



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

Subscription

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

Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

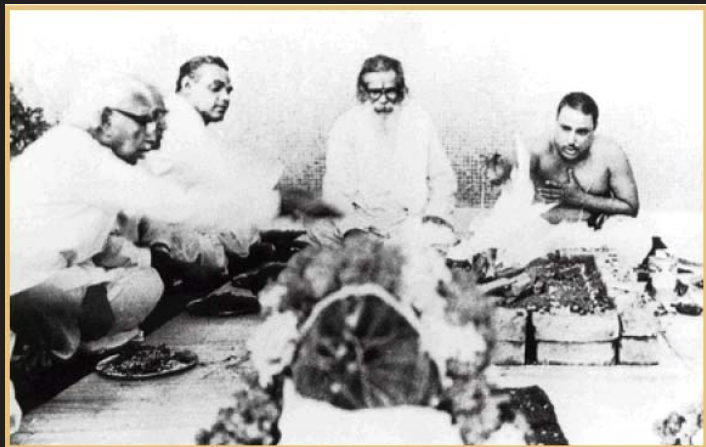
Publisher and Printer : Printed by Dr. Nandkishore Garg for Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36, F.F. Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and Published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

CONTENTS

Joint Statement : On four years of UPA-II.....	6
Interview	
Sh. Mangal Pandey, Bihar BJP President.....	11
Articles	
Did apex court belittle CBI or strengthen it? By Arun Jaitley	9
Open the cage and let the parrot free By Joginder Singh	13
More thick-skinned than any pachyderm By A Surya Prakash	19
India-China relations should go beyond diplomatic niceties By Ram Prasad Tripathy	21
State Reports	
Chhattisgarh.....	25,28
Himachal Pradesh.....	27
Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh.....	28
Punjab, Gujarat.....	29

Cover : Joint press conference on four years of UPA-II

HISTORIC PICTURE



Shri Guruji alongwith Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee performing pooja at the foundation laying ceremony of Deendayal Research Institute, Delhi



; nPN; k pki i éa LoxZkj ei kòre-
I [kuk% {kf=; k% i kfkZ yHKUrs ; q) ehn'ke- AA32AA

Arjuna, happy are the Ksatriyas who get such an unsolicited opportunity for war, which is an open gateway to heaven.

— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 32)

QUOTES

“The UPA Government has made the people of India suffer from its gross inaction, rampant corruption and dysfunctional governance.”

-Rajnath Singh

“UPA's anniversary is being celebrated in an environment of gloom, pessimism, cynicism and negativism.”

-Arun Jaitley

“Our nation is filled with tremendous energy of the youth. Whatever future we desire of, we must keep the youth at the centre. If we do this, we can surge ahead at an unmatched pace!”

- Narendra Modi

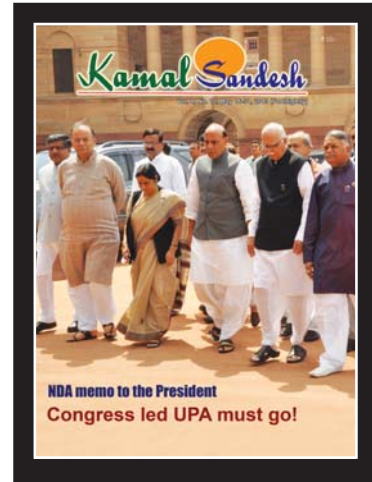
Letter to the Editor

UPA has gained in increasing number of scams

Dear Editor,

After 9 years in office the scam-tainted UPA government is reeling under several setbacks over corruption and misgovernance. UPA proved its tenure to be a curse for the people of India. It has failed on all fronts be it price rise, internal and external security or the economic situation. Whether it is the case of dealing with Pakistan, Kashmir problem, and aftermath of the Indo- US Nuclear Deal, the Manmohan Singh government is buckling under US pressure. The only field where it has gained is the scams which are increasing in number every day.

Abhinav,
Kolkata



Courtesy : The Hindu

Write to us

The Editor,



We welcome

Your views & Suggestions

Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas,
PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg,
New Delhi-110003

e-mail: kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in



Four years of darkness and gloom

Editorial...

