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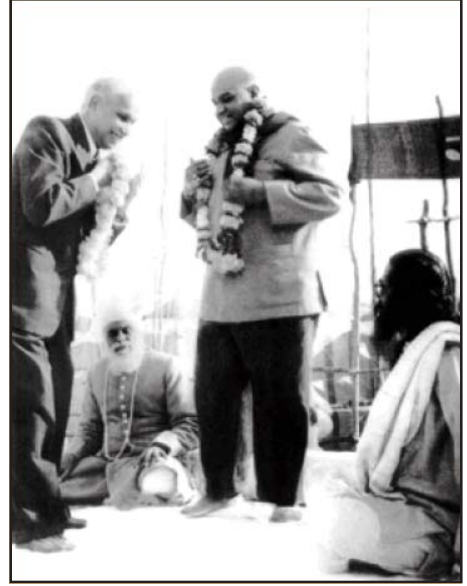
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Sangh. Also seen is
Shri M.S. Golwalkar
(Shri Guruji),
Sarsanghchalak of
R.S.S.*



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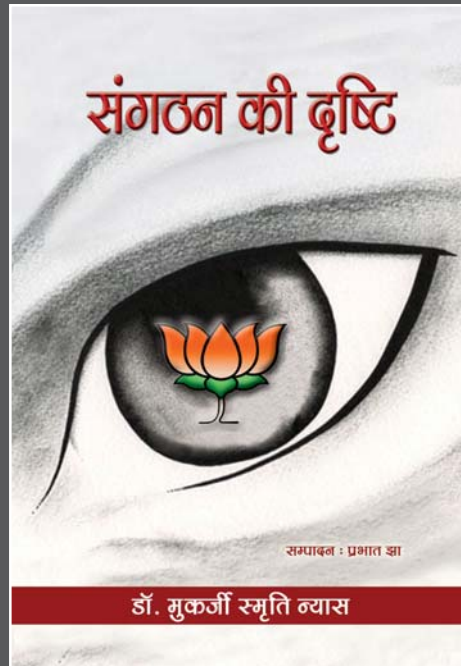


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Just as boyhood, youth and old age are attribute to the soul through this body, even so it attains another body. The wise man does not get deluded about this.
– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 13)

<p>संसद में बहस</p>  <p>कालेधन पर श्वेत पत्र कब लायेगी सरकार?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • लोकसभा अध्यक्ष • वामपंथ विपक्ष • बहुमत के विचारों पर • विपक्ष को बताने • स्पष्टता के लिए  <p>भारतीय जनता पार्टी</p>	<p>Debate in Parliament</p>  <p>Arun Jaitley on Bofors Marriage Amendment Bill North-East students Defence</p>  <p>BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY</p>	<p>संसद में बहस</p>  <p>राष्ट्रपति अभिभाषण पर बर्ना संग्रह सरकार की विश्वसनीयता पूरी तरह समाप्त</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • राज्यपाल सिंह • एम. बी. जे. नारायण  <p>भारतीय जनता पार्टी</p>	<p>संसद में बहस</p>  <p>शक्ति बर्न के बीच शक्ति अंतराप जब असंतुलन दूर होगा तब भारत महान होगा</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • डॉ. मुकुंजी मोहंनर जोशी  <p>भारतीय जनता पार्टी</p>
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Editorial...

BJP pays rich tributes to Dr. Mookerjee on his 111th birth anniversary

Syama Prasad Mookerjee made supreme sacrifice for unity and integrity of the nation : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari paid rich floral tributes to the founder of Jan Sangh Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 111th birth anniversary on July 06 in New Delhi and exhorted *Karyakartas* to follow the path shown by him in strengthening the spirit of “nationalism” and the country’s unity and integrity.

Addressing the *Karyakartas*, Shri Gadkari asked them to defeat the anti-national forces behind the Naxal movement and Pak-sponsored terrorism, saying they were out to divide the country.

The BJP president also said he wanted to see India emerge as a superpower on all fronts, including economic. “In our country, many questions have cropped up on internal and external security. On the one hand, the Maoist-Naxal movement is posing a threat to democracy in the country and innocents are being killed. “On the other, there is Pak-sponsored terrorism and terrorist organizations. Terrorists are being sent to India in an attempt to spread terror in our country. We have to keep our nation together. The nationalist spirit needs to be strengthened and from it we must derive strength to fight the divisive forces,” Shri Gadkari said at the function organized at BJP headquarters to mark Mookerjee’s birth

anniversary.

He said Dr. Mookerjee made the supreme sacrifice for the unity and integrity of the nation and gave the spirit of nationalism to the BJP, which

constitutions, two prime ministers, and two National Emblems).

Dr. Mookerjee went to visit Kashmir in 1953, and observed a hunger strike to protest the law



was the soul of the party.

It is noteworthy that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee opposed the Indian National Congress’s decision to grant Kashmir a special status with its own flag and Prime Minister. According to Congress’s decision, no one, including the President of India could enter into Kashmir without the permission of Kashmir’s Prime Minister. In opposition to this decision, he said “EK DESH MEIN DO VIDHAN, DO PRADHAN AUR DO NISHAN NAHI CHALLENGE” (A single country can’t have two

that prohibited Indian citizens from settling in a state within their own country and mandated that they carry ID cards. He was arrested on May 11, 1953 while crossing the border into Kashmir. Although the ID card rule was revoked owing to his efforts, he died as detenu on June 23, 1953 under mysterious circumstances. No post-mortem was ordered in total disregard of the rule. Maulana Azad, who was acting Prime Minister (in absence of Nehru, who was away in London), did not allow body to be brought to Delhi and dead body was directly flown to

Calcutta.

His death in custody raised wide suspicion across the country and demands for independent enquiry were raised, including earnest requests from his mother, Jogmaya Devi, to Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru declared that he had enquired from a number of persons who were privy to the facts and, according to him, there was no mystery behind Dr. Mookerjee's death. Jogmaya Devi did not accept Nehru's reply and requested the setting up of an impartial enquiry. Nehru however ignored the letter and no enquiry commission was set up. Dr. Mookerjee's death therefore remains a matter of controversy.

However, it was Mookherjee's martyrdom, which later compelled, Nehru to remove Permit system, post of Sadar-e-Riayasat and of Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir.

Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh along with other senior leaders of the party also paid floral tributes to Dr. Mookerjee at the function. ■

Madhya Pradesh enhances growth rate to 12 per cent

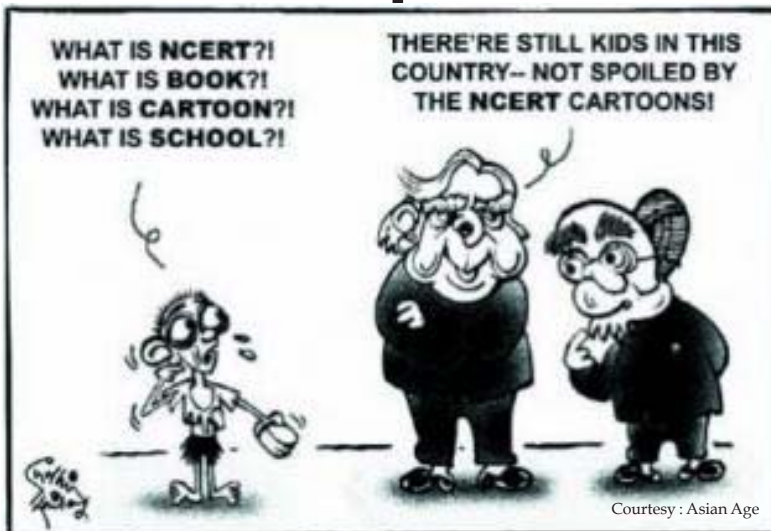
The year 2011-12 is going to be a watershed in the economic growth history of Madhya Pradesh as revised estimates have put the economic growth rate during the period at 12 per cent.

The State has also posted an exceptionally high 18 per cent agricultural growth rate. This may be attributed to the well-contemplated and committed efforts made by the state government to make agriculture a lucrative proposition, claimed the government. Madhya Pradesh clocked close to 17 per cent in manufacturing and 8 per cent in industrial growth.

In Madhya Pradesh, the contribution of industrial sector to GDP has increased to 29 per cent. This has opened up new vistas of development in the State. The prospects of augmenting job opportunities and higher capital investment

have also been brightened. It may be mentioned that in last four years Madhya Pradesh has stood third in terms of growth. Besides, during the last four years, the state's growth rate has been above the All India average growth rate. In contrast, Madhya Pradesh witnessed negative growth twice prior to 2004-05. In 2000-01, the state had -7 per cent growth rate and in 2002-03 it was -4 per cent. The State's growth rate in 2004-05 was a mere 3 per cent.

Over the last seven-eight years, Madhya Pradesh has been able to make these creditable achievements in growth against various odds. Except two years the rainfall had been less than average in the last seven years. In 2009 it was 35 per cent less than average and in 2010 it was 26 per cent less than average. The widespread frost in 2010-11 adversely impacted farm output in the state. Despite this, Madhya Pradesh registered about 10 per cent growth rate in 2009-10 and close to 8 per cent in 2010-11. Madhya Pradesh never had less than five per cent growth rate in any year since year 2004-05. ■



Historical Speech

Why Bharatiya Jana Sangh ?

