



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

Subscription

**Annual Rs. 100/-
For 3 years Rs. 250/-**

Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

Publisher and Printer : Printed by Dr. Nandkishore Garg for Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36, F.F. Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and Published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

CONTENTS

Motion of thanks to the Presidential Address

Lok Sabha

Narendra Modi.....	6
Sushma Swaraj.....	8
Rajeev Pratap Rudy.....	9

Rajya Sabha

Arun Jaitley.....	11
J P Nadda.....	12
Highlights of President's speech in Parliament.....	14

PM's Bhutan Visit

Terrorism divides, tourism unites.....	15
--	----

Interaction with Shri Ram Lal

Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand &...	18
--	----

Articles

Unsure about present, unclear about future

By Balbir Punj.....	20
----------------------------	----

Pollution free solution to Delhi's...

By Meenakshi Lekhi.....	22
--------------------------------	----

Jungle Raj in Bihar again!

By Sanjeev Kumar Sinha.....	23
------------------------------------	----

The Malaise Afflicting West Bengal

By Rashmi Bansal.....	25
------------------------------	----

State Reports

Bihar.....	24
------------	----

Kerala, J&K.....	28
------------------	----

Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh.....	29
-----------------------------------	----

Golden words from Aadhyatma.....	30
----------------------------------	----





J(rfoçfri luk rs ; nk LFKL; fr fu'pyk AA
 I ekëkkopyk c() Lrnk ; kxeokIL; fl AAç 3AA

When your spiritual intelligence, unaffected and uninflunced by karmic interpretations of the Vedas remains steady; at that time you will achieve the pure spiritual state by the science of uniting the individual consciousness with the Ultimate consciousness.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 53)

Q
 U
 O
 T
 E
 S

"Strength of a democracy is very important for that region and its people. The stronger India will be, the better it is for Bhutan and other SAARC nations."

–Narendra Modi

"The railway minister has taken a difficult but a correct decision.....India must decide whether it wants a world-class railway or a ramshackled one."

–Arun Jaitley

Jagannath Ratha Yatra : 29th June, 2014

Ratha Yatra or Chariot Festival of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra is a major Hindu festival held at Puri in the state of Odisha during the Hindu months of Ashada, Shukla Paksha- Dwitiya Tithi. Currently it falls in month of June or July as per Gregorian calendar. The Rath Yatra is world famous and attracts millions of pilgrims every year, not only from India but also from the different parts of the world. Rath Yatra is the only day when devotees who are not allowed (Foreigners) into the temple can get a chance to see the deities. This festival is a symbol of equality and integration.

The three deities, Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Lord Balabhadra and their sister goddesses Subhadra who are worshipped within the Shree Mandir or main temple, are taken to the streets of Puri (Bada Danda) so that everyone can have the fortune to see them. The three deities make an annual journey to their Gundicha temple (Aunt's House), around 3 km away from the Jagannath temple. It is said that to honor the devotion of Queen Gundicha, wife of the legendary King Indradyumna who built the Puri Jagannatha temple, the Lord Jagannatha, Balabhadra and Subhadra leave their regular abode in the main temple and spend a few days in this temple built by Gundicha in their honor.

The 3 deities have 3 different chariots - the chariot of Lord Jagannath known as Nandighosa, has 18 wheels and is 45.6 feet high, the chariot of Lord Balabhadra, Taladhwaja has 16 wheels and is 45 feet high and the chariot of Subhadra, Devadalana has 14 wheels and is 44.6 ft high. Every year the wooden chariots are constructed newly.

The festival begins with the *Pahandi* ceremony and *Chherapahara* by the royal king of Puri in the morning and the chariot pulling on the grand roads of Puri in afternoon is the most exciting part of the festival. After resting eight days in Gundicha temple Lord Jagannatha returns to his main abode on the ninth day. This day is known as *Bahuda Dashami Yatra* or return yatra and is observed on the eighth day after Ratha Yatra on Dashami Tithi.

The Jagannath Temple in Puri is one among the four most sacred places (Char Dham) of Hindus. Char Dham are the names of four pilgrimage sites in India that are widely revered by Hindus. It comprises Badrinath in north India, Dwarka in west India, Puri in east India and Rameswaram in south India. It is considered highly sacred by Hindus to visit Char Dham during one's lifetime. The Char Dham defined by Adi Shankaracharya consists of three Vaishnavite and one Shaivite pilgrimages.





BJP will not allow trust reposed on it to be broken!

People have completed the job of removing UPA government which ruled the country for last 10 years. New government has been formed in the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. People should extend their full cooperation in running their own government. The statement of Shri Narendra Modi that UPA government emptied the coffers of the country and economic condition of the country has worsened is completely true. In the last ten years there was nothing like government in the country. The country never felt that there was any government.

Not only India but the entire world had a feeling that there was a puppet prime minister in the country. This news made India to pay heavily for ten years. The then NDA Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had enhanced the prestige and credibility of the country in the world. India had started engaging with the world with confidence and self-esteem. But the UPA government could not maintain that position.

In the last ten years all decision except those in the interest of the nation were taken. All the ministers were engaged in either scams or in protecting the scamsters. In the parliamentary history the kind of scams which took place had never happened before. The interesting thing is that UPA government never felt shame or showed any concern when the scams were exposed. Instead of this they tried to protect those involved in scams. The government which had become dictatorial never allowed the parliament to function properly. Under the UPA government the condition of parliament session was miserable. Session after session was submerged in chaos.

The people of the country were badly affected by the UPA government. When people do not feel that the government elected by them is near to them or for them then there is no meaning of the government. It happened during the UPA government. One more thing that happened was that UPA government started to look at people only as voter. People are god. On viewing people as 'voter' the relationship is based on bargain. Whatever decisions that the UPA government took was in the knowledge of the voters. The decision which is taken by keeping 'votes' in mind can only be in the interest of party and not of the country.

The fundamental difference between BJP led NDA and UPA government is that for NDA country and its people are foremost. That is why the decisions so far taken are in the interest of the nation. BJP clearly says country first, party next.

The wind of change has started blowing in the country. The reality of the prevailing situation in the country will have to be brought before the people. Not the government alone would run the country but each and every citizen has the responsibility to run the government. The then UPA government had taken incoherent decisions for short term gains. That is why the country is lagging behind in every field. Now the situation is changing. There have been efforts to bring real condition of the country before the people.

To bring the vehicle back on track after it was dislodged from it, bold decisions will have to be taken. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has himself said that some bold decisions will have to be taken in the interest of the country. He has not misled the country nor has tried to appease anyone. To rectify the situation some decisions are necessary in the beginning. But the country will have to be brought back on track gradually. Many steps have been taken to change the work culture of the staffs and administration. He has started to reform the work culture from PMO itself.

The country is looking at Shri Narendra Modi and his government with hope. In the President's Address the NDA government has tried to present its priorities before the nation. The self confidence which Shri Narendra Modi displayed while replying to the President's Address is commendable. It is true that it may take some time but to build the future of India not one but many decisions will be taken. BJP will not allow the trust reposed by people of India on NDA to be broken down. ■

We assumed the role of custodians of hopes and aspirations of the people : Narendra Modi

Synopsis of the speech delivered on Presidential address by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 11, 2014

This is my maiden speech as I am new to this House. More than fifty hon. members have expressed their views on the President's Address. A concern has been raised as to how and when our Government would deliver on the promises made in the Address. I would like to dispel rather than dispute their apprehensions. I assure this House that we shall leave no stone unturned to strive to achieve the roadmap envisaged in the President's Address.

We were candidates till the voting was over, however, after being elected to this House we have assumed the role of the custodians of the hopes and aspirations of the



The poor want to live a life of dignity and honour. Therefore, the government should make all out effort to empower the poor. Then only can his welfare be ensured. We have used a phrase, 'rurban' for the development of villages that will have the basic character of a village yet, will be equipped with all the facilities and amenities of a town. Cannot we set up a network of industries in the villages? We ought to lay emphasis on agro based industries. Sikkim is fast becoming a pioneer state in the field of organic farming. There is need to promote organic farming in the whole North-Eastern region and they also need to be supported financially so as to have access to the world market.

people. We shall together come upto their expectations. I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt greetings to the people of the country for having voted for stability, development and good governance, thereby putting the country on the path of development and progress for the next five years.

The first and foremost duty of a government is to listen to the poor and work for them. Our great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Lohiaji and Deendayalji championed the cause that the government should accord priority to the welfare of the deprived section of the society. Education is the most potent weapon and a tool for emancipation from superstitions.

The poor want to live a life of dignity and honour. Therefore, the government should make all out effort to empower the poor. Then only can his welfare be ensured. We have used a phrase, 'rurban' for the development of villages that will have the basic character of a village yet, will be equipped with all the facilities and amenities of a town. Cannot we set up a network of industries in the villages? We ought to lay emphasis on agro based

industries. Sikkim is fast becoming a pioneer state in the field of organic farming. There is need to promote organic farming in the whole North-Eastern region and they also need to be supported financially so as to have access to the world market. This will bring about a great transformation in the farming sector as well as in the lives of people living in hilly terrains. Today, there is need to shed off conventional methods of farming and bring in modernization in farming practices in our country. All the farmers should be given soil health cards in the country. We can gather the real time data of agro products through the network of information technology. There are enough foodgrains in the country but there is acute shortage of storage facility. The Food Corporation of India needs to be revamped and modernized. We need to enhance the soil productivity. The poor get protein from the pulses. If we have to address malnutrition, we ought to increase both the productivity and also the protein content in the pulses. Women constitute 50 per cent of our population. We need to ensure their active participation, provide them safety and safeguard their dignity. The recent incidents have caused us pain. The Governments need to deal with such cases with an iron hand.

