



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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CONTENTS

Special Articles

It is time to act!

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi..... 6

Have we been able to realize the republic in its true spirit?

By Prabhat Jha..... 14

A Patriotic Saint-Swami Vivekananda

By Rajesh Pathak..... 17

Article

Let country emulate Kerala's initiative on Sree Narayana Guru

By L.K. Advani..... 9

Flawed verdict in Gujarat Lokayukta case

By Arun Jaitley..... 11

Supremacy of culture

By Pt. Deendaya Upadhyaya..... 19

Build bridges, but don't bend

By S.K. Sinha..... 20

Populist policies are short-cuts to power

By Joginder Singh..... 22

State Reports

Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh..... 28

Delhi, Karnataka..... 29

Jharkhand..... 30

Cover : Protest at India Gate against gruesome gang rape in Delhi

HISTORIC PICTURE



Pt. Deendaya Upadhyay, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and other leaders going on bullock cart for the Lucknow Convention on 30th December, 1960



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This soul is unmanifest; it is incomprehensible and it is spoken of as immutable. Therefore, knowing it as such, you should not grieve.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 23)

Q U O T E S

“Social work and politics go hand in hand. If you involve yourself in social service, it will benefit you in your political career as well.” -Nitin Gadkari

“This year (in 2013), all laws related to women should be re-analysed. There should be toughest punishment for crimes against women.” -Sushma Swaraj

“Gujarat will now have a Lokayukta whom the Council of Ministers never recommended. Constitutional short-cuts do not establish either good governance or good precedents.” - Arun Jaitley

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The gang rape in Delhi has shook the nation. It is really shameful to note that crimes against women are increasing day by day but government remains oblivious of it. The law enforcing agencies have also not been upto the expectation of the people. While police lack the will to nail the criminals, the judiciary is also not taking quick action in this regard. In fact the entire society in some way or other is guilty of gender discrimination. The effort should be to build an equitable society where gender justice is done effectively. Let's stand together to end atrocities against women and unite the society for this cause. I salute the people across nation who have agitated against the incident and demanded justice.

-Sourabh Delhi



Kamal Sandesh Parivar wishes a Happy 64th Republic day to all of its esteemed readers.

Attention Readers!

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Congress led UPA should learn its lessons from protests

As people are getting younger they are voicing their concerns. They are coming out of their homes. Although they have candles in their hands but its burning light shows the light of protest. UPA government should understand these protests on streets. Although gang rape, atrocities against women are not political issues but nation is demanding a new policy. Damini has not died. She has reached every home with her death. At this point of time only one voice is coming out from every home in India – “make law for death sentence”. The political parties should seriously take the message emanating from the streets. This message is linked with the sentiments of the people. The government which fails to understand the sentiments of the people and plays politics by trying to suppress the protests then its all round criticism is imminent.

UPA led Congress has burnt its fingers not once but many times in 2012. Whether it was Commonwealth Games scam, 2G Spectrum scam, Coal Scam, Robert Vadera scam, NGO scam of Salman Khrushid or the question of the people bearing the brunt price rise, or the question of power-road-water, or issue related to the border security, the grave situation in Jammu and Kashmir or the issue related to fertilizers for farmers, MNREGA scam or the issue of education and health, people cannot forget. Even when we have 45-50% young hands, they are unemployed. The federal structure of the country which is standing on the heap of problems is at risk. All these incidents expose the deteriorating situation in India. This is the reason why people are getting disillusioned with Congress. Today Congress is neither in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha nor in Punjab and if it is somewhere then it is in Maharashtra that too on the crutches of NCP. In Andhra also Jagan Reddy is throwing open challenge to it from behind the bars. In Goa and Jharkhand also Congress has lost its sheen. By winning accidentally in small states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is not enough to kindle hopes for the Congress. On the other hand regional parties have forced the national party to enter into contracts. Contract under compulsion cannot result in strong politics.

Congress is making not one but many decisions without taking nation into confidence. The harvest of votes cannot be reaped by cash subsidy. While the tracks were still to be laid, trains were made to run on them. Accidents are bound to take place. Congress led UPA is also refusing to learn its lessons from MNREGA. How a plan can materialize without infrastructure? The country should be in the mind of the parties and not the votes. Vote cannot be bigger than the country.

Can India which is deeply hurt by gang rape forget all these issues? I don't think so. The people will ask for answers for all the questions. Our democracy is mature now. They understand the difference between fire and water. It is not a joke that whatever the parties indulging in the politics of blackmail might be doing against the chief minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi under the instigation of Congress and other so called secularists but in the time of the festival of democracy people elected their hero Shri Narendra Modi by giving him a resounding mandate. Shri Narendra Modi has come out with flying colours. Those opposing him should understand that they have now no power to mislead the people. In the same manner Congress led UPA might do in the name of cash subsidy distribute money but the people of India will make the democracy victorious not the 'notecracy'. ■

Editorial...

It is time to act!

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

The barbaric incident of gang rape and brutal assault on the victim and her companion has deeply hurt the psyche of the nation. The brutality and savagery associated with the gang rape which finally saw the victim succumbing to the assault in a hospital in Singapore. The incident has left every sane individual in anguish and pain. As this ghastly incident was reported in the media thousands of people came out on the streets across the nation demanding justice while venting their anger against the system which has refused to take corrective measures. The heat of the protests was felt most in the Capital, when even while braving the extremely cold weather, thousands of students, youth and common people reached India Gate and Jantar Mantar to express their resentment and agony. It was not for a single day but for many days in continuation that the Delhi police and administration had to keep itself busy tackling the protesters on the streets of Delhi. When the protestors refused to bow, the Delhi Police chose to seal off the India Gate and a number of metro stations were closed but even these measures failed to deter the protestors. They continued to build pressure and protested at whatever site they felt suitable for it and kept the voice of the people alive while the victim of the gang-rape continued to wage a heroic struggle in the hospital.

While media swung into action reporting the anger and anguish of the people on street, the entire

nation engaged itself in discussing and debating the issue. It was spontaneous, without any pre-planning or organized efforts - young people, students, women, common people from all walks of life - all came out on the street on their own - it was really an unprecedented outrage of the people which those in power can ignore at their own risk. While a wave of shock engulfed the nation those in power showed scant respect for the nation's outrage and anger. In place of sending some positive signals showing respect to the sentiments of the people, the attempt was to somehow suppress



the movement and divert the attention of the people by throwing red herrings in the debate.

Why this outrage?

It would not be an exaggeration if one dubs the year 2012 as the year of people coming out strongly and openly on the street to express themselves. From candle light processions to massive gathering breaking the police barricades and even going to the extent of braving

water canons, tear gas shells and lathicharge - people were in no mood to back out. On every occasion young people, students, women and a large number of common people came out on the street, raising the slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram', holding aloft the tricolor in their hands jamming the India Gate and packing the Jantar Mantar to overflow - that too for not for few hours or for a single day but for many days together - it was a phenomenon not easy to decipher. People came out on their own defying section 144 with a determination to shake the establishment, to send a signal to those in power, and with the flair and fervor of freedom movement. People from across different section of the society wanted to ensure their participation, they had no hesitation

in speaking their mind openly on the cameras, they wanted to assert and demand what has been due to them for so long. It has been really a rare spectacle when people assert themselves collectively with so much determination and strong will.

While posing to respect the sentiments associated with this outrage a section of ruling elite has also been ironically dismissive assuming it to be a temporary

phenomenon which they felt sure to vanish in the days to come. It would be a mistake to dismiss the entire phenomenon as occasional outburst of people against the system. Such an attitude may result in bigger movement across the country as the ruling class continues to defy the collective will of the people. People want change; they want to change the entire system. They can now no more wait as they feel cheated by those whom they voted to power. There is a sense of deprivation among the people as a feeling of not getting their due prevails in their mind. Justice delayed is justice denied. People see no hope as they see all round deterioration taking place in every sphere of life.

Colonial mindset and system

Indian national movement which saw the nation attaining freedom was mainly based on the premise of overhauling the colonial system which was considered a huge impediment in the national development. The leaders of the national movement while fighting for independence also envisaged a system which may do away with the ills and evils of colonial rule. They advocated change heralding an era of real independence of the people of India. The national movement proceeded with an urge for democracy which would have ensured the participation of the common people in the system which could be responsive and accountable. The colonial rule had not only denied the people their participation in the system, it also trampled upon people's rights forcing on them an alien system to which the people of India remained aloof and disillusioned.

The independence was expected to herald an era of change

wherein the appendages of the colonial system was to be placed under scrutiny and system of governance, laws, rules and regulations were to be reviewed and reformed. But steps taken in this direction were mired with reluctance and half hearted approach. The result is for everyone to see – while we continue with colonial rules the mindset of the ruling class also remains afflicted with colonial thinking and beliefs. The pattern of governance in the country in place of following the best democratic practices still relies on controlling

There have been so many commissions and committees to reform different part of the system. There are recommendations of these commissions and committees on almost every aspect of governance and administration. But what has been lacking is the political will to implement these recommendations.

and gagging the people. While the system lacks transparency, accountability is also missing. In place of engaging with the people and making laws which might see increasing participation of the people, the ruling elite chooses to block the system in the garb of meaningless laws and debates. While people have shown so much resentment to the system, the system continues with hollow promises and claims catering to the whims and fancies of the ruling elite. Reform or perish

There have been so many commissions and committees to reform different part of the system. There are recommendations of these commissions and committees on almost every aspect of governance and administration. But what has been lacking is the political will to implement these

recommendations. The nation has been hearing about reforms in almost every sector including education, health, judiciary, police and legislature but are these reforms really taking place? While nation continues to discuss and debate these reforms, the recommendation of the commissions and committees are conveniently allowed to be shelved in cold storage. The discussions on the recommendations are so long that by the time some decision are about to be taken it is time for new commissions or committees to deal with the changed scenario. The result is that no action is taken and the problem is allowed to linger hurting the interest of the nation the most.