The formation of Bharatiya Jana Sangh was an epoch making event in the history of Indian politics. It was not merely formation of a political party but an event replete with the possibility of emergence of nationalist re-alignment in the country at the time when Congress had started resorting to dubious means in pursuance of its power-centric politics. The deterioration in Congress culture and its capitulations to dictatorial leadership and Nehruvian model made the people to look for alternatives when the Bharatiya Jan Sangh was established with the promise of a nationalist alternative in healthy democratic spirit. On the occasion of the 111th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder president of BJS, we are publishing his first presidential address at the first convention of All India Bharatiya Jan Sangh held in Delhi on 21st October 1951. The speech gives an insight into the vision of the founding fathers of BJS and gives an understanding of the circumstances which led to the formation of the party. (Editor)

Irise to welcome you all to this historic Convention which meets at a momentous period in the history of India. I am well aware of the fact that the task ahead of us is a difficult one. We have many obstacles to struggle against and have to face powerful opposition. What, however, must hold us together is an unflinching faith in the great cause that our Party claims to serve and a clear appreciation of the objectives we have set before us. I am confident that if we all proceed unitedly with undaunted courage and vigour, not deviating from the right path, keeping to service of the people and the advancement of the honour and dignity of our beloved motherland as the principal aim before us, we are bound ultimately to attain success.

Let me make it clear at the outset that Bharatiya Jana Sangh is not coming into existence merely to fight the forthcoming

general elections. The elections have no doubt an importance of their own and wherever circumstances allow, we will put up our candidates. The elections will mainly help us in carrying to the masses our ideology and in laying a firmer foundation for developing our Party on an All India basis. Whatever may be the result of the elections, our Party must however continue to function thereafter carrying a message of hope and goodwill to all classes of people and trying to draw out from them their best efforts in re-building a happier and more prosperous Free India.

Four years have passed since the attainment of political independence and it is admitted on all hands that the country today is in a much worse condition, the distress and sufferings of the people are much deeper, than in the pre-independence days. If we take a detached view of the present

situation, we will realize that while certain world events may be partially responsible for economic depression in India, the main reason for the present state of affairs is the failure of Government in dealing with the essential problems facing the country in a manner which would have advanced the welfare of the masses. Today the country is in the grip of deep-rooted discontent and frustration and the faith of the people in the capacity of Government to run the administration smoothly, impartially and efficiently has been rudely shaken. Black-marketing, profiteering and corruption have demoralised our society.

Instead of attempting genuinely to appreciate the basic causes of this nation-wide discontent and to remove them with the co-operation of the people. Government have been singularly intolerant of criticisms

and have often tried to suppress the legitimate expression of free public opinion.

Need of Opposition Parties

It is indeed strange that the Congress which started with an enormous fund of goodwill four years ago has today lost the willing support of large sections of the public and has to keep itself in power by dubious means. One of the chief reasons for the manifestation of dictatorship in Congress rule is the absence of well-organised opposition parties which alone can act as a healthy check on the majority party and can hold out before the country the prospect of an alternative Government.

The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, therefore, emerges today as an All India Political Party which will function as the principal party in opposition. It does not mean that it will hesitate to take upon itself the reins of administration should it succeed in winning the confidence of the majority of the electorate, but where this is not possible, it will remain in opposition. Whether inside or outside the legislature. Opposition does not mean senseless or destructive approach to all problems that confront a responsible Govt. While, therefore, we may have to attack or criticise official measures or acts, our aim will be to approach all problems in a constructive spirit so that we may keep the public vigilant and make our humble contribution in developing a real democratic structure for the sound administration of our country.

The programme of the Party will be settled in detail after consultation with the

representatives who have assembled at this Convention. Our Party, however, has been functioning in the provincial sphere in different parts of India for the last few months and the main trends of its programme are already known.

Bharatiya Nationhood

We have thrown open our Party to all citizens of Bharat irrespective of caste, creed or community. While we recognise that in matters of custom, habits, religion and language, Bharat presents a unique diversity, the people must be united by a bond of fellowship and understanding inspired by deep devotion and loyalty to the spirit of a common motherland. Bharat today is divided by many conflicting slogans based on caste, or class or provincial ideology. Our party will strive to work for that unity in diversity which has been the key-note of Bharat's culture and civilization. This task of making the foundation of Bharatiya nationhood deeper and stronger is not an easy one.

While it will be dangerous to encourage the growth of political minorities based on caste and religion, it is obviously the duty of the vast majority of Bharat's population to assure all classes of people who are truly loyal to their motherland that they will be entitled to full protection under the law and to complete equality of treatment in all matters—social, economic and political. Our party gives this assurance unreservedly. We do recognize that there are large

sections of Bharatiya people who are today backward and down-trodden. Full opportunity must be given to them so that their social and economic status may become higher and they may function as worthy participants with their more fortunate brethren in building up a new Bharat.

The Congress in its anxiety to maintain the secular character of Bharat has continued a suicidal policy of appeasement of Muslims and some of its leaders, specially the Prime Minister takes special delight in outraging Hindu feelings and sentiments, and sometimes attacking Sikhs also. One may remain a good Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian or even a Muslim and yet be a staunch Indian devoted to the highest national cause. Our Party firmly believes that the future of Bharat lines in the proper appreciation and application of Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada. Naturally, the growth of Bharatiya Culture and Civilization has been due to many factors arising out of clashes and conflicts, harmony and synthesis between different ideologies, both native and foreign. In this great drama extending over thousands of years, empires and dynasties rode and fell and many a personality worthily played their part. Let all true sons and daughters of India—Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist—pride themselves in the thought that the heritage that has come to us from ancient days is something noble and enduring, that it must not be allowed to stagnate and degenerate and that free India's future must be closely linked up

with Bharatiya ideals, which must if necessary undergo changes from time to time so as to make them respond to the needs of modern and scientific age. This must be suitably reflected in our system of national education. While we, therefore, aim at establishing a *Dharrna Rajya*, or a Rule of Law, we only abide by the highest tradition of Bharatiya Sanskriti that bind all people together in ties of real amity and fraternity. Economic Condition

The most acute problem facing Bharat today relates to the deteriorating economic condition of her people. Our Party has laid great stress on the solution of the basic problems of food and cloth and checking rising prices of essential commodities. Since they are closely related to improved agriculture and extensive land-reform, our party has stressed the need for adopting a progressive attitude in relation thereto. We realise that this is not an easy task and it cannot succeed unless we can rouse the spontaneous enthusiasm of the vast multitude of primary producers. Our party recognises the need for an integrated scheme of development of large, medium and small scale industries. The growing menace of unemployment can be tackled only through this means. We stand for a wellplanned decentralised national economic plan. There is much in the *Sarvodaya* scheme of economic planning which can be fruitfully adopted in raising the standard of living of the common people, avoiding the harmful effects of large scale industrial expansion. Our party is against

concentration of economic power in the hands of small groups and cartels. Sanctity of private property will be observed and private enterprise will be given a fair and adequate play, subject to national welfare. State ownership and State control will be exercised when found necessary in public interest but progress in this regard must be actuated by consideration of efficiency and general welfare. The party will stand for progressive decontrol. Social and economic exploitation must be checked. distribution must be fair and equitable and an atmosphere created so that all may jointly work for increased production. Rehabilitation of refugees is a vast problem involving adjustment of social and economic conditions of an unprecedented magnitude and must be undertaken with greater vigour and sympathy.

Foreign Policy

Regarding foreign policy, our party believes that it should be more realistic, the primary consideration being the advancement of the cause of our own country and the maintenance of peace and goodwill in international sphere. We believe in democracy and in the maintenance of civil liberties. We are against totalitarianism of any kind whatsoever. We recognise that every nation must have the liberty to shape its national policy and attitude towards life according to the genius and traditions of the people themselves. Bharat's message to the world has been the doctrine of "Live and let Live."

So long as India's right to determine her own pattern is not interfered with, there is no reason why we should not maintain friendly relations with all other countries. Bharat's continuance in the British Commonwealth is a matter which has to be re-examined with great care. We frankly recognize that we have gained very little by continuing to function within the Commonwealth. On the other hand in our dealings with Pakistan we have been struck by a strange policy of partiality towards that country observed by Great Britain. This may be due partially to faulty propaganda of our Government. Our Party has no grudge against the people of Britain as such. If Bharat comes out of the Commonwealth she will still continue to maintain friendly relations with U.K. and other Commonwealth countries, subject to her receiving equal treatment at their hands. Partition—A Folly

We have very definite views regarding Pakistan. We hold the opinion that partition of Bharat was a tragic folly. It has served no purpose and has not helped to solve any problem—economic, political or communal. The manner in which the minorities have been and are still being treated in Pakistan proves conclusively that the agreement that minorities would be protected in both countries, has been flagrantly violated. We believe in the goal of a reunited Bharat. We would like it to be achieved through peaceful means and through the realisation by the people of both countries that such re-union will be of benefit to the masses and will make the country a real

bulwark of peace and freedom. So long as Pakistan continues, we will urge a policy of strict reciprocity. The present policy of appeasement followed by the Congress Government has weakened India and has affected her honour and prestige.

This weak-kneed policy has made Pakistan strong and defiant. There are still about 10 millions of Hindu minority in East Bengal and a very small number in West Pakistan. Government have failed to provide security for them although repeated assurances were given to this effect. They cannot be allowed to take shelter under the plea that such people belong to a foreign country. They never asked for a divided Bharat and they were given pledges and assurances which are conveniently ignored today. This is a sin for which there will be no forgiveness.

Similarly, compensation for properties left by Bharati evacuees in Pakistan still remains to be settled on an honourable basis. Our party lays great stress on the need for a satisfactory solution of these difficult post-partition problems which the Congress Government systematically try to shirk. Our approach to these problems is not at all communal. They are mainly political and economic and they have to be settled between the two countries in a fair and straight-forward manner.