I earnestly appeal to the political leaders not to conduct psychological analysis of rape. We should not undermine the dignity of our mothers and sisters. Cannot we refrain from speaking our mind on such sensitive issues? Skill development should be our country's top priority. Shramev Jayate should be our motto. Our country has earned a reputation for being 'Scam India'. We will have,

to transform it into a Skilled India. Therefore, a new ministry of entrepreneurship and skill development, has been set up. The world needs workforce. Cannot we export teachers from India? Let us

I welcome it. This is a good sign that now the states are competing with one another in the country. This is, perhaps, the greatest contribution of Gujarat model to have ushered in an era of

Skill development should be our country's top priority. Shramev Jayate should be our motto. Our country has earned a reputation for being 'Scam India'. We will have, to transform it into a Skilled India. Therefore, a new ministry of entrepreneurship and skill development, has been set up. The world needs workforce. Cannot we export teachers from India? Let us resolve to provide a house equipped with all necessary amenities like power, water, toilet etc. to all our citizens on the 75th year of India's Independence in 2022 in the memory of all the great heroes and martyrs of our country who laid down their lives for the motherland.

resolve to provide a house equipped with all necessary amenities like power, water, toilet etc. to all our citizens on the 75th year of India's Independence in 2022 in the memory of all the great heroes and martyrs of our country who laid down their lives for the motherland. The Central Government and all the State Governments should come together, chalk out a programme, make allocation of adequate funds to provide house to all on the solemn occasion of 75th year of our Independence. Though we enjoyed majority in the House yet we want to take everyone along in our journey to development. These days Gujarat model has been at the centre stage of discussion. What is the Gujarat model? The model of Kutch desert cannot be replicated in the forests of Balsar. Actually, the Gujarat model of development implies to learn best practices from all over and implement these wherever necessary. Yesterday, it was stated that the model of Tamil Nadu is better than that of Gujarat.

competition among the states. Our government would like that the states should compete on the development front with one another in the coming times. There should also be a competition between the states and the centre in terms of development. This healthy trend would enable India to usher in a new age. We do not want to behave as big brother. Rather, we want to take everyone along and that is why we have talked of cooperative federalism. I am thankful and grateful to all the senior leaders for a meaningful debate on the Motion of Thanks and the criticism that emanated was well intended. We welcome criticism. Criticism is the food for the evolution of democracy. Criticism gives us strength and is a guiding force. So criticism should be taken in one's stride though allegations are not welcome.

We would rather welcome intense yet healthy criticism of our policies and programmes so as to revisit these and make these flawless for the benefit of our people. ■

We are aware that big victory entails bigger responsibility : Sushma Swaraj

Synopsis of the speech delivered on Presidential address by External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj on June 11, 2014.

Irise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy in the House yesterday. In the past, we have heard, read and even discussed such Addresses in the House but the present Address is something different. It is different because in this Address right from the first page to the last page we have not leveled any allegation on the previous government. Rather we have stated what is our stand with regard to the solution of the problems being faced by the country. This Address starts with the clear cut mandate that we have got and this mandate has given a new dimension to the Indian politics.

As a party we got 282 seats and with our allies this figure reached to 336 seats. There were two main reasons for such victory. First, there was public resentment against the previous government and second, the people chose BJP led by Shri Narendra Modi as an alternative for the country. That is why the barriers of caste and creed were broken in this election, the candidates became secondary and the people brought us victory by margins of lakhs of votes. But having achieved this victory we are aware that big victory entails bigger responsibility. That is why we accept this verdict of the people



We have identified ten factors responsible for public resentment against the previous government in this country. These ten factors are: inflation, corruption, scams, plight of farmers, declining of industrial growth, slow pace of trade and commerce, unemployment among youth, crimes against women, misuse of institutions and undignified treatment meted out to the soldiers on the borders. So far as inflation is concerned we have given it a top most priority and we have mentioned in the Address that we will take effective measures to curb both black marketing and hoarding to rein in inflation.

with great humility. It has been said in the Address that this election is the election of hopes. So, we have to come up to the expectations of the people.

We have identified ten factors responsible for public resentment against the previous government in this country. These ten factors are: inflation, corruption, scams, plight of farmers, declining of industrial growth, slow pace of trade and commerce, unemployment among youth, crimes against women, misuse of institutions and undignified treatment meted out to the soldiers on the borders. So far as inflation is concerned we have given it a top most priority and we have mentioned in the Address that we will take effective measures to curb both black marketing and hoarding to rein in inflation. So far as corruption is concerned, our government is fully resolved to make country free from corruption and black money. So far as curbing scams is concerned, we have reiterated our resolve that we would provide good governance and make the system transparent. Regarding the plight of the farmers, I would like to say that our farmers are facing adverse conditions and are sometimes compelled to commit suicide.

Today, agriculture is no longer a profitable occupation. Therefore, we reiterate our

commitment that we would make agriculture a profitable occupation again. So far as industrial growth is concerned, the country has come to a standstill. No growth is taking place. I am happy that our Prime Minister has given three mantras – skill, scale and speed. With these three mantras we will definitely accelerate the pace of industrial development. So far as the slow pace of trade and commerce is concerned, we have said that we will improve the situation and we will not only increase domestic trade but also be able to compete in world trade. So far as unemployment among the youth is concerned, we are going to launch a multi skill mission so that skill may be developed among young talents who may become self employed and live the life with dignity. Regarding women empowerment, I have repeatedly said that if we want the upliftment of women four things are needed – education, security, economic independence and political empowerment. So far as 33 per cent reservation for women is concerned, I want that the passage of Women s Reservation Bill should become a milestone for 16th Lok Sabha. So far as misuse of institutions is concerned, such incidents have weakened the federal structure of the country.

We know that federal structure is the life and blood of the Constitution of our country and institutions like CVC, CAG and CBI are those pillars

of democracy which should be allowed to function independently. So, tussle between the Union and the States over the use of these institutions is not good for the democracy of the country. That is why we have said that we will restructure institutions like NDC and integrate them as powerful team India. So far as undignified treatment meted out to our soldiers is concerned, this Government will set up a national war memorial for its soldiers and implement one rank one pension scheme. These are all the ten points which have been mentioned in the Address.

Besides, it has been said that no mention of schemes has been made in this Address. I want to say that we have stated some big schemes in the Address. We have said that we will set up IITs in every state; we will set up hospitals like AIIMS in every state; we will build 100 new cities with world class amenities; we will launch diamond quadrilateral project on the lines of golden quadrilateral project of highways and finally we will revive the Ganga River.

Are these not big schemes? So far as our foreign policy is concerned I now can say that with the formation of our government the stature of India has risen overnight; India has regained its potential. Finally, I want to say that we will keep India on high pedestal on international fora and this is our commitment.

Government is committed to launch a national talent search scheme : Rudy

*Synopsis of the speech delivered on Presidential address by
BJP General Secretary Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy on June 10, 2014.*

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on President's Address. I would also like to say that we are here to work for nation building in the next five years. We have started with the slogan "Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat." We have also said that we will take along all the parties in this direction. But, how has it been made possible? This has been made possible due to the efforts of a



single person who is sitting in the first row of treasury benches.

This is the same person who made direct contact with 125 crore people during elections which has not been done by any person in the history of the world. Today, BJP has been voted to power with 282 MPs in the country.

After all, why did we get this mandate? We got it because the people had faith in us. The poor hoped that they would now get two

square meals a day. The youth hoped that they will get jobs. The women hoped that they would get security and lower middle class hoped that they would get rid of price rise. That is why the whole country has reposed faith in BJP, the Prime Minister of the country and his whole Cabinet today. In this election people have given mandate to BJP so as to meet their hopes and aspirations.

Despite the passage of 65 years since Independence we have not been able to provide even the basic facilities like toilets to the people. Urban women want security. The lower middle class is pinning its hope on us to fight inflation. Workers want their wages on time while

After all, why did we get this mandate? We got it because the people had faith in us. The poor hoped that they would now get two square meals a day. The youth hoped that they will get jobs. The women hoped that they would get security and lower middle class hoped that they would get rid of price rise. That is why the whole country has reposed faith in BJP, the Prime Minister of the country and his whole Cabinet today. In this election people have given mandate to BJP so as to meet their hopes and aspirations.

businessmen are hoping for the creation of a system in which they are not harassed in matters of taxation and find proper ambience for doing their business. Rich people want to create and increase their wealth and contribute to the nation building by adding to the government revenue.

There are three parliamentary constituencies in Patna covering fifty thousand such people who are still deprived of the facility of power in their areas despite the passage of 65 years of Independence. Today the entire country has reposed its faith in the Bhartiya Janata Party and the hon. Prime

Minister along with his Cabinet. We are sitting in this House on the basis of this faith reposed in us by the people of the country.

Even today 40 crore people of the country are living below the poverty line as per the official figures. This is a challenge before us.

