



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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

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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.

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Cover : Shri Rajnath Singh addressing a public Meeting in Guwahati (Assam) on July 3, 2013.

HISTORIC PICTURE



**Bharatiya Jana Sangh "Yuvak Sammelan"
Bombay-1970**



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Now, if you refuse to fight this righteous war, then, shirking your duty and losing your reputation, you will incur sin.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 33)

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"It (blast in Bodhgaya) is not just a question of internal security, but also a matter of external security crisis which is aggravating by each passing day in this country."

-Rajnath Singh

"India is the land of Buddha. We will not allow a Bamiyan here (Taliban militia destroyed the famous statue of Budha hewn from the side of a mountain in Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001)"

- Sushma Swaraj

"Cowardly attack on Mahabodhi Temple is a matter of great sadness for the people of India and the Buddhist community around the world."

-Narendra Modi

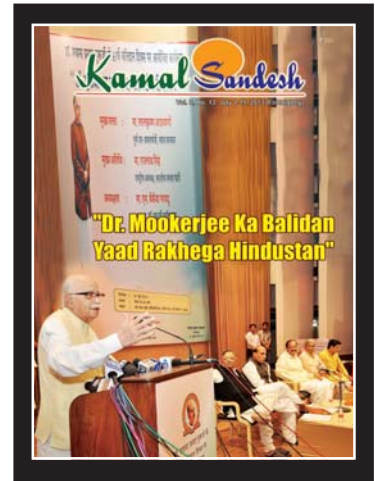
Letter to the Editor

A terrorist is a person who has crossed barriers of humanity

Dear Editor,

A terrorist is a person who has crossed barriers of humanity. A terrorist is a humanoid programmed to blow up. A terrorist just wants to see the world burning. A terrorist is not someone to be followed, or to be appreciated. A terrorist is a terrorist. I might be overstating this, but when you praise a dead terrorist like many did in Afzal's case or you declare a terrorist a national martyr like many are doing right now in Ishrat Jahan's case you end up inspiring the terrorists. They get a feeling that their acts are being praised. They get a feeling that Government is not going to catch and kill them. And that's when they are most dangerous. Not long before Akhilesh government in UP, appealed the court to drop terror cases against two alleged operatives of HuJI. A clear cut case of minority appeasement. Which sensible Indian will praise the ghastly acts of terrorists? Or which sensible Indian will fall for these hollow promises and fake conciliation shows? Bihar was a favourite hideout of terrorists already, now they have started blowing it up. Terrorists have attacked the heart of Buddhism in the world. Nitish Ji, if you are done with the caste-religion mollification program, you may want to act?

**Ashutosh Kumar Mishra
Lucknow, UP**



Write to us

The Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

We welcome

Your views & Suggestions

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People will have to take up *Gandeev*

When government itself gets involved in conspiracies then who will protect the democracy? UPA government which can be better called Congress government is now instead of running the government is busy in a network of conspiracies to make next government. The people are waiting for the elections so that they can get rid of Congress led UPA government.

UPA government is giving death to people through price rise. *Dal-roti* is in danger. Education of children stands jeopardized. There is no possibility of realizing the dream of having even a small house. Agriculture has become non-profitable. There is scam in the name of MNREGA. In the name in of industry and trade, there is lockout on cottage industry, loot is taking place in the name of investment and black money rules the roost. The hard earned money has become weak. The proportionate number of unemployed is increasing when compared to the growth of population. Migrations from villages continue. 40% farmers have given up farming. Agriculture is backbone of the country only in name as existence of villages is in danger. There is darkness in the name of electricity. In the name of irrigation there are half baked projects. In the name of water there are dry well and dry ponds. There is no balance between student, teacher and school. If students are there, there are no schools, if schools are there, there are no teachers, and if teachers are there, there is no building for the schools. The hospitals and health centres are in tatters. Neither doctors are there nor are medicines available. Village to village are getting uprooted while in government documents new villages are being shown settled.

What more can be said about the situation when the Prime Minister of India has not visited any village for last nine years. If you look around for the roads then it appears that as if UPA government has decided that it is a crime to build roads. Work on national highway is taking place very slowly.

UPA has no concern about infrastructure, instead it has even halted the work initiated by NDA in this regard. The border, constitution and security forces of the country are insecure. Foreign policy and diplomacy are a failure. In these nine years the credibility of the country has been severely dented. Even if one tries to look at the things positively, one fails to see anything except scams. The credibility of the cabinet ministers of UPA government has nosedived. The incident of removal of two cabinet ministers on a single day under serious charges has made UPA government to hang its head in shame. Neither policy nor principle, the UPA government has only one aim- to remain glued to power for which it is trying to implicate its opponents.

UPA government has earned expertise in misusing all central agencies including CBI, IT and IB. The number of instructions and order passed by Supreme Court against the incumbent UPA government is unprecedented, it had never happened before with any union government. The decline in credibility of the government and the politicians was seen much more in the time of UPA government, such a scenario was never witnessed before.

Failure on economic front and unprecedented success in corruption – this is the achievement of the UPA government. The food was snatched from common man, the country was made bankrupt but Congressmen have prospered under this regime. In whatever angle, whether biased or neutral, if one analyses one will conclude that UPA government has betrayed the people. It asked for votes in another name but on coming to power it has done other things. Time has come that people will have to take up *gandiv* and in the interest of democracy it will have to bring an end to the Congress led UPA rule. The prestige of the tricolor is at stake everyday. We will have to perform our national duty by changing our own mindset and the mentality of the people at large. ■

Editorial...

Time to make country 'Congress-free' : Rajnath Singh

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Rajnath Singh flagged off relief materials and first installment of the fund collected by party for the victims of flash floods in Uttarakhand from Lucknow on June 26. Shri Singh was on his three days (from June 26 to 28) journey to Lucknow. Here, he attended several meetings organized by Uttar Pradesh BJP unit.

On 27 June while addressing the mediapersons Shri Singh termed the UPA government as a "failure" on all fronts during its nine year rule and he appealed all opposition parties to make the



country "Congress-free". He said "Congress-led UPA has proved a failure on all fronts, be it economic issues, internal or external security or diplomatic strategies." To divert the attention of people from its failure, Congress wants to start a debate on secularism versus communalism, he said. "Due to its appeasement and vote bank politics, the party in its long regime failed to establish communal harmony. Mahatma Gandhi knew the character of the party therefore immediately after independence, he talked about disbanding Congress, which was not followed," he said.

Singh claimed that the people of the country were paying the price of it and said, "I call all the opposition parties to make the country Congress-

free."

He alleged that after UPA came to power, country's economic condition deteriorated and fiscal and current account deficit has increased.

"The downslide that the rupee has witnessed against dollar has never happened since independence. It cannot be ruled out that those who have stashed their black money will try to withdraw it as early as possible," Shri Singh said.

An inquiry should be conducted on how much money was withdrawn from the foreign banks and by whom, the BJP president said.

He accused the UPA government of failing to check the terror activities on the internal as well as the external security front. "The morale of the terrorists is so high that on the eve of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi's visit they fired on Army troops killing eight jawans in Srinagar," he said. "Naxalism has emerged as a serious problem and 20 states were affected by it," added Shri Singh. "There should at least be a comprehensive plan to tackle the problem. We don't want to do any politics on it and BJP wants to assure the government that whatever effective steps it takes, the party would support the move," he said.

The BJP president alleged Congress of using every given opportunity to do politics on issues.

Congress did not hesitate in playing politics during rescue operations in flood-ravaged Uttarakhand, he said, adding the party was responsible for the miseries of the common man.

"I want to appeal to the people that unless this country becomes Congress-free, development cannot be imagined," he said.

Shri Singh slammed UPA government's foreign policy saying it considers the same US as its strategic partner which is trying to open a dialogue with Taliban at Doha.

"BSP regime disappointed people of Uttar Pradesh and now the SP government has done the same. It is withdrawing terror cases and releasing

people. The matter is subjudice and it should have waited for the judgement," he said.

On BJP's target in Uttar Pradesh for the next Lok Sabha elections, Singh said that the aim was to win over 40 seats.

A person who never speaks should not be the prime minister of the country : Rajnath

AGP leader Atul Bora joins BJP

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh lambasted the UPA Government at the Centre for the country's economic situation on July 3 saying the nation's fiscal health was deteriorating despite having an economist as Prime Minister. Shri Singh was addressing a party rally in Guwahati.

"The reigns of the country should be in the hands of a man of steel instead of a 'man of still'. A person who never speaks should not be the prime minister of the country," he said in a veiled attack on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "The country does not need an economist Prime Minister, but a realistic one," Shri Singh told a BJP workers' rally during his first visit to Assam after taking up the post of party's national president in January. While referring to the country's financial situation, Shri Rajnath claimed that inflation was under control during the NDA rule.

"But now everything is becoming costly. Fiscal deficit and current account deficit are rising." The devaluation of the rupee is a 'well-made' conspiracy by Congress as its leaders were now withdrawing black money stashed in Swiss banks, Singh alleged, adding, wrong economic planning and corruption by the Congress Government are to be blamed for all the problems. Shri Singh also warned the Prime Minister, who is a Rajya Sabha MP from the State, of the alleged 'gradual and serious demographic change' in Assam due to continuous illegal influx of Bangladeshis and urged the centre to initiate dialogues with the neighbouring country to stop it.

"Manmohan Singhji, please speak up and show some will power. You have ruled the country for nine years. Please raise the issue (of illegal immigration) with Bangladesh as it is going to cause serious demographic change in the entire north east," he told a BJP workers rally. The country needs good relations with its neighbours, but it should not allow illegal migration, he added.

