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Fortnightly Magazine

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“With prices soaring, the marginalized sections, including farmers, artisans, fishermen and weavers were able to have only one meal a day.”

-Nitin Gadkari

“Minority reservation and 50% quota are unconstitutional...it will be struck down by the courts on the very first day. Do you want such legislation?”

– Sushma Swaraj

“Access to governance has to be guaranteed with transparent systems that deliver responses and outcomes. The strengthening of democratic governance empowers the population to become active partners in the growth process.”

-Narendra Modi

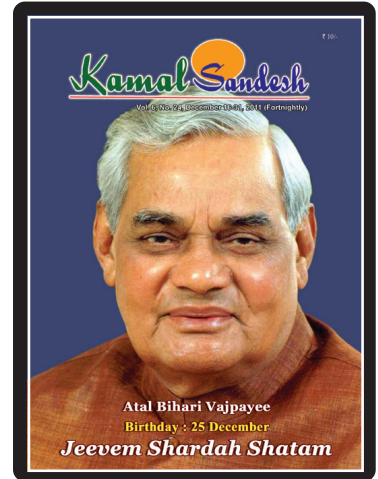
Letter to the Editor...

Supporting religious based reservation is anti-national

Dear Sir,

The power hungry congress led by Smt. Sonia Gandhi is determined to divide the nation again. Reservation on the basis of religion will intensify communal polarisation. Those demanding and supporting it are anti national. The Congress has been playing with vote bank politics to gain Muslim votes in UP. It is nothing but old British policy of Divide and Rule.

Amit Kumar,
Patna (Bihar)



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

Articles invited

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

-Prabhat Jha, Editor

Write to us

The Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

**We welcome
Your views & Suggestions**

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A helpless prime minister of a hopeless government

Editorial...

The political situation in the country and parliament is pitiable. The government is neither seen in parliament nor in secretariat or ministries. No one seems to be in control, everyone is doing whatever he likes. India had never experienced such a phenomenon of non-governance. Even smaller parties are threatening the government. Whether it is Trinamool or any other party, no one is dependent on the Prime Minister. The rail ministry is not dependent to the prime minister rather it is the prime minister who is dependent on the rail minister. What will be the condition of a government whose prime minister of which is under such pressures? India is passing through a period of deep crisis. The kind of ill will, apathy and indifference which is seen today against the Opposition was never witnessed before. The credibility enjoyed earlier by the pillars of constitution in our democracy is at great risk today.

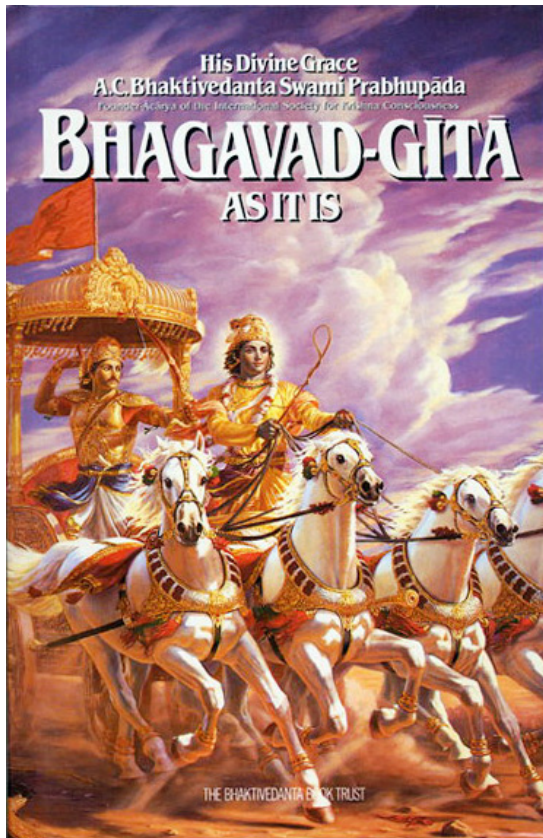
It is seen for the first time that even news reports are failing to make any difference. A news in the media makes no impact on the concerned ministers. The decision to give reservation to Muslims has been taken in view of the elections in the five States. People have now started saying openly that Congress is playing the Muslim card for votes in the elections. People are now saying that the manner in which Mayawati has taken the decision to divide Uttar Pradesh in four parts in view of elections, the decision to give reservations to Muslims has been taken in a similar fashion. We want to appeal to the Muslims to consider the condition of the UPA. The condition of the UPA has deteriorated further. It always wants to mislead the country. The leaders in the Congress who keep the interest of the nation foremost are finding themselves in a very difficult situation. They are now facing the crisis of their existence. BJP is clear in its policies.

The charisma of Rahul is not visible in Uttar Pradesh. Whenever he goes in Uttar Pradesh he says that the youth of the country should be brought forward. It is clear from his message that the seniors should quit politics. Therefore, Dr. Manmohan Singh, since he is not in a position to ask you directly to quit, so he is saying it on the pretext of bringing the youth forward in the country. Dr. Manmohan Singh should see through this politics. Information even goes further claiming that a general Secretary in the Congress has created a wedge between Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. Congress is entangles in its own web of woes. Himself unsettled in life till date, Rahul appears tense even more in having failed to rescue Congress from

its imminent decline.

Far removed from the problems of the country, Congress is busy solving its internal problems as it is unable to repose its confidence on its Uttar Pradesh leaders. It is an irony that today in Uttar Pradesh Congress has not a single leader on which it can rely upon. Now what will Rahul Gandhi do? What he has done for the people of Uttar Pradesh? When people of India ask Rahul Gandhi as to what he has done for the national politics the answer is a big 'zero'. Country wants solution, not problem. For Congress, Rahul Gandhi might be a solution but the country considers him a big problem. ■

**Kamal Sandesh Parivar
wishes a happy
Makar Sankranti
to its esteemed readers**



BJP demands Gita be declared a national book

Move to ban Bhagwad has been criticised widely. Gita afoot in Siberian city of Tomsk it is an outcome of uneasy ties between ISKCON and Russian Orthodox establishment. Public prosecutor Victor Fyodotov who moved local court. at the instigation of local church Fyodotov wants “ Bhagwad Gita, As It Is”, with commentaries by ISKCON founder Swami Prabhupada banned. The case is about banning a book published by Bhaktivedanta Book Trust 20 years ago.

BJP has condemned the move to ban Geeta. The BJP even demanded that the Gita be declared a national book to protect it from being dishonored ever again. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said, “Srimad Bhagvat Gita must be declared a National Book so that no country can ever engage in any act of insult to this book in the future. The government should be proactive. This ban must be removed.”

There is also criticism that the government has delayed its intervention, ignoring ISKON’s red alert on a possible ban, an alert sent to the prime minister’s office and to Sonia Gandhi on 1st November. ■

Check price rise or Quit : Sushma Swaraj

We have repeatedly been warning the government on the issue of inflation, but for the reasons, best known to the government, no visible action seems have been taken. The government is indifferent to the issue of inflation and is trying to confuse the people through statistical jugglery. Simply doling out statistical figure could not fill the empty belly of the inflation hit common man.

The government has changed the parameter of poverty. The planning commission in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court has mentioned that the expenditure in excess of Rs. 32 in urban areas and of Rs. 26 in the rural areas raises on individual above the poverty line. And, anybody who is spending in excess of Rs. 32 in urban areas and Rs. 26 in rural areas is not eligible for the subsidies

given by the government and is gets out of the category of BPL. Such persons are considered to be affluent by the government. It may be correct that income level of 20% people may have gone up, but all this has widened income disparity. I urge upon the government to look at the plight of hawkers and petty traders who find it difficult to make their both ends meet despite doing very hard labour. I would like to know from the honorable Finance Minister whether the income of

such people has gone up. On the contrary, what all they had saved, has also been neutralized by the impact of inflation.

The government often mentions that reasons for inflation are the higher prices being given to farmers. However, the farmers are still committing suicides in Maharashtra and

the economy of the country nor can they provide solution to its problems. I would like to say that the rising level of income you are talking about is merely a sham. It is true that the income of few people has risen so much that they can afford to eat in five star hotels but I want you to look towards hawkers, vendors etc.

who toil hard to feed their families. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether their income has risen even by a single rupee. That is why I would like to remind you that the people I have mentioned have not witnessed an increase of even a single penny in their income despite constant use of phrase 'with rising levels of income'. Second argument which the Government put forward is that one of the reasons for price rise is the increase in MSP being given to the farmers.