Four years of darkness. Four years of gloom. Four years of scams. Four years of deteriorating credibility. Four years of insecurity on boundary, border and in forces. Four years of hollow economy. Four years of bound less price rise. Four years of unsuccessful foreign policy. Four years of ineffective law and order. Four years of insecurity of life and property. Four years of merry making of Dr. Manmohan Singh+Sonia Gandhi+Rahul Gandhi+members of the ministry + leaders of coalition. Four years of sinking boat of education and health. Four years of collapsing federal structure. Four years of suppression of the opposition leaders. Four years of demolition of constitutional structure. Four years of breaking of all the four pillars of democratic structure. Four years of looting the labourers in the name of MNREGA. Four years of cheating the farmers in the name of subsidy. Four years of worsening educational system. Four years of insecurity of helpless and hapless women. Four years of affecting judiciary in the name of justice. Four years of government interference in the autonomous institutions. Four years of deprivation of poor and hungry people. Four years of monthly increasing prices of petrol and kerosene and thereby ruining the crops and farmers' fields. Four years of assaulting the Swadeshi pride by FDI. Four years of increasing of railway fare. Four years of yielding destruction in the name of development. Four years of increasing pollution in the name of environment. Four years of ruining Indian industry in the name of investment. Four years of breaking of UPA coalition. Four years of opportunistic politics of SP and BSP. Four years of puppet government of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Four years of Soniaji's bossism. Four years of corruption by the family. Four years of black deeds of mother-in-law, son-in-law and son. Four years of misuse of Gandhi surname in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. Four years of monopoly over Congress. Four years of wipe out from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Four lost years in making Rahul from General Secretary to Vice President. May be the Congress feeling pride from these achievements but every Indian's head is hanging with shame.

The honour of tricolour has been undermined in the last four years of UPA rule. Question mark has been raised on the uniform of security forces. While the security forces have been destabilised, the severing of head of the security forces is remains to be avenged. Instead of acting on the CAG report, the CAG was sought to be placed in dock. Union minsters have fallen like dry leaves. UPA is the name of the government functioning in unconstitutional manner. In the parliament it has no numbers, no voice on the streets and the PM is silent. What kind of irony is it? In parliament it runs away from debate, it doesn't respond to the agitation on the street, has no faith in the federal structure, the days of UPA government which runs the country as its fiefdom are numbers. The country which is standing on the threshold of change is mentally and economically fed up. They are waiting for the day when the dates of elections will be announced so that the people are able to take the country towards change. Only few months are left for the mask of the UPA to be brought down, as its face tells the entire tale. Whatever the Congress led UPA may try to do but its removal from power is its destiny. People have made up their minds. People will never like the attempt of the UPA to win the confidence while it has fallen in the eyes of the people. The coming Lok Sabha elections will be lesson to Soniaji and Rahulji. After the results of the elections, the ones writing history would write that one foreigner AO Hume had founded the Congress and another foreigner Sonia Gandhi had taken initiative to speedily finish the Congress by converting it into dynasty. ■

UPA-II's anniversary being celebrated in an environment of gloom, pessimism and negativism : BJP

UPA-II has completed four years in power. An anniversary is ordinarily an occasion to celebrate. UPA-II's anniversary is being celebrated in an environment of gloom, pessimism and negativism. Rarely has the Nation witnessed the kind of cynicism against the government as is prevalent today.

The principal achievement of the UPA appears to be that it has completed four years in office. History will not judge the UPA government by the number of years in power. It will make a very harsh judgement due to the damage the UPA has inflicted on the country. The footprints one leaves behind are always more important than the longevity.

Leadership

The UPA's model of leadership has been structurally defective. Power does not vest in the Prime Minister. The vestige of power in extra-constitutional authorities outside the government has created an inability of the government to be decisive. It is the UPA's chairperson who is the last word on the policy and not the Prime Minister. For the future, the party cadres look at the heir apparent of the Congress Party's first family and not the Prime

Minister. The legitimacy of the office of the Prime Minister has been denuded. Today, the Indian Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is synonymous with indecision, inability and silence. Never in history has been the institution of the Prime Minister at the receiving end of wit, sarcasm and ridicule.