BJP Vice-President and in-charge of Assam, Shri SS Ahluwalia said the result of the recent election in Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) in which the party emerged to be in the second position after the ruling Congress showed its rising popularity in the State. In the GMC polls last month the Congress bagged 19 out of the 31 wards, followed by BJP with 11, while Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) managed to win only one seat. Shri Singh extended his gratitude to the people of Guwahati for supporting the BJP in the recently concluded GMC election and said that this indicated the people's confidence in the party that is the only secular party in the country. He dubbed Congress as the most communal force in the country.

In the meeting, senior AGP leader Shri Atul Bora and many others formally joined BJP. Post the AGP debacle in the GMC poll, many senior leaders of the regional party have resigned amidst calls for either its revival or forming of a new outfit. Shri Rajnath Singh, asserted that the BJP does not want to drive a wedge



in any political party, but that its door was always open to all who had firm faith in the ideology of the party. Shri Atul Bora in his speech said that he can fight for the cause of Assam, that is the expulsion of Bangladeshis, in a much better way by being a member of BJP.

"I want to make a new beginning, embark on a challenging journey to fight for the cause of the people of Assam and this I am going to do as a simple worker of BJP. I have not joined the BJP to become a leader. I am happy and will be with the party till my last breath," he said.

The meeting was attended by BJP National Vice President Shri SS Ahluwalia, Smt. Bijoya Chakraborty, State BJP President Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and other senior leaders, Shri Rajnath Singh welcomed the new faces in the party and said that Atul Bora's membership will give added impetus to the party and enrich it with his political experience. ■

My last two blogs have been principally about Jammu and Kashmir State and about Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, hailed by the country as 'Independent India's first martyr for national integration.' For these two pieces I had relied greatly on V. Shankar's two volume biography of Vallabhbhai Patel, captioned My Reminiscences of Sardar Patel.

Rajmohan Gandhi's biography of Sardar Patel notes:

was presented a pair of invaluable books written by Menon, popularly known as just VP, written by him at the behest of Sardar Patel himself. The first is titled "The Transfer of Power in India" and the second "Integration of the Indian States." This second one is really a wonderful, and very authentic story of the greatest achievement of free India's first Home Minister.

Four out of the more important States showed

as their Agent-General in Hyderabad. I did not then know Munshi very well; but I had particularly been impressed by the way in which, as Home Minister in Bombay from 1937 to 1939, he had handled the communal situation there. When we informed the Government of Hyderabad of Munshi's appointment, the Nizam made certain conditions. First of all he wanted Munshi to be no more than a trade Agent. I replied to Laik Ali (whom the Nizam had



"While Shankar's services were valuable, a more significant role was played by Vapal Pangunni Menon."

It was Sardar Patel who as free India's Home Minister decided to create within his Ministry a States Department entrusted with the responsibility of integrating with the country the 564 princely states. Sardar Patel nominated V.P. Menon as Secretary of the States Department. When the Britishers ruled India, these princely states in area constituted nearly half the country.

At a function organised in New Delhi in December, 2000 by Capt. C.P. Krishna Nair, Head of the Leela Group to honour the memory of Shri V.P. Menon, I

reluctance to accede to India. These were Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, Bhopal and Travancore. Of these Hyderabad was the only one in whose case Government of India was compelled to use force.

V.P. Menon's book has devoted to Hyderabad three full chapters, running into 87 pages. If I were to sum up briefly, in VP's own words, why Sardar Patel had to decide, despite Pandit Nehru's reluctance, to use the army against the Nizam, here is, a précis of what VP has written:

"In accordance with Article II of the Standstill Agreement (which the Nizam had signed with New Delhi) the Government of India appointed K M Munshi

appointed President of his Executive Council on the advice of Kasim Rizvi) drawing his attention to Article II of the Agreement under which the functions of the Agent-General were certainly not confined to trade.

A trivial but nonetheless significant dispute arose over the question of the accommodation that was to be provided in Hyderabad for Munshi, the Nizam refusing to give him even temporarily, till he found accommodation elsewhere. Ultimately two of the buildings belonging to the Indian Army were placed at the disposal of Munshi and his staff.

Almost before the ink was dry on the Standstill Agreement,

the Nizam's Government issued two ordinances in quick succession.

The first imposed restrictions on the export of all precious metals from Hyderabad to India. The second declared Indian currency to be not legal tender in the State.

I wrote to the Government of Hyderabad on 25 December 1947 pointing out that these two ordinances were violations of the Standstill Agreement.

On top of this, the Government of India received information that the Government

India took a grave view of the situation created by them in Hyderabad. It appeared to the Government of India that every encouragement had been given by the Hyderabad Government to this reactionary and communal organization. Disquieting reports had been received from the Government of Madras of the activities of the Razakars on their border.

Laik Ali, the President of the Nizam's Executive Council, had meanwhile come to Delhi and had seen Sardar. Sardar told him quite firmly that an internal

in perpetuity. If the right opportunity was missed or if time was lost, there was a chance that the Nizam might lose his throne altogether through the sheer compulsion of events.

K M Munshi had a very delicate and difficult role to play. While the relations of the Government of India with the Nizam's Agent-General in Delhi (Nawab Zain Yar Jung) were cordial, Munshi was treated with definite hostility by the Government of Hyderabad and his relations with them were extremely strained. Because of the suspicion with which he was viewed by the Government of Hyderabad he was virtually a prisoner in his own house.

Meanwhile, the Government of Hyderabad had not implemented a single undertaking given by them. No announcement with regard to the loan to Pakistan as promised by Laik Ali had been made; the Currency Ordinance had not been modified, while the ban on the export of precious metals and oilseeds continued to operate. No step, as promised by Laik Ali, in respect of the reconstitution of the Nizam's Executive Council had been taken. The Razakars, so far from being banned, had become an intolerable nuisance. Border raids showed no signs of abatement. Up to this time we had only tried to press our point of view informally upon the Government of Hyderabad. But now the Government of India decided that we should bring the breaches of the Standstill Agreement to their notice officially. Accordingly, on 23 March, I addressed a letter to the President of the Nizam's Executive Council which was

Laik Ali, the President of the Nizam's Executive Council, had meanwhile come to Delhi and had seen Sardar. Sardar told him quite firmly that an internal settlement in the State was the first requisite for a satisfactory understanding between India and Hyderabad and requested him to work to that end. The discussion could not be continued because of Gandhiji's assassination on the evening of 30 January. Laik Ali and the Hyderabad delegation subsequently returned to Hyderabad.

of Hyderabad had advanced a loan of Rs 20 Crore to Pakistan in the form of Government of India securities of equivalent value.

This was not all. The Government of Hyderabad informed us officially that it was their intention to appoint agents in several foreign countries. They had already appointed a Public Relations Officer in Karachi without any reference to the Government of India.

There followed some discussion. I stressed that the Government of Hyderabad should repeal the two ordinances in question and ask the Government of Pakistan to return the loan of Rs.20 crore. Referring to the activities of the Razakars, I said that the Government of

settlement in the State was the first requisite for a satisfactory understanding between India and Hyderabad and requested him to work to that end. The discussion could not be continued because of Gandhiji's assassination on the evening of 30 January. Laik Ali and the Hyderabad delegation subsequently returned to Hyderabad.

Lord Mountbatten gave it as his personal opinion that the position of Hyderabad would be strengthened in the eyes of the world if the Nizam were to declare his intention to introduce responsible government and that all the greater then would be the prospects of the Nizam and his successors remaining constitutional rulers of the State

sent to Munshi to be delivered personally to Laik Ali.

Supported by the Razakars, the ruling clique in Hyderabad was now in a militant mood. The Nizam's advisers, it was reported to me, had assured him that if India resorted to any economic blockade it was not likely to be effective, as Hyderabad could easily stand on its own legs for the next few months, during which time public opinion in the world could be mobilized in its favour. India was stated to be very weak and to be incapable of military action now or at any time. All the Muslim countries were friendly to Hyderabad and would not permit any military action to be taken against it. The Hyderabad radio went to the extent of announcing that if there was a war against Hyderabad thousands of Pathans would march into India.

On 5 April 1948, Laik Ali sent Nehru a very long reply, of seventeen typed pages, in which he refuted the allegations of breach of the Standstill Agreement and made certain countercharges against the Government of India.

On the very same day, the Nizam wrote to Lord Mountbatten saying that the letter of the State Ministry 'was in the nature of an ultimatum to be regarded as prelude to an open breach of friendly relations'.

On 16 April, Laik Ali had an interview with Sardar at which I was present. Sardar said: "You know as well as I do where power resides and with whom the fate of the negotiations must finally

lie in Hyderabad. The gentleman (Kasim Razvi) who seems to dominate Hyderabad has given his answer. He has categorically stated that if the Indian Dominion comes to Hyderabad it will find nothing but the bones and ashes of the one and a half crores of Hindus. If that is the position, then it seriously

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undermines the whole future of the Nizam and his dynasty. I am speaking to you plainly because I do not want you to be under any misapprehension. The Hyderabad problem will have to be settled as has been done in the case of other States. No other way is possible. We cannot agree to the continuance of an isolated spot which would destroy the very Union which we have built up with our blood and toil. At the same time, we do wish to maintain friendly relations and to seek a friendly solution. That does not mean that we shall ever agree to Hyderabad's

independence. If its demand to maintain an independent status is persisted in, it is bound to fail."

In conclusion Sardar asked Laik Ali to go back to Hyderabad and, after consulting the Nizam, to take a final decision, 'so that both of us know where we stand.'