Today approximately 40 crore people are bereft of the facility of electricity and we have taken this shame lying down in this democracy. If we compare the situation with China we find China adds approximately 1 lakh Megawatt power every year while we are talking about generating 70 thousand Megawatt in five years. So everybody would agree that it is a challenge for us. Therefore, we have to set a target in respect of electricity generation in the country for the next ten years by tapping non-conventional energy sources hydel power or conventional means of power generation. We shall have to achieve this target of power generation which can become the foundation stone of development for the country and the Government is committed to it.

This country is producing 10 lakh unemployed youth every month. We have to take the example of China as how it addressed this problem of poverty. China decided to move nearly 40 crore people from the farm sector to the non-farm sector. However, we have a peculiar case in India since 12 crore people are on the cusp of returning back to the farm sector which can only be attributed to the policy of the UPA Government. It is a worldwide trend that people have to move from farm to industrial sector in search of growth and development. However, in India the situation has become so dire during the last 10 years that 12 crore people from the industrial sector are poised to return to the farm sector. People expect the Members of Parliament to provide employment either to them or to their family members. However, the situation is such that the entrepreneurs who could have created job opportunities here by making investment and by setting up industries in the country have decided to invest their capital to the tune of 50 lakh crore rupees abroad especially in America. As far as education is concerned there is not a single university in India which can be reckoned as one of the best hundred universities of the world. We have failed to create even a single institute of excellence during the last 65 years. Today, 45 per cent engineering graduates and 21 per cent MBA graduates in the country are not employable. We have to think over this situation. Today nearly 10 crore people in the country are facing water crisis and 50 per cent of the people in

...Continued on page 13

Those who believed in dynastic politics have suffered a serious set back in this election : Arun Jaitley

Synopsis of the speech delivered on Presidential address by Minister of Finance & Defence Shri Arun Jaitley on June 10, 2014.

The President's Address is the present NDA Government's roadmap for the next several years. We are proud of the fact that India is a vibrant successful democracy ensuring free and fair elections, where there is a peaceful transformation of power from one Government to another. But the strength of a democracy is that the winner must never get arrogant because no body is going to rule forever and therefore people will change places. These results have a deeper meaning that after three decades we have a Lok Sabha where the electorate has voted one single party with an absolute majority.

My party believes that despite winning with overwhelming majority we are in an era of alliances because alliance represents the federal character of India. If the country is not governed well, caste alone can not save one's party. People want governance and not merely combinations or a social combination as a substitute for governance. Those who believed in dynastic politics have suffered a serious set back in this election. Set back to vote bank politics and caste based politics indicates that the Indian democracy is now evolving. People don't want political instability.

Our party gained because of anti-incumbency against our



Our party gained because of anti-incumbency against our opponents and because of a hope being expressed in us and our leader Mr. Narendra Modi. The burden on our Government is going to be much higher because people expect us to perform. If the Government does what is required to be done, then the people will be satisfied. We have inherited a growth of less than five percent. You have left the country behind at low growth rates, high inflation, high fiscal deficit, lower tax collections. Investment from outside was not coming to India and investors were moving out in earlier regime.

opponents and because of a hope being expressed in us and our leader Mr. Narendra Modi. The burden on our Government is going to be much higher because people expect us to perform. If the Government does what is required to be done, then the people will be satisfied. We have inherited a growth of less than five percent. You have left the country behind at low growth rates, high inflation, high fiscal deficit, lower tax collections. Investment from outside was not coming to India and investors were moving out in earlier regime.

The present Government won't have money for social sector schemes. All elected members in both the Houses and State Assemblies are the real repositories of public confidence. In parliamentary democracy the office which is most accountable is that of the Prime Minister. Structures outside the Government can not be more powerful than the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister himself. The Prime Minister should not have allowed nepotism in the coal block allocations and instability in the taxation policy. For any Government to be able to take the country forward, it has to forge a larger consensus with almost all political parties.

The Government must function with the help of Council

of Ministers and the Prime Minister has the last word. The previous Government came out with a weak Lokpal after spending years on it. The Government framed rules which were contrary to the Lokpal Act. The law enacted by the parliament has to be given full effect to. The first right to all our resources belongs to the poor. The priority in spending will have to be given to North-East and tribal areas where money has not been spent. National economy has to be revived and low growth in manufacturing sector is an area of concern. Most of the Railways that we have is on the lines that the British left us. Since the time the National Highways programmes have been started, the lowest performances were there during last two years. The other areas of concern are rural infrastructure, ports and airports.

Some programmes may overlap and some may have to be tweaked. If India is to move toward co-operative federalism, states have to be equal partners in the entire growth process. Participation of states even in the decision making process where the Central Government decides, has to be encouraged. The majority of our society will be happy if we are able to resolve various issues relating to minorities. The Government will also give the top most priority to issues relating to insurgency, terrorism or Maoism. The Government's policy with regard to our neighbours is predominantly guided by our own security considerations. If the Government are able to build national consensus on areas mentioned in the President's address, it will be in the larger interest of the country. ■

There is a stage of transition from youth development to youth-led Development : JP Nadda

Synopsis of the speech delivered on Presidential address by BJP General Secretary Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on June 10, 2014

Irise to second the motion of thanks on the President's Address. The people of India have given a mandate cutting across community, caste, region and religion, which is a positive trend for the politics of India, the democracy of India. After 1984, after a period of about 30 years, a single party has received such a huge mandate. It has been a positive mandate. It is a mandate for fulfilling aspirations of the people of the country, it is a mandate for development, it is a mandate for effective and good governance, in fact, it is a mandate for development through good governance. It is a vote to fight the menace of corruption. *Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat* means, we will adopt a holistic approach in development. We are not self-centric. We shall bring new policies with a view to execute them in a new manner which will bring change in the country. This Government is dedicated to the poor. We will eliminate poverty. Government is serious towards the inflation and it shall increase the supply of agricultural products. We will take steps to check black marketing and hoarding. This indicates the will of the Government. India exists in villages. We cannot bring our country forward until we change the picture of the villages. We shall make improvement in the infrastructure of the villages by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institution. We shall provide urban amenities in the rural area so that the soul of rural life style may remain intact and people in villages may avail all urban amenities. We all know that farmers are committing suicide. We will increase investments in the field of agriculture to prevent committing of suicides by the farmers.



We want to promote the utilization of technology in the field of agriculture. We want to make agriculture a profitable business. Productivity of animal husbandry should be increased. *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana* is a good commitment for providing

irrigation facilities to the farmers With a view of universalisation of health care, we have decided to develop a holistic approach so that health facilities are accessible to every individual and poor people of the country.

We shall make a new health policy. AIIMS like institutes will be established in every State in a phased manner to build health infrastructure. India is the largest youth-populated country. We will provide education and skill development facilities to the youth. There is a stage of transition from youth development to youth-led development. We will make education online for making it accessible for all. New education policy will be formulated. We will set up IITs and IIMs in every state. In order to empower school teachers and students, a national e-library will be established. Government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development.

With the goal of Skilled India, a National Multi-skill Mission will be launched. We shall make efforts to open educationally modernised Madarasas. Lack of education and absence to connectivity are the main reasons for Naxalism in the tribal areas, therefore Government shall launch a dedicated “Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana” under which 100 percent electrification of tribal hamlets and their connectivity with all weather roads will be carried out. Government is committed to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies.

We have massive “*Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao*” scheme for continuous development of the country. The Government is committed for zero tolerance in case of atrocities against women. The federal structure of India has been diluted. We shall consolidate the federal structure of India. In association with the States, we will work as an organic team India for the development of the country.

The Government is committed against corruption. Black money will be brought back through the SIT. We see India as a global competitive market. Investment will be made in infrastructure sector. Domestic industry will be encouraged. Some people say that development has nothing to do with the environment. But we say that development and environment conservation can take place simultaneously. We will show that it can happen.

We have rich spiritual, cultural and philosophical heritage which needs to be strengthened. We will develop brand India through tradition, talent, tourism, trade and technology. ■

...*Continued from page 10*

the country have to walk more than 5 kilometers to fetch drinking water. There is dearth of water for irrigation purpose.

All of us have to collectively find solution for this problem. It is for the first time in the history of the country that the heads of state of ten countries including those of SAARC countries arrived here to participate in the oath taking ceremony of the Prime Minister. We also received positive signals of this cordial meeting very soon when as a matter of goodwill gesture Sri Lanka made an announcement to set our fishermen and their boats free from their captivity. Besides, informal talks with the Chinese Premier lasted for 45 minutes.