In the current movement, the issue of police reform was in focus. The police not only continue to follow the colonial rules and regulations, its mindset also remains shackled with colonial compulsions. Most of the victims are unable to gather courage to approach police in their dire need as they remain apprehensive of their conduct. The police have not yet been able to inspire required confidence in the people. On the other hand we also find that the entire police machinery is under staffed and over burdened. In such a situation how we can expect effective policing. The police still lack proper education in gender and human rights issues. The Indian Police Commission of 1902-03, which reviewed the working of the police, found that “the police force throughout the country is in a most unsatisfactory condition, that abuses are common everywhere, that this involves great injury to the people and discredit to the government and that radical reforms are urgently necessary”. But actions are being taken at a

very slow pace even in the face of court directive to make changes in police. It is high time that corrective measures are taken on all fronts and action is initiated to reform almost every sector of government so that governance is effective, transparent, accountable and in tune with democratic ethos and values. Gender sensitization – the core issue

The national outrage against the shameful gang rape has brought the issues related to gender on the national agenda. The people have

entire society takes place. The nationwide movement against gang rape has brought forward the collective national will to ensure a safe and secure environment for women. The nation wants to respect the women. People want to see women getting equal treatment and equal opportunities in the national life. The efforts should be to strengthen the pillars in the society which can provide required support to the woman. In this direction family as an institution should be strengthened and family values

Unless such corrective measures are taken the nation cannot move forward.

It cannot be denied that by allowing the practice of objectification and commodification of woman cultural and social values are put at great risk. Vulgar movies and songs are sold in the market unchecked catering to perverted mentalities of a section in the society. This should not be allowed to continue. In addition to that gender issues should form part of the curriculum so that sensitization of the students takes place effectively. The need is to sensitize every section of the society and to impart cultural values through right kind of education and upbringing.

Conclusion

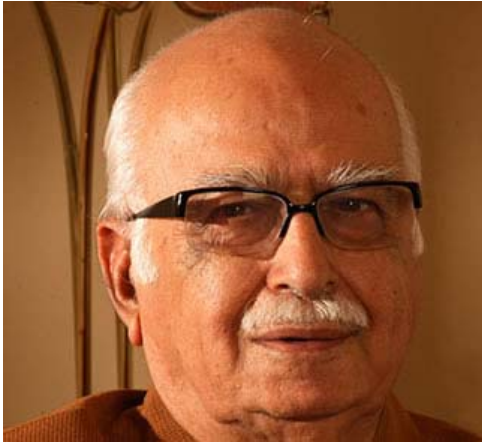
The public outrage in the wake of gruesome gang rape has brought not one issue but many to the fore. From police to hospitals, from education to health, from transportation to traffic police, entire delivery mechanism, different parts of the government, the mindset of the people – the functioning and effectiveness of almost every sector has been on test. People are restive. They want to see action as they are fed up of hollow promises. The political class will have to meet the expectation of the people otherwise the disenchantment from the system will continue to grow. To dismiss these issues as temporary phenomenon would be a mistake as these are real issues which common people are facing in their day to day life. The politics of the country is on test and only those would qualify for the support of the people who have the agenda and will to deliver in accordance with the national aspirations. For this strong determination and political will is required. It is time to act! ■

The public outrage in the wake of gruesome gang rape has brought not one issue but many to the fore. From police to hospitals, from education to health, from transportation to traffic police, entire delivery mechanism, different parts of the government, the mindset of the people – the functioning and effectiveness of almost every sector has been on test. People are restive.

joined their hands together in not only condemning the incident; they want action from the side of the government. In addition to the gender issue, the issues related to governance have also been in the central focus of the movement. People want a safe and secure nation where laws are effective and implementing machinery is vigilant and dutiful. But it was unfortunate to note that the government in place of taking corrective measures has indulged itself in blame games. Different parts of government were seen engaging themselves in wrangling matches over the issue and were found busy shifting blames to others. It cannot be denied that there were attempts to divert the issue by creating demands for short term measures like transfer, resignations and other punitive measures.

Apart from stricter laws, effective policing and supportive legal machinery, the need of the hour is to generate an atmosphere wherein gender sensitization of the

should be inculcated. From time immemorial family has been the basis of Indian society wherein the values of sharing, caring and living togetherness is imparted to every individual. Family as an institution teaches us how to respect mother who is held in very high esteem even above the gods and goddesses. In India we have unique tradition of *Raksha Bandhan* which signifies love and respect for sisters and brothers. It is not only that love and respect for each other are hallmarks of family values but creating awareness about one's responsibilities and duties also forms part of this institution. Creating a sense of responsibility and duty towards each other in an environment of sharing and caring builds a society which nurtures gender sensitive mindset. Of late even in this institution gender discrimination has crept in which should be corrected and the notion of equality, equal treatment and opportunity should be strengthened within this institution.



Let country emulate Kerala's initiative on Sree Narayana Guru

By L.K. Advani

www.blog.lkadvani.in

New Year has just commenced. I am happy that on the last day of December, 2012, I was in Kerala, and was able to visit Sivagiri, a pilgrim spot associated with the hallowed memory of Sree Narayana Guru, a great yogi and a siddha, revered by Mahatma Gandhi for his unrelenting crusade against untouchability and casteism.

The Guru was born at a time when the practice of untouchability was at its worst. There were people whose sight itself was supposed to cause defilement to others. In temples for a deity, lakhs who believed in the same deity and religion, were not allowed even to enter.

I recall that it was in 1987 that I had been first invited to visit Sivagiri Mutt in Varkala some 45 kms. from Thiruvananthapuram. I was asked to be Chief Guest at the 3-day celebrations that are held there every year since 1932. Because of bad weather, the flights for Thiruvananthapuram were cancelled, and I could not go. Sivagiri is a hillock in Varkala where lakhs of the Guru's devotees visit to pay homage to

his Samadhi, and the shrine of Sharda (Saraswati) that he has installed here.

Prior to installing this *pratima* of Saraswati at Sivagiri, Sree Narayana Guru had set up a shrine of Siva at Aruvippuram. So when in 1987 I failed to go to Sivagiri I somewhat made up for this when I visited Aruvippuram a year later. This year of course, I started my inaugural speech while apologizing to the large audience of pilgrims there clothed in *peethambaras* (yellow) clothes that I had come to this sacred place 25 years late!

The 3-day celebrations were conceived by Sree Narayana Guru and announced before his death in 1928. These take place annually on December 30, 31 and January 1. On December 30, the celebrations are formally opened by the State Chief Minister. The second day's function is the Teerthdanam Sammelanam which this year I was asked to inaugurate. This was presided over by Union Minister Shri Vyalar Ravi. On the last day there are several eminent scholars who speak about different aspects of the Code of Ethics laid down by Sree Narayana Guru.

In my address I welcomed Chief Minister Oomen Chandi's announcement the previous day that from 2013 onwards Sree Narayana Guru's teachings would be part of the School syllabus in Kerala State.

It is indeed unfortunate that in Indian schools, the teaching of history is almost entirely focused on kings, their dynasties, their wars and exploits. The remarkable contributions of our sages and seers are generally kept away from the children, and often on the plea that in a secular state anything to do with religion is taboo. This is an absurd approach. So in my speech at Sivagiri I urged Union Minister Vyalar Ravi to ensure that Kerala's initiative is emulated by the Centre and other states. It would elevate the level of school studies if the teachings and ideals of saints like Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda are part of the normal curriculum.

The Union Minister for Overseas Indians Shri Ravi responded by saying that he would take up the issue with the Prime Minister.

In my speech that day I recalled that while in school we had gathered that the touchstone for judging a student's intelligence level was knowing how high or low was his or her IQ that is, Intelligence Quotient. Later, when I happened to read a book titled EQ, it made me appreciate that while judging an individual's personality, his IQ may be important, but his EQ which meant Emotional

In 1902, Swami Vivekananda ji had remarked that the country needs a man-making machinery that is able to produce Men with a Capital M. What he had in mind were men with high IQ, EQ and SQ, that is men with an exceptionally high character and extraordinary ability and talent.



Quotient is even more important. Emotional Quotient meant how susceptible a person is to emotions like anger, envy etc. I said that day what the Kerala State has done and what I urge should be done by educational institutions all over the country is something that would raise the Spiritual Quotient also of all our countrymen. While coining this SQ phrase, I do not have any religion or creed in mind, I am thinking only of the ethical and moral values a student imbibes in his institution.

Shortly before he passed away in 1902, Swami Vivekananda ji had remarked that the country needs a man-making machinery that is able to produce Men with a Capital M. What he had in mind were men

with high IQ, EQ and SQ, that is men with an exceptionally high character and extraordinary ability and talent.

Our educational institutions would be rendering signal service to the country if they succeeded in evolving an educational system which could become the Man-making machinery Swami Vivekananda had talked about!

In Thiruvananthapuram itself, on the eve of my visit to Sivagiri, I attended another impressive function organised to honour Shri O. Rajagopal, my party colleague for many years, and also a ministerial associate in Shri Vajpayee's government, on the completion of Rajagopalji's fifty years in public life.