Throughout the interview Laik Ali appeared nervous. It seemed to me that he was completely taken aback by the forthright manner in which Sardar put forward his views.

Opinion among the advisers of the Government of India was not unanimous on the question of what action should be taken in regard to Hyderabad. The section which favoured a policy of drift had a ready excuse in the bogey of large-scale communal disorders which would follow any positive action against Hyderabad. They apprehended that in Hyderabad the Hindus would be butchered in thousands, and that there would be general slaughter

of Muslims in India. There were others who spoke of mass Muslim uprisings in south India, particularly among the Moplahs.

This fantastic suggestion was made by people who had never seen a Moplah, much less understood his mentality, and who knew nothing of the situation in Malabar at the time. Another of such fears was that, if India took any action against Hyderabad, Pakistan would interfere. My own opinion was that Pakistan was surely not going to risk a war with India on the Hyderabad issue.

There was also some

propaganda to the effect that Hyderabad aircraft would bomb cities like Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and even Delhi. This Propaganda caused a certain amount of apprehension amongst the people of the neighbouring provinces.

Meanwhile Laik Ali was pressing that the Hyderabad issue should be taken to the United Nations Organizations.

The American Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi apprised us meanwhile of the fact the

decision was communicated to the Southern Command, who ordered that the Indian forces should march into Hyderabad in the early hours of Monday the 13th.

The Indian forces were commanded by Major-General J.N. Chaudhury under the direction of Lt.-General Maharaj Shri Rajendrasinhji, who was then the General Office Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command. This operation was given the name

On 17 September, Laik Ali and his cabinet tendered their resignations. The Nizam sent for K M Munshi (who had been under house arrest ever since the Police Action began) and informed him that he had given orders for his army to surrender; that he would be forming a new government; that Indian troops were free to go to Secunderabad and Bolarum, and that the Razakars would be banned. Munshi communicated this to the Government of India. Major-General Chaudhuri took charge as Military Governor on 18 September.

The members of the Laik Ali ministry were placed under house arrest. Rizvi was arrested on 19 September.

There was not a single communal incident in the whole length and breadth of India throughout the time of the operation. There was universal jubilation at the swift and successful ending of the Hyderabad episode and messages of congratulation poured in to the Government of India from all parts of the country.

*

TAILPIECE

In one of my earlier blogs based on a book written by a 1947 I.A.S. officer, one MKK Nair titled "With No Ill Feeling to Anybody", I had quoted a Pioneer report from the same source saying that Sardar Patel had walked out of a Cabinet meeting because of some remarks of the PM which he felt were offensive.

This book also says that Nehru favoured the U.N. route instead of the Army Action decided by Patel. ■

The Razakars did not spare even missionaries and nuns. Early in September the States Ministry received complaints that some foreign missionaries had been assaulted and some nuns molested by the Razakars. The military view was that the campaign could not last beyond three weeks. Actually, everything was over within less than a week.

Nizam had written to the President of the United States requesting that he should arbitrate and that the latter had refused.

The Razakars did not spare even missionaries and nuns. Early in September the States Ministry received complaints that some foreign missionaries had been assaulted and some nuns molested by the Razakars.

The military view was that the campaign could not last beyond three weeks. Actually, everything was over within less than a week.

On 9 September, after a careful evaluation of all the considerations and only when it was clear that no other alternative remained open did the Government of India take the decision to send Indian troops into Hyderabad to restore peace and tranquility inside the State and a sense of security in the adjoining Indian territory. This

'Operation Polo' by the Army Headquarters.

There was some stiff resistance on the first and second days. After this, resistance petered out and virtually collapsed. On our side the total casualties were slight but on the other side, owing to scrappy operations and lack of discipline, the Irregulars and the Razakars suffered comparatively more casualties.

The number of dead was little over 800. It is unfortunate that so many should have died in this action, though the number is insignificant when weighed against the killings, rape and loot inflicted by the Razakars on the Hindus of the State.

On the evening of 17 September, the Hyderabad army surrendered. On 18th, the Indian troops, under Major-General Chaudhuri, entered Hyderabad City. The operation had lasted barely 108 hours.

The GOM's Recommendations on the CBI Functioning – A Farce

By Arun Jaitley

The Law Minister of the UPA government along with Law Officers and officials of the PMO were virtually caught red handed in attempting to doctor the CBI status report in the Coal Block allocation scam. The Supreme Court expressed its' annoyance at what the government and the CBI had done. It has now called upon the government to file an

recommendations included greater financial powers to the agency, a provision for time bound sanctions to investigate government officials, appointment of a Director by a collegium and the constitution of a panel of retired judges which will monitor investigations and ensure that there is no extraneous influence.

The Government made it

exercise was to ensure the independence of CBI and how to immunize it from political interference. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill but the Rajya Sabha by majority insisted on certain meaningful amendments which resulted in the government getting the House adjourned. A Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha was constituted which worked for a reasonable period of time inviting public suggestions. On behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party three of us, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shri Bhupender Yadav and myself made the following suggestions with regard to the functioning of the CBI :-

“On the basis of the above we are of the opinion that considering the enormous amount of misuse of political clout the CBI has lost its credibility. It has therefore become important to correct this aberration.

The control of CBI thus requires to be transferred from the Deptt. Of Personnel GOI to the Lokpal in relation to all corruption cases which are referred to Lokpal. Alternatively in order to maintain independence of CBI and enable it to get immunity from political interference, we make the following suggestions amongst others:-

- The CBI will have two wings.

The decision taken at the meeting of the Cabinet does not in any way immunize the CBI from political interference. The issue of CBI 's functioning was debated in both Houses of Parliament and was a subject matter of public debate on the draft Lokpal legislation. An essential part of the legislative exercise was to ensure the independence of CBI and how to immunize it from political interference. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill but the Rajya Sabha by majority insisted on certain meaningful amendments which resulted in the government getting the House adjourned. A Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha was constituted which worked for a reasonable period of time inviting public suggestions.

affidavit detailing the steps that the government intends to take in order to immunize the CBI from political interference. The weak-kneed UPA Government constituted a Group of Ministers to make appropriate recommendations with regard to the functioning of the CBI and the draft affidavit proposed to be filed before the Supreme Court. Media reports have now indicated that the Cabinet has approved the recommendations of the Group of Ministers. These

appear as though some earth shaking new decision had to be taken on basis of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

The decision taken at the meeting of the Cabinet does not in any way immunize the CBI from political interference. The issue of CBI 's functioning was debated in both Houses of Parliament and was a subject matter of public debate on the draft Lokpal legislation. An essential part of the legislative

Director CBI will head the entire organization. Under him a separate Directorate of Prosecution should function.

- The Investigative Wing and Prosecution Wing of the CBI should act independently.
- The Director of CBI and Director of Prosecution should be appointed by a collegium comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha and Chairman of Lokpal.
- Both the Director CBI and Director of Prosecution must have a fixed term.
- Both Director CBI and Director Prosecution shall not be considered for re-employment in government after retirement.
- The power of superintendence and direction of the CBI in relation to Lokpal referred cases must vest with the Lokpal.
- If an officer investigating a case is sought to be transferred for any reason whatsoever, the prior approval of Lokpal should be required.
- The panel of Advocates who appear for and advise the CBI should be independent of the Government. They can be appointed by the Director Prosecution after obtaining prior approval of the Lokpal."

From amongst the above suggestions the Select Committee accepted all the suggestions except one relating to non appointment of the Director CBI and Director Prosecution after retirement in the Government. The said recommendations were placed before the Cabinet on 31/

1/2013 and were accepted subject to certain minor modifications. The Select Committee recommendations are a property of the House since the Committee is constituted by the house.

The government or any member can only move an amendment to it. Thus, when the Supreme Court passed an order asking the government to outline the steps that it intends to take in order to immunize the CBI from political interference the Government ought to have

from the Law Ministry. It would have ensured a fixed term for these high offices; there would be no fear or favour inasmuch as senior officers of the CBI are concerned since besides enjoying a fixed tenure they would not be eligible for re-employment in the government. The power of superintendence and direction of the CBI would vest in the Lok Pal with the Supreme Court being the Appellate authority. Officers investigating sensitive cases would not be transferred without

The Select Committee recommendations are a property of the House since the Committee is constituted by the house. The government or any member can only move an amendment to it. Thus, when the Supreme Court passed an order asking the government to outline the steps that it intends to take in order to immunize the CBI from political interference the Government ought to have placed the near unanimous recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee to which even the UPA members had consented along with the additional note of the BJP where some extra suggestions were made to aid the object of securing fairness in the functioning of the CBI.

placed the near unanimous recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee to which even the UPA members had consented along with the additional note of the BJP where some extra suggestions were made to aid the object of securing fairness in the functioning of the CBI.

The entire package of arrangement would have ensured the appointment of a Director by an independent process, separation of a Directorate of Prosecution which would function on an independent basis rather than just be an officer on deputation

the permission of the Lokpal. The panel of advocates who appear and advise the CBI would be independent of government lawyers since there has been a considerable politicization in the appointment of government advocates and law officers.

This was a recommendation of the Select Committee. It had been approved by the cabinet on 31st January 2013. Thus, when the Supreme Court asked the government to file an affidavit on the subject there was an existing decision which just had to be place before the Supreme court. The Group of Minister's

recommendation and its approval by the Cabinet ignores all the above suggestions and now merely makes the CBI accountable to a panel of retired judges.