Economy

The UPA inherited a growing and booming economy

destination, lost its' attraction. The investment, both domestic and foreign, started slowing. A reverse flight of investment from the country has started. Indian industry found better investment destinations abroad. Job creation has taken a hit. Not only have the growth figures plummeted to below five percent, employment generation has suffered a serious setback.

The success stories such as



in the year 2004. The initial years of UPA witnessed economic growth on account of impetus of the past policies. Soon the 'Dream team' for economic policy turned into a 'helpless spectator' inflicting a policy paralysis on the Indian economy. Unprecedented price rise during the UPA years has caused immense misery to the Aam Admi. The investment environment in the country has been disturbed. The Indian economy which was being show-cased to the rest of the world as an investment

Telecom, power, National Highways, Rural roads, Sea ports have suffered a serious setback. The Rupee has been weakened. The Government's move to allow foreign direct Investment in the multi brand retail sector is a matter of serious setback both to domestic retail, manufacturing and the consumers. The government has not been able to take any corrective steps to take India towards becoming a low cost manufacturing hub.

The agricultural sector is amongst the worst hit. The

Indian farmer continues to suffer from heavy indebtedness. Irrigation facilities are meagre. The agricultural growth rate in most parts of the country is inadequate. Farmer suicides continue unabated. The agricultural growth in the country is predominantly on account of the significant growth in States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar.

Corruption

The single most factor which has destroyed image of the UPA government is corruption. The Commonwealth Games scam destroyed the legitimacy of the prestigious international event. The 2G spectrum allocation scandal shook the conscience of the entire country. Ministers, bureaucrats and beneficiaries had to be arrested. The Prime Minister continues to defend the scandal till the very last. Even though the Supreme Court and the CAG have made adverse observations and charge-sheet has been filed by the CBI, the UPA has attempted to subvert the Joint Parliamentary Committee by playing down the corruption in the 2G spectrum allocation scam.

The Coal Block allocation scandal was a loot of the valuable national resource. The Electricity Act was enacted in 2003 and was a major step in power sector reforms. Today this has resulted in scarcity of coal resources being available to most power plants. The UPA not deterred by the magnitude of the scandal, the ministers of the Central Government and the Prime Minister's office have continued to interfere in the CBI investigation and doctored the CBI status report being presented before the judicial institutions.

Instead of taking the corrective action, the UPA effort has been that the truth does not come out. The cash for job scandal of the Railways is the latest to hit the UPA. Senior posts in the Railway Board are being auctioned by the ministerial proxies. Instead of going to the root of the matter and taking action against the guilty, there is an air of go slow against the politicians who are prima facie liable.

Institutions

The policy of the UPA has been callous disregard of all democratic institutions. The quality of appointments made to constitutional and statutory offices establishes that the policy of the government is to subvert these institutions. The UPA owes its survival to the CBI. The CBI's policy is to help the UPA as a pliable investigating agency. Offences of the UPA and its' allies are covered up. Vindictiveness is shown towards the opponents of the government. Parties like the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj are managed through a carrot and stick policy followed by the CBI. Be it the Election Commission, the National Human Rights Commission or the CVC, some of the appointments that the UPA made are highly questionable. At times the judiciary had to intervene for institutional protection.

National Security

A failure of the national security is a hallmark of the UPA's non performance. There have been periodic terrorist attacks which keep reminding us that India is still high up on the terror radar. The Maoist violence has continued in several States

unabated. The UPA has no clear cut policy on curtailing terror and insurgency.

Disturbed neighbourhood

Never has the relationship with our neighbours been so precarious as it is today. Pakistan has been the bleeding ground for a lot of terrorists activities taking place in India. From cutting off the heads of the Indian soldiers, to killing Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails, there are repeated provocations from across the border. The Chinese have been increasingly aggressive in dealing with India. Stapled visas, encroachment into Indian territorial sovereignty, non-recognition of Line of Actual Control are a part of aggressive Chinese behaviour in the last few years. Construction of roads and dams around Indian Territory add to the provocation. The government is reluctant to disclose the behind the scene negotiations and the compromise which has taken place recently in Ladakh. Even Maldives continues to defy India notwithstanding its' vital position in the Indian Ocean.

