to the Kashmir valley.

The delegation also demanded the abrogation of Article 370. "We requested them to hold a debate on Article 370", the BJP spokesman said.

The interlocutors assured the BJP leaders that they would meet them again during their next visit in February. ■