Who will select these retired judges to whom the CBI will be accountable? There are retired Judges and retired Judges. Many are men integrity wedded to judicial values. Yet, there are many who are perpetually seeking post retirement Jobs. Retired judges are an unaccountable institution. Post retirement jobs dished out to many retired judges has almost become an entitlement. Pre retirement conduct at times has been influenced by the desire to get post a retirement job. I have repeatedly said that this trend of giving post retirement jobs to retiring judges requires to be discouraged if the independence of judiciary is to be strengthened.

Government selected retired judges do not inspire confidence. A retired judge was recently appointed as a Member of the National Human Rights Commission inviting a note of dissent from both Smt. Sushma Swaraj and myself. His performance as a judge did not justify the post retirement appointment.

The Government appeared extra keen to appoint him. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav as Railway Minister appointed a retired Supreme court judge as an inquiry officer under the Railways Act to probe the burning of Sabarmati Express coaches years after the actual incident. A retired judge

disregarded the entire evidence in which the accused had been convicted and produced a report on how the Karsevaks by accident could have burnt the train from within. Yet another retired judge was asked to head the Prime Minister's Working Group on the constitutional relationship between India and the State of Jammu & Kashmir. I was a Member of the Working

list is unending. To create an institutional mechanism of unaccountable retired judges appointed by the government to whom the CBI would be accountable will only result in the government perpetuating its political control over the CBI by removing itself from the scene and creating a proxy institution which will act on its behalf. This move should be opposed by one and all.

The UPA has ensured its longevity by misusing the CBI. The role of the CBI in investigating corruption cases against the leaders of SP and BSP had only ensured that these parties continue to support the UPA. The role of the CBI in framing charges against BJP leaders in Gujarat and Rajasthan has demonstrated that the CBI is acting in order to serve the dictates of the Party in power. The recent

decision of the Union Cabinet based on GOM recommendations is a camouflage. It creates an illusion by removing the political executive and creating a proxy institution instead. The government's decision is a remedy worse than the existing problem.

Let the government place before the Supreme Court the recommendations of the Select Committee, the Cabinet decision of 31st January, 2013 along with the suggestions of other political parties which would result in ensuring immunity of CBI from political interference. ■

(Writer is Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha)

Who will select these retired judges to whom the CBI will be accountable? There are retired Judges and retired Judges. Many are men integrity wedded to judicial values. Yet, there are many who are perpetually seeking post retirement Jobs. Retired judges are an unaccountable institution. Post retirement jobs dished out to many retired judges has almost become an entitlement. Pre retirement conduct at times has been influenced by the desire to get post a retirement job.

Group. A report was produced in the name of the Working Group even without a meeting of the Working Group.

The state of health of the judge when the report was published did not inspire confidence that the report had actually been authored by him. One cannot forget the learned judge who headed the Commission of Inquiry into the alleged demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya on 6th December, 1992.

The Commission was converted into a self-perpetuating employment for 17 years. It produced a report which was not implementable and hence not implemented. Such a

There is no place for *rashtra-dharma* in Congress politics : Meenakshi Lekhi



BJP National Spokesperson and well known lawyer Smt. MeenakshiLekhi says that BJP is exposing the cases of corruption taking place during UPA rule everyday but media is not presenting it effectively so we should make efforts so that party's voice reaches to the people. We need to strengthen our communication network more. Along with this there is a need to launch membership drive on big scale to strengthen the organization. People may be connected with online membership also. On the issue of communalism she said that the history of riots in the country indicates that Congress is the biggest communal party of the country. Smt. Lekhi said that nationalism is the ideology of BJP and the NDA government led by Atalji including BJP ruled states Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and other have established new standards of good governance. On 24th June 2013 in the discussion held in the conference room of Kamal Sandesh office Smt. Lekhi discussed many current issues with the Editorial Team in detail. ShriAmbaCharanVashishth, National Convener, BJP Literature and Publication Cell also participated in the discussion. Following are the excerpts:

Shiv Shakti :How do you see youth participation in political parties? There is a word 'Talent Hunting'. This process is adopted by all the sectors whether corporate or social. If they wish they can invite thousands of applications and recruit people accordingly but they choose to go to various campuses and their HR departments search talents for their organization. Can there be mechanism for 'Talent Hunting' in political parties also. How real youth and women leadership can be developed?

MeenakshiLekhi (ML): So far Congress is concerned it has a closed system, so youth from outside system has no place in Congress. But BJP is a democratic party, here young people have lots of opportunities. In BharatiyaJanata Party attempts are being made to groom real youth and women leadership. There are two strong fronts of party – YuvaMorcha and MahilaMorcha. Both fronts organize programmes and make efforts to connect to youth and women. I believe that there is need to launch membership drive on large scale in which online campaign can play

big role.

AmbaCharanVashishth: There were two dozen parties in NDA. Recently JDU has snapped its ties with NDA. Now only 4-5 parties are left. How can NDA expand in such a scenario?

ML:The kind of politics in which JDU was indulging itself, whether it was in matter of ShriNarendraModi or uttering senseless things about BJP or talking about RSS, it was indulging in very cheap politics, we could not have continued with that. But we never wanted to take initiative, we were very clear that the mandate to run the government was given jointly to BJP and JDU and we never wanted to stand in opposition to that mandate. But see the irony, the ones against whom JDU fought elections to form the government, it fought against the Congress and now see the government is running on its support. I say that they have formed a union with the gum of corruption. Now when SP, BSP and JDU are parties of same category then it is clear that we can't go along with them. If JDU was so confident of its leadership then it should have gone for elections. They should have formed

government by seeking the mandate of the people, they did not do it, the government had been formed with the help of BJP voters and they are running government with the support of Congress by misusing BJP votes. Therefore this is opportunistic politics. We are not going to lose on this account. You see, can BJP form government with the help of Congress? You are an Opposition party, opposed to the policies of the government. Even while opposing their policy they are running the government with their support. The real reason behind the break-up of coalition has come to the fore. The real reason behind the break-up was that they were going along with Congress, it was clear before the eyes of the people and so we could not have gone together.

Amba Charan Vashishth: JDU grew on the strength of BJP otherwise why could not it grow in other states? It fought in Gujarat alone and could not win even a single seat. It fought alone in UP, it could gain anything. So it grew with the support of BJP.

ML: See our voters in Bihar were not happy with BJP continuing with alliance with JDU. In my first press conference I had said that we don't need a certificate from JDU. They have got a certificate of 'secularism' from Congress, from the prime minister. Entire world knows who we are, we are patriots. Those who indulge in vote-bank politics on the basis of religion, people are watching them. The manner in which they were speaking, treating us, our supporters are agitated with that and how could have we tolerated this?

Ram Prasad Tripathi: Many parties including Congress charge BJP with communalism. What do you think?

ML: Whichever riots that took place in the country were engineered by Congress. Even in the 2002 Gujarat riots its party leaders were involved. Gulbarg society where Ehsan Jafari incident had taken place was done by Mer Singh Chaudhari who was a Congress councilor. The Congress mayor of Baroda was involved in the riots. The train which was burnt in Godhra, Congress leaders were involved in burning it. Kerosene and petrol were recovered from their homes. In 1986 riots took place in Muradabad. What is the history of Meerut riots? Recently in Rajasthan riots

took place under their rule. They have no faith in politics, religion of country. They can even play politics on the issue of Samjhauta Express train blast about which there is CIA report that ISI was involved in it and who they have arrested? In 26/11 ISI hand was evident but what twist they tried to give it. The Batla House encounter in which terrorists were involved what kind of politics have they played on it. How can they educate us on communalism?

Satyapal: The problem is that the issue should be development but they unnecessarily talk about secularism. Their only goal is to drive a wedge between Hindu and Muslims.

ML: You are right.

Sanjiv Kumar Sinha: Why people should join BJP? What BJP has done so that people should instead of joining Congress choose BJP?

ML: See wherever BJP got a chance it gave good governance. Whether it was in NDA time or after that in the states in which BJP formed the government. Not only Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa but everywhere we gave good governance and introduced to the people what kind of governance should be there. So we set the standard for good governance and it was a big achievement. Secondly for any nation to remain a nation there are some core issues whether it is the ideology of nationalism, or about the border of the country or about governance or about providing facilities to the common people or about building roads or about our economic problems, BJP has played remarkable role on all these fronts.

The main issues of today are two: corruption and economic mismanagement. The manner in which the credibility of the government is coming down, rupee is also getting devalued in the same manner. Narendra Modi ji has rightly said that both are competing as to which one falls early and you will have to look towards BJP to stop this fall. The second thing is about economic condition and the kind of problems the youth are facing today. The hands need work, stomach needs food, mind needs ideas to remain alive which are lacking today and BJP can provide all this. BJP had paid attention towards economy during NDA rule. And when they talk about economic slowdown, when we had conducted

Pokhran test there were sanctions imposed on us, there was economic slowdown but even then we see development taking place. We made available crores of jobs. Today the issues which are before the nation if you want to address them then you will have to look to BJP. This is because you have been giving them chance for last 60 years and chaos is prevailing everywhere and those who got chance for only 5-6 years they have shown their work. Why not BJP get another chance then?

VikashAnand: The natural calamity has overtaken Uttarakhand and according to the statement of chief minister of Uttarakhand it will take 15 more days for relief works. In Gujarat we have seen Bhuj earthquake, everything was done so quickly there.

ML: We have demanded that the natural calamity of Uttarakhand be declared national calamity. But the state government has not done significant things to deal with this natural calamity. It is the result of mal-governance.

Ram Prasad Tripathi: The corruption, price rise and misrule have been the hallmark of UPA government. Can BJP take all these issues before the people in the run up to 2014 general elections?