Kashmir

Regarding Kashmir our party feels that the case should be withdrawn from U.N.O. and

there should be no further question of plebiscite. Kashmir is an integral part of India and should be treated as any other State. It is indeed tragic that one-third of Kashmir should be in the hands of the enemy and our Government should be unable to free the area from foreign occupation in spite of occasional outbursts of determination to fight any future penetration.

From what I have stated above it will appear that our party claims to deal with national and international problems in a spirit of realism consistent with the honour and dignity of India. We have been attacked vigorously by some spokesmen of other parties specially Mr. Nehru, the President of the Congress. Since he also happens to be the Prime Minister of India his utterances naturally carry great weight. The vigour of his repeated attacks has given us added strength and determination. We will not succumb to threats and abuses. Indeed they have provided us with widespread publicity and for this our thanks are due to him. It is open to anyone to criticise another party's programme freely and unequivocally but such criticisms should not amount to misrepresentation of facts. The main charge against us is that we are a communal party with retrograde ideas. A bare examination of our programme will convince any right-thinking man that this is a perversion of truth. The charge of pandering to communalism really lies at the door of the Congress and specially against Mr. Nehru himself. Let him coolly examine his own performances during

the last thirty years. At every step when he and his colleagues had to deal with the intransigence of Muslim League, they ran away from the fight and ultimately succumbed to it by dividing their motherland. Dr. Ambedkar's recent proposal to partition Kashmir on the basis of Hindu and Muslim population has shocked many. We also do not approve of this. Such concession do not settle disputes but only create fresh jumping grounds for Pakistan for making fresh demands. That was indeed the old Muslim League technique. But surely this was exactly what Mr. Nehru and his friends had done with regard to India in 1947. It is true that some of us supported the partition of Bengal and Punjab in 1947 but be it recorded that we were forced to do so when Bharat's division was imminent. We always wanted to keep these and other provinces within United Bharat. When we found that this was not possible due to the betrayal of the Congress and the pact between itself and Muslim League supported by an astute British policy, we were anxious to save as much of these provinces as possible and keep them within free India. Otherwise they would have been lost to India in their entirety. If Bharat had not been partitioned, there would have been no occasion to partition these great provinces whose people have suffered enormously for the sake of Bharat's liberation. Having repeatedly sacrificed Bharatiya nationalism at the alter of Muslim communalism and even after partition having surrendered to the whims and howls of Pakistan Government

it does not lie in the mouth of Mr. Nehru to accuse others of communalism. There is no communalism in Bharat today except the new policy of Muslim appeasement which has been started by Mr. Nehru and his friends for the purpose of winning their votes at the forthcoming election. We have provincialism and other types of class or caste differences in the country today. Let us jointly try to remove these evils so as to lay the foundation for a truly democratic India. The cry of communalism raised by Mr. Nehru is to sidetrack the real issues now before the country. The problem before the country today are clearly related to hunger, to poverty, to exploitation, to mal-administration, to corruption, to abject surrender to Pakistan, all being evils for which the main responsibility rests on the Congress and the Government under it. Mr. Nehru, the Arch-Fascist of India, accuses others of fascism. Such efforts to hoodwink the public will meet with miserable failure.

New Era of Hope

We firmly believe that the inauguration of this party will usher in a new era of hope, peace and strength. Our goal and objective are sound but our success will depend on the organisation that we can set up and the confidence that we can create in the minds of the people themselves. That will take time and much patient labour. Let its not be completely overshadowed by the forthcoming elections. No doubt we will face them boldly and appeal to the electorate wherever we can to trust us with their votes explaining the [viewpoints that we are claiming](#)

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to advocate. There is however greater chance of defeating the Congress at the elections if there is at least electoral understanding among the principal parties in opposition. The main basis for such understanding should be popularity and confidence of the voters. The Congress has collected enormous funds and all sorts of pressures are being put upon various classes of people for getting their support for the Congress. It enjoys the powers of Government today and there is every likelihood that it will not hesitate to manipulate the official machinery for winning the elections. From our recent experience in Delhi elections it is feared that elections may not be free and fair. The manner in which the official machinery was utilised for the Delhi session of the Congress also indicates how Congress and Government have become synonymous expressions. Such abuse of power creates most unhealthy precedents. All opposition parties should, there fore, unite in demanding that the conditions for free and fair election should be scrupulously observed. Even Delhi elections, where the Congress has won, reveal interesting conclusions. Of the total voters barely 30 per cent have voted for the Congress. Thus the majority of the voters are anti-Congress. This has been the case in the capital city of Bharat in spite of feverish and hectic efforts of the Prime Minister and others to win success for the Congress. But for the fact that the contestants were too many in number and in some places Congress gave tickets to non-Congress independents, the

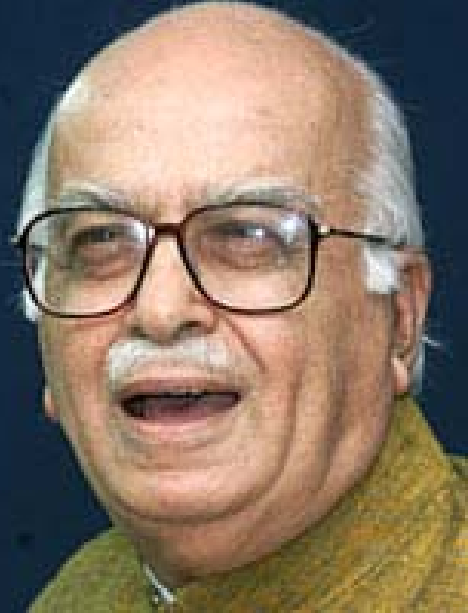
majority of the votes would have been cast against the Congress and the Congress would have been ultimately defeated. In any case our party, although barely two months old, has secured about 24 per cent of the total votes and in many cases the difference between the Congress candidates and ours was very small. This is no small achievement. Our workers must march ahead in full confidence of the justice of our cause and the support which we have already received in different parts of the country.

Service and Sacrifice

We enter upon our task with full faith, hope and courage. Let our workers constantly remember that only through service and sacrifice will they be able to win the confidence of masses of the people. The great task of revitalising and re-constructing free Bharat awaits us. The mother calls her children, irrespective of class, caste or religion to come to her and serve her. However dark the present clouds may be, Bharat has a great destiny to fulfil in the years to come. May our party whose symbol in the forthcoming elections is a humble earthen Tradip' try to carry this light of hope and unity, faith and courage to dispel the darkness that surrounds the country. The journey has just begun. May Providence endow us with strength and fortitude to remain ever on the right path, not cowed by fears or tempted by favours, and to help to make Bharat great and strong, spiritually and materially, so that she may become a fit and noble instrument in the preservation of world peace and prosperity. Jai Bharat! ■

Some memories of earlier Presidential Elections

By LK Advani



www.lkadvani.blog.in

My last blog was about the Fourteenth Presidential Election. The two principal contestants in this poll, the Government's nominee, Pranab Mukherji, and the Opposition's nominee, Purno Sangma, have filed their nominations last week.

Tracing briefly the history of the earlier elections, I had pointed out that in all the earlier thirteen elections, the only occasion when the President was elected unopposed was in 1977.

I am reminiscing in this blog about 1977, a year that came in the wake of a 19-month Emergency, an Emergency during which the nation had experienced ruthless suppression of civil liberties not seen even during British rule.

It was also the first time since independence that the Congress Party had lost power in New Delhi. The debacle suffered by the Congress Party in the Lok Sabha election of 1977 was totally unprecedented. The

voters were so angry with the Emergency excesses that in large areas of North India the Congress drew a complete blank.

In Punjab (13 seats), Haryana (9), Himachal (4), Delhi (7), Chandigarh (1), Uttar Pradesh (85) and Bihar (54), out of a total of 173 Lok Sabha seats, the Congress got not a single seat! In Madhya Pradesh (38) and Rajasthan (25) out of 63 seats, the Congress secured just 2 (one each in these two major states) That was also the first time that we of the Jana Sangh became ministers in the Union Government. This Government was headed by Shri Morarjibhai Desai. Around the 26th of June, 1975, the day on which the Emergency was clamped on the country, Atalji and I had gone to Bangalore to attend the meeting of a Parliamentary Committee considering the Anti-Defection law.

While thousands were arrested on 25/26 June night (and these included Loknayak

Jaya Prakash Narain, Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Chandra Shekhar), Atalji, Madhu Dandavateji, Shyam Nandanji Mishra and I who had come to Bangalore for this Parliamentary Committee meeting were arrested in Bangalore on 26th June morning. Except for two and a half months in the earlier months of the Emergency when we were transferred to Rohtak, in Haryana, we spent most of our period of detention in the Bangalore Central Jail.

As detenus in Bangalore, we had as our counsel Shri Rama Jois and Shri Santosh Hegde (both of whom later became Chief Justices of High Courts). Later on, when our formal Habeas Corpus petitions were taken up for consideration by the Karnataka High Court we had the honour to be represented by such eminent legal luminaries as Shri M.C. Chagla, Shri Shanti Bhushan and Shri Venugopal.

As a journalist working in the Organiser I had been

interacting a lot with senior political leaders like Morarjibhai, Chandra Shekharji and Dr. Lohia even before coming to Parliament which was only in 1970. So, when Shri Desai chose to include me in his Cabinet and entrusted me the Information and Broadcasting portfolio, he would often discuss with me informally issues not related to my official responsibility.

I recall Morarjibhai once asking me during the very early days of his government: "Who do you think should be the new Rashtrapati of the country?"