All those who spoke at the

packed Kerala University's Senate Auditorium paid rich encomiums to our Kerala leader for his ability and integrity, and the conscious contribution he had made for Kerala's welfare when he was a Union Minister in the NDA Government. But what I deem significant was the galaxy of leaders who turned up to greet Rajagopalji that day. Representatives from the entire political and social spectrum were present on the dias.

As Chief Guest at the programme, I urged political activists cutting across party lines to work together and conscientiously to take India to the forefront of nations. Delivering the keynote address, Leader of the Opposition V.S. Achuthanandan said that although he and Mr. Rajagopal occupied diametrically opposed poles in politics, they retained a close friendship. However, the CPI(M) and the BJP had worked together for a brief period, in the fight against Emergency, and he and Mr. Rajagopal were in prison together during the period.

Gandhi Smarak Nidhi chairman P. Gopinathan Nair chaired the meeting which was addressed by, among others, Health Minister V.S. Sivakumar, CPI State secretary Pannian Ravindran, poet O.N.V. Kurup, Mayor K. Chandrika, BJP veteran Parameswaran, BJP State president V. Muralidharan, Kerala Congress leader V. Surendran Pillai, Syro-Malankara Catholic Church Auxiliary Bishop Samuel Mar Irenius, Swami Tatvaroopananda, and NIMS Medicity managing director M.S. Faisal Khan. ■

(Writer is Chairman BJP Parliamentary Party)

Flawed verdict in Gujarat Lokayukta case

By Arun Jaitley

The judgement of the Supreme Court in the case relating to the appointment of Lokayukta in Gujarat has thrown up two issues: The first relating to the primacy of the Chief Justice of the High Court in the matter of appointment of the Lokayukta, virtually rendering all other constitutional authorities otiose, and the second relating to the role of the Governor in the matter of appointment of the Lokayukta. As a member of India's Parliament I offer this comment to protest against the usurpation of executive powers of an elected Government.

Several States enacted Lokayukta laws in 1986. The State legislations were based on a draft law circulated by the Centre. The language of the provisions relating to the appointment of Lokayukta is identical in most States.

Section 3(1) of the Gujarat Act reads as under:

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

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

There are four constitutional authorities involved in the process. The Chief Minister must consult the Chief Justice; he must consult the Leader of Opposition. He must then forward the recommendation to the Governor who must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The role of the Governor is minimal. The Chief Justice and the Leader of Opposition are a part of the consultation process with the Chief Minister.

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

The language of the Section is clear. There is no ambiguity. When the language is clear, the rule of strict interpretation must apply. The Section envisages the appointment to be made by the Governor. Under our constitutional scheme the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The role of the Governor is a non-activist one. The consultation, therefore, in the name of the Governor has to

be made by the Council of Ministers through the Chief Minister. It is the Chief Minister who has to consult the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

There are four constitutional authorities involved in the process. The Chief Minister must consult the Chief Justice; he must consult the Leader of Opposition. He must then forward the recommendation to the Governor who must act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The role of the Governor is minimal. The Chief Justice and the Leader of Opposition are a part of the consultation process with the Chief Minister.

This scheme was enacted as a part of the constitutional mechanism where the Governor, the Opposition and the Chief Justice are a part of the consultation process. The key instrumentality in the consultation is the Chief Minister. He has to engage in the consultation. The Governor is the fourth agency who must grant approval on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. The constitutional mandate of separation of powers is intrinsically a part of the constitutional balance which is maintained between the different organs of the State. The interpretation given by the Supreme Court to the ‘consultation’ with the Chief Justice now implies that there is a primacy of the opinion of the

Chief Justice.

A reading of the judgement of Supreme Court not only gives to the Chief Justice's opinion a primacy, it gives it an 'exclusivity', thereby rendering the role of the Chief Minister and the Leader of Opposition completely redundant and otiose. The Supreme Court has observed that "the purpose of giving primacy to the opinion of the Chief Justice is for the reasons that he enjoys an independent status and also because the person eligible to be the Lokayukta is from the retired

Chief Justice is an independent constitutional authority does not imply that the Chief Minister or the Leader of Opposition have no constitutional or statutory role particularly when the power to be exercised is an Executive function and not a Judicial one. There is no presumption that the Chief Justice alone is the best judge with regard to the performance of retired judges. Quite to the contrary, the system of judges alone appointing judges and the judges alone judging judges has not worked satisfactorily in India. Many

authorities as 'insignificant'.

The judgement does not stop at that. The direct letter of the Chief Justice to the Governor without an accompanying aid and advice of the Council of Ministers is now treated as the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers since the consultation process does not envisage unanimity. So insignificant is the role of Council of Ministers that its dissent is treated as an aid and advice to the Governor.

The net and inevitable consequence of the reasoning offered by the judgement is that the opinion of the Chief Justice of the High Court prevails. The opinion of the other constitutional authorities such as the Chief Minister, the Leader of Opposition, is not relevant. They are unsuitable to give an opinion on retired judges. Only judges can opine on judges.

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judges of the High Court, the Chief Justice is therefore the best person to judge suitability for the post... The Chief Justice has primacy of the opinion in the said matter. The non-acceptance of such recommendation by the Chief Minister remains 'insignificant'. Thus it clearly emerges that the Governor under section 3 of the Act, 1986 has acted upon the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Such a view is taken considering the fact that section 3 of the Act of 1986 does not envisage unanimity in the consultative process."

As a part of India's legislative and political process I seriously disagree with the observations of the Supreme Court. The Act framed by the Legislature does not give any primacy to the opinion of the Chief Justice. The fact that the

regard it as a failed system.

The demand for a broad-based National Judicial Commission is legitimate and logical. It is based on the experience of the system that the existing system of judges appointing judges and judges alone judging judges is not the best system available. There are other relevant inputs which can be made by the other constitutional authorities. The Legislature envisages that these constitutional authorities are to be a part of the consultation process. Their role is of an equal participant and not 'insignificant'. The judgement has evolved the role of the Chief Justice from being privy to the consultation process to one of 'primacy' and eventually to 'exclusivity', thus rendering the role of the other constitutional

The judgement creates an imbalance in the separation of powers. The Executive function where the Chief Justice is a participant in the consultation process is converted into a process where it becomes the sole prerogative of the Chief Justice of a High Court to nominate the Lokayukta. The Chief Minister's role as nucleus of the consultation process is eliminated. The Chief Justice's letter to the Governor is a substitute for the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Needless to say, that the same logic will apply to the opinion of the Leader of Opposition in the consultation process.

The judgement will have a direct impact on the constitution of the Lokpal. The Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha in Clause 4 has recommended a

collegium, comprising the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or his nominee judge, and an eminent jurist, to appoint the chairperson and members of the Lokpal. If the present reasoning of the Supreme Court is correct, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and an eminent jurist will be silent spectators because the opinion of the Chief Justice of India would get primacy and exclusivity for the appointment of the chairperson and members of the Lokpal.

This obviously is not the intention of the law-makers. Parliament should re-visit this provision. There cannot be a broad-based mechanism for appointment of the Lokpal. By judicial interpretation the courts will eliminate the role of other constitutional authorities and give to themselves the exclusive power. I would not like to undermine the judicial institution, similarly I am also not willing to allow the usurpation of the role of the Legislature or the elected Government in administrative matters. The role of the judiciary is to interpret the law and decide cases. In the matter of administrative appointments they cannot widen their own jurisdiction and eliminate the role of the Legislature or the Executive.

The Governor

The Governor of Gujarat admittedly acted in an un-constitutional manner. She wanted to usurp the authority of the elected Government. The relevant observation of the

Supreme court with regard to the Governor reads:

“The Governor’s opinion stated in her letter dated 3.3.2010 to the effect that she was not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and that she had the exclusive right to appoint the Lokayukta, is most certainly not in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution. It seems that this was an outcome of an improper legal advice and the opinion expressed is not in conformity with the rule of law. The view of the Governor was unwarranted and logically insupportable... It appears that the Governor has been inappropriately advised and thus mistook her role as a result of which she remained under the impression that she was required to act as a statutory authority under the Act of 1986 and not as Head of the State. Moreover, the

advice of the Attorney-General was based on the judgement of this Court referred to hereinabove. The Chief Minister was also aware of each and every development in this regard.”

The Governor had decided to act on her own. There was no aid or advice offered to her by the Council of Ministers with regard to the appointment of a particular person as the Lokayukta. The dissenting opinion of the Council of Ministers has become the aid and advice to the Governor. The judgement is based on this paradox.

Gujarat will now have a Lokayukta whom the Council of Ministers never recommended. Constitutional short-cuts do not establish either good governance or good precedents. ■

*(Writer is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha)*

## Universal praise for Gujarat's Development Model

Under the visionary leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, Gujarat has won many awards due to the remarkable progress taking place in the state. A few months ago, the Legatum Institute released the 2012 Global Prosperity Index in which it was affirmed that Gujarat scores the highest on social capital in India. When compared to 142 nations, Gujarat scores 15th and compares better than several of the developed nations. A strong thumbs up to Gujarat’s development under Shri Narendra Modi was given by Asia’s leading brokerage firm CLSA. CLSA placed Gujarat among the fastest growing states and termed its development model as most unique.