Atrocities on Women

The atrocities on women have peaked during the past few years. Rapes, Gang rapes, sexual assaults, acid attacks are a regular every day development. The popular protests against atrocities have compelled the government to amend the law but the ground situation has not improved.

The UPA's journey in the past four years is one of disappointment. The Bharatiya Janata Party shall continue to expose the popular disappointment with the UPA across the country. ■

Sushma Swaraj to boycott all meetings by Lok Sabha Speaker

Leader of Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj has decided to boycott all meetings by Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar. The Speaker had interrupted Swaraj as many as 60 times during her short six minute speech on 02 May 2013.

Smt. Swaraj was allowed to make a speech on the next day before walking out of the Lok Sabha to allow the Government to complete budgetary exercises, a constitutional necessity, as part of an agreement between all political parties in a meeting called by the Speaker.

Things were mostly peaceful for the first three minutes of Smt. Swaraj's speech but no sooner did she start referring to several scams during the UPA regime, Congress MPs were on their feet. When Smt. Sushma Swaraj's speech entered into the fourth minute, the Speaker started asking her to conclude. Incidentally it was agreed at the all-party meeting that half an hour time will be set aside for Smt. Swaraj and others who would like to make a speech.

Smt. Kumar's repeated "Alright", "Thank you", "Okay", "I have to proceed" and similar words for at least 60 times during the next 120 seconds of Smt. Swaraj speech. She stopped only after the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha announced that she was walking out.

It is not for the first time that the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Speaker have come face to face. It all started in 2011

when the Speaker chose to overrule Smt. Swaraj's objection to her decision of allowing Lok Sabha secretary general TK Vishwanathan an extension of one year.

In a letter to Kumar then, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha had written that only officers from the Lok Sabha cadre should be considered for the post of the secretary general of the House. "There has been considerable unease among Lok Sabha staff over the latest trend of bringing in outsiders to head their department," she had written to the Speaker in August 2011.

Same month, Smt. Swaraj and Shri LK Advani skipped a tea party of the Speaker. The two BJP leaders were agitated, as



Smt. Kumar did not stop Congress MPs from disrupting Shri Advani who was making a speech on the cash-for-vote scam.

Two years back, Smt. Swaraj had also complained to the Speaker for allowing Congress general secretary Mr. Rahul Gandhi to make an a 10-minute long "out of turn" speech on Lokpal issue during Zero hour when other members who had moved notices were not allowed. ■

BJP National Executive meet to be held on June 8-9 in Goa

The two-day BJP National Executive meet will be held on June 8-9 in Goa and will be preceded by a meeting of the party's office-bearers on June 7. Mass mobilization programmes against the Congress led UPA Government's multi-pronged failures, and a blueprint to keep the organization in a state of high preparedness for the various elections ahead is said to be on the top of agenda for the Goa National Executive.



Did apex court belittle CBI or strengthen it?

By Arun Jaitley

Digvijay Singh is known to speak out of turn. His latest comment on how Judges of the Supreme Court should conduct themselves while hearing a case was an unwarranted advice to the judicial institution.

It is permissible to discuss on the correctness or otherwise of a Supreme Court judgement. Judgements and orders can be debated because courts can go wrong. Criticism or comment which is intended to improve the functioning the justice delivery system is always welcome. However, the motivation behind this criticism cannot be the frustration of a loser. This regrettably appears to be the impression that Digvijay Singh has conveyed.

Should judges ever make oral observations?

The comment that judges only speak through written orders and not orally, can only come from a person unfamiliar with the functioning of a court. Detailed oral arguments are addressed in courts. Arguments, at times, convert themselves into a debate. Questions and comments emanating from judges indicate which way the judicial mind is functioning. Lawyers have always preferred judges who speak rather than those who never disclose their mind. It is always possible to correct an erroneous impression, either on facts or law, emanating

from a Judge. The final view of the court is always more structured.