When Morarji Bhai sought my opinion about who should be the country's President, I had by then become so much at home in Bangalore that my natural response to the Prime Minister was: Why not Justice Shri K.S. Hegde, whom Smt. Gandhi had superseded by a junior judge, Justice Shri A.N. Ray? It was Shri Ray who had been Chief Justice when the Supreme Court quashed the verdicts of numerous High Courts in favour of MISA detenus. Justice Shri H.R. Khanna was the only dissenting judge on the Supreme Court Bench.

I well remember Morarji Bhai was in agreement with my opinion. But he said that Sanjiva Reddy strongly feels that in 1969 even though he had been chosen the official candidate by the Congress Parliamentary Board, he had been cheated of Presidentship by the Congress' own leader and Prime Minister who felt no qualms backing an independent, Shri V.V. Giri. I could see that there was justification in Morarji Bhai's stand. It was thus that Shri Reddy became Rashtrapati and

Justice Hegde became Lok Sabha Speaker.

Most of the earlier presidential elections took place while the parliament session was on. I remember a meeting of all opposition party representatives convened during the Sixth Presidential Election of 1974 to discuss and decide who could be an agreed opposition candidate against Congress' Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. I represented the Jana Sangh at this meeting. After a brief discussion, the name of Shri Tridib Chaudhuri of the Revolutionary Socialist Party was agreed upon.

I recall accompanying Tridibji to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh where the Jana Sangh had a sizable block of MLAs. Travelling together on train to these states, Tridibji said to me that while his other leftist colleagues were generally hostile to the RSS, and so to the Jana Sangh as well, he had always held RSS in high esteem. As a schoolboy, he had often seen Dr. Hedgewar come to Calcutta to attend meetings of the Anushilan Samiti, an underground revolutionary body preparing ground against the Britishers. Interactions of this kind have proved very useful to educate our party colleagues that patriotism can be a powerful bond to bring together even ideologically disparate elements.

The Seventh Election was that of 1977 in which because of its post-Emergency demoralization the Congress did not even put up a candidate, so that Sanjiva Reddy was elected unopposed.

The approach Jana Sangh

adopted when deciding on an agreed opposition candidate for President in 1974 was repeated in 1982 as well. At the preliminary meeting of opposition party representatives it was suggested: let us think of a senior parliamentarian who may be put up against Congress Party's Giani Zail Singh. When some one mentioned Shri Hiren Mookerji, I was the first to endorse it immediately.

It had always been my view as an occasional visitor to the press gallery of Parliament that the two most outstanding orators in the First Lok Sabha (1952-1957) were the two Mukherjis - Syama Prasad and Hiren. Both respected each other, I knew.

At this meeting, thus, Shri Hiren Mookherji's name was unanimously decided.

Two days later, however, CPI representatives reported back that Hiren Da's name was somehow missing in the electoral roll, and so a fresh opposition meeting had become necessary to select a new name.

The meeting solicited was duly held. It was at this second meeting that I suggested Justice H.R. Khanna's name. Again, the name was readily accepted.

TAILPIECE

Justice Khanna passed away on 25 February 2008, at the age of 95. In its editorial after he delivered his landmark judgment, The New York Times had written: 'If India ever finds its way back to the freedom and democracy that were proud hallmarks of its first 18 years as an independent nation, someone will surely erect a monument of Justice HR Khanna of the Supreme Court.' ■

Kashmir Interlocutors' Report fit for the dustbin

By Joginder Singh

The UPA blundered gravely by outsourcing its responsibility on Jammu and Kashmir to a bunch of interlocutors. Now it must reject the panel's findings.

Instead of doing its job, the Government of India has found novel ways to dodge its responsibilities by setting up commissions, committees and

criminal background became public, it was the moral, though not legal, duty of the two interlocutors to disassociate themselves from any dialogue on behalf of the Government. But that has not been the case. In fact, it is surprising that even the Government, instead of giving them the boot, has kept quiet about the entire situation. There

them. On the refusal of the separatists to talk to the panel, the interlocutors only said that they had taken into account the "stated public positions" of these groups. And it was these that were reflected in their report. The interlocutors also added that, if the separatists had engaged with them, the report would certainly have been far more worthwhile. "The fact of the matter is that we tried again and again to engage them and again and again they refused", they said.

Out of the three interlocutors assigned to Kashmir, two of them have been guests of the infamous ISI frontman Ghulam Nabi Fai, who is now a convicted felon in the US. Once the fact of Fai's criminal background became public, it was the moral, though not legal, duty of the two interlocutors to disassociate themselves from any dialogue on behalf of the Government. But that has not been the case. In fact, it is surprising that even the Government, instead of giving them the boot, has kept quiet about the entire situation.

Obviously, what the interlocutors have gone by are reports in the Kashmiri Press, which is already under attack from the terrorists, and so it does not to present any point of view except that of the separatists. Their reports have zero credibility. They also do not take into consideration the opinions of the rest of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

now interlocutors. The interlocutors have been appointed to initiate dialogue with disgruntled individuals and groups. This privilege of having interlocutors to look into one's demands is not extended to peace-loving citizens' groups but to the separatists in Kashmir, the Maoists and anybody else who can exert pressure on the Government through brute force.

Out of the three interlocutors assigned to Kashmir, two of them have been guests of the infamous ISI frontman Ghulam Nabi Fai, who is now a convicted felon in the US. Once the fact of Fai's

is an old saying: "God save me from my friends; my enemies, I can tackle myself."

The appointment of interlocutors was, in the first place, a sign of gross weakness on the part of the Government. Even when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Srinagar, the terrorists declared a *bandh*. Furthermore despite Mr Singh's open invitation, nobody came to meet him. The same happened with the interlocutors.

In fact, one of the interlocutors even admitted that no terrorist, separatist or Pakistani representative met

It is shocking that the interlocutors' report does not talk about the views of the people in Jammu and Leh area, for instance, except in passing. It also does not mention the many innocent people and security personnel killed in the State and the repeated border intrusions from Pakistan. The report indicates almost that human rights are available only to the separatists but not to the defenders of the country and the

common citizen in Jammu and Kashmir.

The report is only the first step towards playing into the hands of separatists forces, be they in Kashmir or in the North-east or in Maoist-infested areas. The report wants the Government to reconsider the deployment of security forces, re-evaluate the need for special powers for the Army in that State and improve the human rights situation.

But it is in the name of human rights that the terrorists in Kashmir Valley have been killing security personnel and other innocent civilians who do not support them. Also, this is exactly what the Maoists are doing.

No member of any security force in India has any enmity with any separatist or Maoist group. What these individuals are doing is as per the orders of the Government and in the interest of the unity and integrity of the country. But I am yet to see any committee appointed by the Government to deal with anti-national elements utter a word of praise for the work done by security personnel – be it the Army, the paramilitary forces or even the police. Instead, the security personnel just become the ‘fall guys’ to be treated as gun fodder by the terrorists.

The other recommendation made by the interlocutors is to review the laws applicable to Jammu and Kashmir since 1953. On the one hand, the country talks of secularism and on the other, it is the writ of the Islamists that prevails in Kashmir, where all cinemas, beauty parlours and entertainments have been banned.

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The appointment of the interlocutors has been a big joke on the country, as one of them said openly that she would suggest amendments to the Constitution to accommodate “a discussion on the *azadi* option for Jammu and Kashmir”.

Another interlocutor acknowledged differences in the views of the people of Jammu &

Government for a ride.

But for the Union Government’s largesse, Jammu & Kashmir would not have been able to pay salary to its employees, forget about earmark money for development. This is a truth universally accepted. He who pays the piper plays the tune, after all.

The average Kashmiri,

The other recommendation made by the interlocutors is to review the laws applicable to Jammu and Kashmir since 1953. On the one hand, the country talks of secularism and on the other, it is the writ of the Islamists that prevails in Kashmir, where all cinemas, beauty parlours and entertainments have been banned. The appointment of the interlocutors has been a big joke on the country, as one of them said openly that she would suggest amendments to the Constitution to accommodate “a discussion on the azadi option for Jammu and Kashmir”.

Kashmir’s different regions. If two-thirds of the people of the State reject what is in the report, then what is the rationale of even discussing it? Alienation of the terrorists and separatists is of no concern to the country. The report has not talked about the 3.70 lakh Hindus and Sikhs expelled from Kashmir and the seizure of their property in the Valley. The interlocutors have failed to acknowledge that the only thing which stands between anarchy and order in that State is the presence of the Armed Forces.

Like everything else and every problem in the country, whether it is Maoist violence or the backlog in court cases, the Government has got into the habit of imitating the pigeon that closes its eyes, hoping that the cat would not see it and attack it. Consequently, a handful of terrorists have taken the

whether a Hindu, a Muslim or a Sikh, wants to lead a peaceful life. He is not interested either in the Government or the terrorists or the separatists. In the interest of peace, he either keeps quiet or sides with the more powerful of the parties, which in the present condition is certainly not the Government.

Sheikh Abdullah was incarcerated for nearly a decade for having made what many considered to be divisive comments. But the Government of the day has no such courage to deal with separatists firmly. The entire country is praying for the upliftment of Kashmir. Hence, there is no rationale to retain Article 370. The meaningless and irrational report of the interlocutors should be rejected straightaway and consigned to where it rightly belongs—the dustbin of history.■

Courtesy: The Pioneer

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

A Post-poll legal Battle Appears Imminent

By Amba Charan Vashishth

The court of the people will make its verdict public through its elected representatives in State assemblies and Parliament on July 19. But that may not be final verdict. The people's court verdict may ultimately be challenged in the courts of law. It may put a question mark on the result itself. An indication to this effect has already been given by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Mr. P. A. Sangma, the only opponent of Congress candidate Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

This ugly situation seems to be developing not on account of the manipulations of his only rival but by the overwhelming overconfidence generated by the numbers that seemed to be favouring the Congress nominee. His poll managers failed to be vigilant to ensure that he did not hold any office of profit the day he filed his nomination papers. Perhaps they erred into believing that the Office of Profit Act 2006 had exempted the office of the Chairman of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata from being so. They seem to have forgotten that exemption provided in this Act applied only to the MPs and MLAs and not to the office of President.