ML: Look, BJP is doing its bit. And it is evident that we need the help of media for this. If you want to raise a question then it has to be posed to media because we are raising these issues daily but if media is not publishing all these then you should ask them as why they are not taking these issues. And if some byte is not shown then you should ask electronic media why is it so. We are saying all these things daily. Media is engaged in issues like IPL and Jiah Khan which do not hit the Congress directly.

I am saying this because coal scam and Augusta Westland scam have been buried. Today people are fed up with corruption, price rise and unemployment. ■

(Transcribed by Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi)

Andhra Pradesh BJP Executive meeting held in Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh BJP state executive meeting was held on July 1 & 2 in Tirupati. The meeting was attended by former BJP National President and MP Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, National Vice Presidents Shri Prabhat Jha (*Prabhari* of the State) and Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal, National Joint General Secretary (Organisation) Shri V. Satish, National General Secretary Shri Murlidhar Rao, National Spokesperson Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, State President Shri G. Kishan Reddy, State office bearers and all members of the State Executive. ■



Removing Foreign Ownership (FDI) cap on Private Security Agencies -A serious threat to National Security

By Dr. M.M Joshi

Recent reports in financial dailies regarding the recommendations by Mayaram Committee, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance regarding removal of foreign ownership cap on sectors with implications on national security is a cause for serious concern. It is disappointing to note that the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who has held charge of Ministry of Home Affairs in the recent past and is well informed about these concerns; has chosen to endorse the Mayaram Committee report in the garb of 'liberalizing the FDI regime' and forwarded the recommendations to Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce, for changes in the consolidated FDI policy.

I would particularly like to draw attention to the proposal for changing the FDI / foreign ownership cap on Private Security Agencies sector from current 49% to a100%. Thereby, allowing foreign nationals 100% ownership & control private security agencies.

Private Security sector in India is governed by the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (2005) and overseen by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The PSAR Act, 2005, clearly stipulates majority Indian ownership and control as a precondition for issue of license to operate private security business in the country.

Clause 6 Sector 2 of the Act, copy enclosed refers.

Further, when the said Act was presented on the floor of the parliament by the then Hon'ble Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil, he had placed on record that the principal objective of the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) legislation is to check the proliferation of foreign owned and controlled private security agencies in the country, in view

discussions in Parliament regarding illegal phone tapping case, where the involvement of rogue elements in private security sector who misused their expertise and technology to illegally tap phones was thoroughly exposed. In fact, the Ministry of Home Affairs was urged to design provisions for greater regulation and control over the private security and detectives industry to prevent

I would particularly like to draw attention to the proposal for changing the FDI / foreign ownership cap on Private Security Agencies sector from current 49% to a100%. Thereby, allowing foreign nationals 100% ownership & control private security agencies. Private Security sector in India is governed by the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (2005) and overseen by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

of national security concerns. The same is also recorded in the statement of objects of the Act, copy enclosed for reference.

Attempt to amend the FDI Policy for the Private Security sector through DIPP, Ministry of Commerce without taking cognizance of the federal legislation (PSAR Act -2005) and without any consultation with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is not only a serious technical anomaly with legal implications but also against parliamentary protocols.

Further, I would like to draw reference to the recent

such misadventures.

It need not be emphasized that any change in regulation that enables foreign nationals or foreign companies to directly own and control private security & detective services agencies in the country can pose to be a serious threat to national security. Particularly, when these agencies directly control over 50 lac workers in the country who are deployed at highly sensitive sites and also have access to technological equipment's that could be misused by foreign entities to compromise national security.

Over the years, as the state

police departments and other government security agencies have been more focused on counter terrorism and serious law & order challenges, the private security agencies have played a prominent role in

willing to allow 100% foreign ownership and control of such private security organizations.

Moreover, it is widely known and reported in the media that Ministry of Home Affairs is actively considering a

than US\$ 50 million worth of foreign investment (2005 - 2013) and by any stretch of imagination, allowing 100% FDI in the space shall not yield any significant gains in terms of foreign investments in the country.

Based on the above, it is apparent that the proposal for change in FDI cap in Private Security sector is an ill-conceived idea that could result in compromising the nation's security for no significant gains in terms of foreign investment inflows. Moreover, any such move warrants an amendment to the Private Security Agencies (Act) of 2005.

In view of above, I sincerely urge the Prime Minister to sent the recommendations of the Mayaram Committee, DEA, Ministry of Finance regarding the Private Security sector, aside. The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) should refrain from any changes

Industry estimates that there are over 50 lacs private security personnel across the country who are engaged in watch and ward function at thousands of establishments including government organizations and sites of strategic significance like CSIR labs, DRDO complexes, private ports, oil refineries, power projects, gas pipeline, private airports, IITs/IIMs and even national monuments like the Red Fort and Qutub Minar. It is beyond understanding how the Government of India is willing to allow 100% foreign ownership and control of such private security organizations.

securing our cities including residential complexes, shopping malls, cinemas, metro stations, toll ways, fuel stations, bank, corporate offices and other public infrastructure. Similarly engagement of CISF in aviation security function and other critical duties has left a serious vacuum in area of Industrial security which has been taken over by these private security agencies.

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proposal to allow Private Security Agencies holding valid licenses under PSARA Act (2005), to obtain firearms for security of their clients, particularly, bank establishments and industrial

This manpower intensive sector has thus far attracted less than US\$ 50 million worth of foreign investment (2005 - 2013) and by any stretch of imagination, allowing 100% FDI in the space shall not yield any significant gains in terms of foreign investments in the country.

sites. In such a scenario, it is even more dangerous to allow foreign ownership and control of such licensed private security agencies that will wield firearms in large numbers across the country.

Further, it is difficult to understand the rationale of FDI in Private Security sector and that too by circumventing the PSAR Act (2005).

This manpower intensive sector has thus far attracted less

in the FDI Policy for Private Security sector. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs should take immediate notice of the proposed circumvention of the PSAR Act and advise the government about the dangers of tampering with the present provisions of the PSAR Act with regard to the removal of FDI cap on foreign security agencies. ■

(The writer is former BJP National President & former Union Minister)

Discrimination in the name of Secularism

By Balbir Punj

From Assam to Uttar Pradesh to Kerala, the vote-hungry Congress has pursued a policy of minority appeasement that now threatens the country's very security and identity

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has thanked Prime Minister Manmohan Singh "from the core of my heart", as he put it, for the latter's remark certifying and endorsing the JD(U) leader's "secularism". Apparently, Mr Nitish Kumar has outsourced the certification business in the debate on who is secular and who is communal to the Congress.

Yet, none of these leaders who gratefully exhibit the Congress endorsed secular/communal label, thinks of the implications of such a perverse exercise. Implied in the Prime Minister's certification of Mr Nitish Kumar as 'secular' is the accusation that the Bihar Chief Minister was 'communal' so far. Why do the likes of Mr Nitish Kumar ignore the consequences of outsourcing the differentiation between secular and communal to a party that has its own kebabs on the fire?

When it comes to the secular versus communal debate, it is the Congress's record that is the most suspect. Who should have preference in Government funding for development projects? The natural answer should be the poorest of the poor. But the answer that Mr Singh gave sometime back was the most communal one. He said, "Minorities" (read: Muslims). If there is any more doubt about

the communal nature of his Government, one only has to look at the so-called 15 point programme for minorities that was introduced by the Congress-led UPA regime.

Among other 'certified' secularists is the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms Mamata Banerjee, whose Government is now paying salaries to Muslim

peddle the most communal of education.

In fact, the madarssas generally teach a convoluted view of Indian history that looks down upon Indian civilisation as it existed before Muslim invasion. The institution of the Caliphate, that the Turks themselves overthrew, is eulogised. Young Muslims are

In fact, the madarssas generally teach a convoluted view of Indian history that looks down upon Indian civilisation as it existed before Muslim invasion. The institution of the Caliphate, that the Turks themselves overthrew, is eulogised. Young Muslims are thus bonded to medieval times even though they live in a rapidly modernising world.

clerics. Such self-proclaimed secularists not only tolerate the religious extremism and political irredentism of a section of clerics, politicians and intellectuals from the minority (read: Muslim) community but also placate and even genuflect before them. Think of how West Bengal Government did not allow famous author Salman Rushdie to land in Kolkata or permit Taslima Nasreen to live in West Bengal.

Back at the Centre, the UPA Government is now recognising 'matriculation' certificates given by madarssas as equivalent to those awarded by accredited education boards. This is despite the fact that most madarssas

thus bonded to medieval times even though they live in a rapidly modernising world.

Most madarssas' approach to education is Saudi Arabia-centric. Several scholars of West Asia working at prestigious American universities have attributed the mindset that breeds radical Islamist thought to such education. Meanwhile, most children belonging to other religious minority communities in India are exposed to inclusive and secular education.

The Government of India is supposed to fight terrorism. But how can it succeed when it encourages narrow-minded, religious teaching and considers it as equivalent to secular,

science and rationality-based education?

Consequently, in one country there are now two education systems which in turn means that all Indians no longer have a shared worldview or understanding of the country, its history and its ageless pluralistic culture. Those educated in madarssas find it difficult to identify with the aspirations of the rest; thus, they become victims of a mindset that is natural to an insular and insecure community.

Madani's well-being in prison, all the while interfering in the work of the Karnataka Government.