However, on ground level the situation is that in Maharashtra cotton farmers are committing suicide, the farmers in Andhra are on a crop holiday and the paddy farmers in the entire country are desperately in search of help. Even the farmers of my home State, Haryana, who are producing basmati are crying. The farmers are on a crop holiday because the cost of inputs is so much that it will not be possible for the farmers to break even by selling their



Synopsis of the speech on inflation on December 8, 2011 delivered by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

farmers of Andhra Pradesh have declared 'Crop Holiday' and the paddy growers all over the country are in dire state. Those who speak the language of Harvard and Oxford cannot make us understand the economy of the country. Only the one who can speak the language of the common man is in a position to make the people understand the economy of the country. Those who indulge in jugglery of figures and speak figuratively cannot understand

produce. The Government is saying that price has increased because they have started giving more remunerative price for their produce. I would say that farmer

thought for that middle class housewife who is confounded by the fact that the price of fuel which she needs for cooking has sky-rocketed thereby leaving no

rebound through housing and infrastructure sectors because these two lead to all round spur in economic activities. However, the present condition of construction and infrastructure is that the construction work of national highways which were built at such a rapid pace during NDA regime has not only come to a standstill, but, even the maintenance and repair work has been in jeopardy. I was even shocked to read in the newspaper that all the Chief Engineers of the NHAI have tendered their resignations enmass. Such is the state of infrastructure. I would like to suggest that if you are able to bring back the black money stashed abroad and put a check on the loot of public exchequer, price rise will come to a halt tomorrow itself. I would like to say that of late several statements have been made from the Government side in which the

The planning commission in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court has mentioned that the expenditure in excess of Rs. 32 in urban areas and of Rs. 26 in the rural areas raises on individual above the poverty line.

is only selling one produce but all other things he has to purchase. However, you are not concerned about it.

The Government also talks about Foreign Direct Investment. However, not only the employment opportunities for the common people like hawkers and vendors etc., I had talked about will be lost but their life will be destroyed. Since the decision to allow FDI has been suspended, many people are saying that a big reform has been stalled.

The reform is one which improves the life of the people, reform does not mean improving your image in USA or for that matter at the international level. Reforms truly be said to have happened when they bring about material difference to the lives of the people of lowest strata. The third argument given by the Government for price increase is that the prices at the international level have increased. It can be understood in terms of increase in price of crude oil. But what about so many other things which have no correlation, whatsoever, with the international trends. I would like to ask as to whether the Government has spared a
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option for her to get enough calorific content to cook while being unable to get the material to be cooked at the right price. However, these arguments given by the Government do not qualify as good logic rather it is bad logic. Truth is that inflation is because of your wrong policies and rampant corruption in the Government. As far as policies are concerned it is on account of your wrong policies that the rupee has devalued so much, more than 7,000 tonnes of food

The reform is one which improves the life of the people, reform does not mean improving your image in USA or for that matter at the international level. Reforms truly be said to have happened when they bring about material difference to the lives of the people of lowest strata.

grain is rotting due to lack of storage facilities, Government is going to raise 53000 crore rupees from the market, price of petrol has been revised 24 times and RBI has to increase the banking rates 13 times. As far as interest rate is concerned, everybody is aware that the increase in interest rates impedes the industrial development and it also sounds a death knell for the housing sector. An economy in crisis mode can only stage a

sense of helplessness and despondency was clearly visible. 121 billion people of this country cannot bear the burden of this helplessness because it is they who have given you the mandate to rule this country and being the ruling party it is your foremost duty to find solution for the problem.

We will continue to raise the voice of the people as the watchdog of Indian Democracy. ■

Manmohan Singh's lack of leadership is a major obstacle to further reforms : Jaitley

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has proposed some demands for supplementary grants. The Finance Minister is the best judge of the money that his government requires. However, this is an occasion to take a serious look at the state of economy.

Last week, while replying to the debate on Price Rise, the Hon'ble Finance Minister raised some important issues. The global economic situation is challenging and India has struggled hard to take all steps to shield its economy from global crisis. He urged that more steps were needed and that the cooperation of the states as also the political parties was required to accelerate the rate of Indian economy. I would only partly agree with him.

The Present situation

It is undoubtedly true that there is a global slowdown in the post-subprime crisis. The Eurozone crisis has also contributed to the challenging situation. The hardening of crude oil prices presents a grim challenge. But then India did survive the effect of East Asian crisis over a decade ago. Despite the global slowdown following the subprime crisis, we did maintain reasonable growth levels for over two years. What has happened now?

The Indian situation

The present state of economy is best described as hereunder.

- ▶ For over two to three years, both headline inflation and food

inflation are unacceptably high. The marginal reduction in rise of inflation does not mean that the prices are coming down. It only means that the rate of rise of prices is slower than what it was sometimes ago.

- ▶ Even though oil prices globally have risen, the *ad valorem* taxes



Brief points made by Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha On the demand for grants on December 12, 2011



charged at both centre and state levels, deals a dual blow to the taxpayers.

- ▶ There is a visible slowdown in the major infrastructure projects in county. The choice of ministerial personnel, who lead the infrastructure departments, have left much to be desired.

- ▶ The Fiscal deficit targets are unlikely to be achieved. A 4.6 percent fiscal deficit this year, projected in the Budget, clearly appears unachievable. Interest rates have been hiked 13-times as the only effective step to contain inflation. The result of the hike has been to adversely affect the competitiveness of the Indian industry. It has also dealt a severe blow to the sectors like manufacturing, automobile, real estate and housing.

- ▶ For over three to four years no major decisions were taken by this Government in the policy domain.

- ▶ Excessive corruption and scams, which have hurt governance, has lowered the credibility of India before the world. Corruption adds to the cost of a project. It leads to a backlash, where public opinion, media and judiciary, inflict a severe blow to those responsible.

- ▶ Formulation and implementation of policy are being vitiated by corruption. It leads to prospect of an investor in jail indefinitely.

- ▶ Investors are now carrying tales of Indian experience. Investment flows are declining. Indian

investors are now planning and making investments outside the country. The rupee has weakened as a currency. You find a paralyzed government, with Ministers pulling in different directions. There is a fall in the FDI inflows resulting in a serious loss in the business confidence and the investment environment in the country. This is going to have serious consequences on both job

this crisis has worsened. Whereas in the UPA-I, the Chairman, UPA and the Prime Minister appeared to be on the same page on most of the issues, during UPA-II they appear to be even ideologically on different pages. On so many issues, which are on government's priority, the support of the party and the alliance has been lukewarm. Whereas, one speaks of measures, which enable gathering of votes, the other speaks of steps required to further

grounds, some of which I will illustrate.

- ▶ Our manufacturing sector, at best, is modest. International investors will source internationally and most merchandize sold in the first instance would be sourced from the low-cost economies of the world. It will be ill-advised to open the sector till such times we can implement effective reforms to reduce the cost of our own manufacturing by introducing steps such as affordable interest rates, better infrastructure, better trade facilitation, low cost of power etc.
- ▶ Structured international retail does not create additional markets. It will only displace existing markets. It will cost India jobs, both in manufacturing and in retail.
- ▶ In an economy, where over 58 percent of the economy is services sector and 51 percent of Indian workforce is self-employed, it will be ill-advised to displace this workforce, without reforming significant sectors of economy.
- ▶ There is no presumption that the elimination of middle-men (which will cost jobs) will *ipso facto* benefit the farmers. Recent data of the International Farm Comparison Network milk producers indicate that in the US 38 percent of the US dollars are spent on farmers and in UK only 36 percent goes to farmer. In India, where the milk sector developed its own cold chains and backend support, 70 percent of the consumer rupees spent goes to the milk producers and in case of cooperatives the figure is as high as 80 percent. We need to

The Prime Minister cannot be a CEO for merely implementing decisions taken by the Board. The UPA-I model and structure of the government was defective. In UPA-II we find that this crisis has worsened. Whereas in the UPA-I, the Chairman, UPA and the Prime Minister appeared to be on the same page on most of the issues, during UPA-II they appear to be even ideologically on different pages. On so many issues, which are on government's priority, the support of the party and the alliance has been lukewarm. Whereas, one speaks of measures, which enable gathering of votes, the other speaks of steps required to further the growth rates.

creation and revenue realization.

Why this Paralysis

An enthusiastic nation needs a Government, which has determined leadership with credibility and an *aura* (Saakh) of the Government: The Saakh (aura) is with regard to the authority and credibility to the government.

During UPA-I, a legitimate criticism of the government was made that the Prime Minister is not the 'Natural Leader' of the country. He must be vested with authority and confidence. A twin leadership is counterproductive to governance. The Prime Minister cannot be a CEO for merely implementing decisions taken by the Board. The UPA-I model and structure of the government was defective. In UPA-II we find that **January 1-15, 2012** ○ 10

the growth rates.

When the Finance Minister speaks in support of the larger consensus, between the Centre and the states, between government and the Opposition on economic issues, is there consensus within the UPA? The proposed FDI in retail has been suspended not merely because of the national opposition to it but because there was a division in the UPA. The allies were opposed to it and the party was lukewarm to the proposal.

On FDI in retail

During 1998-2004, the NDA government never allowed FDI in retail. We were not against the very concept of FDI, in fact we opened many sectors, but this is one sector we did have reservations. I have opposed this proposal on several

replicate the AMUL model rather than blindly allow FDI in retail as at present.

The Congress stand on FDI retail in 2001-2002

The Congress party during the NDA government repeatedly raised this issue in Parliament. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi described the decision of FDI in retail as an 'anti-national' measure. Other top leaders, since then, have been highlighting the dangers of FDI in retail at this stage.

GDP Decline

When the FM presented Budget 2011, he was very optimistic that he would achieve a growth rate of 9 per cent with an outside band of +/- 0.25 per cent in 2011-12. But the trends of growth in GDP have cast a pale of shadow over these budgetary projections. The first quarter GDP growth rate was only 7.7% in 2011-12. The second quarter GDP growth has been further lowered to 6.9%.