A report by the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) noted that Gujarat tops the list among states, receiving the highest share of private investment, both domestic and international. It is these pro-people and development oriented policies that led to the people reposing their faith in Shri Modi and the BJP in the 2012 Gujarat Vidhan Sabha Elections. ■

# Have we been able to realize the republic in its true spirit?

By Prabhat Jha

Every year entire country raises slogan on the Republic Day- Long live Republic! But even after 63 years required attention has not been paid as to how to retain its longevity. The questions that were present at the time of the first Republic Day are not only relevant today but they have increased menacingly sending warning signals that if these are not addressed even now then they would cause irreparable damage to the country. Even after six decades of independence, neither are we secure from within nor safe from without. It may be well understood that if the capital of the nation is called "Rape Capital" then how much safe it would be in the far flung areas. We are claiming to have gained strength but the republic is getting weakened from within. We are the largest republic in the world but counted among the weak republic nations. Even after receiving defeats repeatedly Bangladesh and Pakistan remain headache for us and we are in no position to hold China responsible for its acts. Sometime it seems that we silently accept its encroachments on the border areas.

According to a survey 32 percent out of 25 crore youth have said that though the growth rate of India has increased but it has not resulted in making their

life better. In India the income disparity is widening which is a matter of grave concern for all of us. Currently the economy of India is passing through a phase of crisis. For one billion twenty



five crore people it is a huge crisis.

According to a recent report of NSSO 25 crore 30 lac people have no jobs. Economy is slowing down. The rate of growth is declining day by day. Entire world is saying that this century belongs to Asia. But can we play our role with such kind of growth? Somewhere we also have apprehensions in our minds.

International aid agency "Save the Children" has said that due to lack of food adequate physical and mental

development of half of the population in India is not taking place. What kind of 63<sup>rd</sup> year of republic is this? According to 24 percent of the people covered under this survey, children less than 16 years have to go to bed regularly without food. 29 percent have complained that their children are not getting required food. 27 percent people are unable to buy meat, milk or vegetables for their children even in a week. 66 percent people have said that they were concerned with the rising prices last year. 29 percent people have started buying fewer rations for their families. 17 percent people have withdrawn their children from schools and made them to work to earn livelihood for their families. This is the recent report of the republic which is getting 63 year old. What kind of India

will we make? If the condition of children is so pathetic then how can we think of a strong nation? Strong and effective steps are required to be taken to deal with this kind of situation.

In the post independence India - for more than four and half decades Congress has ruled the country and even now in the name of Congress led UPA it is in power. In the states also Congress has been in the government for most of the time. Congress which promised to go along with the *aam aadmi*

continued to suppress the same *aam aadmi*. Indiraji had given slogan of “Garibi hatao” in the eighth decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and due to this slogan she also came into power. Four decades have gone by. Even then the web of poverty and starvation has engulfed the nation and it is expanding day by day. Among the 231 nations in the world, we at 153<sup>rd</sup> rank as a weak nation. Neither our destination is clear

where the unity of five pandavs destroyed the kauravas, the India which enlightened the world with the light of its own immortality, the same India is today struggling with problems within its own home. We are failing to see unity in diversity in the face of the divisions on the lines of caste, religion, sect, divisions, gender and dresses. There are question marks on the unity and integrity so it is the

FICCI had said that as per its estimates black money to the tune of around 45 lac crore is deposited in the foreign banks which is 50% of the Indian GDP and nine times the fiscal deficit.

What is unfortunate is that the union government is itself trying to shield the corrupt people and even in the face of Supreme Court pressure it is hiding the names of those who have deposited black money, then how this country can progress? How can we think of becoming a powerful nation? If we look at the situation in the entire country the condition of the northeast is worst. Acharya Vinoba Bhave had said on the condition of northeast, “the independence given by the Britishers remained in their pockets”. It seems that whatever was said by Acharya appears to be true after six decades. In reality northeast has not yet connected well with the rest of the country.

The reality is that the secessionist forces have not allowed the wind of development to reach Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim. The inadequacy of train routes and roads has not allowed the development to take place in this hilly region. All the people in northeast are dependent on road transport. Northeast is not only afflicted with secessionist problem but border dispute among these states are also acute.

National unity and integrity is incomplete even now. In Assam Hindi speaking people are under continuous attack. Infiltration from Bangladesh also continues. In many border districts of Assam demographic

***What is unfortunate is that the union government is itself trying to shield the corrupt people and even in the face of Supreme Court pressure it is hiding the names of those who have deposited black money, then how this country can progress? How can we think of becoming a powerful nation?***

nor our policies. We are engaged in cheating each other. Some of the richest men in the world are from India. But India is among the poorest nations. What kind of irony is this? We Indian are known as best doctors and engineers in the world but in our country we can see lacs of degree holder doctors and engineers knocking the doors of politicians and bureaucrats in search of jobs. It is not that we have not made progress but if on the one side we have progressed, on the other degeneration which weighs more. India which taught ethics to the entire world, which gave the message of Ramayana and Gita to the world, India where the *panchjanya* of Krishna reverberates, India which was decorated with the grace of Lord Ram, the country which passed through the *aganipriksha* of Sita, India which felt proud on the strength of Lav and Kush, India which enjoyed the service and security of Lord Hanuman, the India which made Lord Ram glad by the berry of Shabari, India

time to think and understand and to act also.

If we look back at 2012 then we can say that Congress led UPA has not governed the country but played with the Indian democracy. Not one but many scams like 1.76 lac crore scam in 2G spectrum scam, CWG scam, Adarsh Society scam, Coal scam were exposed and we Indian had to see many such scams. Such was the magnitude of scams that India slipped to 94<sup>th</sup> position among the 176 most corrupt countries. According to Research and Aid agency of US, between 2001-2010, 123 billion dollar black money was sent out of the nation. India is at eighth position in the list. It is such a huge amount that even less than this has been spent on health, education and infrastructure development in India in the last decade. The situation is such that in 2012 alone India had to bear the loss of 1.6 Billion Dollar (around 85 Billion Rupees) due to illegal transactions. Few months back

changes have taken place dangerously and conspiracy to break India is on anvil. In Jammu and Kashmir Pak-sponsored terrorism is taking its toll while extremists are engaged in breaking the unity and integrity in the northeast. China is also eyeing Arunachal on the other side. It is giving stapled visa to people of Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. China chooses to encroach upon Indian borders at its sweet will while Indian government prefers to maintain silence.

As many such questions still remain unanswered are we in a position to fulfill the dreams of our freedom fighters who had seen these dreams in course of freedom struggle? Have we been able to realise the republic in its true spirit? Have we been able to get rid of the problems of starvation and poverty? Have we been able to restrain or rein in corruption? Have the people got real freedom or been able to make a society free from fear? Have we been able to make a strong, sovereign and secure India? If we have been unsuccessful then we will have to take pledge on the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our republic that we will work hard to realize our dreams rising above our political and partisan interests. Politics will have to be done in the interest of the nation. Only then will we be able to realize our dreams. ■

*(Writer is a Rajya Sabha member and a former BJP president of Madhya Pradesh)*

## Nitin Gadkari urges PM to intervene in Manipur

**B**haratiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Gadkari sent a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh urging to ask Manipur for the immediate steps to restore normalcy in the state following protests over the Police's inability to arrest an NSCN-IM cadre accused of molestation.

NSCN-IM cadre Livingstone Anal allegedly molested a Manipuri film actress on December 18 during a musical concert in Chandel district. He also fired at two people who tried to rescue the actress.

In the letter released on December 25, Shri Gadkari said that people and media were questioning the role of "National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) and its Lt. Colonel Livingstone Anal."

"The delay in bringing the culprits to book may further aggravate the situation and shall lead to an environment of suspicion," Shri Gadkari added. BJP feels that strong and immediate action was required by the state government to restore faith of the people in the law and justice delivery mechanism. "Considering the sensitivity of the matter and the emotive nature of the issues involved, we demand immediate intervention of the government of India with directions to the Manipur government to take appropriate steps to save the situation from going out of hand," Shri Gadkari said.

Shri Gadkari said he was drawing the Prime Minister's attention to the "most outrageous incident of molestation" of Manipuri actress Momoko. Curfew had been clamped in parts of Manipur following violent protests to demand Livingstone's arrest. The BJP chief said the December 18 incident took place in the presence of personnel of Manipur police and Assam Rifles, "who remained mute spectators".

"Local people had to intervene to ensure safety of these actors. Instead of punishing the guilty, the state government has ordered firing on thousands of innocent protesters who were demanding justice," Shri Gadkari wrote in his letter. He said two people, including a journalist, were shot dead and more than 15 seriously injured in the Police firing at Imphal. Over 20 vehicles were burnt. "Even today the agitation continues with growing number of incidents involving violence indicating the failure of the state government in controlling the situation," Shri Gadkari said. ■



# A Patriotic Saint-Swami Vivekananda

By Rajesh Pathak

In 19th century when the nation was in shackle of slavery under the British yoke, people were in the state of utter confusion, morally and intellectually. Where there were badly mushrooming mutually conflicting religious sects and sub-sects rabidly hell bent in deluding the people with their respective exclusivist theology and obscurantist rituals; then also was there, utterly mesmerized with western mode of life, a newly grown breed of so-called social-reformers and English educated intellectuals engaged in their 'missions' with their self-denigrating and fantastic notion of rejecting out rightly everything Dharma and, ipso facto, recasting the society and everything indigenous in the western mould. In such a crucial hour Swami Vivekanand was the one to rise on the national horizon to not only guide the people out of this confusion, but also reveal to them what true Dharma and its indispensability in the national life is.

After having attained super-conscious revelation, living in the virtues of divine proximity of his master- Ramkrishna Paramhansa, he chose the Vedantic ideals to dispel the myriads of false notions then held on the national and international level regarding Bharat Desh and its Dharma. Bringing the vivid illustration of Dharma to light, he made the



people aware of the fact that the Dharma basically comprised of *Karma-kanda* and *Jnana*[Gyan]-*kanda*. *Karma-kanda*, he told, consists in Smiritis and Puranas, which deals mainly the manners, customs, practices and all forms of worships.