When a Government or an investigating agency is going wrong, oral observations nudge the agency into correction. The final order expresses the considered opinion of the court. In a case like the coal block allocation investigation a combination of oral observations coupled with a detailed written order blends judicial activism with restraint and statesmanship. The two together contribute to the administration of justice.

If judges ever heeded to Digvijay Singh's ill-advised suggestion of not speaking in court, hearings would become dull and often lead to miscarriage of justice since an opportunity to correct erroneous impression would be lost.

Did the Supreme Court belittle the CBI?

Over the years the CBI has belittled itself. The Government has actively contributed to this process. The image of the CBI has touched a rock bottom. CBI directors are appointed by the Government. The transfers and postings of officers in the CBI are controlled by the Government. Sanctions for prosecution are granted by the Government. The agency has been misused against political rivals.

The agency has been used to pacify leaders of the Samajwadi Party and the BSP in order to contribute to the longevity of the Government.

The relationship between the CBI, the Government and the ruling party has become too close for comfort. Once a person becomes a CBI director his ability to negotiate post retirement jobs has been conclusively established.

In the investigation relating to the allocation of coal blocks the judges got an impression that the agency was not being fair and honest. Its status report to the court had been doctored. The 'heart' of the report had been altered by the CBI. Sustained grilling and oral observations compelled the CBI to admit that the Law Minister and the officials of the PMO and Coal Ministry had made important deletions and changes in the report. The changes were significant. Here was a pliable CBI quite content with the Executive including the possible suspects altering the status report.

The Vineet Narayan case was the first judicial attempt by the Supreme Court to strengthen the CBI. Even though the Supreme Court laid down certain guidelines the Government over the last 17 years found out methods of by-passing those guidelines. The entire movement for the enactment of a Lokpal and a liberated CBI has yet not succeeded.

At every stage the Government has been slow and reluctant. The CBI gets belittled when it bends before to political

pressure and conducts a pliable investigation. On the contrary, when the court discovered this pathetic plight of the CBI, its investigation had to be monitored.

The delinquent minister had to resign. The officials are still struggling for what reply to give. The Government is nervous. The order of the court has indicated that either the Government prepares a legislative plan to insulate the CBI or the court could issue specific guidelines. An independent investigation is the hallmark of our criminal justice system. If the CBI is made more independent, it does not get belittled; on the contrary, it is strengthened.

It is the duty of the court to ensure that investigations are independent. In the 2002 riots in Gujarat the investigation was under the State Police. The Court first ordered an investigation by an SIT comprising of Police officers of the State. Not being satisfied with that investigation the Supreme Court appointed its own SIT comprising of officers from outside the State. It then appointed an *amicus curiae* to offer comments on that investigation. The likes of Digvijay Singh welcomed that monitoring.

It is only when the corruption of the UPA Government is being investigated by the CBI and monitored by the Supreme Court that monitoring of investigation is now being termed as constitutionally unacceptable. Such arguments of convenience have very little place in a meaningful public discourse.

(The writer is Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha)

There should be no govt. prerogative in CVC, CAG appointments : Dr. Joshi

Following the constitution of a Group of Ministers (GoM) to suggest ways for enacting a law to make the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) independent, former Bharatiya Janata Party National President Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi has said the appointments of the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Election Commissioners should not be the government's sole prerogative.



Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on May 15, 2013 he recalled that as the Public Accounts Committee's chairman, he had suggested earlier that the CVC and the CAG should be completely autonomous, especially in the matter of appointments. It was suggested that a

selection committee presided over by the Chief Justice of India with the Prime Minister, Leaders of Opposition in both the Houses, Home Minister in case of CVC and Finance Minister in case of CAG should be formed. But the government did not pay heed and now the Supreme Court gave a direction in connection with the CBI, he added.

Dr. Joshi also wanted delinking of the CBI from the Delhi Police Act and enactment of a separate law in dealing with the CBI in consultation with State governments.