Mr. P. A. Sangma had urged rejection of the nomination papers of his only rival Mr. Pranab Mukherjee on the ground that the latter continued to hold an 'office of profit' as ISI chairman. Congress Party was

quick to dismiss the contention as "factually incorrect" and claimed that Mr. Mukherjee had resigned this post on June 20 "well before filing the nomination".

Parliamentary Affairs Minister P. K. Bansal who alongwith Home Minister P. Chidambaram argued the case on behalf of Mr. Mukherjee said they told the Returning Officer that Mr. Mukherjee had resigned as ISI Chairman and the same had been forwarded to the President of the Institute. The Returning Officer accepted the argument as also Mr. Mukherjee's papers, they said. No speaking order

The stage for the constitutional wrangling has been set by the decision of the returning officer for Presidential election V. K. Agnihotri. He did not make public copy of any speaking order issued by him. All that he told reporters was that he "overruled the objections raised" by Mr. Sangma after "making summary inquiries, as required under the relevant provisions of the presidential and vice-presidential Election Act regarding conduct of scrutiny of nomination papers and after hearing both the parties in both the cases" on July 3, "as they were untenable and lacked merit."

Article 58(2) of the Constitution provides that a "person shall not be eligible for election as President if he holds

any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said Governments". Therefore, as per requirements of law Mr. Mukherjee should not have been holding "any office of profit" at the time of filing his nomination papers.

Acceptance of resignation vital

On the directions of the Election Commission, the Returning Officer has supplied a copy of his order to Mr. Sangma. Although the text has so far not been made public, but BJP has claimed that it is not a "speaking order" and it only mentions the 'fact' of Mr. Mukherjee having resigned. The mandatory requirement is not just his resignation but the fact that he did not hold "any office of profit" on the day and the time he filed his nomination papers. By mere resigning or his resignation having been forwarded to any authority does not imply that he ceases to hold his post. This he does only after his resignation had been accepted.

Merely by resigning one does not cease to hold the office. An individual who resigns as a minister, an MP or MLA does get relieved of his office not on the time and date he resigned but from the time and date his resignation is accepted by the President or Governor, or

Speaker, as the case may be. Therefore, Mr. Mukherjee's resignation does not mean that he ceased to hold his office of profit mere by the fact of his resigning.

The government or Mr. Mukherjee have so far failed to make public a notification to the effect that Mr. Mukherjee's resignation from the office (of profit) of ISI Chairman has been accepted on a date prior to his filing of nomination papers. The President of the ISI has so far not opened his mouth. Any post-dated notification declaring an ante-dated acceptance of his resignation would only be an after-thought, bad in law and will substantiate Mr. Sangma's charge. This fact has vitiated the very atmosphere of the election process.

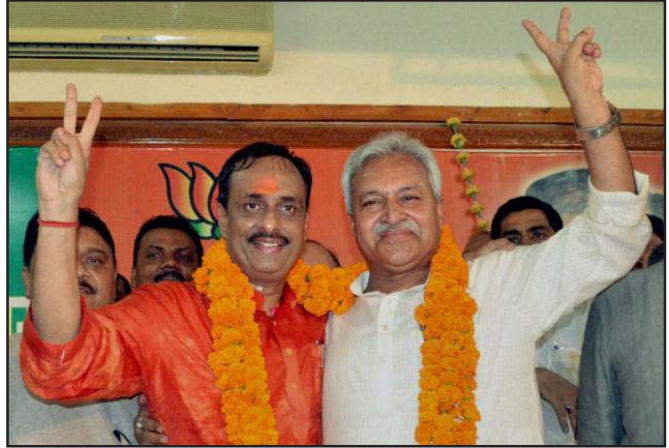
Signatures 'forged'?

BJP has even challenged that Mr. Mukherjee's signatures on the resignation are forged. It has released two different signatures. Reacting to the charge, Mr. Mukherjee wondered whether he would himself forge his own signatures. But this reaction does not clear the cloud of doubt. A minister cannot have two different sets of signatures. Moreover, whenever a minister takes office, his specimen signatures are sent to various agencies. These are the signatures he has to use in all his official communications. No person can afford to have two sets of signatures using one today and the other tomorrow. The new development has only vitiated the whole election process. It has opened floodgates of suspicion. Anybody going in for an election petition has a strong case. ■

(Writer is National Convenor of
BJP Literature & Publication Cell)

Thumping victory for BJP in Uttar Pradesh urban body polls

After Delhi and Mumbai, urban voters in Uttar Pradesh have also discarded the Congress party. The BJP got a massive victory and swept the mayoral elections by winning at six out of 12 places and was leading at four seats. As a consolation, even candidates supported by the BSP and SP won one mayoral seat each, though they do not have urban base. When compared to 2006, the BJP increased tally from eight to 10 but



the Congress, which had won three seats, drew blank. It lost in Bareilly and Jhansi from where it won in Lok Sabha polls. The Congress could not even win in *nagar palika* and *jila panchayat* elections in Nehru-Gandhi bastion of Amethi and Rae Bareilly.

The mayoral elections were important for the BJP and the Congress because they chose to contest it on their symbol, while the BSP and SP opted to stay away leaving on party workers to the candidate of their choice. For the BJP, the victory came as a booster after assembly polls held in February in which it won only 47 seats, out of total 403. The party successfully defended its bastion Lucknow, Varanasi and Agra. In Lucknow, Prof Dinesh Sharma was re-elected as mayor with a margin of 1.17 lakh votes, highest ever in urban local bodies elections in the State. But for the Congress, the decline continued after the pathetic performance in assembly election in which it won only 28 seats despite Rahul Gandhi's high voltage campaign.

In 2006, while the Congress had won in Allahabad, Jhansi and Bareilly, the BJP had won at Meerut, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Varanasi. In all, elections were held for 630 urban local bodies in the State, including 12 municipal corporations, 195 *nagar palika* and 423 *nagar panchayats*. The polling was held in four phases. The polling percentage was around 50%.

State BJP president Shri LK Vajpayee and former BJP State president Shri Surya Pratap Shahi and other senior leaders thanked the people of Uttar Pradesh for the mandate. ■ (FOC)

Declare Assam floods a national problem : BJP

From Our Correspondent

Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary and *Prabhari* for Assam Shri Vijay Goel, and National General Secretary Shri Tapir Gao, criticised the Congress-led UPA Government, both at the Centre and the state of Assam, for their 'token gesture' to the flood situation in Assam on July 4, 2012. This year Assam has had a devastating flood, the most-damaging since 2004, that has lead to over 20 lakh people being rendered homeless and close to 100 dead. The Congress leadership at the Centre woke up only after BJP's national leadership made an extensive visit to the flood-affected areas.

On the 1st of July, National General Secretaries Shri Vijay Goel and Smt Kiran Maheshwari, and Member of Parliament Shri Rajendra Agarwal visited Assam. The team visited several places in the worst-affected Kamrup and Morigaon districts in lower Assam, and Dibrugarh in upper Assam.

Addressing the media in Delhi, Shri Goel said that he witnessed first-hand the extensive damage to standing crops, the laying waste of agricultural land by sand

deposited by the river, carcasses of dead animals floating around, lack of medicines in relief camps, and general mismanagement in the camps.

Seeing the extent of damage, the Government should have reacted faster and with more compassion. Shri Goel said that the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) was only marginally effective in saving lives and responding to calls for



relief. With the Chief Minister away to the US for most of the past week, there was a definite lack of leadership and focus in the coordination of the disaster relief efforts.

Shri Goel also criticized the amount of interim relief proposed by the Central Government. The amount of Rs 500 crore announced by the Prime Minister is 'too little' even for relief, what to talk of rehabilitation and reconstruction. The general

Government guideline provides for Rs 10000 as relief for those whose houses have been fully damaged and Rs 5000 for those that have suffered partial damage. Shri Goel demanded that this amount be raised to Rs 50000 and Rs 25000 respectively.

Shri Goel also criticized the Central Government for going back on its promise to declare floods in Assam as a 'national problem'. The Congress-led UPA

Government has been in power at the Centre for now 8 year, in Assam for 11 years. Yet they have been unable to come up with a permanent solution to the problem of floods in Assam. Each year there is a flood in Assam – minor or major – and each year the Central Government announced interim and permanent

relief. While thousand of crores have been sunk into providing flood relief, the Government has yet to think of a permanent solution.

Shri Goel declared that BJP would take up Assam floods as a core issue and setting up a permanent group to monitor the activities of the Government, and propose alternate solutions. Shri Goel announced that Shri Prodyut Bora, State General Secretary of BJP Assam Pradesh, would head the group. ■

For Congress led UPA corruption is a passion

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

As the nation faces a governance deficit at an unprecedented scale, a barrage of questions has overwhelmed the minds of the people. Is Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh honest? Is the present dispensation under him free from corruption? Can the Prime Minister be unaware of the charges of grave malpractices leveled against his cabinet

from constitutional bodies, chooses to ignore the humongous scams under his nose defying all norms of collective responsibility and becomes indifferent to the calamity of corruption and black money can claim to be a man of integrity and honesty? Needless to mention that the average Indian is disturbed by the abdication of responsibility at the highest office of the Prime

questionable decisions, have prima-facie caused losses to the national exchequer which can be bracketed as corruption going by any standard logic. While it is possible that some of the Ministers may be innocent but going by what the Prime Minister often repeats, "Caesar's wife should be above suspicion". But, possibly worried over the barrage of corruption charges the UPA has apparently chosen offence as the best form of defense and is in no mood to restore the dignity of the high offices involved.