These are codified to fulfill the needs of the circumstances prevailing in the particular course of period, hence subjected to modification from time to time. Whereas, *Jnana-kanda* is the spiritual portion of Dharma comprising the Upanishads, which is also called Vedanta. This expounds all the subtle questions of cycle of life-death and everything Universe comprised of. Immutable, this holds good even to this day, for it is based on the eternal truth. The truth realized and revealed time to time by different *rishis - munis*[sages] in the virtue of awful austerity.

Then, coming to the problems nation facing those days, he told that what was being practiced then in the name of Dharma was nothing but an aberration made inroad to it [Dharma], which could be well understood in the light of Vedanta. All the customs and practices i.e. *Karma-Kanda* is required to be the expression of Vedanta ideals, and, hence, any of them contradicting them [Vedanta ideals] must be rejected. Highlighting in this context the instance of untouchability prevailed then, he exhorted that

it was in sheer contravention to what is essentially preached in Gita- a commentary on Vedanta. For Lord Krishna says in it- 'One who sees everyone in himself and himself in everyone, thus, seeing the same God living in all is the sage.' And, therefore, the discrimination on the basis of caste is altogether unethical, against the very spirit of Dhrama.

As for integrating the different sects belonging to the cult of dualism, monism,

*anubhuti*. So also, it was his firm belief that the India with its varied languages, customs and social identities could remain united but only in the virtues of Dharma. For, underlying all such diversities, it is only Dharma that is common to the various groups.

He, though, unequivocally emphasized for emulating spiritualism, yet he was strongly opposed to the escapist attitude viz. Pseudo renunciation, more common a phenomena then. To

*Kama*, and *Moksha*-none could be dispensed with, if Dharma and nation both are to flourish.

In order to extend globally the pious mission of his of elevating the nation and Hindu Dharma to glory this patriotic saint of modern India toured country to country, representing his nation in various *Dharma-sabhas*[Religious assembly] held on international forums. Availing these occasions, he, through his captivating oratory power and impregnable arguments, debunked all the fallacies and contemptuous views then held by the westerners regarding everything Indian.

It was the time when so as to serve their imperialistic motives the colonial-missionary nexus were abjectly indulged in coining and, thus, foisting upon the Indians the host of perverse theories and so called findings concerning their origin, history and culture etc. In the face of one such theory- the infamous 'Aryan invasion theory', Swamiji put forth so many excerpts from the Vedas and other scriptures and disproved its validity. He argued that if there is any truth in it then why not even a single instance comes in its support in Vedas- the Vedas which have been proved to be the most ancient and authentic source of knowledge.

Thus, his contribution lies predominantly in reawakening the nation to the fact that not in running away from Dharma or in unthoughtful conceding to the western outlook and so called theories, but in emulating Dharma in its true essence that the regeneration of the nation exactly lies. ■

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qualified monism and such other, which were then badly indulged in bitter feud to gain supremacy over each other, Vivekanand drew their attention to the doctrines common to them. And, those doctrines, as revealed to them by Vivekanand, are- Doctrine of reincarnation; perfection is in *Atma*[soul]; the body consists of, apart from the material body of *panchtatava*, the mind, the intellect and, of course, *Atma*; Infallibility of Vedas; the God is all creating, preserving and destroying power; and ,also, that the religion means nothing short of divine realization or

him *moksha* [renunciation] means not to turn coward or stagnated to inaction. But, all the more, it is through the action only does one attain the *moksha*, as is pointed out by Shri Krishna in Gita.

Likewise, he drew attention to the fact that the way of *moksha* is not possible for all, hence it is foolish and, also, against the law of nature to drive one and all of varied propensities away from the material civilization. He was, thus, the votary of basic teaching of Dharma of maintaining the complete balance among four *Purusharthas* viz. *Dharma, Artha,*



# Supremacy of culture

By Pt. Deendaya Upadhyaya



Life an integrated whole

The first characteristic of Bharatiya culture is that it looks upon life as an integrated whole. It has an integrated view-point. To think of parts may be proper for a specialist but it is not useful from the practical standpoint. The confusion in the West arises primarily from its tendency to think of life in sections and then to attempt to put them together by patch-work.

Only one culture

There can be only one culture. The slogan of many cultures can break this country into pieces and destroy it. Hence the two-culture theory of the Muslim League, the covert two-culture theory of the Congress and the multi-culture theory of the Communists are wrong. Till now only the multi-culture theory has culture in India. been denounced as communalism, but now even scholars in the Congress are realising their mistake and accepting the one-culture theory. It is this sentiment of one culture that can preserve the unity and integrity of India and solve all our problems.

Cultural freedom  
Independence  
From the national standpoint we shall have to consider our culture because that is our very nature. Independence is intimately related to one's own culture. If culture does not form the basis of independence then the political movement for independence would degenerate into a scramble by selfish and power-seeking persons. Independence can be meaningful only if it becomes an instrument for the expression of our culture. Such expression will not only contribute to our progress but the effort required will also give us the experience of joy.

Cultural freedom

Along with economic independence social and cultural independence is also necessary. If those social systems that a nation creates for the manifestation of its soul become in course of time a hindrance to national progress, giving them up becomes necessary in the interest of the nation. It is not necessary that certain means which are useful in one phase of the journey may continue to be useful in the next phase. The means should be in accordance with the phase and the temptation to stick to old means can lead to the loss of independence. For independence

is a synthesis of those elements which help self-realisation at a particular point in time. Nationhood through culture

If one has to understand the soul of Bharat one must not look at this country from the political or economic angle but from the cultural point of view.

'Bharatiyata' (nationhood of Bharat) can manifest itself not through politics but through culture. If we have anything that we can teach the world, it is the feeling of cultural tolerance and a life dedicated to duty.

Our three-fold aim

India has achieved freedom from the British after great efforts. Under no circumstances would we like to lose this independence. The first objective of our plan is to give us the strength to protect our political independence. Secondly we have chosen a democratic form of government. If any programme of economic development proves an obstruction to our democratic system it would not be acceptable to us. Thirdly we have some cultural values of life which are the source result as well as measure of our national life and are also extremely valuable for the entire world. To acquaint the world with this culture should be our supreme national goal. Material prosperity acquired at the cost of this culture would be no prosperity at all. ■

(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Rajee.)

# Build bridges, but don't bend

By S.K. Sinha

**S**aints have preached that to forgive is nobler than to take revenge. When slapped on one cheek, offer the other cheek. All this may be very laudable from spiritual or moral points of view, but it cannot be the basis for state policy.

During the Kargil War, Capt. Saurabh Kalia and four jawans were taken prisoner. They were brutally tortured and their mutilated bodies were handed over in that state. When this news broke out there was great indignation. The media highlighted this for a while. The then NDA government did not do much about it. Today, in the wake of the officer's father seeking justice in the Supreme Court and his plans to go to the International Court of Justice, this issue has been revived. The UPA government has been too busy hosting Rehman Malik, Pakistan's interior minister, to take notice. The latter has rubbed salt into the wound by saying that Capt. Kalia may have been killed due to bad weather. Weather is more merciful than barbaric brutes and does not gouge eyes or mutilate private parts of the human body.

What happened to Kalia and his men is nothing new. Pakistan has been doing such acts of barbarity repeatedly. On November 7, 1947, we liberated Baramulla from Pakistani invaders led by Maj. Gen. Akbar Khan. Apart from the horrendous massacre of men and rape of women, Maqbool

**During the 1971 war, Pakistani forces massacred some one million Bangladeshis. In February 2000, Ilyas Kashmiri captured Sepoy Talaker of 17 Maratha Light Infantry, beheaded him and presented his head as a war trophy to former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. He got a reward of ₹1 lakh. Photos of this grisly act were published in newspapers in Lahore. While we were hosting Pakistan foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar, two soldiers of 20 Kumaon Regiment captured in Kupwara were beheaded as reported by an Indian news magazine.**

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Sherwani's body was nailed to a cross. He was crucified near the Baramulla Convent. In March 1948, we captured Rajauri. The most ghastly sight awaited us there. Three pits, each 50 square yards, were filled with corpses.

During the 1947-48 winter, the Srinagar Valley was totally isolated with surface and air communications closed due to snow. When communications reopened in May, we reinforced our forces and launched our summer offensive towards Muzaffrabad on May 22, 1948. By June 1, we had advanced 10

miles, when the UN Commission came to the sub-continent. It appealed to both countries to suspend offensive operations while it negotiated a peace arrangement. We had an isolated garrison at Skardu Fort in Baltistan under Lt. Col. Shamsheer Jung Thapa, besieged by Pakistani forces. A large number of Hindu and Sikh refugees had taken shelter in the fort. During winter we had not been able to reinforce this post. With Pakistan also agreeing to suspend offensive operations we were hopeful that the Skardu Fort would be able to hold out. However, supplies were rapidly dwindling and we could not carry out airdrops. Our transport planes did not have the capability to carry out airdrops at that height. Thapa had to surrender. Pakistani forces now occupied the fort. We intercepted a wireless message from the Pakistani commander at Skardu to his higher headquarters: "All Hindus Sikhs killed and women raped." During the 1971 war, Pakistani forces massacred some one million Bangladeshis. In February 2000, Ilyas Kashmiri captured Sepoy Talaker of 17 Maratha Light Infantry, beheaded him and presented his head as a war trophy to former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. He got a reward of ₹1 lakh. Photos of this grisly act were published in newspapers in Lahore. While we were hosting Pakistan foreign minister Hina Rabbani Khar, two soldiers of 20

Kumaon Regiment captured in Kupwara were beheaded as reported by an Indian news magazine.