Welcoming the formation of a democratically-elected government in Pakistan, he said the BJP believed in good neighbourly relations with neighbouring countries. The formation of such a government would lead to stability in Pakistan and stressed that stability in the region was necessary for eliminating poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease and unemployment. With this view, former Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee took "bold and practical steps" and the BJP wants to create the same atmosphere which prevailed then.

Referring to the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union, Dr. Joshi said the Congress led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had no moral right to sign the pact since it was in "total minority". He said the pact would be harmful to farmers, milk producers, small manufacturers and even vendors. The Standing Committee of the Commerce Ministry had already urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh not to proceed with signing and finalising of the FTA. (FOC) ■

Coalition is not run with veto : Mangal Pandey



Bihar BJP President and Member of Bihar Legislative Council Shri Mangal Pandey represents the face of energetic youth leadership of the state. In an interview with Editorial Team Member Shri Vikash Anand at Patna on 17 May 2013, Shri Pandey discussed at length organisational preparedness for coming Lok Sabha election and other political issues of the state. Excerpts:

You are the youngest president Bihar BJP ever had. What are the steps being taken by you to promote youth participation and women participation?

The history of our country has witnessed that youth have always given direction to society. Be it Swami Vivekananda, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad or at present our Industry leader Cyrus Mistry, they have shaped the minds of people.

Youth has always played a commendable role in achieving meaningful goal for the country in pre-independent and post Independent era. Even today, role of youth is very important in the remaking of Bihar. Because, still Bihar has to go a long way in every sector like education, industry, trade, politics etc. The 65% of Youth in the State has to play bigger role to make Bihar the leader in every sector. Bihar BJP has taken many steps to accommodate more and more youth to make Bihar a developed and vibrant State. Women constitute 50% of total population. Bihar BJP is striving hard to increase women participation in politics.

What are the steps being taken by you to make the organization stronger and more stable?

Bihar Bharatiya Janata Party is working to form booth committees for the State's 56,000 booths. The state BJP is ensuring that all *morcha* and *manch* must work smoothly at block and panchayat level. Wrong policies of Central Government, price rise, corruption etc all these issues are being taken by the

party to village level to expose corrupt Congress led UPA. In this way we are mobilizing people to dethrone UPA from Center. We are preparing to ensure that NDA could win all 40 Lok Sabha seats of Bihar.

In the present scenario, how much BJP is strong and united?

BJP in Bihar is fully organized and united. With the *mantra* of 'Unity and Activity' we are preparing in the state for coming Lok Sabha election.

The BJP Ministers are perceived to be doing an excellent job which has helped in boosting the image of the NDA government in Bihar. But, there is a feeling that the entire credit for this commendable job has been cornered by the JD (U). Do you think the BJP ministers have got due recognition commensurate to their work?

Bihar has a coalition government. There is no doubt that the BJP ministers in Bihar are performing well. BJP has participated in the work of government. Root of every policy of development is Deen Dayal Upadhyay's Antyodaya and Good Governance. Financial management matters more in whole developmental work. Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Modi has significant contribution as finance minister in development.

Former BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari had fixed the goal to increase 10 % in national vote share of BJP. How will Bihar BJP achieve this goal?

BJP is continuously expanding its organization socially and geographically. I am Sure we will achieve this goal.

At present, are you satisfied with BJP-JD(U) coalition?

Coalition is running well. We want to make coalition stronger. But Coalition is not run with veto or pressure. It is run with good relation, communication and coordination. Party which is part of coalition must take care of these things.

Is there any possibility of change in seat-sharing formula between JD(U)-BJP which was adopted in the last Lok Sabha election?

This issue will be considered during election.

It is beng said that caste equation matters more in Bihar election. What do you want to say on this?

Now, people of Bihar have risen above the caste and creed and started mobilizing on developmental issue. And we have taken care of all people across the religion, caste, and community. Therefore, BJP is enjoying support of all sections of the society. During coming elections class, creed will not be an issue but development of Bihar and central leadership will take a centerstage.

What is your say on special status demand by the Bihar Government? Why should it be given

to Bihar?