In the field of sports we have been performing below par and being a country of 120 crore people we are able to win only a few medals. Therefore, our Government is committed to launch a national talent search scheme under which talented players from rural areas would be identified and trained to represent India on world fora. Now I would like to say something about the Railways. We don't have any significant achievement to boast of except addition of a few thousand kilometers of railway line to what the Britishers had left for us. Our Government has a very clear cut vision for the Railways. Our Government is talking about rail corridors, freight corridor and the Golden Quadrilateral Network. As far as bureaucracy is concerned it is so paralyzed and fearful that they ask for clear cut written order by the Judiciary before they take any decision on files. So dismal has become the situation in the country that judicial intervention has become the order of the day. We are committed to change this situation. It is the long standing misgovernance which has resulted in blurring of roles and responsibilities of the bureaucrats and the politicians leading to confusion. Our Government is committed to change the situation. Present political system is suffering from several lacunae. Our Government intends to plug these loopholes. ■

Highlights of President's speech to the joint session of parliament

On 9th June 2014, President of India Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee addressed the joint session of Parliament outlining the roadmap of the newly elected BJP led NDA govt. under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Following are the highlights:

- ▶ We should not forget we are here because of the fellow citizens. Serving them should be our priority.
- ▶ By successively electing a woman speaker, the Lok Sabha has re-affirmed our age old belief in the importance of women in society.
- ▶ People have voted for a united strong and modern India - "Ek Bharat-Shrestha Bharat".
- ▶ My government pledges to the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas".
- ▶ The mantra of "minimum government, maximum governance".
- ▶ Government will not be satisfied with "poverty alleviation" but commit to goal of "poverty elimination".
- ▶ The launch of "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana" with the motto of "Har Khet ko Paani".
- ▶ My government will strive to transition from "youth development to youth-led development".
- ▶ "Har Haath Ko Hunar" government will strive to break the barriers between formal education and skill development.
- ▶ Open online courses and virtual classroom to nurture youth with right kind of education.
- ▶ Holistic healthcare system that is "universally accessible, affordable and effective".
- ▶ Commitment of "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" mass campaign for saving the girl child.
- ▶ Policy of zero tolerance of violence against women.
- ▶ The backbone of my government's new ways of working will be a "Digital India".
- ▶ We need to transform ourselves into globally competitive manufacturing hub powered by "Skill, Scale and Speed."
- ▶ On attaining 75 years independence every family will have a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities.



- ▶ Government to transform "Employment Exchanges into Career Centres".
- ▶ Launch of "Diamond Quadrilateral Project of high-speed trains".
- ▶ Policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, extremism, riots and crime will be pursued.
- ▶ Forest clearances system to be made more predictable, transparent and time-bound.
- ▶ National Mission on Himalayas to be launched.
- ▶ To launch E-Bhasha for developing digital vernacular content and dissemination of classical literature.
- ▶ Liberalised FDI in defense production to be included.
- ▶ National Maritime Authority to recognise the importance of coastal security.
- ▶ National War Memorial to honour the gallantry of our soldiers.
- ▶ To revitalise SAARC as an effective instrument for regional co-operation.
- ▶ Reviving "brand INDIA" with 5 T's - Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade and Technology.
- ▶ Indian Diaspora a great source of pride for us.
- ▶ With three D's of Democracy, Demography and Demand, India is poised to actualise the aspirations. ■

Terrorism divides, tourism unites : Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Joint Session of the Parliament of Bhutan in

people. Shri Modi said India had also witnessed an election recently, and the people of India had voted for good governance

and development.

Referring to the welcome remarks by H.E. Mr. Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of the National



Thimphu on 16 June 2014.

The Prime Minister said that in the last century or so, while the global trend has largely been of expansion and centralization of power, Bhutan has been an exception. It laid the strong foundation for democracy, and has made the transition to a constitutionally established democracy.

The Prime Minister said 7 year is a short time in the history of a country's democracy. But in this short time, the people of Bhutan have developed faith in the institutions of democracy. There has also been a change in Government. This reflects the maturity and awareness of the

PM visits Bhutan

Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India made his first foreign trip to Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. During the visit both neighbours reaffirmed commitment to develop cooperation and enhance bilateral ties. The 2-day visit on June 15 – 16, 2014 of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has strengthened the ties between the two countries. On his arrival, while raising a toast for peace, prosperity and progress of India, Shri Modi while addressing the Royal banquet hosted by Prime Minister of Bhutan in Thimphu, said, "India is associated with the progress and happiness of Bhutan and will continue to do so. The two countries are made for each other. The colour of our passports may vary, but our heritage and values remain the same". On June 16, Shri Modi addressed a Joint Session of the Parliament of Bhutan. While addressing the joint session of Parliament he said the relationship between India and Bhutan is historic. The new government is committed to make this even stronger. Strength of a democracy is very important for that region and its people. He emphasized that the stronger India would be better for Bhutan and other SAARC nations. ■

Assembly, that the stronger India is, the better it is for Bhutan, the Prime Minister said he agreed. He added that the entire region, especially the SAARC countries, would benefit if India is prosperous. Only a strong, prosperous India can help alleviate the problems that its neighbours face, Shri Modi said.

Speaking about the India-Bhutan relationship, the Prime Minister said this is not just based on administrative ties. He said both India and Bhutan have seen transitions of power, but the relationship has remained strong. This is because the relationship is based on a shared cultural heritage. We have opened our hearts for each other, Shri Modi said, adding that leaderships may change, but these open hearts will not close, and the heritage that this relationship represented would be nurtured by future generations. India's people and Government are committed to it, he said.

Referring to the development that has been achieved in Bhutan despite the constraints imposed by nature, Shri Modi said that in future, many small countries across the world will treat this as a model. He said while the world talks of GDP, you talk of Gross National Happiness, and this is because the leadership is concerned about the last man in the line.

Shri Modi said the plans to harness Bhutan's hydropower potential were not just about Bhutan's economy, or meeting India's energy needs, but a small contribution to the fight against global warming.

The Prime Minister also



talked about the large contribution made for education in Bhutan's budget, and said this reflected Bhutan's investment in the future generations. He said India was keen to make a contribution to this cause. He said India would help set up an e-library in Bhutan, for the benefit of the youth, which would help them connect with the world.

He said India would also double the scholarships that are being given to Bhutanese students.

Stating that India and Bhutan must think of how to take the relationship even further, Shri Modi suggested that the Himalayan states of India, along with Bhutan, and perhaps Nepal, could hold a sports meet every year. He said connecting

people through sports, brings sportsman spirit, and that contributes to happiness.

The Prime Minister said India's space technology could also be harnessed to help Bhutan develop even further.

Shri Narendra Modi said people sometimes said the Himalayas separated us. But he thought the Himalayas united us, as they are a part of our common heritage. He said people on both sides of the Himalayas looked up to them as a source of strength. But the need of the hour is to study various aspects of the Himalayas. He said India had already set up a National Action Plan for Climate Change. He said a National Mission for sustaining the Himalayan System could also be considered. He said India also wanted a

Central University for Himalayan Studies to be established, and Bhutan would benefit a lot from it.

The Prime Minister said India and Bhutan could together form a holistic approach to tourism, and develop a circuit combining India's North-Eastern states and Bhutan. He said "Terrorism divides, Tourism unites," and added that if Bhutan's natural wealth and capabilities join together, it will be a big invitation for the world.

The Prime Minister referred to a quote from the third King of Bhutan: like milk and water, India and Bhutan cannot be separated.

He said the friendship is everlasting, and based on shared cultural heritage. He also thanked the people of Bhutan for the warm welcome they had given him.

The vote of thanks was given by H.E. Dr. Sonam Kinga, Chairman of the National Council. ■

Modi's visit to Bhutan most successful : Tshering Tobgay

Terming Shri Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bhutan as most successful, his Bhutanese counterpart Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay has said it helped to renew and strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship and understanding between the two nations. The visit also provided an opportunity for both the countries to review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments of mutual interest, Tobgay said addressing the joint sitting of the Parliament. ■

PM dedicates INS Vikramaditya to the Navy

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on June 14, 2014 dedicated the ultra-modern aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya to the navy, off the coast of Goa, and asserted that India would neither threaten any country, nor be intimidated by any power - but would engage with all nations as equals. ("Hum kisiko naa aankh dikhaayenge, naa aankh jhukaayenge, duniya se aankh milaa ke baat karenge")

The Prime Minister lauded the dedication and bravery of the jawans of the army, navy and air force. He said "a secure India" was the first requirement for the country to progress and achieve new heights. He said the navy had written a golden chapter in the history of India's maritime security.

Shri Narendra Modi, witnessed a three-hour long breathtaking display of naval capabilities aboard the Navy's biggest and newest acquisition - which included a rocket firing demo, an air power demo and a steam past by naval ships. He was given a briefing on the ship's capabilities. Earlier, the Prime Minister was received by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R.K. Dhowan, at INS Hansa Naval Base. Addressing the naval sailors onboard INS Vikramaditya, the Prime Minister said that he had stepped out of Delhi for the first time since taking over as Prime Minister, and had flown straight to meet them onboard the Vikramaditya.

Speaking of the historical context of the navy, Shri Modi said that in India, the great King Shivaji was the first one to operationalize a navy, to secure India's maritime trading interests. He said a network of naval NCC should be formed in each block along the coastline.

He said that Indian-made arms and equipment should also serve as protectors for small nations across the world. ■





BJP will get remarkable success : Ram Lal

BJP has got a historic victory in the Lok Sabha elections. The people of the country have expressed their confidence in Shri Narendra Bhai Modi as Prime Minister of India. Karyakartas at all level worked hard with full dedication in the elections. In this victory the most important factor is definitely the popularity of Shri Narendra Modi and the faith of people in him. And it is therefore the love and support of the people, hard work by party karyakartas and organized conduct of the elections resulted in such a huge mandate. Touching the stairs of parliament while entering with his forehead, emotional and powerful speech at the time of getting elected as the leader of BJP Parliamentary Party, both political and diplomatic skills in inviting the leaders of SAARC countries in the oath-taking ceremony, speech delivered by Shri Narendra Modi on Presidential Address in the parliament and his interactions with leaders of different political parties make his leadership immensely effective and capable. In the election speeches many slogans came to the fore like 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' which created an impact on the people. To remember those words after being elected as Prime Minister and to repeat it is indicative of his commitment towards these promises. In the Lok Sabha elections immense support in almost every province and section was visible. Congress could not have even imagined that it would come down to zero in 14 States and 6 union Territories and in many States it would get seats in name only. It cannot be denied that the UPA which ruled the

country for last ten years, its policies and practices were rejected by the people. The states in which BJP was in government, public welfare schemes were launched on massive scale and in the development work done for villages, poor, farmers and labours no discrimination was made on the basis of region, caste, class and religion. The cumulative effect of all these resulted in BJP being seen as a ray of hope by the people.