I do not for a moment suggest that we stoop to the level of Pakistan and in retaliation carry out such barbaric acts. I only want our peaceniks with bleeding hearts burning candles at Wagah and our human rights activists to take note of these incidents. The latter are very vocal in condemning the so-called human rights violations by our security forces but remain totally silent on violations by

interview any individual in-camera they liked. I personally knew some of the pre-Independence senior officers who were now prisoners with us. Lt. Gen. Niazi, the Chief of the Pakistan Army in East Pakistan, and I had served together as captains in Indonesia in 1945. We revived our old association and would share a drink when I visited the camp where he was held. The Los Angeles Times reported that never in history had prisoners of war been treated better than in India. When the prisoners

went to Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore, which commemorates Muhammad Ali Jinnah's call for Partition in March 1940, and conveyed a message of peace and brotherhood. Senior BJP leader L.K. Advani laid a wreath at Jinnah's mausoleum in Karachi and lauded his secular opening address to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly. Unlike other international dignitaries who pay homage at Gandhi Samadhi, no Pakistani leader has ever done so. The NDA government convened the Agra Summit, inviting Musharraf, the aggressor of Kargil. He was even allowed to freely rant at a press conference in Agra. We have been hosting Pakistani leaders who make inimical remarks against us on our soil, violating all canons of diplomacy. The most recent example is Mr Malik. Not only this, there have been occasions when we have bent over backwards in our policy of appeasement. Congress general secretary Digvijay Singh referred to Osama bin Laden as "Osamaji". Our worthy home minister Sushilkumar Shinde prefixed "Shri" to Hafiz Mohammed Saeed's name in Parliament two or three times.

We should by all means continue with our efforts to build bridges with Pakistan but this should be done in a more realistic manner without bending over backwards and acting like a soft state. This only whets Pakistan's appetite to do us down. We have been repeatedly doing so from Havana to Sharm el-Sheikh, and now while hosting Pakistan delegations. ■

(The author, a retired Lieutenant-General, was Vice-Chief of Army Staff and has served as governor of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir)

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Pakistan forces or Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. India has a proud record of treating Pakistani prisoners in a humane and civilised manner. I was in charge of looking after 92,000 Pakistani PoWs after the 1971 war. We went much beyond the provisions of the Geneva Convention in our treatment of them. We tried sending them back to Pakistan as ambassadors of durable peace in the subcontinent. We organised religious lectures by Islamic clerics, mushairas, film shows, and "Bara Khana" on Id. I attended the latter myself. Besides, cricket matches between our officers and Pakistan prisoners were also organised. A team of American journalists visited the PoW camp in Roorkee. They were allowed to

returned to Pakistan, their Cabinet secretary, Mohammad Nawaz, who had been my friend and also had been in the Army in Indonesia, wrote a gracious letter of appreciation to me. During the Kargil War, Pakistan maintained that freedom fighters and not the Pakistan Army had intruded across the Line of Control. They refused to receive the dead bodies of the so-called "freedom fighters" killed in the battle. These bodies were buried by us, with military honours, and Islamic religious practice was duly observed.

In our anxiety to reach out to Pakistan, we have been acting as a soft state pursuing a pusillanimous policy. We have been virtually offering the other cheek to Pakistan. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Populist policies are short-cuts to power

By Joginder Singh

The Union Government has announced that it will directly transfer cash subsidies into the bank accounts of beneficiaries via their Unique Identification Numbers from January 1, 2013. The objective of this scheme is supposedly to plug leaks in the system and prevent corruption caused by middlemen.

However, the Government has, at the same time, also said that getting a Unique Identification Number under the Aadhaar scheme is not mandatory but voluntary. The most dangerous part of the Aadhaar scheme is that it is for every 'resident' of the country, irrespective of the kind of documentation they may or may not have. In other words, individuals without any valid documents can also get a Unique Identification Number under the Aadhaar scheme even though the new number will not replace other forms of identification.

This puts a question mark on the scheme and opens the flood gates of corruption as Aadhaar benefits can also be enjoyed by those who may not be citizens of the country. The UID charter says that the ID number does not establish citizenship and it is for anybody residing in India.

But what does this mean? Is UID duplicating the Census of India? Why should the Indian Government issue any form of identification to a foreigner who is already in the country on a valid passport and visa.

In a desperate bid to shore up its dwindling support base, the Congress-led UPA regime has now resorted to cash handouts. But this is no substitute for good governance

One does not have to spend thousands of crores of rupees to get a useless piece of information regarding how many non-Indian citizens are residing in the country at any given time. All official entry points in this country are controlled by immigration and customs agencies, and they have all the necessary information. What may be required is coordination between the several Government agencies that man the borders.

But coming back to the Government's recently launched Direct Cash Transfer scheme, it is amazing that the programme is based on the Unique Identification Number, which is not even mandatory. This is not even legally sustainable. Also, it is quite possible, and in fact it is bound to happen, that illegal immigrants, terrorists or just about anybody over-staying their visa in India will enjoy the cash subsidy that will start flowing in from January 2013.

The entire Direct Cash Transfer scheme is ill-conceived. And this is not even to mention the fact that it uses tax payers' money to pay for the subsidies. In the financial year 2010-11, the

Union and State Governments spent a total of Rs3.69 lakh crore in the social welfare sector (education, healthcare, social security, etc). The total amount of Union Government subsidy in the social sector in 2011-12 was Rs1.62 lakh crore.

The Congress-led UPA regime at the Centre says that 'e-transfer' of money will cut down corruption and delivery delays. But the Government simply does not have adequate infrastructure to do carry out this scheme. Even in a city like Delhi, the Government-run internet service provider remains out-of-order at least 25 per cent of the time. One can only imagine the conditions in the rural areas, where even electric supply is not only erratic but sometimes is missing for days together. In its report to Parliament on December 13, 2011, a Parliamentary Standing Committee that considered the National Identification Authority of India Bill, 2010, in fact rejected the biometric data-based identification system. The report is actually a severe indictment of the hasty and directionless project which has been "conceptualised with no clarity of purpose".

If the Union Government still sincerely believes that the benefits of the scheme will reach the poor, then it is either blissfully ignorant of the realities on the ground or it is deluding itself and hoodwinking the people. The result of all this is that the common citizen has to suffer at the hands of corrupt

bureaucrats. The corrupt extort money and the others have little choice but to pay up.

Also, let us not forget that nothing happens at the bank for free. Even the opening of a bank account has a price tag attached to it. Similarly, loans too can only be availed from banks at a price. When I discussed this issue of direct transfer of cash with a retired banker, he unhesitatingly admitted that the scheme was another avenue for the bank and in some cases the Post Office to make some more money. He added jocularly that bankers had the right to take a cut as all beneficiaries were getting the money free of cost. Against this backdrop, the Government must perhaps be reminded of a financial inclusion survey conducted by the World Bank, which found “only 35 per cent of Indians had accounts in formal financial institutions. This number dwindles to 21 per cent amongst the poorest. Recent assessments on social pensions – an existing cash transfer scheme – shows that opening bank accounts is tough for the poorest”. Consequently, then, unscrupulous employees at the bank will now have another opportunity to make money on the side. Worse still, the customers will have few choices when it comes to grievance redressal, as lodging a complaint against an unscrupulous official will be like opening a Pandora’s Box. The accused bank employee will simply ensure that even legitimate work of the complainant never gets done. This is happening every day already.

The cash transfer systems of Brazil and Mexico are touted as

examples that India is following. But only about five per cent of the population of both those countries is below the poverty line. In India that figure is anywhere between 37 per cent and 46 per cent. The Government’s Direct Cash Transfer scheme also has another worrying aspect. For example, when it gives a pregnant woman a certain amount of money, it is essentially telling the so-called beneficiary to deliver her baby at any medical centre but without first strengthening the country’s overall healthcare infrastructure. In fact, the cash scheme is little more than another means of purchasing votes. The UPA Government is clearly taking a

short-cut. Instead of delivering to the people good governance, it is luring the voters with cash.

But then again, all political parties that are in power, without exception, indulge in populist tactics such as this Direct Cash Transfer scheme, with a view to garner votes. ‘Flexible morality’ is the reigning mantra these days.

Think of how minorities are pampered through special grants and community-based reservations. Our leaders should bear in mind that good governance alone is ultimately the best politics, and the only sure-shot way to stay in power. ■

*(Writer is former Director, CBI)
Courtesy : The Pioneer*

Nitin Gadkari attacks Centre over Hindu migrant issue

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on December 30 attacked the Congress led UPA Govt. at the center over its “failure” to protect the interest of Hindus in Pakistan, and announced to form a five-member committee to raise it at international forums.

Shri Gadkari met the migrants in Jodhpur at a camp on Jhanwar road, and spent about half-an-hour with them. The BJP leader also announced an ex-gratia financial aid of Rs 5 lakh to them.

He assured them of making a five-member team including two MPs, “which will study the nitty-gritty of the issue, so that it could be taken up on the international forums and organisations.”