Bihar is a backward state. Per capita income is very low. The state's infrastructure is undeveloped. Bihar remains always affected by flood like natural calamity. The longest border of the State is International border which are undeveloped region. It is industrially backward state. So Bihar needs special status. It will provide tax relaxation and more central aid.

Two days (15 May, 2013) earlier, Lalu Yadav organized Parivartan rally in Patna. How do you see this entire exercise?

As far as parivartan rally is concerned, it is issueless rally. Price rise, scams of central government, step motherly treatment of Bihar by union government was not discussed in the rally. RJD did not told in the rally what type of *parivartan* it wanted. The rally appeared like change of guard in RJD. Through this rally Laluji tried to impose his sons on the party (RJD). RJD leaders should have gone every corner of the state to discuss issues of nation and state with people directly first through and tried to gain their confidence and explain his misrule of fifteen years. Organizing a rally without any meaningful purpose is nothing but a wastage of money and resources. ■

BJP Bandh spontaneous in Rajasthan

Rajasthan bandh called by the State BJP on 18 May against CBI's charge-sheet on the instructions of the ruling dispensation against Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, evoked a spontaneous response. Markets in all the major cities remained close. The impact of the bandh was also seen in the smaller towns of the State. State BJP General Secretary Shri Satish Punia claimed that the bandh was complete as people wanted to show their resentment against the CBI and the Congress Government in the State. It also shows that people want to throw out the Congress Government in the coming Assembly elections and to bring the BJP back to power, he said. The BJP only two days back had called for the Rajasthan bandh, but its leadership ensured that the bandh was successful. It had sent its senior party leaders to the districts to work with local party unit for the bandh. In the State capital, Jaipur BJP teams of workers were seen moving in the walled city to persuade the shopkeepers to shut their business establishments. It was an interesting sight when the State BJP president and former Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje had a rickshaw ride from Chandpole to Bari Chopar in the walled city. She was accompanied by senior party leaders and a large group of party workers.



Keeping in view the ongoing wedding season, the BJP had called the bandh till 4 pm so there should not be any hardship for those who are having wedding celebrations in their families. At the same time, Ajmer was kept out of the bandh owing to annual Urs of Khawaja Moinduddin Chisti. The BJP also kept away essential services from the bandh. ■

Open the cage and let the parrot free

By Joginder Singh

The UPA Government has taken an oath of loyalty to the Constitution and is duty-bound to carry out the court's orders. However, it has been consistently dodging directives on giving freedom to CBI

An affidavit filed on May 6 by the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, Mr Ranjit Sinha, in response to a directive from the Supreme Court, said that Mr Ashwani Kumar, the then Union Minister for Law and Justice, along with officials of the Prime Minister's Office and the Coal Ministry as well as Attorney General GE Vahanvati, had suggested changes in the status report filed on the coal scam.

The CBI is currently probing alleged irregularities in the allocation of coal blocks which reportedly cost the national exchequer a staggering Rs1.86 lakh crore, according to the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The very fact that the country's apex investigating agency had shared the report with the Law Minister and other top Government functionaries has provoked a furious response from the Opposition.

In his affidavit, Mr Sinha says that on March 6, "Learned Attorney General glanced through portions of two status reports. He made certain observations which were explained to him. He also suggested certain minor changes in one of the reports."

In this, Mr Sinha contradicts Mr Vahanvati's statement before the Supreme Court on April 30 in which the Attorney General said: "Since a lot of things have been said and a letter has been leaked yesterday which refers to me, I am pained. I never had the copy of the status report. I did not have the copy even today and I have never asked for any status report."