The sharp fall in GDP is because of the slowing IIP (the Index of Industrial Production). In fact, it is disappointing to note that the IIP has become negative in October 2011 at (-) 5.1% after recording a sluggish 1.9% in September 2011. If the October 2010 figure of 11.3% is compared, the fall is a staggering 16.4% decline in manufacturing. The signs of a slowdown were visible in September 2011 itself as the IIP growth was only 1.9% as compared to 6.1% in September 2010. The IIP growth in April to October 2011 is a meager 3.5% as compared to 8.7% in the April-October 2010.

The industrial growth slowdown is markedly severe in Mining and Construction. The growth in Mining is (-) 7.2% in October 2011 as compared to a robust 6.1% in the same period in January 1-15, 2012 ○ 11

2010-11. In fact, during April-October of 2011-12, the growth is negative at (-) 2.2% as compared to 6.9% in April-September of 2010-11. The manufacturing sector is showing all signs of a major slowdown. The quarterly growth rates which increased from a low of 4.3% in first quarter of 2009-10 to peak at 15.2% in the last quarter of 2009-10 declined steadily during 2010-11. In October 2011, the growth in manufacturing has slid into the negative zone at (-)6% as compared to a high of 12.3% in October 2010 (a decline of 18.3%). In fact, the manufacturing growth during April-October 2011-12 is a meager 3.7% as compared to 9.4% during the same period in 2010-11. The sectors that have been worst affected are 'Electrical machinery and apparatus' at negative growth of 58.8% followed by negative growth rate of 12.1% in 'Machinery and Equipment' and 11.4% in 'Rubber and plastics products.' The growth rates in the April-September 2010-11 period in Basic Goods is (-)0.1%, (-)25.5% in Capital Goods and (-) 4.7% in Intermediate Goods. In fact, the growth in overall consumer Goods has become negative at (-)0.8%. The sharp decline in Capital goods is rather ominous as it points to the worsening investment environment. The fall in consumption is a pointer to the real possibility of a contraction in consumption spending which would have serious deleterious consequence for the economic growth in the near future.

With interest rates tightening and inflation leading to rising input costs, the economic growth story appears to be completely derailed.

Capital Goods

In fact, if the components of IIP are analyzed, it is seen that

growth in Capital Goods which was 21.1% in October 2011 is now a negative of 25.5% in October 2011. The growth in capital goods in April-October 2010-11 was 17.1% but has since reduced to (-)0.3% in April-October 2011-12. Similarly, in intermediate goods, the growth in October 2011 is a (-) 4.7% as against 9.7% in October 2010. The growth in intermediate goods which was 8.6% in April-October 2010-11 declined to 0.6% in April-October 2011-12.

The slowdown is reported in many sectors across the economy: Electrical machinery and apparatus: (-) 58.8%; Machinery and equipment : (-) 12.1%; Rubber and plastics products: (-) 11.4%; Cable, Rubber Insulated: (-) 82.9%; Cement Machinery : (-) 74.6%; Insulated Cables/Wires all kind : (-)38.2%; X-Ray Equipment : (-) 35.8%; Plastic Machinery including Moulding Machinery : (-) 32.2%.

There has been slowdown in the Core infrastructure supportive industries such as steel, cement, fertilizers, coal, oil and gas. A contraction of 4.8% in coal and 8.5% in natural gas during April-September 2011-12 as compared to April-September 2010-11 shows that the economic engine is slowing down. The overall growth in Core sector industries has declined to 4.9% in April-September 2011-12 as compared to 5.6% in April-September 2010-11.

Credit Squeeze

The monetary market has undergone a process of tightening as RBI increased the Repo rates 4 times so far in the current financial year, a cumulative of 150 basis points. The RBI has so far tightened rates 13 times. With the cost of borrowing moving northward, business is finding it all the more disheartening to pump fresh

investments.

Revenue Situation

The revenue position of the Government is also not satisfactory. The budgeted revenue projections (18%) were based on an assumed GDP growth rate of 9% and an anticipation that inflation would remain pegged at around 5%. In the current scenario, the GDP has already slipped to 6.9% and given the inflationary trend close to double digits and the international situation, with US and EU economies faltering under sovereign debt defaults/downward ratings, one would not be surprised

certainly indicative of the shrinking health of the economy.

Fiscal Deficit

This brings us to the issue of the fiscal deficit. Containing the fiscal deficit to the levels promised in the Budget (4.6% of GDP) is important to manage and contain public debt to sustainable levels in the long term and inflation in the short term which is the major concern. The current situation is that fiscal deficit as a percentage of the revenue receipts of 2011-12 (BE) is 68% as compared to 34.9% of the corresponding period in 2010-11. The revenue deficit is at 72.2% of

to be in a desperate situation. The UPA which has all along given lip service to disinvestment now seems to be clutching this as the last straw to bail itself out. With a Government crippled from within, there is not even a ray of hope that anything significant would happen.

Inflation

With ballooning fiscal deficit funded by increased public borrowings, the economy which appeared to be coming out of the grip of high inflation of around 20.2% in February 2010 to 9.3% in January 2011 is once again being lapped up by another vicious inflationary spiral as the inflation is inching up again towards the double digit figure. The inflation in October 2011 is reported at 9.73% and that for September 2011 at 9.72% which is only marginally lower than the highest recorded in this year at 9.78% in August 2011, in fact, the highest in the last 13 months. The marginal decline in inflation may be temporary considering that no major initiatives have been taken to augment the supply side in a significant manner. The double digit inflation in food items persists at 11.78% in 2011-12 so far even though it may be lower from 20.05% in 2010-11. Sustained high inflation is the cause for slackening business confidence and a declining trend in investments.

FDI inflows Declining

FDI in India has been on the decline since 2008. In 2008, the FDI was 42.5 billion USD which reduced to 35.7 billion USD in 2009 and 24.6 billion USD in 2010. (UNCTAD report). As per the DIPP, the pure equity FDI inflows in India declined from 27.33 billion USD in 2008-09 to 25.83 billion USD in 2009-10 to 19.4 billion USD in 2007-08. The trend in the current year is not too encouraging as in April 2011 only 3

With ballooning fiscal deficit funded by increased public borrowings, the economy which appeared to be coming out of the grip of high inflation of around 20.2% in February 2010 to 9.3% in January 2011 is once again being lapped up by another vicious inflationary spiral as the inflation is inching up again towards the double digit figure.

if the current years' GDP falls further. That would throw the revenue receipts off gear completely. The signs of a major slippage in revenue growth are already there. The overall revenue receipts of the Government has recorded a decline of 23.3% if the figures of April-September 2011-12 are compared with the corresponding period of 2010-11. Tax revenue (net) during April-September 2011-12 recorded an increase of only 9.1%. The slippage in non-tax revenue is a whopping 69.2% reflecting the Government's inability to push through the much promised disinvestment measures. The tax revenue growth is also very sluggish as the growth in the April-September 2010-11 was 25.7%, much higher than the 9.1% in the current year. The drastic reduction is

revenue receipts of 2011-12 (BE) as compared to 27.1% of the corresponding period in 2010-11. The primary deficit is at a whopping 109.3% of the revenue receipts of 2011-12 (BE) as compared to 23% of the corresponding period in 2010-11. The fiscal deficit so far in 2011-12 is a whopping 110.7% higher than the same in 2010-11 for the corresponding period while the primary deficit so far in 2011-12 is a whopping 420% higher than the same in 2010-11 for the corresponding period. The Government has already decided to borrow Rs. 53,000 Crores more from the markets than budgeted. This can hardly be called fiscal consolidation. It is in fact fiscal derailment. With no scope for another windfall bonanza like the 3G auction, the Government seems

billion USD inflow is recorded. As per a UN report, FDI inflow increased significantly in other BRIC countries during the same period. India's position in FDI slipped from 8th to the 14th position. Even Bangladesh has registered a growth in FDI during this period.

Indian Industries moving out

On the other hand, there is a trend of Indian industries investing abroad in greater measure as they find other economies as more conducive. The outbound FDI which was in the range of 20 billion USD in FY 2009 and FY 2010 has more than doubled in 2011 to 44 billion USD. With capital flight, there is loss of jobs and growth opportunities. The UPA has miserably failed in inspiring the investors both inland and external.

Exports

There seems to be some good news on the Exports front which increased by 45.96 % in April-October 2011 as compared to April-October 2010-11 while imports grew at 30.96% during the same period. During October 2011, exports grew at 10.82% while imports grew at 21.72%. To a dispassionate viewer, this data would be rather puzzling. We all know that the US and EU economies are going through a very trying time. They are traditionally India's trading partners contributing the maximum export demand. If these economies are not importing as much as they should be, the question arises as to who is importing from India. There are media reports that a recent IMF study showed that imports from India as reported by other countries do not add up to these exports figures. The Commerce Ministry has also admitted that there have been some misreporting of data. But the

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more disturbing are the reports that black money stashed abroad is being illegally brought back as export proceeds through over invoicing. But if the Government is serious to know the truth and plug the loopholes, it should examine these allegations seriously instead of trying to bask in glory where none exists.

There has been much talk by the UPA of channelizing investments in to the infrastructure sector through the PPP route. It has been seven years of UPA rule but no major achievement is worth citing.