During the last State Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, Congress leaders competed among themselves to raise the percentage of reservations they were promising to Muslims. But the Samajwadi Party finally trumped the Congress in the appeasement game. It comes as no surprise then that the the Samajwadi Party-led Government has since

marriage and family, should apply equally to all citizenry. But we have the secularists exempting members of one specific community from these laws, thereby, laying the foundation for demographic aberrations and social unrest. For example, some claim to have converted to that religion only to take a second wife even when the first is living – a practice not allowed by the general law on marriage.

In Assam, infiltration from Bangladesh continues unabated right under the nose of the State's Congress-led Government as laws that call for identifying and sending back illegal immigrants are observed only in the breach.

The Congress succeeded in including 'secularism' as one of the Directive Principles of State Policy during Emergency. But 'secularism' has not been defined, leaving the Congress and others to interpret it according to their political requirements. The idea that all Indians are entitled to non-discriminatory access to public benefits has now been effectively thrown out of the window. Respecting the constitutional basic of equality before law is 'communalism' in the eyes of pseudo-secularists while discriminating in favour of religious minorities when it comes to access to Government benefits is considered to be 'secularism'.

Hopefully, the future will see a decisive shift in Indian politics from the secular-communal discourse to an agenda that focuses on uniform access to development for all. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice-President)

During the last State Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh, Congress leaders competed among themselves to raise the percentage of reservations they were promising to Muslims. But the Samajwadi Party finally trumped the Congress in the appeasement game. It comes as no surprise then that the the Samajwadi Party-led Government has since wanted to release people accused of planning and executing serial bombings. Mercifully, the Allahabad High Court intervened and stopped the freeing of the accused.

The refusal of the Congress-led Government in Kerala, for instance, to prosecute PDP leader Abdul Nasser Madani even though he has been accused by the State's police of involvement in 2005 Tamil Nadu bus burning case, is yet another instance that reflects on the Congress's pseudo-secular credentials.

The same Madani was later found to have planned the 2010 bombing of Bangalore's Chinnaswamy stadium.

It was left to the BJP-led Government in Karnataka last year to arrest the PDP leader despite all the hurdles placed before it by the Congress-led Government in Kerala. Instead of treating the extremist the way he deserves to be treated, the latter has been working to ensure

wanted to release people accused of planning and executing serial bombings. Mercifully, the Allahabad High Court intervened and stopped the freeing of the accused.

In Kerala, the Muslim League which is part of the UDF Government, gets excessive representation and even blocks a top Congress State leader from entering Government because he is a Hindu and has been backed by the two most important Hindu organisations. In Andhra Pradesh, ever since the Congress came back to power in 2004, there have been repeated attempts to provide special benefits to the Muslim community – moves that the Andhra High Court has rejected.

In any nation, the laws personal conduct, including

Sinking Rupee – The crisis before Indian economy

By P Muralidhar Rao

Over the last few weeks the Rupee's value has declined by Rs. 6 per US dollar. It has sunk to Rs. 60 per US\$ from Rs. 54.

The Union Finance minister says there is no reason for panic as the government is taking steps to push growth. The economic advisor to the Prime Minister, Raghuram Rajan says that this is not unique to India as the dollar is getting stronger vis-a-vis Asian currencies. Though some currencies are getting weaker, the decline of the rupee cannot be attributed to the strength of the dollar.

The reality is somewhat different. Actually, it is fast increasing Current Account Deficit (CAD) in Balance of Payment and the resulting foreign exchange crisis, that has led us to this situation. CAD is rising because of huge and constantly rising Balance of Trade (BOT), due to big and fast rising import bill and lagging exports.

For the last so many years, the government has implemented such policies which have promoted imports. Though petroleum products traditionally have been a major item of our import bill comprising nearly one third of our imports, precious metals like gold and silver never used to be of great importance earlier.

Similarly, telecom, power plants etc. never used to carry

much importance in our imports. However, in the recent years their share has gone up. The import of gold and silver has increased from \$22.8 billion in 2007-08 to \$61.3 billion in 2011-12. There has been a recent spurt in imports of these items.

For instance, during the last three years our trade deficit with China has gone up to \$40 billion in 2011-12, from nearly \$27 billion in 2007-08 as there have been massive imports from China. Major reason for spurt in imports from China is an increase in demand for telecom

imports have been rising at record pace hence steep increase in import bill from \$24 billion in 1990-91 to \$492 billion in 2012-13. In terms of percent of GDP, imports were hardly 8.1 percent of GDP, which went up to 28.3 percent in 2012-13, whereas exports have not grown proportionately.

CAD: A serious crisis

Current Account Deficit, which was \$9.44 billion (3.3 percent of GDP), even in the most difficult year of 1990-91, is likely to increase to nearly \$100 billion in 2012-13. In the third quarter

Our trade deficit with rest of the world is also rising fast. Amidst this scenario of sinking rupee, the government is finding itself completely helpless. Government and RBI both fear that any intervention to stem fall of rupee may deplete of foreign exchange reserves.

and power plant equipments, project goods and continued imports of electronic and electric goods.

Our trade deficit with rest of the world is also rising fast. Amidst this scenario of sinking rupee, the government is finding itself completely helpless. Government and RBI both fear that any intervention to stem fall of rupee may deplete of foreign exchange reserves.

According to RBI Bulletin, June 10, 2013, our trade deficit has crossed US\$ 191 billion and CAD is also expected to be near \$100 billion. It is notable that in this era of globalization, our

of the year 2012-13, it was 6.7 percent of GDP. In 2008, our foreign exchange reserves, which were sufficient to finance 3 years of imports, are now capable to pay for only six months of imports. Because of increasing CAD, external debt increased from \$224.5 billion to \$374 billion between March 2008 and December 2012. This debt does not include loans raised by Indian business houses from overseas. Balance of Payment on current account is the net amount of foreign exchange payable (in case of deficit) or the amount receivable (in case of surplus) by the nation from rest of the world,

due to current transactions, arising out of imports and exports of goods and services. Savings and investments

We have suppressed interest to boost stock markets. Indians have traditionally invested in banks – but banks pay 7% when inflation is 9%. Therefore investment has shifted to gold – a traditional hedge against inflation.

Surely capital market is one investment avenue. But despite the hype surrounding the same,

bank deposits has been another traditional avenue. But thanks to the myopic policy of the UPA Government and mispricing of the interest rate regime for the past few years, Indians have been shying away from investing even into Banks.

In fact, household financial savings were lower by nearly Rs 90,000 crore (Rs 900 billion) in 2011-12 vis-à-vis 2010-11 (Source: Economic Survey 2012-13 Page 15). And it is this money that gets invested as gold and

manufactured in India.

For the first nine months (April-December 2012) of 12-13, imports from China exceeded \$41.3 billion while exports were a mere \$9.7 billion. This implies a huge trade gap in excess of \$40 billion for the entire year.

Surely, this lop sided trade is unsustainable. Let us not forget that these imports from China do not include much of hi-tech items. Importantly, such huge imports of such items have a debilitating and cascading impact on semi-skilled and unskilled employment within the country.

Balance of Payment Surplus during NDA Rule

Between 2001-02 and 2003-04, it so happened that our Balance of Payment deficit turned into surplus, continuously for three years. This was the result of efficient handling of external and internal economic affairs of NDA regime. This was the first time in the history after independence that our BOP turned into surplus for continuously for three years. Our external debt stabilized, and as a result rupee got stronger. At the end of March 2004, exchange rate was rupees 43.75 per US\$.

However, after 2004, our CAD did not stop rising and by 2012-13, it has crossed all limits. Between 1990-91 and 2000-01, our average CAD was only \$4.4 billion annually. However, in 9 years, between 2004-05 and 2012-13, CAD has reached \$37.4 billion (which is 8.5 times of average CAD in 1990s). Whereas, total balance of trade deficit in ten years between 1990-91 and 2000-01 was \$103.56 billion, between 2004-05 and 2012-13, the same were \$988 billion.

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the fact remains Rs 5,904 crore got invested in IPOs in 2011-12 and Rs 6,043 crore in the first nine months of the fiscal 2012-13. (Source: Economic Survey 2012-13 Page 120)

Interestingly, as the government clamours for more financial sector reforms the Indian households have been extremely cautious. What else would explain the decline of the share of financial savings vis-à-vis physical savings in recent years?

Financial savings, it may be noted take the form of bank deposits, life insurance funds, pension and provident funds besides investment in capital markets. Interestingly, financial savings accounted for around 55 per cent of total household savings during the 1990s. This declined to 47 per cent in the previous decade and it was a mere 36 per cent in 2011-12.

Of course, investment into

real estate - assets that economists within the establishment term as unproductive yet found lucrative by the ordinary Indians!

What about other items of Imports?

But the issue of current account deficits is no longer restricted to gold and crude. Remember, as mentioned above, inflation is caused by shortfall in domestic production too. For instance in 2011-12, we imported Rs 100,911 crore (say \$20 billion) of “sensitive” items as compared to Rs 70,656 crore in 2010-11 - a spectacular rise of 43 per cent!

Clearly, these imports add to the current account deficits while simultaneously robbing employment opportunities to Indians. This includes mundane items like milk and milk products, fruits, vegetables, pulses, edible oils, rubber, spices, toys and other sundry items that could easily be produced or

NRI Remittances are more reliable

Remittances made by NRIs have been highest as compared to Diaspora of any other nation. It is notable that NRI remittances were \$13.1 billion, whereas foreign investment was only \$6.8 billion in 2000-01. According to the recent data released by RBI, during 2011-12, once again NRI remittances have beaten FDI. During 2011-12 NRIs remitted \$63.5 billion, whereas total foreign investment into the country was hardly \$39.2 billion. FDI of \$22 billion and portfolio investment of \$17.2 billion made this sum of \$39.2 billion. More important than this is the fact that not only quantitatively NRI remittances are more; they are more reliable than foreign investment, as upheavals in foreign investment are normal, whereas NRI remittances have been consistently increasing in leaps and bounds. For instance during

2008-09 (year of US crisis), foreign investment inflows were down to only \$8 billion, whereas NRI remittances stood at whopping \$44.8 billion even in that year (higher than immediate preceding year). Thus we can say that NRI remittances are not only much more than receipts from foreign investment; its reliability is also much better.