Elections are going to take place in four states viz. Maharashtra, H a r y a n a , Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir. As far as these four states are concerned BJP has got historic victory in these states. In the states ruled by Congress, many regional parties also which maintained a distance from BJP, have been marginalized.

And therefore we believe that in the assembly elections which are slated to take place in 4-5 months in these four states BJP will get remarkable success.

Elections are going to take place in four states viz. Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir. As far as these four states are concerned BJP has got historic victory in these states. In the states ruled by Congress, many regional parties also who maintained a distance from BJP, have been marginalized. And therefore we believe that in the assembly elections which are slated to take place in 4-5 months in these four states BJP will get remarkable success.

You have asked me how the preparation is going on in the party in these four States. BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh has himself held long discussions with the leaders of three states. Due to the untimely demise of Shri Gopinath Munde the meeting with Maharashtra leaders was postponed and is likely to take place soon. Party has started its preparations on this count. In elections to bring issues before people and to translate good environment into victory, organized conduct of the elections and to make karyakartas of booth unit active are mainly important. In the meeting with the president all these issues have been discussed. The state units have started their works. One huge work is the revision of the voter list. Election Commission has made plans for revision in the month of June in these four states so that wrong names are expunged and the new names and the names that were left out are added. Party Karkartyas should remain alert and play good role in revision of the voter list. Booth units were constituted properly at the time of Lok Sabha

Party Karkartyas should remain alert and play good role in revision of the voter list. Booth units were constituted properly at the time of Lok Sabha elections itself. While assessing the situation where we have got victory, the booths where something can be done should be initiated immediately by all the units within the given time limit. It has also been requested that the state units should form committees for the conduct of the elections without delay. These meetings will definitely be a fruitful initiative within the given timeframe.

elections itself. While assessing the situation where we have got victory, the booths where something can be done should be initiated immediately by all the units within the given time limit. It has also been requested that the state units should form committees for the conduct of the elections without delay. These meetings will definitely be a fruitful initiative within the given timeframe.

So far the

situation in each state is concerned, in Jammu & Kashmir after winning three seats including Leh-Laddakh, Udhampur and Jammu the morale of our karyakartas is very high. In Kashmir valley also our votes have increased. So far Haryana is concerned it is

important to note that we have won seven out of eight seats we contested. At the same time in Rohtak, the home seat of chief minister of Haryana, BJP secured more than 3 lac votes which is significant. While the people of Haryana were suffering from the misrule of the UPA government, in the last five years of Congress rule in the state many scams mainly those related to land came to fore. The people of Haryana will definitely not give another chance to the representatives involved in the loot. They will now look for an alternative in BJP. The same situation prevails in Maharashtra also. The image of Congress and its alliance partner is that of corruption, scam and loot. There also BJP and its alliance will definitely get victory. So far Jharkhand is concerned many governments were formed in the last 14 years. But none of them got the clear majority. I fully believe that the manner in which the people have expressed faith in the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi by giving clear majority to the government, people in Jharkhand while discarding the tradition of last 14 years will hand over clear majority in the favour of BJP. In all these states it is expected that people would like to take full benefit of the projects and schemes of the central government. On having governments at both places will help in clarity of policies, programmes and their implementation. All these four governments will also move with fast pace along with the centre. ■

*(As told to Kamal Sandesh Executive Editor
Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi)*

In all these states it is expected that people would like to take full benefit of the projects and schemes of the central government. On having governments at both places will help in clarity of policies, programmes and their implementation. All these four governments will also move with fast pace along with the centre.

Unsure about present, unclear about future

By Balbir Punj

Congressmen in general are incapable of thinking out of the box about the party's leadership or future. The tame response of its Working Committee after the latest devastating electoral defeat is further evidence

Congress president Sonia Gandhi seemingly will not be chastised by the massive and crushing defeat her party has received, as she has again sought to duck the challenge of leading her party in the Lok Sabha, preferring the 73-year-old Mallikarjun Kharge to sit at the job.

Once again it is a nominee with little political clout – even in his own State of Karnataka – who will act for her on this important post. Ms Gandhi has chosen to overlook veteran parliamentarian from her own party and former Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kamal Nath for the post.

The Congress president's reason seems to be two-fold. Most importantly, she wants to re-assert to the world that she is in total command of the party and could place anyone anywhere as she likes. Mr Kharge is a Dalit face; and tokenism has been the Congress's weapon to give the depressed people an assurance of the party taking care of them, while doing nothing serious.

Recall that Jawaharlal Nehru had made Damodaram Sanjivayya the Congress president and even elevated him as Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister. This party was in power in Andhra Pradesh continually from 1950 to 1983, but the Dalits remained outside

the real power structure and got no improvement in their condition.

In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the Congress has lost the support of the Dalits in the last 25 years, for all the tokenism of making a Dalit leader 'somebody' in the party or the Government here and there. The attempt to keep the Dalit qua Dalit, the poor as poor, the Muslims as Muslims over decades of its power at the Centre, has, by 2014, brought the Congress to a mere 44 from the level of 206 in the Lok Sabha earlier.

Mr Manmohan Singh was the last tokenist VIP the party

had, but his leading the Government did not win it even a single vote, so to say in the name of Sikh minority. The Congress game had flopped totally.

Obviously, no one in his right senses expects the party to nominate Mr Kharge to head the Government in the unlikely event of the Congress ploughing back to power five years hence. But, through Mr Kharge's nomination, Ms Gandhi haughtily persists in not only her tokenism but tactic of ducking responsibility.

Neither she nor her son and party's vice president Rahul Gandhi – at least one prominent Congress leader from Kerala had the guts to term his campaign leadership as a flop and his role as that of a joker – wants to expose themselves to the challenge of actually confronting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the fire of debate, discussion and leadership quality, in the open, in Parliament.

In her 16 years of power as the head of the Government, Indira Gandhi had changed the Congress leaders close to her almost every 18 months. Some analysts have compared that to Queen Elizabeth I of England who kept changing her closest courtiers and ending them up in the Tower of London after some months of elevating them to the

In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the Congress has lost the support of the Dalits in the last 25 years, for all the tokenism of making a Dalit leader 'somebody' in the party or the Government here and there. The attempt to keep the Dalit qua Dalit, the poor as poor, the Muslims as Muslims over decades of its power at the Centre, has, by 2014, brought the Congress to a mere 44 from the level of 206 in the Lok Sabha earlier.

near top.

No wonder, after being the lapdogs of the Nehru-Gandhi family for ages, Congressmen in general are incapable of thinking out of the box about the party's leadership or future. The tame response of the Congress Working Committee after the latest devastating and depressing electoral defeat is further evidence of it. What are some of them demanding? They want to bring back Ms Priyanka Vadra to the leadership role. So, it will be somebody from the royal family again even if Mr Gandhi is not adequate. The reports are that the 'get Priyanka' bandwagon is growing by leaps and bounds.

That could be yet another reason that Ms Gandhi does not want her son to be further exposed as the party's parliamentary leader, even as a deputy leader. More particularly, when she knows that apart from Prime Minister Narendra Modi there are many others in the front row of the BJP Cabinet who could dwarf Mr Gandhi repeatedly when Parliament gets to debate and discussion stage.

Mr Gandhi's performance in the 15th Lok Sabha was so listless and so far apart that he had ceased to be part of the proceedings most of the time. He was projected as the hope of the youth, and with the young dominating the Indian demography, was supposed to give an edge to the Congress in its confrontation with the BJP.

On May 16, the results confirmed what many Congress leaders perceived and suspected when the campaign was at its peak. Mr Gandhi did not

No wonder, after being the lapdogs of the Nehru-Gandhi family for ages, Congressmen in general are incapable of thinking out of the box about the party's leadership or future. The tame response of the Congress Working Committee after the latest devastating and depressing electoral defeat is further evidence of it. What are some of them demanding? They want to bring back Ms Priyanka Vadra to the leadership role. So, it will be somebody from the royal family again even if Mr Gandhi is not adequate.

measure up to the challenge of a national leadership even among the young whom he was supposed to represent in the party structure, and get the youth of the country to respond to his ideas and presentations.

Out of some 120 million, 18-25 age group new voters, as many as 100 million voted for the BJP. The Congress was decimated both in the cities and the villages. The poor, whom the Congress claimed as lifted out of poverty, showed that they did not believe this propaganda.

There was more empathy with the Aam Aadmi Party among the young, such as university students and professionals, than with the Congress-led by Mr Gandhi. Naturally the 70-plus years old Mr Kharge would keep the 40-plus Rahul Gandhi insulated from further exposure as the 16th Lok Sabha gets into action. Whether that would also silence

the pro-Priyanka Vadra murmur that is now seen to be growing, will be revealed later.