Shri Gadkari was in Jodhpur as chief guest of the concluding ceremony of ‘Swadeshi Mela’ at Polo Ground here. He assured that if voted to power, his party will delegate the power of citizenship back to the district collectors so that the issue of citizenship does not stick up in the administrative wrangles and can be expedited at the district level. “We already have this policy in place but with the Congress voted to power, the power from district collectors was snatched by the Central government,” he claimed. He told them, “We understand your problems and once we are in power, your welfare will be among our top priorities and we will also take up the issue at international level to seek permanent solution of the problem.” Attacking the central government, he said that “Hindu minority in Pakistan is at receiving ends and our government has failed to protect them.” “This reluctance and behaviour of the government is quite disappointing and unjustified,” he told. ■

Narendra Modi sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for 4th time

Gujarat has unlimited potential and power to emerge as a leading State : Narendra Modi

From Our Correspondent

A new chapter in the history of Indian politics was written on the afternoon on 26th December 2012 when Shri Narendra Modi took oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the 4th time at the Sardar Patel Stadium in

media reports the swearing-in ceremony was viewed by people across 83 nations including USA, UK, Australia, Canada, UAE, Singapore and all across India. Along with Shri Narendra Modi Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State also took oath.

Opposition in both Houses Shri Gopinath Munde and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh, Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Arjun Munda,



Ahmedabad. Her Excellency the Governor of Gujarat Dr. Kamla administered the oath of office to the Chief Minister and the rest of the ministers. All the senior leaders of BJP, leaders from various other political parties, religious seers cutting across all religions and people from all parts of Gujarat were present at the venue to witness this historical event unfold. As per

Shri Modi's oath taking ceremony was attended by the entire top leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Those present include BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, Leaders of Opposition in both houses of Parliament Smt. Sushma Swaraj & Shri Arun Jaitley and Deputy Leaders of the

Chief Minister of Goa Shri Manohar Parrikar and Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Jagdish Shettar attended the ceremony. Former BJP Presidents Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu & Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP senior leaders Shri Om Mathur, BJP National General Secretaries Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Vijay Goel, all BJP national Spokes persons and senior leaders were among the



galaxy of top BJP leaders present at the occasion.

Leaders cutting across party lines attend oath taking ceremony

The oath taking ceremony witnessed participation by leaders across various political parties. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Sushri J. Jayalalithaa and Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Shiv Sena President Shri Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Shri Raj Thackeray were present on the occasion. President of the INLD Shri Om Prakash Chautala and President of the RPI (A) Shri Ramdas Athawale were also present on the occasion.

The ceremony witnessed a record participation by people from all parts of Gujarat. Cutting across all ages, communities. After the oath taking and the other formal events, Shri Narendra Modi took the much awaited victory lap around the stadium, which drew instant cheer from those gathered there.

Earlier, a day before of the oath taking ceremony Shri Narendra Modi was unanimously elected leader of BJP legislature party in the

Gujarat Vidhan Sabha. The meeting was held at Gandhinagar Town hall and was attended by the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley and the newly elected BJP MLAs. Interacting with media persons Shri Modi affirmed that '11 years ago I was new to administration but today I have an experience of 11 years that will make me deliver much better'. He declared that the thought of good governance has been institutionalized in Gujarat.

He said, every day I live among the people and earn their trust. He counters the attacks and

allegations on the party through a bridge of trust he has constructed, Shri Modi said.

Shri Modi asked newly elected MLAs that more than a position, their victory actually means responsibility. Shri Modi said our party doesn't function on the basis of memberships but on the basis of relationships and our DNA is Bharat Mata Ki Jay.

Shri Modi further said in past those becoming minister were enjoying their positions, but we have brought a new work culture. In last one year, my cabinet colleagues traveled around 4,000 villages. Neither media nor Congress friends were aware about it. Our ministers used to work hard, because live connectivity with people helps to find solutions of people's problems.

We believe that governments should work among people, because when we are in people, solutions are found automatically. It is important to be close to people, their happiness and their pains. "I have clear opinion that Gujarat has unlimited potential. The state has great strength. Natural resources are lacking, but the state has power to emerge as a leader. ■



Modi felicitated at BJP National Headquarters

There is no substitute to hard work

Amid enthusiastic well-wishers and leaders, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi was felicitated at the BJP National Headquarters at 11 Ashoka Road, New Delhi on 27 December 2012. In an inspiring speech, Shri Modi affirmed that there is no substitute to hard work and that it is the values of the BJP and the support of the BJP Karyakartas that helped him perform. He added that the work done by the BJP Government in Gujarat is one that would make every patriot proud. Shri Modi thanked the people for the very warm welcome and recalled his days working at the BJP office. He said, "I

spent many years of my life here at 11, Ashoka Road. In a small room I used to do the work that party gave me." Shri Modi pointed out that it is the strength of our democracy that despite being an ordinary worker he has been able to



reach this far and serve the people as a 4 time Chief Minister. He stated that Governments change very often but the people of Gujarat have given him the opportunity to serve them for over 11 years! The Chief Minister affirmed that the entire world is talking about Gujarat's development. He told the Karyakartas, "You may not be from Gujarat but if you have ideas send them to us. As Karyakartas we will welcome it and what can be done to implement it."

He added that many people have visited Gujarat to know more about the Gujarat model. He talked about the atmosphere of gloom and pessimism in the nation and added that he told the Prime Minister that the Centre lacks an action plan to take the nation ahead. Shri Modi went on to say, "1 year back 9% growth rate was targeted. Gujarat is far ahead of this but anyways, they are stuck at 7.9%. Now they have stopped thinking of 9% and have kept a target of 8.2%. We got together to discuss growth of 0.3%?" Shri Modi pointed out that in agriculture the Centre cannot go beyond 2.5-3% while Gujarat cannot go below 10%.

Shri Modi said that in the reviews of the 20-point programme, Gujarat always emerged on the top whereas no Congress or UPA state even came in the top 5. Shri Modi shared that when he brought this issue to light, rather than inspiring their CMs to do better, the Centre stopped 6-month reviews of the 20-point programme! BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, BJP's National Vice President Shri Purushottam Rupala among other leaders were present on the occasion. Shri Nitin Gadkari presented Shri Modi with a Swami Vivekananda memento. ■

Karyakartas should not rest on laurels, exhorts Narendra Modi

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi has exhorted the BJP's rank and file not to rest on their laurels following the thumping victory in the Assembly elections but try to make the party popular among the people.

Addressing the state BJP's office bearers in Gandhinagar on January 03 for the first time after the elections, Shri Narendra Modi said that the party workers have no right to sit idle as the historic victory has given them a new responsibility to assess the changing mind-set of the people.

The detailed analyses of the victory shows that the Gujarat BJP has a challenge ahead to set new standards in public life, Shri Modi told the state level office bearers who met here for drawing up plans for the forthcoming by-elections to the local self-governments and Panchayats scheduled next month.

Shri Modi said that the people's increased awareness is changing the qualities of public life. The election results in Gujarat were the expressions of people's desire to change the agenda of public life and pointers to the direction to which they want the country to go, said the Chief Minister.

Gujarat BJP has now become the power house of the country's BJP, Shri Modi said adding that the enthusiasm of the just concluded elections should be taken forward to the booth levels for the local self-government polls and the Lok Sabha elections too. ■(FOC)

UPA government lost political will to carry 12th five year plan to its logical end : BJP

From Our Correspondent

After the conclusion of the NDC meeting BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar interacting with the media persons on 28 December said that the 12th five year plan as envisaged by the Congress led UPA Government is a late starter, is based upon unrealistic assumptions and the government has lost political will to carry it to its logical end. Thus, the whole exercise remains a theoretical and does not inspire or assure the nation of faster development with equity. In a way it is a lost opportunity to take the country on a more firm and fast growth trajectory. On the one hand it is “no plan” and on the other it is “non-realizable”, he said.

He said NDC meeting put its stamp of approval on the 12th Five year Plan which is necessary. The unfortunate part, however is, that the Government did not thought it fit to discuss the 12th five year plan in the Parliament.

Bringing down the growth targets from 9% initially to 8.2% and then finally to 8% speaks for the lack of confidence, focus, direction and vision of the UPA Government. The approved plan sets targets of 5.5% for the first two years making it impossible even to assume that we will get to overall 8% GDP growth over the five years. 2012-13 may end up finally even lesser than 5.5%, he said.

Shri Prakash Javadekar said many of the assumptions are unrealistic and therefore the targets are also unattainable. The gross

budgetary support (GBS) is expected to be 5.23% of GDP over the Plan period but the actual realized GBS during 11th Five year Plan was only 4.69%. Likewise, the assumptions of Tax to GDP ratio seem to be highly optimistic. The same is true with Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). The subsidy burden projected is also unrealistic in face of various announcements made by the government and which it is likely to make on the eve of elections. The reduction of subsidy from 1.9% of GDP to 1.2% is the case in point. The actual burden of subsidies in 2012-13 would be in the region of 2.5%. Thus subsidy reduction assumption is over optimistic.

He said another aspect which makes 12th Plan un-realizable is the performance of the 11th Plan. Practically in every sector the 11th Plan underperformed to its target. Whether it is Railways, Roads, Power, Mining, Housing, Irrigation and other targets, on all these major segments the Government could not achieve the targets. Instead of 50,000 kms of roads to be built only 30,000 kms (even roll over projects) was achieved. Instead of 78,000 MW power, only 55,000 MW could be achieved. All sectoral figures show the same negative trend of underperformance. On this background, the ambitious targets are likely to turn out to be a mythical.

Shri Javadekar said on such a background what is required is a political leadership and political will of the government which is

completely absent. Though the Government may have made some announcements, but they lack direction and a vision. The first and the foremost challenge of the economic management are to tame the inflation, which is affecting the lives of millions of poor and the middle classes. The government led by the Economist Prime Minister has completely failed to tackle the inflation. The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh instead of offering any relief to the Common man reeling under inflation has actually announced a series of measures which will increase fuel, food, fertilizer and energy prices further, he said.