The need for political consensus

You mentioned the need for political consensus. Undoubtedly, you need political consensus on these issues but can the government of the day say that I will adopt a hostile attitude to the opposition and the state. But you help me out; you cooperate with me when I need you, for certain steps needed to strengthen the government. I would urge your government introspect itself of the attitude and your conduct in the past over seven years. I can describe your leadership by splitting it into three parts. Some are Introvertish, some are arrogant, and most others are sulking. You the Hon'ble Finance Minister appear to be an exception. Do you seriously expect such a leadership to take effective steps to build consensus.

Was it a part of consensus building that to win a vote of confidence on the Nuclear Deal, 19 members cross-voted or abstain on account of dubious measure used by our government? Was it consensus building that the MPs, who complained as whistle-blowers were arrested? Was it part of consensus building that you

consistently misuse the CBI in the states like Gujarat, UP and Andhra Pradesh. Have you counted the legislations that your Governors have held up for giving ascent in various non-Congress State Governments. Even in small matters like construction of national highways, non-Congress ruled states are consistently discriminated against. If you want to build consensus, you need a big heart. You need a non-discriminatory approach; you need to be fair; you need to consider the Opposition as an essential part of India's democracy and not a political enemy. Will you implement the Goods & Services Tax (GST) if there is a lurking suspicion in the states that the Centre will act as Big brother and not in a fair manner.

I agree with you that we need a political consensus in the larger interest of the nation. I only have a caveat to add. Steps for consensus building must begin from the Centre. A hostile centre and a hostile ruling party can never build consensus.

I hope your government realizes realistically where you stand. On February 24, 2011 while replying to a discussion on motion of thanks on President's Address, the Hon'ble Prime Minister advised me to read the appreciation of the whole world on India's economy. He asked me that I educate myself on those points. I have followed his advice. I will only read two recent comments in the Wall Street Journal. The article started with the sentence "Manmohan Singh's humiliation is complete" and it ended with the sentence "Indian may hail Singh as the Finance Minister who ushered in liberalization in 1991, his lack of leadership has become a major obstacle to further reform. ■

Price rise is an assault on common man : Venkaiah Naidu

Price rise is a silent killer. It is an assault on common man. In February 2010, the hon. Finance Minister had promised that high food inflation would ease in four months. But, nothing has happened. They are not able to understand why these prices are rising. There is no remedy. The Government has tried combination of fiscal, monetary and market intervention measures. But all of them have failed. Lack of foresight, lack of proper planning, lack of leadership and on the top of it, sheer incompetence, wrong economic policies, massive corruption in export and import are the main reasons for the price rise. It is because of the Government's mismanagement and wrong economic policies only. Inflation has caused several essentials like condiments, spices, eggs, fish, meat, milk and pulses out of the common man's reach. If the growth is moderate, inflation is acceptable. The growth rate is also going down. Hike is everywhere. 24 Hike in the interest rates, hike in fuel prices, hike in fertilizer prices, hike in EMIs are turning Aam Aadmi's budget into a nightmare. Instead of taking poverty alleviation measures, the Government thought that they can reduce poverty by fixing the daily earnings of a person at Rs. 32 per day. Can anybody survive with Rs. 32 per day?

Even the rupee value is going down. It falls to an all-time low. What has been done with regard to the report submitted by the Committee headed by Shri Narendra Modi? 20 recommendations with 64 detailed actionable points have been made. It was recommended that all essential commodities should be kept out of the future markets. Setting up a Price Stabilization Fund, rehabilitation of the agriculture markets, expanding the priority-sector lending, dissemination of information at all level, unbinding of the Food Corporation of India. These are some of the major recommendations.

The Government, is not able to explain to the people what is the action they have taken on the report. The price of petrol has been increased eleven times in twelve months in the name of rationalisation. It has an effect on the essential commodities. The price rise is mostly taking

place in food articles. The price of every item, sugar, rice, steel, coal, tel, dal, etc., has gone up considerably. If you attribute this food inflation to lower production, it is not correct because there is record production. But, in the last six-and-a-half years you have not added one metric ton of storage capacity. You are increasing the MSP nominally. But, at the same time, the prices of agricultural inputs are increasing manifold.

Farmers are leaving agriculture. Forty-three per cent of the farming community want to leave agriculture because it is not remunerative. Is it not time for us to address the problems of the farming community and set things right? If you are not capable of controlling the prices, if you have run out of ideas, if you have become politically bankrupt with regard to ideas, better quit, and then, let the people decide. ■



Synopsis of the speech delivered by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on December 7, 2011 in Rajya Sabha.

Union Government should take a serious view on the suicides being committed by farmers

BJP MPs were in the forefront in raising the issues of people's concerns in the winter session of the parliament. While Shri Prabhat Jha raised the issues of farmers' debt and suicide and railways, Shri Rudra Narayan Pani raised the issue of farmers' suicide in the Rajya Sabha. We are publishing the synopsis of their speeches :

Every second farmer is debt ridden : Prabhat Jha

Rajya Sabha MP and BJP Madhya Pradesh President Shri Prabhat Jha speaking in the Rajya Sabha said "It has always been said that India is an agricultural country. As per the NSSO report every second farmer is ridden under the loan. Situation has become so miserable that since 1995 to 2010 more than two lakh farmers have committed suicide. Though UPA led government has always been saying that they have written off the loans of farmers but despite that more than sixteen thousand farmers have committed suicide." He added "In the recent 30 days more than 107 farmers have committed suicide. Farmers are selling their organs to repay their loans. Can we say that we are an agricultural country? We are having agricultural economy." He demanded that problems of farmers may be resolved.



Seven thousand railway stations are waiting for modernization : Prabhat Jha

During the last 60 years expansion of railways has not taken place as it was required. Its financial condition is also not good. Declarations were made to modernize railway stations but due to paucity of funds about seven thousand railway stations in the country are waiting for modernization. You declared that some stations would be converted into model stations but proper action has not been taken in this regard. In the field of transport there is a decline in the share of railways. In 50's decade it was 89% with share of road transport 11%. In the year of 2010-2011 railway's percentage is 20 and that of road transport is 80. Railway bridges and rail lines are also not in good condition. You have not achieved the target of laying new rail lines. Unmanned railway crossings have not been removed completely so far. Anti-collision equipments were said to be fixed in three railway zones but nothing has been done. ■

UPA Govt responsible for farmer suicides : Rudra Narayan Pany

At present the farmers are committing suicides in a number of States like Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala and West Bengal of the country. Like in other States, the incidents of farmer suicides is also growing day by day in Odisha. Every day 47 farmers commit suicides and a suicide takes place in half an hour in the country. About 252 farmers had committed suicides from 2009 to 2011 in three years only in Odisha. We should resolve that such unfortunate incidents must be stopped. I hold Congress led UPA Government, which is in power since 2004, responsible for it. The Council of Land Reform was set-up under the chairmanship of Prime Minister more than three and half years ago in the country, but it has so far not met even for once.



Please, take a serious view on the suicide being committed by the farmers in Odisha. I request the hon. Minister to provide information regarding the same while making his reply. The CCI do not make reasonable payment to the farmers for their produces and the same is grabbed by the middlemen. I therefore request the hon. Minister that he should take notice of the irregularities being committed in the CCI. ■

Nitinji : A man of strong will and determination

-By Prabhat Jha

The simplicity of the BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari can be seen from the fact that he himself says that 20-25 years back he used to paste posters of the party and campaign on auto rickshaw. Further he says that he had never imagined that an activist like him would be given the responsibility of national president by the organization. An ordinary person rarely has the guts to accept such things publicly. This is the uniqueness of Nitinji that he never forgets his roots and leaves his future the will of the organization. Even today he is not fully comfortable with Delhi, therefore he always tries to spend one or two days in a week in Nagpur. He gets the energy to fight in Delhi more from Nagpur than from Delhi. Vidarbha has a different nature. People there are open hearted. They are used to do things smilingly, in sportsman spirit. That's why there is no place for tension in the working style of Nitinji. His nature is result oriented. He always expects dutifulness leading towards results. He believes that there is not a single *karyakarta* for whom there is no work in the organization. Till now, whoever approached him asking for some work in the party has been readily obliged by him. He wants to see smile on the face of the *karyakartas*. He believes that politics should not be practiced

for bread but for the nation. He believes that one alone cannot do everything but everyone together can do all the things. His fundamental nature is to face the challenges resolutely. He never buckles under difficult circumstances but believes in facing the adversity with full force.

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***Nitinji is more concerned about present and doesn't bother about future. He believes that the past should be talked the least and unnecessary bothering about future should be avoided while working in the present in a lively manner.***

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 Even an accident which resulted in his leg getting damaged from four places and the bone had to be replaced by a rod has failed to deter him from taking break from his relentless tour programmes. Simplicity and humility is his hallmark. No *karyakarta*, howsoever simple he might be, cannot say that he could not get an appointment from Nitinji. His approach is to seek solution. He never judges a suggestion on the basis of the age of the person. Even if a suggestion which is in the

interest of the organization comes from a junior most *karyakarta*, he accepts it. He has rare capability to involve everyone by giving respect to the seniors, befriending his equals and by remaining affectionate to his juniors. He is always full of honesty, commitment, accountability and ethics and wants to see these qualities in even the most ordinary *karyakarta*. He holds Atalji and Advaniji as his role model. While remaining close to modernity he maintains required balance with traditions. He believes in experimenting with new ideas. He moves with time. He is an expert in agriculture related issues and wants to see the farmers happy. His heart is filled with pain when he hears the news of farmers' suicides. He believes in elevating the fallen ones and never believes in the fall of the others. He is far removed from the politics of machination and close to principles of collectiveness and coordination, giving the message of unity of thought, continuity of work, pleasant behaviour and active tours through his programmes. He has full faith that the journey of 'antyodaya to sarvodaya' will be realized more from constructive work and not from politics. This is the reason that in all his speeches, right from his first presidential address to all the other that he made till

date, he has always laid emphasis that life should be linked with constructive politics.