Clueless government

To avert the crisis, Finance Minister has hinted that raising of commercial borrowings may be pursued. But this remedy would be worse than the disease itself. Increase in external debt again involves repayment of interest and principal in future. Compulsion to raise external commercial borrowings may also further reduce our credit rating. It is notable that total outgo on repayment of interest and principal in 2011-12 was \$31.5 billion. Foreign investors were also not behind in remitting funds abroad in the name of

interests, dividends, royalties, salaries etc., and sent \$26 billion in 2011-12. Studies reveal that much larger amount of foreign exchange is remitted abroad illegally by foreign companies by way of transfer pricing and circumvention of law of the land. Under these circumstances, we find that the nation is heading towards a deep foreign exchange crisis. For a long time, all our efforts to increase exports are not fructifying, while imports are increasing by leaps and bounds. Today it is imperative for the government to encourage domestic manufacturing, especially of consumer goods, telecom, power plants and other project goods and also farm-allied sectors, capabilities of producing which exist in India. Restoration of the trust of the people in governance so that they can prefer the bankable investments is the need of the hour. ■

(The writer is BJP National General Secretary)

Resounding victory for BJP in Zila Panchayat and Taluka Panchayat elections across Gujarat

People of Gujarat reject negative politics of the Congress yet again

On 2nd July 2013 the results of the Zila Panchayat and Taluka Panchayats came out and the BJP emerged victorious in all the three Zila Panchayats that went to the polls while the party won 12 out of 19 Taluka Panchayats. The Congress did not win any Zila Panchayat while it won in 7 Taluka Panchayats.

The elections were held across all parts of Gujarat, be it North Gujarat, Central Gujarat, South Gujarat and Saurashtra. Before these elections, the Congress controlled 2 out of the 3 Zila Panchayats that went to the polls and were in power in 15 out of the 19 Taluka Panchayats that went to the polls.

ZILA PANCHAYATS (Polls held in Sabarkantha, Mehsana and Porbandar District)

NUMBER OF PANCHAYATS	BJP	Congress	BJP (earlier tally)	Congress (earlier tally)
3	3	0	1	2

TALUKA PANCHAYATS (Polls held in Valsad, Surat, Tapi, Bharuch, Vadodara, Panchmahal, Dahod, Anand, Gandhinagar, Sabarkantha, Rajkot, Junagadh districts)

NUMBER OF PANCHAYATS	BJP	Congress	BJP (earlier tally)	Congress (earlier tally)
19	12	7	4	15

Congress has turned CBI its greatest political ally

By Amba Charan Vashishth

Whether CBI is, in the words of the Supreme Court of India, a “caged parrot” or the Congress Bureau of Investigation, as the opposition, particularly the BJP prefers to call it, the fact remains that it speaks the language Congress prompts and acts the way it teaches them to do.

If the Congress is using the administrative machinery to browbeat its opponents, it is only following the footsteps of its British predecessors in indulging in repressive measures the alien administration had been letting loose against the freedom fighters who wanted them to leave the country independent. At the same time, the Congress equally mastered the British art of showering generous favours on those who go out of their way to realize its political designs by hook and crook. If you look at the pictures of the alien rulers and police/army unleashing brutalities and cruelties on those demonstrating against the British rulers and the present ones in independent India, you will discern that nothing has practically changed except that the rulers are not whites. In cases, the present democratic administration appears to be more barbaric against its opponents than did the alien British government. Even women

and children do not get spared.

In fact, the energies of the arms of administration – the police, crime investigating agency, income tax department, CBI, IB, even the National Investigating Agency (NIA) – seem to be concentrated on realizing the single objective to promote and protect the interests of the ruling party, to whitewash the black spots on the face of the ruling class and to harass all its

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political opponents who stand as a hurdle in catering to the whims and caprice of the rulers at whatever cost to the nation. In fact, the present rulers have come to make its own narrow political and electoral interests synonymous with those of the nation.

The ruling party

administration spares the rod and spoils the ruling party recalcitrants who get pampered to indulge in more wrongdoing, crimes and corruption. The arms of law get shortened when the person belongs to the ruling dispensation but get longer if it is the non-Congress parties and individuals. They get more cruel and ruthless. The truth in this respect is all pervading.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal leveled charges of more or less the same nature against both the then BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari and Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi’s son-in-law Robert Vadra, though in latter’s case the charges were much more serious because these involved favouritism by some Congress-ruled States. In Vadra’s case the UPA government and Congress instantly dismissed the allegations as frivolous, baseless and motivated. The government lost no time to issue a certificate of “innocence” to

Shri Vadra. The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) expressed its inability to “order a probe in business dealings between two private entities”. But that was equally true in the case of allegations against Shri Gadkari too. Later, the PMO claimed that “while the Right to Information Act aims at creating

transparency to contain corruption and increase accountability, it also seeks to ensure that revelation of information, in actual practice, does not harm or adversely affect other important public interests which include efficient functioning of the governments, optimum use of limited fiscal resources, and preservation of confidentiality of sensitive information."

The allegations against Shri Gadkari too constituted "business dealings between two private entities" to which the PMO claimed that it could not order investigation. When Shri Nitin Gadkari was likely to file his nomination for another term of office as BJP President on January 23, 2013 the Income Tax Department conducted a raid on Shri Gadkari's business concerns on January 22. After that both the IT Department and the Government have gone silent. Nobody knows the outcome of the raids and investigation. According to a *Sunday Guardian* report, nothing incriminating has been established against Shri Gadkari. In fact, CBI seems to be burning midnight oil to function as the defence counsel for those belonging to the ruling party can and a diehard prosecutor bent upon somehow or the other to involve those opposed to the ruling party.

CBI conduct in the investigation into cases concerning the 2002 Gujarat riots and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots is a case in instance. It presented closure reports in cases against Congress leaders Sajjan Kumar and Jagdish Tytler though it failed to realize the ruling party's objective when the court refused

to oblige. When after 29 years the court handed out a verdict of not guilty against Sajjan Kumar it took more than two months for the CBI to file an appeal against the judgement in the higher court. Case against Jagdish Tytler has been reopened under court orders.

But in Gujarat, all CBI energies are concentrated on framing the BJP leaders. Its anxiety - and of Manmohan Government - in the Ishrat Jahan alleged fake encounter seems nothing else but only to somehow or the other to frame Gujarat CM Shri Narinder Modi and other BJP bigwigs.

Criminal cases of assets beyond known sources of income against former UP chief ministers, Ms Mayawati and Shri Mulayam Singh have not been taken to their logical conclusion during the last 9 years. CBI stand on these gets fluctuated with the change of stance of these leaders towards the Manmohan government. In a similar case where Shri Lalu Yadav and his wife were acquitted, CBI did not, deliberately, for understandable political reasons, file an appeal in a higher court obviously only because he remains steadfast to prove himself as the savior of Congress government at the Centre in times of crises.

The CBI case against Shri Lalu Yadav in the fodder scam continues to hang fire for the last over a decade, courtesy again of CBI, although similar cases against officials have been decided long ago and the guilty punished.

Another stark contrast is the CBI dilly-dallying the investigations and prosecution of cases concerning 2G spectrum,

Commonwealth Games, Adarsh Housing and Coalgate scandals. Except for the intervention of the courts, no minister responsible for the scams has been brought to book. The investigation into these cases is moving at a snail's pace.

Latest is the case involving the Railway Minister Pawan Bansal. Instead of being made a co-accused, he has been made a witness. Nobody today, as a person remarked, is willing to offer even a cup of tea if he doesn't expect a return favour. But CBI in this case, makes people believe that an individual of the rank of a general manager of Railways was so foolish as to strike a Rs. 10 crore bribe deal and to part with Rs. 2 crores initially without being certain that Bansal's nephew would be able to get from the minister what he wants.

Actually, it is proving true the old Hindi saying: *jab saiyyan bhaye kotwal to dar kahe ka*" (When the kotwal is our benefactor, why should one worry?). It is also providing credence to the widely accepted notion that CBI is the greatest political ally of the UPA.

When the Supreme Court directed the UPA government to take steps to make the "caged parrot" free, all it seems to be trying to do is to free it from the cage with freedom restricted to fly only within a room closed from all sides under UPA supervision. It has claimed its right to monitor, a synonym for influencing, the course of investigation in "politically sensitive" cases. That betrays the real intentions of the Congress.■

(The writer is the National Convener of BJP's Literature & Publication Cell)

Mookerjee sacrificed his life for Kashmir's integration to India

From Our Correspondent

Rich tributes were paid to independent India's first martyr, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who 60 years ago laid down his life fighting for Jammu & Kashmir's full integration into the Indian Union like all other States whose rulers signed the instrument of accession to merge with independent India following the British left India free on August 15, 1947. To recall

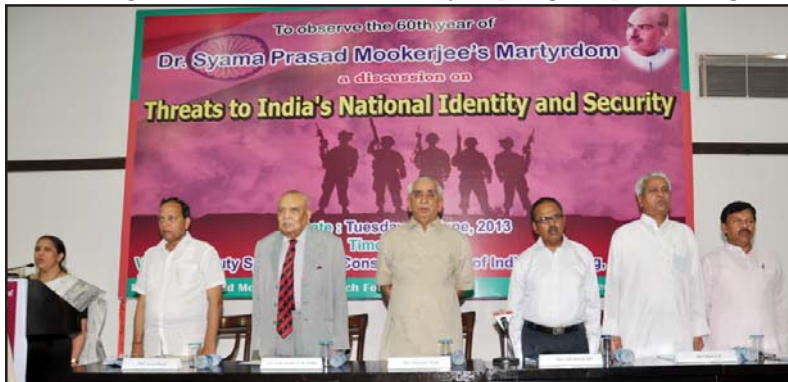
KC was the special guest. BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal also ignited the imagination of the audience with his incisive comments.