The situation is so horrible today that in the Adarsh Housing scam, Union minister Vilasrao Deshmukh shifting the blame by stating before the judicial commission that 'the buck stopped at the door of the former Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan'. Whereas, Ashok Chavan believing that his predecessor Vilasrao Deshmukh was responsible for the Adarsh scam. In another case, commerce minister Anand Sharma has openly criticized former Commerce minister Kamal Nath for his involvement in the rice scam and stated that 'Nath should be jailed for his involvement in the rice scam'. But, instead of prosecuting the corrupt ministers for their grave omissions, the Congress led UPA is doing every bit to cover up their condemnable acts by using investigating agencies in a

Recent CAG reports, Supreme Court judgments and observations by other constitutional bodies have dragged the names of many of the senior ministers and MPs of Congress led UPA II government including the names of Ministers like, P Chidambaram, S M Krishna, Sharad Pawar, Kamal Nath, Praful Patel, Vilasrao Deshmukh, Virbhadr Singh, Kapil Sibal, Salman Khurshid, S K Shinde and that of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh himself.

colleagues? Can the Prime Minister absolve himself from the conduct and character of his own ministers and government? On the contrary, some of the self-proclaimed intellectuals and the so-called secular media have chosen to premise all their conclusions on the fact that Manmohan Singh is an honest man with a caveat that his council of ministers may have people of questionable integrity.

A dispassionate analysis would raise fundamental questions such as: is it possible that the person who tries to protect the most corrupt ministers despite indictment

Minister who is supposed to be the moral force behind the government. Recent CAG reports, Supreme Court judgments and observations by other constitutional bodies have dragged the names of many of the senior ministers and MPs of Congress led UPA II government including the names of Ministers like, P Chidambaram, S M Krishna, Sharad Pawar, Kamal Nath, Praful Patel, Vilasrao Deshmukh, Virbhadr Singh, Kapil Sibal, Salman Khurshid, S K Shinde and that of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh himself. Their conduct or omissions, through their

shameless manner. Even the civil society groups and people who seek punishment for the acts of corruption and black money are being selectively targeted. Probably aware of the consequences of a strong anti-corruption body under the circumstances, creation of institutions like Lokpal are being deferred endlessly. Even the names of the people with black money abroad are being conveniently concealed. All this only point to the enormity of the crisis of corruption which had corroded the moral fibre of the UPA II dispensation.

Whatever may be its claim, with 38 months of its tenure already over, the Congress led UPA is steadily losing its sheen not only for its non performance on the economic front resulting in price rise but also its emergence as the most ineffective, corrupt and indifferent dispensation since Independence. The data recently released by the India Against Corruption team has exposed the questionable track record of several Congress ministers and the event in itself is unprecedented in Indian history. All this disturbing episodes have pushed the nation to anger and gloom. Given the present policy paralysis and economic turbulence the least that was expected was some semblance of governance which the UPA has utterly failed to provide.

A country in despair can ill afford an inefficient and corrupt regime as the present Congress led UPA II and it seems the time is not too far when the people will give marching orders to this corrupt and callous

Highlight of the scams during UPA II govt. involving Congress ministers

Coal Block Scam

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was personally in-charge of the Coal Ministry from November 2006 to May 2009. Under his watch a major coal allocation scam took place which allowed private firms to make windfall gains, as is clear from the facts that are now out in the public domain and the report of the CAG.

2G scam

P. Chidambaram as Finance Minister overruled the officers of his own Ministry who favored auction of spectrum, and instead allowed the 2G scam to take place. It is to be noted that A. Raja has been charge-sheeted by the CBI for fixing low spectrum price. P. Chidambaram was also equally guilty of the same. The national exchequer has been estimated to have lost Rs 1.76 lakh crore by the CAG in its report submitted in 2010.

Rice Export Scam

In October 2007, when Kamal Nath was the commerce minister, the Congress led central government had imposed a ban on export of any kind of rice except Basmati rice. This decision was taken so as to decrease the inflation in the country. During this time it has come to light that a few selected private companies were allowed by the cabinet minister to circumvent this ban and make huge killing of around Rs 2500 crore to the exchequer.

Adarsh Society Scam

Two present Union cabinet Ministers Vilasrao Deshmukh and SK Shinde and a former Congress Chief Minister of Maharashtra Ashok Chavan, are accused to have favoured selected parties by flouting norms for Adarsh Cooperative Housing Society in Mumbai, which was originally meant for the families of war victims of Kargil.

Illegal recruitments/postings scam in Himachal

When Virbhadra Singh was the chief minister of Himachal Pradesh from 1993 to 1998, official recruitments and postings in his government were done illegally through the 'chit system'. In 1998 two committees, were formed to probe the allegation. In its report, submitted in 1999, the committee upheld the allegations against Mr. Singh and his ministers.

CWG Scam

This scam pertains to the organizing of Commonwealth games 2010 in Delhi with Sheila Dikshit, Delhi Chief Minister and Suresh Kalmadi as the IOA chairman. The scam amounting to Rs 70,000 crores got unearthed during the Commonwealth Games and change-sheet was filed against Mr Kalmadi and his associates and the CAG report on Commonwealth Games has put chief minister Sheila Dikshit in the list of beneficiaries of the scam. ■

Virbhadra had to resign following court filing corruption charge-sheet

Big setback to Congress

By AC Vashishth

Ultimately, five-time Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and Union Minister Virbhadra Singh had to resign following a Himachal court, on June 25, ordering to frame charges against him and his wife, Mrs Pratibha Singh ex-MP for bribery and criminal misconduct in the infamous CD case under section 120B of IPC and sections 7, 11, 12(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The case relates to a CD purportedly containing Singh and his wife's voices referring to some monetary transactions from industrialists.

Further proceedings in the court shall proceed further only after the High Court gives its decision on a petition filed by Virbhadra Singh.

Only two days back on June 23 Singh had celebrated his completion of 50 years in politics and celebrated his 79th birthday. He addressed a rally in Shimla where he demanded that the Congress name its chief ministerial candidate before launching its election campaign. Obviously, he was pleading for his own self.

Although twice during the last fortnight Virbhadra Singh had boldly declared that he would quit office if the court decided to frame charges against him, yet he prevaricated after the court verdict. When the court verdict was out and the media

Ultimately, five-time Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and Union Minister Virbhadra Singh had to resign following a Himachal court, on June 25, ordering to frame charges against him and his wife, Mrs Pratibha Singh ex-MP for bribery and criminal misconduct in the infamous CD case under section 120B of IPC and sections 7, 11, 12(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

asked Singh whether he would resign, he said: "I don't care for my office at all. I don't want to embarrass my party and the Prime Minister. As and when the occasion arises, certainly I will take appropriate action".

Singh met Sonia Gandhi in the evening when it is understood that he was asked to put in his papers. He resigned on 26 June morning and the resignation was accepted immediately.

The court verdict and resignation is a big setback both to the Congress and Singh. The election to Himachal assembly is due in December this year. He was hoping to lead the party to victory although the party was as yet reluctant to hand over the reins to him. So far, Singh had enjoyed a 'clean' image and it is a great blot to him at this advanced age and fag-end of his political career.

It may be a coincidence that the CD surfaced in 2007 when elections to State assembly were due within six months. This time the court order has come when the election process for the new assembly is to be completed in about the same period. Interestingly, two leading Congress leaders – former Union Minister Sukh Ram and former CM Virbhadra Singh – have had to face charges of corruption and incidentally they represented the same Parliamentary constituency of Mandi. This has tarnished the name of the State even.

It is very common for politicians to blame their political opponents when they are embroiled in criminal cases and dismiss the charges as "politically motivated, baseless and fabricated, aimed at character assassination".

The controversial CD was released by a former Congress Chief Minister Maj. Vijai Singh Mankotia, who was at one time the closest to Virbhadra Singh. In 2007 Mr. Singh was the Chief Minister and he should have got his name cleared immediately through an impartial inquiry to shut the mouths of his opponents. The present BJP government did only what Singh should have done. As CM Prem Kumar Dhumal has said, "It is a court order with which his government has nothing to do."

Devbhumi Himachal- A unique initiative

By Shobha Upadhyay

; s fdI dfo dh dYi uk dk peRdkj g\$ \

; s dkU fp=dkj g\$; s dkU fprzdkj g\$ \

(Who is the poet who has imagined this miracle of creation?

Who is the painter, who is the painter?)

'A great creation of God', 'a unique gift of nature', 'so engrossing and so captivating' - as one lands in the *Devbhumi* Himachal, these lines of a poet automatically come to one's mind.

When the divine beauty of the nature, its splendor cover the green valleys creating serene atmosphere is aided by good governance and a functioning system then one can imagine how fine and how generous the life can be - all these you can witness in the wonderful State of Himachal Pradesh. The manner in which the chief minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, as a true visionary leader of Bhartiya Janata Party, has provided an able leadership and has established a very positive image of the State at the national level has made both the nation and party glorious. A multifaceted personality, he is known for his simplicity, soberness, dutifulness and strong determination and political will. Prof. Dhumal and his team during last 50 months have achieved highest standards in public works and scaled 64 records, thereby giving an example of high caliber and dedication to the people. Congratulating on his achievements the BJP national

president Shri Nitin Gadkari in a public meeting said, "We have full confidence that Dhumalji will make century (of awards) just like Sachin Tendulkar. At the time when the rupee is getting devalued day by day, farmers are committing suicide, and youth have no employment. Industries are getting weak while share market is facing depression. The poor are on the brink of starvation. The rural economy is in tatters. The central government is tormented by instability. In such a scenario, the rate with which a hilly State Himachal is making progress is commendable".