Nitinji is more concerned about present and doesn't bother about future. He believes that the past should be talked the least and unnecessary bothering about future should be avoided while working in the present in a lively manner. The status of a person matters particularly in politics. But Nitinji believes that if you are an ideal *karyakarta* no one can ignore you. His straightforwardness sometimes become news headlines. The main reason is that he is not a 'calculated politician' but a 'dedicated politician'. His childlike innocence automatically earns affection from the seniors. He has been able to create a place for himself in the national politics in a very

short time. Currently his entire energy and planning is focused on the assembly elections to be held in the largest State of the country. He is asking everyone to contribute their bits in Uttar Pradesh elections. He has been able to visit many foreign countries in a very short time and effectively communicated the ideology, principles and policies of the party to the leaders of those countries. His political acumen and capacity is discussed in the columns of the newspapers every now and then. He has a very clear approach towards media – he says while avoiding unnecessary media coverage, one should always go for necessary media coverage. Media is one of the most effective medium to communicate with the people.

The time Nitinji became the president he has been

emphasizing on increasing the support base of BJP by 10%. He has shown a lot of commitment in this direction and wants every *karyakarta* to dedicate himself towards this aim in the entire country.

Nitinji has seen many ups and downs in his journey from Mumbai, the financial capital of India to Delhi, the political capital of India and he believes that if a person is dedicated to his cause with an urge to serve the motherland then no hindrance can stop him. While his two year tenure is full of enthusiasm for the *karyakartas*, his experiments started by him in expanding the BJP in different areas have been appreciated everywhere. ■

(The Writer is the Madhya Pradesh BJP president and member of Rajya Sabha)

Indonesian MPs delegation meets BJP Leaders

A high level delegation of Members of Parliament from Indonesia on December 22, 2011 met Leader of Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley in Parliament House. The Indonesian MPs were welcomed by Shri Arun Jaitley who hoped to improve bilateral relations through exchange of such delegations. Shri Bal Apte, President of BJP's Foreign Affairs Cell and Shri Tarun Vijay, MP and National Spokesperson held detailed discussion with the Indonesian delegation in BJP Parliamentary Office. MPs from Indonesia were very much impressed with the vibrant democracy and the collective urge of political leaders to fight corruption. They asked several questions about the functioning of Parliament and told the BJP leaders about the pluralism and democracy flourishing in Indonesia and they also introduced the Hindu members of Parliament from Bali where Hinduism has been practiced since many centuries.



Families of Mayawati & Satish Mishra partners in scams : Kirit Somaiya

BJP National Secretary Shri Kirit Somaiya on 17 December 2011 came out with a document showing involvement of Families of Mayawati & Satish Mishra Partners in Scams. The Statement includes list of 'Bogus' – 'Scandalous' & Group Companies details. We are publishing the details hereunder :

Anand Kumar Brother of Mayawati & Kapil Mishra 20 year old Son of Satish Mishra BSP Leader & right hand of Mayawati, came together in 2007 to form dozens of scandalous companies to hide the scam money. Dr Kirit Somaiya BJP National Secretary & Chairman of Scam Expose Committee today released the list & documents of 125 companies of this group, hiding thousands of crores. Dr Somaiya stated that the total number of benami & scandalous companies of Anand Kumar Group likely to cross 300 covering scam of Rs 10,000 crores. Dr Somaiya released documents of half a dozen companies of Satish Mishra Family showing crores of benami income. Surprisingly all members of Mishra family are Directors/Share Holders/Owners in these companies.

The Family Members are

Kapil, Kalpana, Shyamlee, Shubhashree, Roopshree, Bhagyashree

Name of few Companies

1. Sankalp Advisory Services Pvt Ltd
2. Vijay Fincon Consultants PVt. Ltd.
3. Treveni Smart Education Pvt. Ltd.
4. Yamunotri Infrastructure & Developers Pvt. Ltd.
5. Vrindavan Investment Pvt. Ltd.

6. Friends Motels Pvt. Ltd.

7. Dia Realtors Pvt. Ltd.

After BJP exposed the Scam of Web of Scandalous Companies Mr. Satish Mishra has acknowledged the scam by withdrawing/resignation of all family members secretly on 30th November 2011.

The Group Anand Kumar consists of Anand Kumar, Dr Sukhdev Kumar, Deepak Bansal, Yadav Singh, Kapil Satish Mishra & others. BJP has filed official complaints with Ministry of Company Affairs, Enforcement Bureau & Central Board of Direct Taxes. Modus Operandi is same in all these companies. Abnormal Income of Hundreds of Crores from unknown sources, scandalous

income from *vayada bazaar*, and income from ghost companies e.g.

Laser Financial & Projects Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

This Company was formed by unknown persons in 1992. No transactions in years together. In 2007 Anand Kumar & group purchased this company in scandalous manner. As per the financial statements submitted & signed by Anand Kumar & group to Registrar of Companies there is no business but the Shares of the Company was purchased @ Rs 400 by unknown companies. Anand Kumar & Satish Mishra families have earned hundred crores by these benami/scandalous transactions. ■

BJP challenge to Mayawati

BJP challenged Mayawati to prove any of the documents released by him false. The following questions have been raised :

- ◆ Is it not true that her brother Anand Kumar & group has formed web of hundreds companies?
- ◆ Is it not true that benami income have been parked in these companies?
- ◆ Is it not true that hundreds of crores of rupees are lying in bank accounts of these companies?
- ◆ Is it not true that Anand Kumar & Kapil Satish Mishra formed Dia Realtors Pvt. Ltd. in 2007 when Kapil was just 20 years old? This company has shown crores of rupees benami transactions?

Is it not true that Anand Kumar group member, Chief Engineer of NOIDA Shri Yadav Singh has formed a dozen companies through his family and has several dubious transactions?

BJP's aim was to change the lives of the poor for the better : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Nitin Gadkari has announced that weavers would be included in the below poverty line (BPL) category and the loans taken by them waived if his party returned to power at the Centre. Addressing a meeting at the conclusion of three-day fast by BJP National Secretary Shri P. Muralidhar Rao to highlight the plight of weavers' problems in Hyderabad, he also promised to provide free electricity to weavers' community.

Lashing out at the Congress led Centre for neglecting weavers, he said that a huge convention would be organised at Delhi to sensitize the government and Shri Gadkari would also lead a delegation of party MPs to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

He said that Shri Rao's fast had focussed the attention of the government and the nation on the pathetic condition of weavers. Stating that more than 2,000 weavers had committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh, he said with prices soaring, the marginalized sections, including artisans, fishermen and weavers were able to have only one meal a day. Shri Gadkari alleged that the wrong economic policies and 'corrupt governance' of the Congress had ruined the country.

Declaring that BJP's aim was to change the lives of the poor for the better, Shri Gadkari said that



BJP-led NDA was poised to come back to power at the Centre and in most States. The struggle on the weavers issue would continue till all demands were conceded and exhorted the cadres to take to streets to fight against the injustice being meted out to the poor.

Andhra Pradesh BJP president Shri G. Kishan Reddy demanded that the government allocate budget in proportion to

the population of weavers for their welfare and sought a white paper on the amount spent to improve their conditions.

BJP national vice-president and in-charge of AP, Shri Purshottam Rupali, BJP Tamil Nadu unit president Shri Radhakrishnan BJP National Secretary Shri P. Muralidhar Rao, all India BJP Weavers Cell Convenor Shri Basanth Kumar were among those who spoke. ■

SAD-BJP wins Chandigarh civic body polls

The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation elections dealt a blow to the Congress as the party lost to the BJP-Shiromani Akali Dal combine. The results declared on December 19, 2011. The defeat comes a month-and-a-half before Punjab goes to polls, with Congress pitted against the ruling SAD- BJP combine. Congress's share in the 26-member general board of the civic body came down from 14 in 2006 to 11 this time. BJP increased its tally from six to 10. With this, the SAD-BJP combine will form the board. The BSP managed two seats and independent one. ■

SAD-BJP Govt has fulfilled all its promises : Sushma Swaraj

From Our Correspondence

Addressing a massive *Maha Vikas Rally* at Moga in Punjab on December 17, 2011, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Punjab Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal along with, BJP Punjab in charge Shri Shanta Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal announced that Punjab would be the number one State in the country if SAD-BJP alliance is voted to power for another term to accomplish its unfinished agenda for ensuring sustained development and overall welfare of all sections of the society. The rally

was organised jointly by Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

Speaking in the rally, Smt Sushma Swaraj said that the massive gathering in rally is symbol of victory of alliance in the coming assembly polls. She said when the parties and people have a glance on the contributions of the Government they feel proud of themselves as the government has fulfilled all its promises made to the people in previous state assembly elections held in year 2007.