But the fact is that the thousands of Congress leaders at all levels of the polity, are not thinking of any other leader, especially a non-Nehru family member, to assume a decisive leadership role to take on the BJP. All this reveals the poverty that has struck the 'grand old party', as the end of the Nehru dynasty in perpetual power has now been marked by the BJP under Mr Modi, triumphed from end to end of the country's stretch.

But much more than the total poverty of a robust leadership competition within the Congress, what must concern the country is that this situation seriously undermines the hope that, after this election has cut the regional parties and bit players with their ambitions too big for their national support base to size and further told the once hyperbolic Left that is irrelevant to the new India, there would be a binary political rivalry to prop up democracy.

As the Congress declines and has already lost its support base among most of the sections that had propped it up in power over the last six decades, the space it would be forced to vacate appears to be destined to remain vacant. The writing on the wall as the 16th Lok Sabha gets into stride is that to sustain the binary system, the country must look to a new entity. Mr Kharge's elevation as the Congress leader only confirms this prospect, though Ms Gandhi might have sought to use the 70-plus year old for a different purpose. ■

(The writer is National Vice-President of BJP)

Pollution free solution to Delhi's last mile public transport connectivity - electric rickshaws

By Meenakshi Lekhi

Delhi NCR is a large area with heavy movement of people within the region. The Delhi metro and DTC play a significant role in facilitating the commute, but the last mile of the commute is still dependent on a rickshaw ride. It is this void - previously dominated by auto-rickshaws after the ban on inhuman manual rickshaws in most of Delhi - the electric rickshaws have fitted in. Over

as well as environmentalists. This shows that the new government is a forward looking one which is ready to update regulation to keep up with the times in terms of technology as well as need.

The cost that Delhi pays for air pollution is too high. According to the latest OECD report, vehicular traffic is a big contributor to increasing premature deaths all over the

the Indian engineer to come up with an electric rickshaw suited for the Indian needs.

Understandably, there are legitimate concerns of the users about the safety aspects of these rickshaws, but the same issues have been left unaddressed in the case of auto-rickshaws as well. It is a larger issue which needs to be worked out via a combination of legislation and design. We can seek inputs from the IITs in this direction. For me, the low top speed of these rickshaws is a reassuring factor.

So, in all, these e-rickshaws are a great innovation. It can be an asset if handled well. Too much control will kill the innovation that brought them into this world. So we need to play the role of facilitators. Don't throw it out just because it hurts some other corporates.

Going forward I see technology play a vital role in solving the last mile public transport in New Delhi via the e-rickshaws. The future will have e-rickshaws which are fast charging, have a longer range and designed for improved passenger and driver safety. The commuters would be able to use a mobile app to order an e-rickshaw ride from home/office to the metro station/bus-stop and pay cashless via the same for the entire trip. Let's make Delhi a city famous for a green and efficient public transport system. ■

(The writer is BJP National Spokesperson)

The pro-active action of Honorable Union Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has brought a welcome cheer to e-rickshaw drivers, owners, users as well as environmentalists. This shows that the new government is a forward looking one which is ready to update regulation to keep up with the times in terms of technology as well as need.

the last couple of years, we have seen a large number of these on the road, especially near metro stations.

They have also been in the news because of police action against them - because as per Motor Vehicle Act, a license is needed for them. When this act was conceived, the electric rickshaw was not something that could be foreseen plying on Delhi roads and an update was sorely needed.

The pro-active action of Honorable Union Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has brought a welcome cheer to e-rickshaw drivers, owners, users

world. Developing superpowers India and China are frequently singled out over air pollution on various forums. The e-rickshaws will reduce air-pollution caused by a fossil fuel burning alternative. Countries with similar requirements like Indonesia have already taken a lead in replacing fossil fuel burning rickshaws with electric ones.

In its present form, the Indian e-rickshaw is a shining example of Indian jugaad and enterprise. The ability of the Indian entrepreneur to identify and address a market void is as commendable as is the ability of

Jungle Raj in Bihar again!

By Sanjeev Kumar Sinha

In politics no one can say when one will become a friend or a foe. Nitish Kumar and Lalu Yadav have joined hands in Bihar. Both of them were poles apart. It is a fact that JDU was born in opposition to RJD. Nitish Kumar who used to talk so much about ethics and principles is being criticized everywhere. Seeking refuge in the same Lalu Yadav against whom he came to power by promising to end his Jungle Raj is a betrayal of mandate given to him by the people of Bihar. For the sake of selfish politics and to satisfy his ego, Nitish Kumar has pushed Bihar towards crisis.

It is to be noted that in the recently held Lok Sabha elections while the BJP led NDA scored massive victory RJD and JDU were badly defeated. Last time while BJP had won 12 seats this time its seat increased overwhelmingly to 22. BJP's alliance partner LJP got six and RLSP got three seats. RJD got only four while JDU and Congress got two seats each and NCP had to contend with only one seat.

RJD and JDU are spending sleepless nights after the massive show by BJP. Assembly elections are slated to take place in the state next year. Both of these parties feel that it is now not easy to take on BJP alone.

It is to be noted that on getting badly defeated in Lok Sabha elections Nitish Kumar resigned as chief minister of Bihar. After this Jitan Ram

Manjhi was elected the leader of the JDU legislative party and sworn-in as chief minister by the governor. In the assembly the JDU government is in minority and the RJD which was in opposition has declared outside support to it.

In the assembly of 243, JDU has 115 members. In addition it has support of 4 Congress and 4 independent members. Now 21 MLAs of RJD are also supporting it.

In Bihar situation has changed. BJP has strengthened its position among all the sections of the society. Nitish Kumar is now afraid of BJP strength and joined hands with

his staunch opponent Lalu Yadav. In the recently held Rajya Sabha elections Nitish Kumar asked for Lalu Yadav's support for JDU candidates. Although JDU won the Rajya Sabha elections but both the parties had to face rebellion, Congress MLAs also did the cross-voting while BJP MLAs remained united.

As soon as the results were announced Lalu Yadav called a press conference at his home. He declared that the foundation for alliance with Nitish Kumar has been laid and the Raya Sabha by-elections were only the beginning. He said that these elections had brought him closer to Nitish Kumar. He said that it was the victory of secular forces.

Former chief minister Nitish Kumar said that he can go to any extent to stop the BJP. Now the possibility of an alternative broader alliance against BJP has been opened.

Sharad Yadav, the national president of JDU says that the old Jananta Dal has become one. Lalu Yadav by supporting both the candidates has facilitated the victory of JDU. Everything is well that ends well.

RJD and JDU joining hands is a mockery of the mandate. It is opportunistic politics. People had voted Nitish Kumar against Lalu Yadav just because they wanted to get rid of Lalu raj. In the Lok Sabha elections entire Lalu family was defeated. Wife and daughter both had to bite dust. And Sharad Yadav, the national president of JDU also

It is to be noted that in the recently held Lok Sabha elections while the BJP led NDA scored massive victory RJD and JDU were badly defeated. Last time while BJP had won on 12 seats this time its seat increased overwhelmingly to 22. BJP alliance partner LJP got six and RLSP got three seats. RJD got only four while JDU and Congress got two seats each and NCP had to contend with only one seat.

lost elections. Nitish Kumar was taking BJP lightly before the Lok Sabha elections. But now he has started to feel that BJP is the most powerful political party in Bihar.

The real face of Nitish Kumar is before the people of Bihar. Nitish Kumar who used to talk about principle and ideals is now pushing the state towards jungle raj and taking refuge in Congress and RJD. While rejecting the principles of Lohia and Jayprakash Nitish Kumar has become power hungry and betraying the people of Bihar.

The question is whether the self esteem and principle of Nitish Kumar will remain intact even after asking support from Lalu Yadav? As chief minister Nitish Kumar while breaking the RJD gave recognition of 13 MLAs of RJD as separate group in assembly. Was it in accordance with parliamentary tradition and ethics? And when the time came to save his government with the support of RJD he reversed the decision. Ethics was assaulted again. Even then he continues to talk about ethics. The issue of communalism repeatedly raised by Nitish Kumar is baseless as he was with BJP for 17 years and for him it was not an issue then.

The anger in the people of Bihar will become stronger on the joining of hands by the synonym of Jungle Raj Lalu Yadav and 'propounder of ethics' Nitish Kumar. This is because the Bihar which was under Jungle Raj for a long time was able to see a ray of hope after NDA came to power but Nitish Kumar has again pushed the state to the days of Jungle Raj. The RJD and JDU will have to pay heavily for it. ■

Nitish Betrayed People's Trust

BJP observes Vishwasghat Diwas

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on June 16 observed 'Vishwasghat Diwas', or 'Betrayal Day', across the state to mark the first anniversary of Janata Dal - U breaking its 17-year old tie with the NDA. At a function organized at the Bharatiya Nritya Kala Mandir in Patna, former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar and senior party leader Shri Sushil Kumar Modi said former Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar betrayed the trust of the people of Bihar who had voted for the NDA and not for the BJP or the JD-U.