In his address, Shri Ajit Doval said India is like a banyan tree whose view has been marred by the mushroom growth of small trees which have surfaced around it. The growth of these tiny saplings is preventing the

declared that India's is an ancient nation. How ancient, Shri Ram Lal asked. India has a history and culture ancient of all the known cultures, more than 5000 years old. But some divisive elements are trying to project as if history of India commenced with the invasion of India by Mughals and the English. It is they who are trying to dissect the present generation from the proud and rich past of its ancient civilization and culture which lay the foundation of country's nationalism and its distinct identity. He appealed to the audience to do everything to protect the cultural nationalism of the country which is much above the narrow contours of caste, region and religion.

In his presidential address, Shri Jaswant Singh said that India fought for her independence singing Vande Mataram and chanting the slogan JAI HIND. After independence, Jai Hind was adopted as a mode of national salute. But where is the Hind whose Jai we say and pray every day, he asked. The Constitution of India which has primarily been based on the British framed Government of India Act 1935 is silent on "Hind".

Shri Shyam Jaju treasurer of the Foundation also addressed the distinguished gathering and highlighted the contribution made by Shri Mookerjee laying the foundation of industrial



the contribution to national unity and development, a discussion on 'THREATS TO INDIA'S NATIONAL IDENTITY & SECURITY' was jointly organized by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas on June 25, 2013 at the Constitution Club, New Delhi. The discussion was presided over by veteran BJP leader and former External Affairs Minister, Shri Jawant Singh. Guest of Honour was former J&K and Assam Governor, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) S. K. Sinha, PVSM and former Intelligence Bureau Director Shri Ajit Doval

reality of the great culture, history, unity and integrity of this great tree.

General Sinha dwelt at length on the threat to India's national identity and security by the uninhibited influx of illegal migrants which have changed the demography of the north-eastern States. For political and electoral considerations the present UPA government is overlooking the real threat this illegal infiltration poses to the country's unity and security.

Shri Ram Lal said that one of our Prime Ministers in his Independence Address from the ramparts of Red Fort had

development by establishing the Chitrangan Locomotive Factory and the National Fertilizers Ltd., besides his contribution in the field of education.

The programme was compered by the Mookerjee Foundation Secretary Shri Arun Singh who regretted that the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had failed to address the points raised by Shri Mookerjee's mother in her letter addressed to Nehru. The Government has failed to inform the nation the nature of ailments that caused Shri Mookerjee's death and had not returned to his mother the diary maintained by Shri Mookerjee.

Those among the distinguished gathering included Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, President, Dr. Nand Kishore Garg Secretary and Gopal Agarwal, Treasurer of Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, and former CAG Shri T. N. Chaturvedi. ■

Terror sneaks into Bihar

Serial blasts rock Mahabodhi Temple

Sushil Modi lambasted JD(U) for glorifying LeT agent Ishrat Jahan

Terror struck the temple town of Bodh Gaya in Bihar, as nine serial explosions rocked the Mahabodhi Temple complex on July 7 in morning. Two tourists,

Council and former Deputy CM Shri Sushil Modi condemned the terror attack on the world famous Mahabodhi temple and adjoining areas in Bodhgaya and assailed both central and state governments for their



including a monk from Myanmar, have been injured in the blasts. Union Home Secretary Anil Goswami confirmed that the Bodh Gaya blasts were a terror attack. Bihar Police suspect the involvement of Indian Mujahideen in the temple blasts. Arvind Singh, a member of Mahabodhi Temple Management Committee said two other bombs, one near the 80 feet statue and one at bus stand have been defused. The question arises when the Intelligence Bureau had already issued alert regarding threat to Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya than why the Bihar government did not paid heed to it .

It was the first terror attack in Bihar. Intelligence reports suggested that two terrorists had sneaked into Bihar last month. Tweeting on the issue Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "Cowardly attack on Mahabodhi Temple."

Leader of opposition in Legislative

failure to provide adequate security to the Buddhist shrine. The former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister claimed that no measures were taken to prevent the attack despite intelligence tip off and said the Centre and the state governments cannot escape the responsibility for the nine low-intensity serial blasts. Modi said there should be no politics on the terror attack and the state and central governments should immediately sit together and put in place elaborate security measures for the temple town.

Shri Sushil Modi also lambasted JD(U) for 'glorifying' Ishrat Jahan, a LeT suspect who was shot dead in police encounter in Gujarat nine years ago. "Contrary to the erstwhile ally's bid to glorify a terrorist, we maintain such persons have no religion, caste or roots... We condemn JD(U)'s efforts to give martyrdom to some terrorists," he said. Meanwhile, Bihar BJP organized a day-long Gaya bandh on July 8 to protest against the serial blasts in Bodh Gaya town. ■

India can't become a great power without utilising women power : Rajnath Singh

Two days (June 29-30) BJP Mahila Morcha National Executive was held in Ghaziabad at RKG College. It was inaugurated by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh.

Addressing the Mahila Morcha executive members Shri Rajnath Singh said that we have expectation that women across the country should be associated

women and their due participation in the national reconstruction services with proper education and healthy mothers which can save the nation from the present situation for which the present Congress led UPA governments bankrupt policy programmes with historic and record levels of corruption, scams and uncontrolled prices rise badly victimized the

The Nari Shakti Kendra (NSK) initiatives by the BJP Mahila Morcha throughout the country up to District level and being extended to Block levels to provide support and solutions for women in the employment, health and education sector is getting tremendous response across the country.

The BJP if voted to power would consider policy initiatives and formulate required programmes in this directions so that women have equitable participation in the government and said the time has come to gear up for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections for the victory of the party and give the nation the unfinished works of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and his vision of Bharat.

In her keynote address to women delegates Mridula Sinha emphasized that the millennium goals



with the party under the leadership of the Mahila Morcha. It is not possible to make India great power without utilization of woman power. If we go through our Vedic literature and other historical literatures then we find how much importance has been of woman power. Even lord Shiva was incomplete without goddess Parvati. He said no one in universe can imagine being perfectness without women power. The need of the hour is true empowerment of

countrymen for the wrong economic policies of the present UPA government.

He added the Mahila Morcha have important role to save the nation from the present situation when properly utilize the strengths in our womenfolk. He called upon Mahila Morcha leaders to reach out to Mahilas in the booth levels and work out a proper policy documents so that our rural mothers have say and with their voice heard there is true sense of democracy.

revolve around Women and Child and we should in a combined effort work towards achieving them. BJP Mahila Morcha National President, Sushree Saroj Pandey, in her inaugural address urged the BJP Mahila Morcha National Executive to ensure increased participation of women from all segments of society in the BJP. She said, our endeavor is to facilitate the social, political and economic emancipation of women. ■

Every village to contribute to build Statue of Unity : Narendra Modi

Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP Election Campaign Committee Chairman Shri Narendra Modi urged every village to contribute small pieces of iron for building the proposed 'Statue of Unity' in the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

"On the day of Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on October 31, 2013, we will launch a nation-wide campaign,

covering more than five lakh villages throughout the country to collect small pieces of iron of any tool used by farmers from each village, that will be used in the building the statue," Shri Modi said in Gandhinagar before his inaugural address at the all India conference on livestock and dairy development in last month.

In an appeal to the farmers, Shri Modi stated, "To build this Statue of Unity I need your help, I need the help of farmers. I am talking about this idea for the first time in public. You may think Modi is asking for money but no, I am asking for emotional attachment. An attachment that will last for years." He added, "I expect something from you. Sardar Patel was Loh Purush (Iron Man) and I want iron pieces from your villages. But we do not want any piece of iron, we want iron pieces (tools) used by farmers during farming. From 31st October, which is Sardar Jayanti, till 26th January we will go to the villages and collect iron

blocks. And we need your help in this. We need iron to commemorate the iron man and that too iron used in farming, because after all Sardar Patel was the son of a farmer.

'Statue of Unity' the tallest statue on the earth, is one of the most ambitious project in which a 182 meters (392 feet) tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel -Iron Man of India- will be built opposite Sardar Sarovar Dam over Narmada river in south Gujarat.

"Sardar Patel brought the nation together. But gradually his memories are fading away. To reinvigorate his memory and as a fitting tribute to the Iron Man of India, we are building this statue, which will be double in height than the Statue of Liberty in New York," Shri Modi said.

"Sardar Patel was also a farmer who was instrumental in bringing farmers into the freedom struggle. We are urging all farmers of the nation to donate a small piece of iron out of their tools which were used in farming," he appealed.

"After collecting iron from the farmers of the country it will be melted and used, as needed, to build the statue which will be the greatest tribute to the architect of modern India," he added.

Shri Modi made this appeal while addressing the delegates, mostly from the field of farming, dairy and cattle breeding, who came from more than 20 states. ■