Slamming the Congress led

UPA Government she said it is shameful on the part of the Congress that which had ruled for a long time in the States as well as in the Centre as compared to any other party but the net result was its utter failures in the fields of governance and national security.

Shri Prakash Singh Badal said that it is a historic day and



golden moment in his long political career spanning over six decades during which he had never seen such a massive rally at any point of time in any country, State and world. He said: "I am overwhelmed by the tremendous response of the people who have converged here to attend this historic rally and the entire credit for its success goes to the workers and the youth which deserved all appreciation, hence I salute them for their massive support".

Shri Badal said he is confident that parties having

such a huge support base could never fail in their mission. He mentioned that the impressive gathering on the occasion reflected two factors, firstly the people of the State reposed their full faith and confidence in the policies and programmes of our Government and secondly they are all out to extend their whole hearted cooperation and unstinted support to form the next Government of SAD-BJP.

In his address, Shri Shanta Kumar said that by attending the rally in such a large number the people of State have given their verdict for making Shri Parkash Singh Badal the Chief Minister of Punjab

again. He said the unmatched development of State carried out by the SAD-BJP alliance Government along with welfare of poor people and transparent recruitment policies adopted by the State government really requires a big applaud.

SAD President Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal said that the love and affection shown by party cadre in this 'Maha Vikas Rally' is reflective of the resolve of people of Punjab, who have made up their mind to give repeat mandate to SAD-BJP alliance for next 25 years. ■

BJP will end woes of northeast : Gadkari

Addressing a huge public meeting in Imphal, Manipur on December 19, 2011 BJP national President Shri Nitin Gadkari said in 2014, there will be a BJP-led government at the Centre and once it happens all sufferings of the people, including those of the northeast, will be over.

Referring to Manipur, Shri Gadkari said that before the coalition government led by Okram Ibobi Singh came to power almost 10 years ago, there were just three outlawed underground organizations. Now there were more than 30 of them in the tiny State. The extremists were making the lives of the common and law-abiding citizens miserable. If the BJP came to power in Manipur in the February 2012 Assembly elections, a high-level inquiry would be held to probe the



suspected nexus between some Ministers and the extremists, and the rampant corruption. Those who were found guilty would be sent to prison, the BJP president assured the masses on the occasion.

Shri Gadkari said blockades

had been a regular feature of the Ibobi government for the past 10 years, and a single blockade lasted more than 100 days. But the government remained a silent spectator to the sufferings of the people who were living with shortages, he said. (FOC) ■

Discussion on 'Sahyog Se Sangathan'

BJP Sahyog Cell website inaugurated



BJP Sahyog Cell's website (<http://bjp.org/sahyogcell>) was inaugurated by BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari along with Janata Party National President Shri Subramanian Swami, BJP Chief Spokesperson & National General Secretary Shri Ravi Shanker Prasad and National Convener of Sahyog Cell Shri Ashwini Kumar. On the occasion Sahyog Cell organised a discussion on 'Sahyog Se Sangathan' (Organisation through cooperation). The discussion was dedicated to Nanaji Deshmukh. A documentary movie was also shown on Nanaji Deshmukh in the function. BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal, BJP

National Literature Cell Convener Shri Amba Charan Vashisth, National Co-Convener of Sahyog Cell Shri Suresh Srivastava were among others who attended the function. (FOC) ■

BJP demands immediate implementation of Wage Board for journalists and Non-journalists

Gadkari assures journalists to take up the issue with Govt.

The BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari on december 13,2011 assured the Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency employees' Organizations that his party fully supported immediate implementation of the Wage Boards for the Journalists and non-journalist employees of the Newspaper and News Agencies organizations.

"We will take up the issue with the government and urge it to force the newspapers owners to implement the recommendations of the two wage boards", Shri Gadkari assured the delegation.

A delegation of the Federation called on Shri Gadkari at his residence here and apprised him of the latest development with regard to the government notification issued on November 11, 2011, accepting the recommendations of the two wage boards. The delegation members complained that owners of the newspaper industry have not implemented these recommendations causing extreme hardship to lakhs of the employees of the industry and their families.

They alleged that owners of the newspaper industry have been pressurized by the Indian Newspapers Society (INS) not to implement the award despite the fact that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has categorically refused to give them any relief.

"As national president of the main opposition party and as a friend of the newspaper industry, we urge your intervention on the subject and force the government to take up the issue with the owners of the newspaper industry", the delegation told Shri Gadkari.

The delegation included M.S.Yadav (General Secretary, Confederation of Newspaper



and News Agency Employees' Organizations), Rajendra Prabhu and N.K. Trikha (NUJ-I), Suresh Akhauri (President Indian Journalists Union), Madan

Talwar, General Secretary, All India Newspaper Employees Federation) and C.S. Naidu (General Secretary, Indian Express Employees Union). ■

Sadanand Gowda wins LC bypoll

Karnataka Chief Minister Shri DV Sadanand Gowda on December 22, 2011 in Bangalore was elected to the Upper House with a huge margin. As expected, Shri Gowda won the council byelection held on December 22. He polled 123 votes, whereas his opponent Congress candidate Anand Gaddadevaramath had to satisfy himself with just 69 votes. As many as six votes were declared invalid as these MLAs had written a tick mark instead of the number assigned by the Election Commission against their choice of candidate.



Gadkari assures incorporation of BJMS ten points demand in party manifesto

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has accepted the ten-point demands of Bhartiya Janata Mazdoor Mahasangh (BJMS) for incorporation in the party manifesto. Shri Gadkari, addressing a protest of BJMS, said "BJP will incorporate these demands in party manifesto". He assured that if BJP is voted to power then it will definitely implement this ten-point demands of BJMS. Addressing the BJMS *Karyakartas* who came from 18 states of India, BJMS President Shri Prahlad Patel said "Indian government will have to give social security by formulating law to 43 crores unorganized labourers of our country.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Shri Vijay



Kumar Malhotra, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijender Gupta also addressed the *Karyakartas*. BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javdekar, BJP General

Secretary Shri Vijay Goel and BJP National Secretary Captain Abhimanyu were among other who attended the protest by BJMS at Jantar Mantar. (FOC) ■

Midnight crackdown on Baba Ramdev camp

Bid to please political masters : SC *amicus curiae*

The Supreme Court was December 17, 2011 told that the decision on midnight crackdown on yoga guru Ramdev and his supporters was taken in advance by the Centre and police implemented it to please their "political masters".

Advocate Rajeev Dhawan, assisting the apex court as *amicus curiae*, referred to an interview of home minister P Chidambaram who had himself said a decision had been taken to remove Ramdev out of the city

if he goes ahead with the agitation.

Shri Rajeev Dhawan told an SC Special Bench of Justices B S Chauhan and Swatanter Kumar that it is "impossible" to believe that the police had not kept the Home Ministry informed at all times. "It is not possible to believe that all the information was not being



sent to the home secretary. It is further impossible to believe that it was not being sent to the home minister. The Home Ministry and commissioner of police were

working together to decide as to what is to be done with Baba Ramdev," Shri Dhawan submitted. ■

Centre should dismiss Kerala government : BJP

The State unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party at its executive committee meeting urged the Centre to dismiss the Congress led Kerala government for the continued attacks on Tamils living in Kerala over the Mullaperiyar issue and the deteriorating law and order in the State. This was one of the resolutions adopted by the party at its two-day State Executive meeting held at Mettupalayam, near Coimbatore. The meeting was attended by State BJP President Shri P. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President Shri H. Raja, former State party presidents Shri L. Ganesan, Shri K.M. Lakshmanan, State secretary Shri G.K.S. Selvakumar and Coimbatore district party president Shri R. Nandakumar.

A resolution adopted on December 17 said the continued attacks on Tamils and their properties by anti-social

elements were instigated by politicians. The resolution said the attacks on Ayyappa devotees, buses and shops belonging to Tamils were clear indication of the deteriorating law and order situation in Kerala and urged the Centre to dismiss the government.

The resolution said that whichever party came to power in Kerala since 1963 refused to provide water to Tamil Nadu and raise the height of dam beyond 120 feet. The resolution said agriculture in Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram districts were hit by the inadequate supply of water.

The resolution said the Congress led Centre remained a mute spectator to the Kerala government's stand and continuing attack on Tamil people. Other resolutions include action against protesters

blocking the commissioning of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, bringing down the price of fertilizers, release of five fishermen held by Sri Lanka and calling for a permanent solution to Tamilnadu fishermen being attacked by Sri Lankan Navy.

A resolution demanding the State government to reduce the price of milk and bus fare, drop the proposed power tariff hike, drop the proposal of opening elite TASMACHOP shops and immediate implement the *Avinashi-Athikadavu* water scheme was also passed.

A resolution also urged the Congress led Centre to completely withdraw the decision on foreign direct investment in retail trade and called for re-routing of 13 pairs of trains operated on the Podanur-Irugur-Podanur section skipping Coimbatore. (FOC) ■



Government must talk to Pakistan about killings of Hindus : BJP

Raising the issue of Hindus being tortured and killed in Pakistan in the wake of another killing of a Hindu trader near Multan, on December 13, 2011 Shri Tarun Vijay, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and National Spokesperson of BJP demanded in Rajya Sabha that Government of India must talk to Pakistan Govt. immediately showing concern on the killings of Hindus and provide adequate security to Hindus.