"Nitish Kumar, like a dictator, ignored people's mandate when he walked out of the NDA a year ago today. By doing so, he disrespected the will of the people of Bihar and derailed progress in the state," he said adding Kumar, after installing a puppet Chief Minister, was still pulling the strings by remote control.

Accusing Kumar of misleading the Governor, Shri Modi said



that the former Chief Minister abused his power of nomination to save his crumbling government.

"Now that his government is once again facing crisis due to large number of dissidents within his own party, Nitish Kumar is too willing to join hands with Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav - the man he fought for 17 long years calling him the architect of 'Jungle Raj' in Bihar. If we had been in power and a similar situation arose, we would have preferred to lose the election than beg for help from our fiercest political opponents," Modi said.

Shri Modi further said that the Manjhi government was surviving on artificial ventilators, and the day the RJD and Congress pulled their support, the government would come crashing down on the ground. "You have seen how the RJD and JD-U governments have ruined Bihar. Now it is time for a BJP-led government and with an NDA government at the Center, Bihar will progress by leaps and bounds," Shri Modi said.

Dr. C. P. Thakur, Mangal Pandey, Nand Kishore Yadav, and Arun Kumar Sinha were among many BJP leaders who were present on the occasion. ■

The Malaise Afflicting West Bengal

By Rashmi Bansal

From a glorious past to the present abysmal condition! What a tragedy for a state, supported fully by nature's bounty. Level roads, surface transport, port facility, river navigation, proximity to coal mines, a vibrant railway system... name it and West Bengal has it. Add to it the ready availability of work force. Then what afflicts West Bengal?

The Malaise afflicting West Bengal can be summed up in one line - The Politicians who have ruled over it! West Bengal has been singularly unlucky in the politicians who have governed it for the past five decades. Let me give a brief history of the same from a lay person's perspective who has lived through these decades.

In the 60's and 70's, till 1977, West Bengal was ruled by Congress Government. Its decline started in late 60's. The power crisis that gripped the state, made it impossible for industrial units to function here. One by one, they started shifting out of the state. The once financial capital of India lay in ruins. The naxal movement of early 70's was terrifying. A state famous for female safety, became worst in this respect, forcing families having young daughters to move out of the state, if possible.

From 1977 till 2011, for 34 years, West Bengal was under the Left Front rule, comprising

chiefly of CPI(M), CPI, Forward Block etc. The Communists came on promises of equality for all and economic reforms. The last nail in the industrial coffin was now nailed. The utter politicization of work force, the clout wielded by the unions finished whatever remained of industries. The closure of jute mills is an example. Despite a huge labour force, there was no work culture. A sad state indeed. Every aspect of life was politicized. Be it education, police, bureaucracy... Communists in public, Capitalists in private, that's what the hypocritical rulers became. On top of it, they mastered the art of intimidation and scientific rigging in elections to continue their reign. During their rule, the Communists bankrupted the state with a staggering debt burden.

In this dismal situation, Mamata Banerjee fought a daunting battle against the communist regime and succeeded in bringing down the invincible seeming Communist rule. Her call of "poriborton" meaning "change" got many takers. People voted for her giving her an overwhelming mandate. The hopes of the whole state were riding on her. But alas! She has failed the people on every count. There were tall promises, all empty. No industries, no development. The law and order situation is in an abysmal condition. Crimes against women are taking

alarming proportions. To come to power, she stalled the Tata Nano project. Drove the Tatas away from the state. The lot of the farmers of Singur, both the ones who gave their land and the ones who were not willing to, is pathetic. The empty, silent Nano Factory Shed, brings a lump to the throat. No big Industrial House has actually set up Industry in the state. The people of West Bengal go on waiting, the dreams dying in their eyes. Worse, she comes across as intolerant of any criticism. Whimsicality, intolerance and autocracy are her hallmarks. The recently concluded Lok Sabha Elections showed her party TMC treading the same path as the communists in booth rigging and poll related violence.

The people of West Bengal are utterly disenchanted with her but do not want the Communists back at any cost. There is an increasing ground swell of support for the BJP. All strata of people are now looking towards the BJP to bring "real change" in the state. It has reflected in the increased vote share in the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections. The need of the hour is, for the BJP to consolidate this base and build upon it. 2016 assembly elections are ripe for the BJP to make its presence an emphatic one. One only hopes the BJP does not let this opportunity slip away. ■

(The writer is presently located at Kolkata and previously associated with Kamal Sandesh)

On 9th June 2014 BJP ST Morcha organized a function on the occasion of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

BJP observes Bhagwan Birsa Munda punyatitih



punyatithi in Kushabhau Thakre auditorium at BJP National Headquarters in 11 Ashoka Road, New Delhi. The function was inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Jual Oram by lighting the lamp. It was followed by floral tributes on the picture of Bhagwan Birsa Munda by all ministers present and office bearers of BJP. The brothers and sisters from Nagaland presented a cultural programme on

the occasion. Shri Jual Oram in his address said that Bhagwan Birsa Munda w a g e d s t r u g g l e against the Britishers at a very young age and offered a valiant resistance to their oppressive rule. The President of the ST Morcha Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste underlined the fact that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inducted five ministers from the tribal community in his ministry. He also said that the BJP ST Morcha while showing its best performance helped in winning 27 reserved and five general seats. It was followed by the address of

BJP National General Secretary (organization) Shri Ram Lal who said that BJP has asked the government for getting the life story of Bhagwan Birsa included in the school text books for the students to take lessons from his life. He also called to organise the next punyatithi of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at his birth place in Hitalu village, Ranchi (Jharkhand). Lastly a two minute silence was observed by all the ministers present, party office bearers and parliamentarians at the end of the programme to pay respect to Late Shri Gopinath Munde and Late Shri Tapan Sikdar. The programme was conducted by ST Morcha National Vice President Shri Zoni G Rengma and all the guests were welcomed by ST Morcha National General Secretary Shri Ram Singh Rathwa. ■

Ceasefire violations along LoC must stop : Arun Jaitley

Stating that the only motive behind his visit to Jammu and Kashmir was to assess the security situation there and wish for a peaceful atmosphere in the restive state, Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley on 15th June 2014 said that there was no political reason for his visit as elections were over. Accompanied by Indian Army Chief General Bikram Singh, Jaitley arrived in Srinagar on 14th June 2014 on a two-day trip to assess the security situation of the restive region. The Defence Minister also chaired a unified headquarters meeting with the top brass of Indian police, Army, paramilitary forces, and intelligence agencies in attendance. “Talks and aggression can’t go together. For the situation to normalise, it is important for the ceasefire violations to stop,” he said. Ruling out any political motive behind his trip, Jaitley said, that he “came here to review security, I am quite optimistic about the situation here”, he told reporters at a press conference held after he visited the LoC. “I wish that peace prevails here... I am going back with the sense of reasonable satisfaction,” said Jaitley. Answering a question whether or not the new government was in favour of holding talks with the separatists, Jaitley said that the government would talk with “anyone who respects the constitution and India’s sovereignty”. “Amarnath yatra will begin soon and I hope it will be as peaceful as the elections”, said the Defence Minister adding that the centre “will give whatever assistance is required for development of Jammu & Kashmir”. ■



Direct foreign funding of NGOs banned after IB report

The Central government has banned direct foreign funding to NGOs operating in India unless they fulfil stringent regulatory norms and show compliance reports. This is seen as the beginning of a process to block flow of foreign aid to NGOs, which, it perceives, are engaged in stalling developmental activities in the country. As per this exercise, the Centre has cracked down on NGO Greenpeace and placed on its radars thousands of other voluntary organizations receiving foreign aid.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the Reserve Bank of India to take prior permission of the Home Ministry's Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Department before clearing any foreign aid to Greenpeace from Greenpeace International and Climate Works. This directive issued on June 13, will put on hold direct funding of this controversial NGO from abroad since each transaction has to be cleared on a case-to-case basis by the RBI.

Greenpeace International and Climate Works Foundation are the two principal international contributors to Greenpeace India Society. The RBI has been asked to direct all banks on this order. Foreign donations to the Greenpeace have been put on "prior category" list so that permission is taken before any money flows



in for funding its activities.

In an attempt to tighten the noose around other similar NGOs, the MHA has directed that in addition to FCRA clearance, they will also have to inform the RBI in detail about the nature of foreign funds and its usage. "This has been done to streamline the foreign funding process of NGOs after some deficiencies were discovered during course of scrutiny," said an MHA official.

This instruction has come after the Intelligence Bureau filed a report to the Government putting a question mark on the role of certain NGOs, especially Greenpeace International. Though there are over two lakh NGOs working in India, this directive will affect roughly 40,000 groups.

This is not the first time a Government is making an attempt to choke foreign funding of NGOs. The UPA Government repealed the old Foreign Contribution Regulation Act in 2010 with more stringent provisions. In fact former Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh during his tenure in 2012 too had blamed US-backed NGOs for blocking development work in India.

"There are NGOs, often funded from the United States and the Scandinavian countries, which are not fully appreciative of the development challenges that our country faces," Singh had said when he faced stiff opposition by NGOs for genetically modified crops in India and civil Nuclear plant at Koodankulam.

The IB report had also recommended cancellation of permission given to Greenpeace for collecting funds abroad besides reassessment of its tax compliance.

The report has also listed another 12 foreign nationals who have been associated with some NGOs in their campaign against coal mines, power projects and Nuclear power plants.