Shri Prakash Javadekar said BJP condemns these measures which will burden the common man and will make their lives more miserable. The Government could have thought many other routes of resources mobilization than to resort to correct the price distortions at this state of economy.

He said the Congress government must realize that it can achieve milestones only with the active cooperation of the States. The whole attitude of the UPA Government displayed so far is “partisan” and “adversarial” with NDA ruled States. It is a matter of fact that the NDA states are growing at the rate which is more than the national growth rate. Instead of appreciating their efforts and helping them to achieve newer heights, the Government is making all efforts to put hurdles in their growth by not giving them their due. ■

GUJARAT

Gujarat bags Best State Award for 'Citizen Security'

As the UPA led Centre reels under acute criticism from all sections of society for failure to



provide security and safety to the citizens of Delhi especially women and

children, Gujarat has again shown the way by being declared the most 'safe and secure state' in India. Gujarat has been adjudged the best Big State for providing citizen security and one of the top three Best Big States for their overall performance at the IBN7 Diamond States Awards - 2012. The jury comprised of eminent people from various walks of life including Dr. Bimal Jalan, Ex-Governor of RBI, Shri M. Damodaran, Ex-SEBI and UTI Chief, Shri Gurcharan Das, eminent Economist and writer, Mr. T. R. Subramanian, Ex-Cabinet Secretary and Dr. Bakul Dholakia, Ex-Director, IIM Ahmedabad among others.

These eminent personalities decided the awardees based on the performance as well as data collected during the survey. Gujarat has received number of national and international awards in last decade for Good Governance. Recently, in November 2012, Gujarat was also adjudged Best Big State (Overall) in the country for its performance by the *India Today*. It was also adjudged Best State for Investment. When the whole world was reeling under the economic slowdown, vision of the Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi made Gujarat achieve an unprecedented double digit economic growth along with peace and prosperity. The Chief Minister emphasized that growth of Gujarat is integral for India's development, which can be achieved by developing a synergistic approach towards converting the slowdown into an opportunity for all to excel. On one hand where security of teenagers (especially girls), women and aged people has been a growing

matter of concern in the cities across India, Gujarat has presented an instance of being a safe haven for all sections of the society. Crime against teenagers, women and senior citizens has been negligible.

Under the leadership of Shri Modi as Chief Minister, Gujarat has developed one of the best infrastructures and created conducive environment for its people to realize their full potential and excel in their chosen vocation. The State is power surplus and provides power to other States. It is free of labour disputes and issues relating to land acquisition. The growth and development has been comprehensive in all regions and all sectors. Resident Commissioner, Government of Gujarat Shri Bharat Lal received both the awards from Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar at a function held in New Delhi, which was graced by a number of eminent people of the country.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Hate speech : BJP for criminal proceedings against Akbaruddin



Taking umbrage to the hate speech of MIM legislator Akbaruddin Owaisi, the BJP State President, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, has demanded that the State government initiate criminal proceedings against Mr. Owaisi for hurting the sentiments of Hindus.

Tearing into Mr. Owaisi's speeches which he said were objectionable and inflammatory, Shri Reddy asked the government to address a letter to the Assembly Speaker to annul the membership of the former.

He also urged the government to write a letter to National Election Commission seeking de-recognition of the MIM for making attempts to promote animosity among people on religious grounds.

The BJP President said Mr. Owaisi addressed the public meetings in Adilabad and Nizamabad districts to explain his party's recent decision to snap ties with the Congress. "Instead, religious

bigotry, unabashed incitement of religious sentiments and contemptuous insinuation against Hindu gods and goddesses formed the crux of the speeches of a person who was sworn in as an MLA," Shri Reddy said.

He also asked as to why the Congress led State government did not initiate action despite the use of derogatory words against a particular community. He said the CDs containing Mr. Owaisi's hate speeches would be sent to the Governor, Chief Minister and Assembly Speaker seeking action against him.

BJP wants State to ban MIM

Meanwhile, a BJP delegation, headed by BJP State President Shri G. Kishen Reddy, has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Shri Kiran Kumar Reddy in Hyderabad, demanding him to impose a ban on MIM party for the "highly inflammatory and provocative" speeches made by its leader Akbaruddin Owaisi at public meetings at Nirmal, Nizamabad and other areas recently. Shri Kishen Reddy told reporters that in his speeches, Mr. Akbaruddin Owaisi had used "very objectionable words" against Hindus and their religion, hurting their sentiments. He said the CDs of his speeches which were submitted to the Chief Minister, would also be provided to Governor E. S. L. Narasimhan, and circulated to the leader of all political parties in the State. He sought the immediate arrest of Mr. Akbaruddin Owaisi.

DELHI

Govt. should punish guilty personnel of Delhi police and Safdarjung hospital immediately : Vijender Gupta

Terming the behaviour of Delhi Police and Safdarjung Hospital as shocking and unfortunate as revealed in an interview by the boy friend of the gang rape victim to the Zee News, BJP Delhi Pradesh President Shri Vijender Gupta has demanded the Government that a high level enquiry should be ordered into this gross negligence and insensitivity and sternly punish the guilty persons.



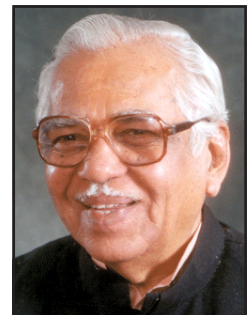
Shri Gupta told that the statement of the boy friend on 4th January is very shocking. He was the eye witness of the entire incident from the beginning to the end. The persons who committed the crime of gang rape also behaved like beast with the boy. When they were thrown out of the bus in naked condition, they continued to cry for help for half an hour. Three PCR vans arrived there but in place of taking them immediately to the hospital, they argued for 30 minutes among themselves about the jurisdiction under whom the case comes. This way, the victim girl continued to bleed and her condition became serious. The boy, whose leg was broken, put the victim girl in the PCR van without any help. The police took them to Safdarjung Hospital after wasting hours on road. Both the persons were lying naked in the Hospital. They were not given sheets to cover their bodies. This shows the heartlessness and inhuman attitude of the Hospitals of Delhi. Government will have to own responsible for it.

Shri Gupta further told that when the brave boy decided to come out and speak, the Government sends a legal notice to the channel which aired his views. Are we living in a state of emergency? In this whole episode the role and intention of the Government and the Police has come under serious scrutiny. Their incompetence and apathy clearly shows. The hospital too exhibited reckless judgement and a careless attitude in dealing with the victims. BJP demands strict action against the police and hospital administration after a high level inquiry against the negligence of these two institutions.

KARNATAKA

Good governance will be BJP's election plank, says Ram Naik

The former Union Petroleum Minister and national convener of BJP MPs, MLAs Development Cell Shri Ram Naik said the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and New Delhi will be fought on the three main electoral planks; good



governance, price rise and internal security.

He was in Belgaum, Karnataka to participate in the Jagannatha Rao Joshi Lecture Series. He said that the BJP was a cadre based party and gave good governance in places that it had assumed power.

He said that the Congress would not be able to take on the BJP in States because of its anti-people policies, Price rise and corruption at the Centre.

Shri Ram Naik said that the BJP's victory in Gujarat Assembly polls had boosted the morale of the workers and leaders. As far as BJP going to the Assembly polls under the leadership of Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi was concerned, the party's parliamentary board would take appropriate decision when the elections are announced, the former Minister said.

He criticised the Centre for its failure to control spiraling prices of essential commodities.

He recalled that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, while assuming office for the second time in 2009, had announced that rising prices of essential commodities would be stabilized in 100 days but had failed to do so.

Shri Ram Naik added that at the National Development Council meeting in 2012, Dr. Singh had indicated that there would be further hike in fuel price.

JHARKHAND

Jeevan Asha programme for malnourished will be launched: Arjun Munda

Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda ordered to start 'Chief Minister Jeevan Asha Programme' and has directed to submit a proposal in the next Cabinet meeting. The objective of the Programme is to provide medical supplements to the malnourished children and help them to improve their condition as well as to identify the over malnourished children and help them accordingly. The programme also intends to



make the masses aware of malnutrition and the measures to be taken to avoid it.

A total of ₹ 63.895 crore has been approved for the programme through child development department for the financial year 2012-13. Under the 'Chief Minister Jeevan Asha Programme', over-malnourished children will be provided medical and nourishment assistance after identifying them at various levels. The Programme is to help in reducing the child fatality rate and eradicating malnourishment from the State.

At the first stage, over-malnourished children will be identified from the various districts of the State and those who require immediate medical assistance, will be admitted to the nearby MTC and MTEC for treatment, others will be treated at the level. An awareness programme will be started so that the children do not get malnourished.

To meet the purpose of the programme, an extensive project work plan has been prepared. A state level workshop will be organised to start the programme including the bureaucrats of different departments, NGOs and other educational institutions. The thorough discussion will take place at the workshop regarding objective of the programme, its reach and its expected results.

An agency will also be selected on the basis of tender or 'expressions of interest' and a survey will be done at to get the first hand information on the situation of malnutrition the state level. Anganwadi Sevikas and Sahiyas are also to play an important role in the execution of the programme.

Under the programme, 38432 Angawadi Sevikas and 5000 ANMs will be trained for identifying and managing the over malnourished children in the state. Help of health department will also be taken for the purpose.

Over 40000 Panchayat representatives will also be trained under the Programme at the various levels. A media workshop will also be organised for the active participation of the media so that it could also play a lead role in making the masses aware about the Programme. Various mediums of media will be used for the purpose like banner, hoardings, radio, TV, graffiti and 'nukkad natak' etc.

The Programme also intends to follow-up of the recuperating children to check them going to the previous conditions. ■