In a Special Mention in Rajya Sabha Shri Tarun Vijay said that 4 Hindu Doctors were slaughtered on Eid Day this year in Shikarpur City of Pakistan. After that 28 Hindu families comprising of 151 men, women and children somehow escaped from Pakistan and have taken refuge in Delhi.

He also asked the Govt. to give immediately work permits to the Pakistani Hindus who have taken refuge in Delhi and other cities to protect their lives and honour. ■

UPA hand tainted with farmer suicides

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

The agrarian economy of India is in shambles today. Needless to mention that more than 60% of India's population whose livelihood is invariably linked to agriculture and who constitute the betrayed class of *Aam Aadmi* are facing existential crisis like never before. The apathetic and corrupt dispensation at the Centre seems to have let loose on the farming community who for ages have constituted the backbone of the country and the result is heart rendering and tragic. Even the repressive Colonial rule looked less tyrannical than the callous and cruel Congress led UPA rule which has forced lakhs of farmers cutting across states to commit suicide during its last seven years.

More one analyses the issue of farmer suffering in the country, more perplexing it becomes as the UPA for all these years trumpeted high economic growth as its major achievement while half of India was getting trampled under the weight of UPA's indifference and criminal negligence of the farm sector. There is no denying the fact that economic growth has taken place, but the question is who cornered the benefits, leaving peanuts for the *Aam Aadmi*? The growth story indicates that the UPA rule has obviously looked after a section of society well comprising the likes of A Rajas, Kalmadis, Chidambarams and Hasan Alis, while the Kalavatis

of Vidharva, Aam Aadmi of Bundelkhand and farmers of the rest of the country were being forced to take extreme steps in a welfare state like ours.

While looking at the issue of farmer suicides from the prism of politics may be improper, but how can one ignore the fact that the rising graph of farmer suicides under the Congress led UPA rule also coincides with the startling numbers of suicides cases being reported particularly from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh again ruled by the same Party which cannot be a mere coincidence but a proof of the deceit and treachery inflicted on the farming community over and over again by the Congress wherever it ruled.

While negligence of agriculture sector in the policy matrix, declining public investment and an over-enthusiasm to withdraw farm subsidies under UPA rule may be attributed as the reasons for farmer distress witnessed in India, the response has been even more surprising and ill-conceived.

The Congress, faced with the criticism of being callous and responsible for the suicides of thousands of farmers right before the Parliamentary elections in 2009, announced farm loan waiver to the tune of Rs 70,000 crore in the budget of 2008-09. But, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, the loan waiver year of 2008 saw 16,196 farmer suicides in the country.

This was not an aberration but a pattern which has become synonymous with UPA rule. The following figures stand witness to this observation,

| Year | Farm suicides |
|------|---------------|
| 2004 | 18241 |
| 2005 | 17131 |
| 2006 | 17060 |
| 2007 | 16632 |
| 2008 | 16196 |
| 2009 | 17368 |
| 2010 | 15964 |

Source: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

The magnitude of the crisis can be observed from the fact that more than 48,000 farmer suicide cases have been reported since 2008, when the farm loans were waived, and till 2010, with the data of 2011 still awaited. That every hour two farmers commit suicide and between 2004 and 2010, over 120,000 farmers committed suicide in India would put even the poor African nations to shame and the Congress led UPA can't escape blame for this horrendous statistics.

While on the one hand the farm loan waiver of Rs 70,000 crore in 2008 was publicized as a historic by UPA government, on the other hand it gave tax concessions of more than 15 lakh crores to corporates and industries during this period, as is evident from the Revenue Foregone Statements of the Finance Minister, without much of a fuss. The Government run by a band of economists have run a systematic campaign over

the years to project that all tax concessions to the industries and corporate are incentives and good for the economy while all subsidies to the farmers, the poor and the needy are bad and unproductive hence need to be curtailed. This approach has ruined India's agricultural sector, paralyzed India's rural economy and created a sense of despair among the *Aam Aadmi* forcing them to end life than live under this brutal and atrocious regime. Not only that the farmers were denied of cheap loans, or subsidized inputs and fair procurement policies, but in many places the land of the farmers was usurped under gun point to facilitate non-descript private investment in the name of SEZs. Even the former partner of UPA, the Left Parties did not hesitate to acquire land at gun point resulting in heavy loss of life and property in West Bengal. If all these were not enough, the farming community was threatened with FDI in the retail sector which would result in an unfair competition between the well entrenched MNCs and the poor farmers devoid of financial might, technology and scale economics which characterize the MNCs.

Farmer suicides have now acquired epidemic proportions in India and negligence of farm sector still continues unabated under the UPA rule. But, there are islands of hope in times of great despondency. The UPA need not look at global best practices, the least it can do is to replicate the agricultural success stories of states like Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, but that would require political neutrality and going

beyond narrow partisan politics which the UPA has hardly ever followed. While India languishes with an average 2.7% rate of growth in agriculture, Gujarat has clocked an average of 8% in the past decade followed by 6.7% of Chhattisgarh and 6.2% of Madhya Pradesh, as according to the latest CSO data. The above goes to suggest that while the Congress led UPA made empty promises on inclusive growth, it is the BJP led NDA ruled states which achieved this in reality.

Agricultural distress is a reality in India today and the

need for succor to the 500 million farming community can't be emphasized more. With two-thirds of farmers outside formal credit system, declining investment in irrigation, declining subsidies as a proportion to GDP, and with severe crisis gripping the rural economy with high unemployment, high rate of migration and food security concerns, one of the initiatives like loan waiver can hardly comfort the farming community of India. Congress led UPA government must wake up before it is too late. ■

Congress spent crores on Rajiv, Indira ads

Government had spent Rs 4.79 crore and Rs 2.46 crore on print media advertisements on the occasion of birth anniversaries of former Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Indira Gandhi respectively. These details were shared with the Rajya Sabha by minister of state for information and broadcasting CM Jatua while replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha. Stating that no campaign was released through electronic media on the occasion of Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary, Jatua said that "Rs 4,79,73,656/- was spent on print media advertisements on the occasion of birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi in 2011." The health ministry spent the highest amount of over Rs 95 lakh. Ministry of new and renewable energy spent over Rs 82 lakh followed by tourism ministry which spent over Rs 79 lakh on the occasion. Ministry of housing and urban poverty alleviation spent over Rs 65 lakh, Information and Broadcasting over Rs 58 lakh, while Social Justice ministry spent over Rs 51 lakh for the occasion.

Women and child development ministry (Rs 25 lakh) and micro, small and medium enterprises (Rs 21 lakh), also spent funds on print media advertisements on the day, Jatua said in his reply. On the occasion of birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, the information and broadcasting ministry spent over Rs 60 lakh while social justice ministry spent over Rs 56 lakh.

Micro, Small and Medium enterprises ministry spent Rs 41 lakh, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region spent Rs 25 lakh while ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation spent amount over Rs 22 lakh. Water resources and women and child development ministries spent over Rs 19 lakh each, Jatua informed the Rajya Sabha.(PTI) ■

Verbatim record of Mehbooba Mufti's statement praising Gujarat chief minister released

During the Sadbhavan Upavas the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj had quoted PDP leader Ms. Mehbooba Mufti praising Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi to which she had objected. She had maintained that she was misquoted by Smt. Swaraj. On 17 December 2011, Smt. Sushma Swaraj released a statement saying that she had rightly quoted Ms Mehbooba Mufti by producing the verbatim record of the proceedings of NIC meeting held on 10 September 2011. We are publishing the statement of Smt. Sushma Swaraj for our readers hereunder:

On 19th September 2011 I spoke on Sadhbhavana Upvas and quoted Ms Mehbooba Mufti's comments regarding Shri Narendra Modi in the NIC meeting

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymWAgw6K50>



Ms Mehbooba Mufti told the media that I had misquoted her comments. She wanted Government

of India to release the text of her speech to set the record straight.

I have now received the verbatim record of the proceedings of the NIC meeting held on 10th September 2011. As per the official record Ms. Mehbooba Mufti stated "...I recall once I was in Chennai and I met some one, a Muslim businessman, and he told me that he had gone to see Gujarat Chief Minister, and he said I was very impressed, I had an appointment with him regarding some business deal and he had got all the officers there, around him. They did not take even ten minutes and he got his job done...." I am putting this not to embarrass Ms Mehbooba Mufti but only to set the record straight. ■

BJP submits privilege motion against Chidambaram

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on December 19, 2011 submitted a privilege motion against home minister P Chidambaram, who has been in the focus of opposition ire for allegedly disrespecting Parliament by speaking to the media on a controversy over helping a former client.

Lok Sabha MP Yashwant Sinha submitted the notice to Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar after a meeting of the Parliamentary party chaired by Shri LK Advani. Shri Sinha reminded the speaker of the notice after Question Hour was over and wanted to speak on it. "You have not given a notice to speak. You are senior member and you should know the rules. Please sit down," the speaker told the BJP leader.