In four years of the tenure Prof. Dhumal's chief ministership a total of 64 records have been made and Himachal has become the centre of attraction for various institutions, NGOs, foreign institutions and central government. It is not only a matter of fulfilling the promises made in the election, Dhumal government has gone beyond that; rather it is a matter of changing the life of common people and making the dream of rapid progress of the State come true.

Himachal has emerged as a best performing State in different surveys conducted by

prestigious agencies when compared to the performances of different States. In the State of States survey of 'India Today' Himachal has emerged as 'The Best State' for 'overall performance'. Himachal has also secured first position in the development indicators like education, environment, macro economy, investment and housing development.

Himachal has been adjudged to be the best in agriculture, infrastructure development and consumer market too. In a survey made by the magazine 'Agriculture Today', Himachal Pradesh has been awarded 'State Agriculture Leadership Award - 2010'.

Himachal which is a centre of attraction for the domestic and international tourists - is emerging as a favourite destination for them and has been named the 'Best Travel Destination' with Shimla being named the 'Best Hill Station'.

The State government by giving special attention to the environment has fulfilled its promise of making Himachal pollution free and a real *Devbhumi*. In the surveys made by 'IBN-7' and the 'Outlook' magazine Himachal has been awarded 'Diamond State Award' for women

empowerment, employment generation and environment conservation. In another survey Himachal has been awarded the 'Fastest Mover State' in the fields of overall performance, capital investment and micro economy.

All these records are indicative of people-centric policy of the State government and the commitment towards the development of the common people of the State.

This hilly State is making Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's dream of *Antyaodaya* come true by laying special emphasis on 'road, education and health' and overall wellbeing of the poorest section of the society. Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumalji and his efficient team are doing this splendidly.

Prof. Dhumal has made a great dream come true by successful implementation of the 'Atal Swasthya Sewa' scheme. Any member of the society from any section dialing a number 108 can get ambulance service and immediate treatment and medicine in a government hospital. Himachal Pradesh has set an example of taking sensible care of the common people.

Himachal has left Kerala behind and has become number one literate State in the country and is now becoming an 'Education Hub'. The government is doing visionary works like starting new high level courses, universities and colleges thereby enhancing the quality of higher education and attracting students from other States as well thereby providing employment to the people of the State and pushing up trade and commercial opportunities. The

government has been successful in preventing the students of the State from going outside by providing professional and technical education within the State itself.

'Deendayal Kisan Bagvan' scheme has made possible creation of diversity in agricultural produce and enhanced the 'agriculture economy' thereby generating new employment opportunities in the State.

In keeping with the life pattern in the rural areas, 'Doodh

This hilly State is making Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's dream of Antyaodaya come true by laying special emphasis on 'road, education and health' and overall wellbeing of the poorest section of the society.

Ganga' schemes with a cost of Rupees three hundred crore have come into existence. A project named 'Apple re-plantation project' has been successfully implemented in which the old low-producing trees have been treated to improve them qualitatively so as to make them highly productive.

Himachal Pradesh government has started 'E-governance' and taken a special initiative by organizing camps under the programme 'Government at the doors of people' to make the government transparent and people sensitive.

'Himachal Pradesh Special Court Act' is a remarkable initiative to provide speedy justice to the people.

Himachal Pradesh government through a scheme

named 'Poly House construction' has developed 8740 poly houses and has covered a big area under the conservation of agriculture.

The government has made schemes keeping in view the need for self employment to create self dependence and to infuse a sense of self respect, made provisions in the budget, made improvements in the administration - and it is now for everyone to see that such honest initiatives by a government can really work miracles. Himachal is a shining example of such initiatives, successful implementation and remarkable results.

Keeping the aim of 'everyone's interest and everyone's welfare' in mind, Prof. Dhumal has written a new chapter of progress and welfare touching every sections of the society.

When asked in an interview what is the main motivation and what are the factors behind his success Prof. Dhumal gave all credit to 'Almighty God, cooperation and efficiency of the team and love of the people'.

All this has instilled a hope that Atal Bihari Vajpayee's favourite State Himachal Pradesh will make more progress in the days to come and will make a good contribution in the development of the nation. Himachal will definitely become an example of progress and development fulfilling the aspirations of the people for other States to emulate. The Himachal Pradesh government is a testimony of Bhartiya Janata Party's success and as Himachal touches new heights becoming the pride of the whole nation.

Sangathan ki Drishti

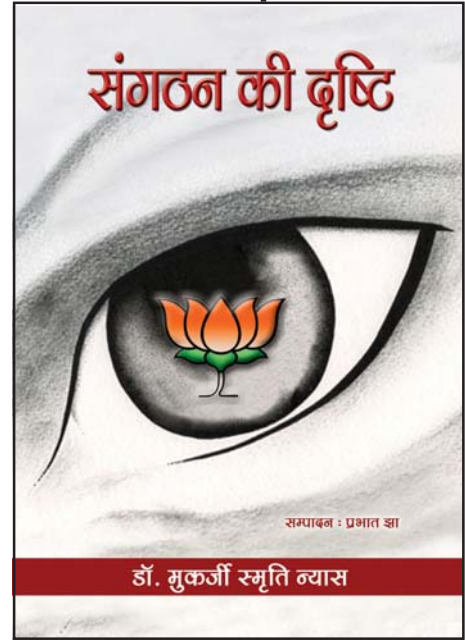
An insight into organizational vision and ideology

By Kamal Sandesh Bureau

Anation is strengthened by collective efforts and that effort is channelized through the conceptualization of organization. An organization functions on the basis of certain principles, goals and vision. As a political organization Bharatiya Janata Party has its own ideological commitments as it adheres to highly held principles and goals. The organizational vision of BJP has been delineated from time to time by its guides, philosophers and leaders. *Sangathan Ki Drishti* is a book presenting compilation of select speeches of Jansangh-BJP Presidents that were delivered in different National executive meetings. These speeches give an insight into the ideological positions of BJP on different issues of national and international importance along with the organizational approach of the party.

The book begins with a *margadarshan* from Shri Guruji, the second *sarsanghchhalak* of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh. *Anushahsan: Sangathan Ka Moolmantra* highlights the importance of discipline in the organization and lays down the principles for effective functioning in the larger interest of *vishwa kalyan*. The *margadarshan* highlights the importance of discipline as it helps in averting all kinds of temptations and in focusing the energy of mind and body towards the larger goals in life. Without practicing discipline it is difficult for an organisation to function and to achieve the goals of *manav kalyan*.

Among the other selected speeches, the presidential address of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee deserves special mention as it was delivered in the first conference of Jansangh held in Kanpur on 29 December 1952. The address elaborately deals with the issue of the time and need for a national view point on various issues and the need for the formation of Jansangh. Pandit Deedayal's presidential address delivered during Kalikat conference held in December 1967 gives an understading of the issues of the time which are still relevant today. *Andhera chhantega, suraj niklega, kamal khilega* – title of the presidential address delivered by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Mumbai conference held on 28-30 December 1980 makes the reader aware of the course of events and need for reincarnation of Jansangh into BJP and exhorts the *karykartas* to convert challenges into opportunities. Shri LK Advani's presidential address in Delhi Conference held on 9 May 1986 further delineates the ideological position of BJP on issues like pseudo-secularism, terrorism and commitment of the party towards nationalism. Presidential address



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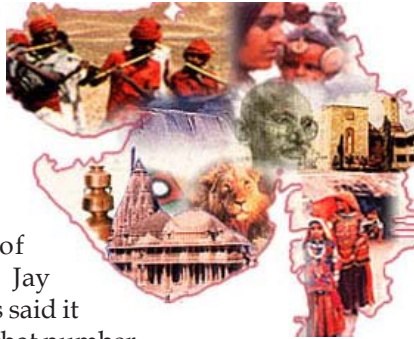
of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi in Jaipur conference held on 1-3 February 1991 further emphasises the nationalist approach of the party and its commitment towards leading nation towards glory and greatness. Presidential addresses of Shri Kushabhau Thakre, Shri Bangaru Laxman, Shri K Jana Krishnamurthi, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri Nitin Gadkari further explore different dimensions of BJP ideology, its organization and position taken on various national and international issues.

The book edited by Shri Prabhat Jha brings together various threads of organization, ideological positions and stands on various issues through the selected speeches of Jansangh-BJP presidents which have left indelible imprint on the pages of history. For a *karyakarta* the book will serve the purpose of a guide making the path clear for him in the times to come. ■

GUJARAT

State emerges as top tourist destination in the country

A detailed presentation on the world-class tourist destinations of the State and the upcoming events organized by Gujarat Tourism was made at the interactive session in Mumbai, which obviously enthralled the participants. Addressing on this occasion Minister of Tourism Shri Jay Narayan Vyas said it is interesting that number of tourists visiting Gujarat has increased by 54 lakh in two years after the 'Khushboo Gujarat Ki' ad campaign.