The Greenpeace has rubbished the IB report and claimed that the organisation has committed no irregularities. The IB report has prompted anti-Nuclear activist SP Udayakumar to send a legal notice to the Union Home Ministry seeking action against a Joint Director of IB for allegedly defaming him by leaking the secret IB report.

Till May 2013, Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) - which works in close coordination with rural NGOs - had blacklisted 886 such entities on various counts including submission of forged documents, misappropriation of funds and improper execution of work orders. ■

KERALA

Gadgil panel proposals can save ecology of Western Ghats : V. Muraleedharan

The Kerala Bharatiya Janata Party President Shri V. Muraleedharan has urged the Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar to implement the recommendations of the



Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), headed by Madhav Gadgil, without delay.

In a memorandum submitted to the Minister in Thrissur, Kerala on 20 June, Shri V. Muraleedharan called for the immediate establishment of the Western Ghats Ecology Authority.

He demanded measures to check illegal mining and quarrying, and to develop a participatory model of conservation for Western Ghats.

"Perpetrators of violence in different places, including Thamarassery, in the name of opposition to the Kasturirangan report and the forces that burnt vast tracts of forest land in Wayanad between March 15 and 25 should be brought to book immediately," he said.

He said that vested interests had created anxiety among sections of society over the WGEEP report.

Sustainable development is Modi govt.'s policy : Prakash Javadekar

Responding to the demands of Kerala BJP President Shri V. Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar said that development



without destruction is the policy of the Narendra Modi government. He was addressing a meeting on 20 June to launch the Thrissur edition of "Janmabhumi", the BJP organ.

On the occasion he said, "Environmental protection should go hand in hand with development". He stated that the people of Kerala were fully conscious of ecological issues. "The recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil Committee are applicable to about 200 villages in my home State, Maharashtra. Compared with that from Kerala, the response from Maharashtra is not strident," he said.

He said that all decisions of the Narendra Modi government would be taken keeping the national interest in mind. ■

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

BJP sets 'Mission 44+' for J&K assembly polls

BJP set a target of winning '44 plus' seats in the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir to form the government on its own. "The office-bearers of the state BJP on June 15 resolved to accomplish 'Mission 44+' in J-K and form government in the state on its own", J&K BJP General Secretary Shri Kavinder Gupta told reporters in Jammu.

There are 87 seats in the state Assembly. Shri Gupta, who was flanked by State General Secretary Shri Bali Bhagat, said formation of BJP government in the state would ensure equal development of all the three regions - Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Claiming that Congress and NC were in complete disarray, he said, "The two parties have lost their sheen and appeal and become thoroughly unpopular."

"If BJP could win three out of six Lok Sabha seats in the state and get over 32 per cent votes polled and decimate Congress, NC and PDP in Jammu and Ladakh, why can't it win more than 44 Assembly seats in the state?, asked Shri Bhagat.

The BJP leaders expressed hope that Muslims in Kashmir would surely support BJP and join mainstream politics to enjoy the fruits of democracy. ■

MADHYA PRADESH

Development not possible without education : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that development cannot be imagined without education. Therefore, it is my resolve that every child in the state goes to school and completes education. Shri Chouhan stated this at the inauguration of "School Chalen Ham Abhiyan" at Middle School, Harda on 19 June.



Shri Chouhan said that the Government is committed to ensure uninterrupted education for children. He said that Government is providing free text-books, cycles, scholarship, meals, lodging etc. to students. It is desired from children to continue their education and reach the pinnacle. Giving his own example, he said that when the son of a farmer of small village Jait can become the Chief Minister then anyone can reach the pinnacle by setting targets.

The Chief Minister said that there will be no lack of funds for development. The way Harda has earned fame in agriculture sector in the country; I hope that the area will also earn glory in the education sector. He also administered oath to common people to become motivators for children. He said that youths should adopt self-employment. For this, the State Government has increased loan limit under *Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana* upto Rs. 1 crore. Shri Chouhan said that it is matter of pride for Madhya Pradesh to supply power to states like Bihar and Delhi.

He laid foundation stones of various construction works costing ₹42.72 crore and inaugurated works costing ₹2.86 crore. Chouhan also performed Kanya Poojan and distributed cheques to meritorious students and beneficiaries of schemes. He further said that future becomes dark without education. This curse will have to be eradicated from entire state. Society can play a better role in this. It is a responsibility of all to ensure that every child goes to school. ■

CHHATTISGARH

BJP govt. will set up more 'Prayas' residential schools

Expanding the *Mukhyamantri Baal Bhavishya Suraksha Yojana*, the BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh Government has given its nod to set up two more 'Prayas' residential schools, one in Durg



and another in Bilaspur in 2014-15 fiscal year for the children of the Maoist-hit districts.

At present such schools are operating in Raipur and Karpaband village in Bastar district for the past four years. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Development department has issued instructions for setting up the schools in Durg and Bilaspur.

It has sanctioned a total 28 posts for these new schools. They include regular posts of a hostel superintendent, two posts each of receptionist-cum-computer operator and store keeper-cum writer, six posts of peons. The department has also sanctioned Rs1.5 crore for the total expenses of the new schools for year 2014-15, official sources said.

It may be worth mentioning that Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh has initiated steps and launched 'Baal Suraksha Yojana' to ensure that the children in Maoist-hit districts get better education considering their problems.

There are four pillars of this scheme including 'Aastha', 'Nishtha', 'Sahyog' and 'Prayas'. Under 'Aastha', children of Naxal-violence affected families are provided education from Standard 1 to 12 in boarding schools. The students are getting education in the school set up in Dantewada district, where they are taught in conventional 'Gurukul' style.

Under 'Nishtha', State Government in collaboration with social service organizations provides education facility to such children. A 'Nishtha' school has been established at Rajnandgaon recently. Under 'Sahyog', there is a provision of arranging educational facility up to college level for the children orphaned in Naxal violence. In the same sequence, 'Prayas' Boarding School has been started in capital city Raipur about four years back. ■

Concentration

By Sri Swami Sivananda

If you focus the rays of the sun through a lens, they can burn cotton or a piece of paper; but, the scattered rays cannot do this act. If you want to talk to a man at a distance, you make a funnel of your hand and speak. The sound-waves are collected at one point and then directed towards the man. He can hear your speech very clearly. The water is converted into steam and the steam is concentrated at a point. The railway engine moves. All these are instances of concentrated waves. Even so, if you collect the dissipated rays of the mind and focus them at a point, you will have wonderful concentration. The concentrated mind will serve as a potent searchlight to find out the treasures of the soul and attain the supreme wealth of Atman (the Self), eternal bliss, immortality and perennial joy.

Real Raja Yoga starts from concentration. Concentration merges in meditation. Concentration is a portion of meditation. Meditation follows concentration. Samadhi (superconscious state) follows mediation. The Jivanmukti (liberated being) state follows the attainment of Nirvikalpa Samadhi which is free from all thoughts of duality. Jivanmukti leads to emancipation from the wheel of birth and death. Therefore, concentration is the first and foremost thing a Sadhaka or aspirant should acquire in the spiritual path.

You are born to concentrate

the mind on God after collecting the mental rays that are dissipated on various objects. That is your important duty. You forget the duty on account of Moha (infatuation) for family, children, money, power, position, respect, name and fame. Concentration of the mind on God after purification can give you real happiness and knowledge. You are born for this purpose only. You are carried away to external objects through attachment and infatuated love. What is Concentration?

Once a Sanskrit scholar approached Kabir and asked him, "O Kabir, what are you doing now?". Kabir replied, "O Pundit, I am detaching the mind from worldly objects and attaching it to the lotus-feet of the Lord". This is concentration.

Concentration or Dharana is centering the mind on one single thought. Vedantins try to fix the mind on the Atman. This is their Dharana. Hatha Yogins and Raja Yogins concentrate their mind on the six Chakras (energy centres). Bhaktas concentrate on their Ishta Devata (tutelary diety). Concentration is a great necessity for all aspirants.

During concentration, the various rays of the mind are collected and focussed on the object of concentration. There will be no tossing of the mind. One idea occupies the mind. The whole energy of the mind is concentrated on that one idea. The senses become still. They do not function. When there is deep

concentration, there is no consciousness of the body and surroundings.

When you study a book with profound interest, you do not hear if a man shouts and calls you by your name. You do not see a person when he stands in front of you. You do not smell the sweet fragrance of flowers that are placed on the table by your side. This is concentration or one-pointedness of mind. The mind is fixed firmly on one thing. You must have such a deep concentration when you think of God or the Atman.

Everybody possesses some ability to concentrate. Everybody does concentrate to a certain extent when he reads a book, when he writes a letter, when he plays tennis, and in fact, when he does any kind of work. But, for spiritual purposes, concentration should be developed to an infinite degree.

There is great concentration when you play cards or chess, but the mind is not filled with pure and divine thoughts. The mental contents are of an undesirable nature. You can hardly experience the divine thrill, ecstasy, and elevation when the mind is filled with impure thoughts. Every object has its own mental associations. You will have to fill up the mind with sublime, spiritual thoughts. Then only the mind will be expurgated of all worldly thoughts. The picture of Lord Jesus or Buddha or Lord Krishna is associated with sublime, soul-stirring ideas; chess and cards are associated with ideas of gambling, cheating and so forth....

To be continued ...

Source: *The Divine Life Society*