Another BJP leader, SS Ahluwalia, said the notice related to the "disrespect" shown by the home minister by making a statement outside of the house when Parliament was in session. "Chidambaram has talked to the media outside when the Parliament session is on.

Instead of making a statement inside Parliament, he decided to give a statement to the media. This amounts to disrespect of Parliament. Yashwant Sinha has moved a notice of privilege against him," Ahluwalia told reporters.

The BJP-led opposition has been gunning for Chidambaram over his alleged help to a former client in quashing police cases of forgery against him. After days of furore in Parliament over the issue, the home minister at a media conference last week said he was "deeply hurt" and rejected the opposition charge that he had misused his office while withdrawing prosecution against S.P. Gupta, the businessman he represented as a lawyer.

The government and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have strongly backed the home minister.

Ahluwalia said it was "not proper" on the part of the prime minister "to give a clean chit to Chidambaram".

"This is not right. All papers should be put before Parliament. There should be discussion and then Parliament will decide what is right or not," the BJP leader said. ■

MADHYA PRADESH

Soil from Azad's village will revive sense of patriotism displayed by freedom fighters : Prabhat Jha



To imbibe the sense of patriotism, Nationalism and honesty in elected representatives of the country Madhya Pradesh BJP decided to send bottled soil from the birthplace of great freedom fighters and revolutionaries Chandrasekhar Azad. The party President Shri Prabhat Jha sent the first bottle to the President of India carrying the soil from Bhabra, the birthplace of the great revolutionaries a town in Madhya Pradesh that was renamed Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar by the BJP government last month.

Shri Prabhat Jha interacting with media persons said that the bottles will be sent to all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members as also MLAs of all assemblies at their home addresses accompanying a letter of Shri Jha. The letter reads, "Keep the bottles in your shrines in such a way that the sense of patriotism and sacrifice displayed by freedom fighters and revolutionaries is revived".

Shri Jha said the feelings evoked by the soil would check people's lust for black money. The party has already distributed the soil among its national and state office-bearers at the recent executive meet, he informed.

Though most Lok Sabha MPs are likely to be in New Delhi due to the ongoing session, the party has chosen to send the bottles to their homes insisting that such postal deliveries are taken more seriously and will increase the life of the bottles.

UTTARAKHAND

Development of defence infra essential in States bordering China : Khanduri

Speaking during the Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw Memorial Lecture on 'Bordering



States: The Bulwark of National Security' in New Delhi on December 17, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri has cautioned the Congress led UPA government at the Centre against the tardy development of d e f e n c e

infrastructure in States bordering China. He said connectivity in most of the Border States has been neglected and thus poses a grave security hazard. "Reaching some border posts in India still takes two to three days. Comparatively China has gone far ahead with deployment of big vehicles, helipads and extensive border road network in its area," Shri Khanduri said.

He said besides strategic deployment of security forces in these areas, the road, rail, air network, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure was required to be built. He, however, lamented that development in Border States was not being done the way it should have taken place and insisted that there was an urgent need to improve the Border Area Development Programme. This, according to him, was also the reason for bulk migration of people from these States. Unless better facilities are made available to people in Border States, the problem will persist. Infrastructural leap in these areas will not only ensure preparedness of the country during emergency but will also be a deterrent to hostile neighbours, he maintained.

The Chief Minister also emphasised on constituting a centralized branch of intelligence agencies which is specialized in collecting vital information regarding infiltration, fake currency, explosives and drugs along the borders. Any disturbing development or tension at local level,

as in the case of China, can have serious implications on the nation as a whole. This can only be prevented through better amenities in States, Shri Khanduri said.

Earlier, introducing the topic, former deputy chief of the Indian Army Lt General NS Malik said all Border States were vital in ensuring the internal and external security of the country. He said all military operations offensive or defensive were carried out in the Border States and so their development cannot be compromised with.

Speaking on the occasion former Indian Ambassador to the United States Ronen Sen recalled the command of Field Marshal Manekshaw during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. The lecture was organised by the Conclave of Defence Services Veterans.

DELHI

10 lakh people signed anti-Govt forms : BJP

The Delhi BJP president Shri Vijender Gupta said that over 10 lakh people have signed anti-Government forms and resolved to dislodge the U P A - I I Government at



the Centre and the Sheila Dikshit Government in Delhi. The two-day signature campaign ended on December 18. Shri Vijender Gupta also participated in the campaign at Ghazipur, in east Delhi, and told the workers and the people that they should resolve not to vote the Congress Government to power again.

The character of the Congress is despotic. This Government has made several promises to the people before the elections, but forgets them later. The UPA Government under the leadership of Manmohan Singh has been voted to power

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for the second time. This Government has not given anything except corruption, inflation, bungling, terrorism, dynastic rule the people," Shri Gupta said.

Shri Gupta said the Sheila Dikshit Government in Delhi continues to impose taxes and fees on Delhiites. "All the people of Delhi have not been provided drinking water, sewer system facilities. Fifty lakh people of Delhi live in hellish conditions in unauthorized colonies. Thirty-one lakh live in slums."

In the campaign, Leader of Opposition in Delhi assembly Prof Vijay Kumar Malhotra, senior BJP leaders like Prof Jagdish Mukhi, Shri Pawan Sharma, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Shri Pravesh Verma and others also participated at various places of Delhi.

UTTAR PRADESH

White paper issued by BSP government was a bundle of lies : Naqvi

Reacting to the white paper issued by the BSP Government in Uttar Pradesh about the government advertisement issued during its tenure, the BJP has said that it would have been better if the government have issued



a black paper about its black deeds. The BJP National Vice President Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi while addressing a press conference at the state party headquarters on December 16, 2011 in Lucknow also demanded a high level probe monitored by the High Court in the bungling of Bundelkhand package. He also demanded the termination of Cabinet Minister Nasseemuddin Siddiqui for his alleged role in looting of the Bundelkhand economic package and registration of case against him.

The BJP National Vice President also said that *Sushri* Mayawati led BSP Government in Uttar Pradesh should be given a place in the Guinness Book of World Record for its twin achievements - arrogance and scams. Shri Naqvi said that the white paper issued by the BSP government was a bundle of lies and it skipped the pertinent queries sought by the people.

Why white paper did not mention a word about the wealth acquired by *Sushri* Mayawati and her family members, he asked. Why it is silent about the group of four mafias close to the chief minister who were given a license

to loot the state exchequer, he further asked.

He alleged that Congress's concern about the Bundelkhand economic package was just eye wash as the Congress led UPA Government remained a mute spectator when the money was looted by Mayawati government just because Congress needed support of BSP at Centre.

Shri Naqvi said that Congress and Rahul Gandhi were not concerned with the poor people of the country. Infact they are concerned about the foreign economies and foreign companies and behave as their agent, he alleged. He said Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi's tirade against Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party was only a political drama and the truth was that these three parties supplemented each other on key issues, mainly corruption and black money.

Shri Naqvi said the most recent example of the tacit understanding between these three parties was witnessed on Wednesday when the SP skipped the debate on black money in Parliament and thereby extended a helping hand to the Congress-led UPA government. "Not only this, the SP is also reiterating its support to the UPA government despite Rahul's criticism," he added. Pathak said whenever the BJP exposed scams and corruption of the Congress-led UPA government; both the SP and the BSP came to its rescue. He also opposed the proposed reservation to Muslims and claimed SP, BSP and the Congress were misleading Muslims just to grab their votes as the assembly election in the State were coming closer.

GUJARAT

BJP Govt. used every paisa for the welfare of people : Modi

Concluding his one-day fast at Jamnagar under the Sadbhavna Mission, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced a development package



of Rs3,500 crore for the region. As many as 11,111 volunteers from Jamnagar, Dhrol-Jodiya and Kalawad taluka were present at the fast to support the CM. Announcing the package, Shri Modi said his government has used every paisa for the welfare of the people without increasing the taxes and put a stop to the corrupt practices of past Congress governments. Modi said the package announced is more than the State budget decided during the Congress regime. Thanking people for their support, the CM said a power-hungry and anti-Gujarat group, has for the past ten years left no opportunity to defame Gujarat. Sadbhavna Mission is a quiet way of handling such people. The element of serenity at the Sadbhavna Mission is the reason behind people's enormous support, he said. ■

Mayawati shielding corrupt minister : BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party has said that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati is shielding tainted Cabinet Minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui against whom several serious charges have being leveled and they are being investigated by the Lokayukt. While talking to media persons, BJP state spokesman Shri Vijay Bahadur Pathak dared the Chief Minister to explain her position on the Rs 1.54 lakh crore scam that took place in her regime. "She must give pin-pointed reply to the charges made by the BJP against her and her kin including brother Anand," Shri Pathak said. The BJP state spokesman also alleged that as announcement of the Assembly elections was round the corner, Chief Minister Mayawati was holding Cabinet meetings through bi-circular to oblige the near and dear ones by giving them red beacon. "Not a single day passes without exposure of corruption by some minister of the Mayawati government but the Chief Minister has no courage to act against them (the ministers)," he said. He said that Cabinet minister Naseemuddin Siddiqui was busy in destroying documentary evidences against him by misusing his official position. Shri Pathak urged the Election Commission to take cognizance of the transfers of police and administrative officers these were being done to take undue benefit in elections through the blue-eyed officials posted at desired places. ■