He said, 'Khushboo Gujarat Ki' is spreading all over the world and the State is making inroads into the market for tourism industry in the country. Robust growth in tourist arrival has been recorded this year. The figure from 1.70 crore in 2009-10 to 2.23 crore in 2011-12 has been achieved through sheer labour and dedication of the State government. Now Gujarat featuring in the Lonely Planet's list of world's ten unsung places and 'PATA Gold Award 2012' for 'White Rannas a secondary destination' are indicative of this fact and it would not come as a surprise if the number of tourists visiting Gujarat crosses the figure of 2.5 crore in the current fiscal.

He said a posting on Lonely Planet website describing Gujarat as one of the world's ten unsung places itself indicates highly characteristic features of Gujarat's top tourist destinations. The posting says, "India's northwestern State of Gujarat is not on most travelers' itineraries, but if you have time it rewards exploration."

He said all the achievements made by Gujarat's tourism industry - with collective efforts from the government, State's industrious people and the vision of Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi in this regard are absolutely amazing. May

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it be rating by Lonely Planet, considered as a guiding authority in the world of travel guide, as one of the world's ten unsung places or winning the PATA gold award for secondary destination - Gujarat is now well ahead of its peer States on this front too, as no other States have made this kind of achievement so far, he said.

MADHYA PRADESH

Chouhan vows to make MP an education hub

Madhya Pradesh will emerge as an education hub in the near future, said Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan while addressing a meeting at Shahdol.

Shri Chouhan further said the hub would help youth project their talent in industrial and technical fields at national and international levels. They would also get opportunities in the State. Youth trained in the State would even provide their technical services to the western world, he added.



He said that Shahdol was being developed as the most advanced division of the state and for its speedy development the people should vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party candidates in the urban bodies elections. He said that by electing the BJP candidates, the electorate would enjoy the fruits of development. Besides, ample funds would be made available for the CM urban development scheme, urban drinking water scheme and other schemes.

He said the State had undergone major social and economic changes during the last eight years' rule of the BJP. All sections of the society had been provided equal opportunities and facilities. He had visited the houses of the poor, laborers and farmers on foot, he added.

He further said the Chief Minister's house is always open for the people. During Panchayats, problems of the farmers, laborers, women,

Scheduled Castes/ Tribes, minorities and other sections of society had been heard which helped in formulating people-oriented state policies. The Chief Minister said that interest-free loans for farmers had paved way for the prosperity of the farming community.

DELHI

BJP drive to enroll two lakh new members in Delhi

The Delhi BJP has started a new membership drive from July 1 under which it seeks to enroll about 2 lakh new members.

Delhi BJP president Shri Vijender Gupta said that the party National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, had recently exhorted the Delhi unit to increase the membership by 20 per cent. In view of this, Shri Gupta said a membership campaign has been launched.



He further said the membership drive would go on for two months and BJP secretary Shri Narender Tandon has been

made the chief of the campaign.

At present the party has about 7 lakh members. It would strive to take this figure up to 9 lakh. As part of the membership campaign, the BJP would reach out to the people through a public contact program and publicity material. All the Delhi unit office bearers, senior leaders, legislators, councilors, district presidents, block presidents and booth-level workers would be assigned separate targets and responsibilities and forms would be distributed through persons who have been assigned the targets, Shri Gupta said.

A unique aspect of the membership campaign, he said, will be that anyone can register online for membership to the party. "The priority of the party is that those youth who have attained the age of 18

years and have got voter I-cards should be apprised of the policy, social service and history of the BJP."

CHHATTISGARH

3-day BJP Chintan Baithak held

For assessing the works done by the Chhattisgarh Government and its Ministers, a three-day Chintan Vaithak of the party workers commenced on 28 June and conclude on June 30 at party headquarters, Ekam Parisar, Raipur.

BJP National General Secretary and Chhattisgarh in-charge, Shri JP Nadda, while talking to the reporters after the meeting said, on the meeting evaluation of works was done by Ministers and Members of Parliament in their respective regions was undertaken. "How much they have done in past years and what more could be done was assessed during the meeting," said Shri Nadda and added that those Ministers who have done something out of the box were encouraged. Shri Nadda said the entire State of Chhattisgarh has been divided into three regions – Bastar, Raipur and Bilaspur. "During the meeting, areas which the party needs to focus on were also discussed. Additionally, ways to strengthen coordination between the party organisation and government were also considered," Shri Nadda said.

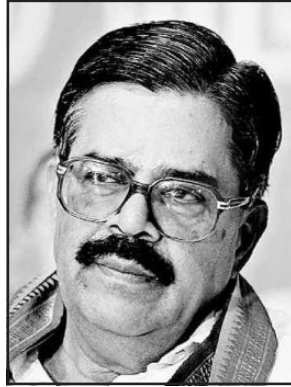
He informed that four committees were formed earlier who have given their reports based on which a future strategy would be formulated. The committees which were formed include Implementation of Manifesto Committee, Urban Bodies' Betterment Committee, Broadening the Public Support Committee and Empowering the Panchayati Raj Committee, Shri Nadda said to reporters.

He further informed that National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal will soon coming to Chhattisgarh to review the works done by the Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, State BJP president Shri Ramsevak Paikara, BJP National Vice-President Smt. Karuna Shukla, National Joint General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Saudan Singh, Durg MP, Sushri Saroj Pandey, Chhattisgarh organisation secretary Shri Ram Pratam and other senior party members attended the meeting.

Congress led UPA provides weapons to kill Tamils

Former Tamilnadu BJP President Shri L. Ganesan has condemned the Congress led UPA government at the Centre for providing training to Sri Lankan Air Force personnel in Chennai as it would be used to kill Tamil people in Sri Lanka.



Interacting with media persons in Salem Shri Ganesan said that the Sri Lankan Government had brutally killed Tamil people in the island nation and these training would enable them to use force against the Tamils once again.

He said the Congress led Central government provided weapons to kill Tamils brutally and the training should be stopped immediately, he added.

Shri Ganesan said that the State Government is fixing sales target in TASMAL outlets and spoiling the life of youth. 'If Gujarat government can progress without getting revenue from liquor sales, the Tamilnadu can also advance without that revenue,' he added.

Govt should purchase wheat till the last grain available : BJP

Uttar Pradesh BJP spokesman Shri Vijay Bahadur Pathak said in Lucknow that the State government should not close wheat purchase centres in Uttar Pradesh till it purchases the last grain from the farmers.

Shri Pathak said that farmers were forced to set their wheat on fire because of the apathetic attitude of the officials manning these centres. "During the Assembly election campaign the Samajwadi Party had projected itself as a pro-farmer party. The time has come to prove that the Samajwadi Party government works in favour of farmers," he said.

He said that farmers in Banda, Hathras and Ramabai Nagar had set their wheat on fire because the government agencies refused to purchase their wheat. "The government should issue fresh orders asking centres to purchase wheat till the last grain was available with the farmers," he said.

Talking about large-scale bungling in purchase of wheat he said Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav had himself seen how farmers were being cheated in these purchase centres. The Chief Minister had issued orders and these were followed up by the Chief Secretary. Despite these orders the farmers were forced to torch their produce because centres had refused to take their grains, he said. ■

Attention Readers !

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-Editor

Something is bound to happen

If you are serious and you cry for the divine, the divine or a teacher who has experienced the divine will appear. But only if you have a genuine pain in the heart, an ache that overtakes you morning, evening and night. If you go to bed for three days imagining yourself clinging to the feet of the divine and seeking the divine presence, something will happen. And when the guru appears, something will definitely happen. This feeling is called *bhakti* or devotion and it cannot be understood by intellect alone. It goes where the intellect cannot reach. *Bhakti* is something the heart accesses. Everything in life cannot be rationalised or put into structures. When we understand this, something will happen.

A good guide to understanding this is the Bhagwad Gita. Each chapter is called a *yoga*. The first one is called *Arjuna Vishada yoga* or the state of confusion of Arjuna. This is where most of us are; we are at this stage. It took 10 chapters for Krishna to speak of *bhakti* to Arjuna. So *bhakti* is not so easy to practise or understand. It is only when you feel true and sincere *bhakti* you can hope to experience the divine.

Till chapter 10 Arjuna is under the impression that he is sitting with a friend, his brother-

in-law. Only in chapter 10 does Krishna begin to tell him who he is...among the seasons he is spring; in the best of everything, one can find him. In chapter 11 he shows him the *Vishwarupa darshan*. And in chapter 12 the



merits of devotion are described by Krishna.

Who is a good devotee? *Sarvabhutahiterathaha*...one who wishes everyone well; he is the good devotee. The one who can see the divine in every other being is the good devotee. So there is no *Satan*. Some people have more divinity in them; some others have less. There are also some people, though very rare, who are so full of divinity that others who go near that person can get the experience of being close to the divine.

Of course, I am always cautious while saying this because such persons are very rare. We should be wary. All that we know of the world are through our five senses and they bring

limited understanding. Rational framework is built on this understanding. But there are other instruments of perception.

The third eye is the eye of wisdom connected to the heart. When you see with your heart, the whole framework changes. The Upanishads declare that the Ultimate is where the mind cannot reach but it is because of that, that the mind gets its capacity to think. When the mind settles down, when it understands this, and is aware of its limits – then it is called surrender. Surrender is not to any person or being.

You don't have to leave home to surrender. My guru would say if you meditate in a cave for 13 hours daily for 13 years, how do you know you have overcome anger or jealousy? You cannot be jealous of a weed that's growing in the cave. Only when you get on a bus and someone kicks you, you'll know how much of your anger you've been able to control. Control is learnt in this world, amongst people.

It is true that the mind needs rest, for if it is occupied with small things, it cannot soar. But you can rest even in a crowd. That is surrender which makes the *stitha pragya* or person of equanimity. ■

Courtesy: Tol