The Attorney General's statement was in response to a four-page letter written to him by former Additional Solicitor General Haren Rawal, who accused Mr Vahanvati of making him a scapegoat in the entire matter. But while the latter has denied having done anything of the sort, Mr Rawal's allegations were supported by Mr Sinha. In

~~~~~@~@~@~~~~

**The CBI is currently probing alleged irregularities in the allocation of coal blocks which reportedly cost the national exchequer a staggering Rs1.86 lakh crore, according to the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The very fact that the country's apex investigating agency had shared the report with the Law Minister and other top Government functionaries has provoked a furious response from the Opposition.**

~~~~~@~@~@~~~~

his affidavit, the CBI Director also admitted that certain changes were made on the suggestions of Mr Vahanvati, Mr Rawal and officials of the Prime Minister's Office and the Coal Ministry during the course of three meetings held on March 6 – two days before the report was submitted to the apex court. He also said that the changes made "neither altered the central theme of the report, nor shifted the focus of inquiries or investigations in any manner" and that "no names of suspects or accused were removed... no accused or suspects were let off in the process" and there was "no deletion of any evidence" against anyone.

However, the Supreme Court, with regard to the affidavit filed by Mr Sinha, observed that 'significant' changes were made in the 'final' status report on the coal blocks allocation case, at the behest of the then Union Law Minister. "The heart of the report was changed on suggestions of Government officials", the Supreme Court noted. It also expressed strong displeasure over the Government's interference in the CBI investigation and said that the investigating agency was like a "caged parrot speaking in its master's voice".

Asking the Government to free the CBI from its clutches, the apex court said that, if the agency is not made independent, it will step in. "The job of the CBI is not to interact with Government

officials but to interrogate to find the truth”, the Supreme Court said while adding that the agency must also learn how to stand up to Government pressure.

Now, let us examine the changes that were reportedly made in the draft report. The first alteration was in relation to a failure by the screening committee to prepare certain documents. “Tentative findings about non-preparation of broadsheet or chart by the screening committee, to the best of my recollection, were deleted by the Law Minister”, Mr Sinha said in his affidavit. Further, he said, “deletion of a sentence about the scope of inquiry with respect to illegalities of allocation while the amendment to law was in process was done by Law Minister.”

Expressing concern that no substantial progress has been made in the probe into the allocation of coal blocks after

~~~~~●●●~~~~~

**However, the Supreme Court, with regard to the affidavit filed by Mr Sinha, observed that ‘significant’ changes were made in the ‘final’ status report on the coal blocks allocation case, at the behest of the then Union Law Minister. “The heart of the report was changed on suggestions of Government officials”, the Supreme Court noted. It also expressed strong displeasure over the Government’s interference in the CBI investigation and said that the investigating agency was like a “caged parrot speaking in its master’s voice”.**

registration of the case more than a year ago, the Supreme Court brought back an IPS officer who had earlier headed the probe but was transferred out. The court also made clear that the 33-member investigative team should not be disturbed. It asked the Centre to ensure that the DIG-level officer, Mr Ravi Kant Mishra, is repatriated to the agency.

The Supreme Court also asked the Centre why it hadn’t been informed about the change. “Such a move creates needless suspicion. We think we have to restore him back to the position. We want him to be part of the investigation”, the court said.

A 1998-batch IPS officer of the Odisha cadre, Mr Mishra was one of the four DIGs that were heading the probe. Mr Mishra was shifted to the Intelligence Bureau following his three-year deputation with the CBI. A CBI counsel told the court that Mr Mishra had left the probe agency of his own volition, as he wanted to join the IB for better career prospects. He also added that Mr Mishra had earlier sought a transfer, which was stalled at the CBI Director’s behest for six months. But after that he was sent to the IB according to his wishes. But the Bench wasn’t convinced, and indicated it would much rather have him back at the helm of the crucial investigation.

The Supreme Court’s observations have given a new charter of independence to the CBI which needs to be displayed in golden letters in every office for future generations. The real problem, however, will arise later on, as no political party would like to lose control of the CBI, or even the police (which is part of

**The Supreme Court’s observations have given a new charter of independence to the CBI which needs to be displayed in golden letters in every office for future generations. The real problem, however, will arise later on, as no political party would like to lose control of the CBI, or even the police (which is part of the Government) for that matter.**

~~~~~●●●~~~~~

the Government) for that matter.

The Ministers have taken an oath of loyalty to the Constitution and so they are duty-bound to carry out the orders of the court. However, the Government has consistently been dodging the Supreme Court’s orders issued with regard to the CBI on September 22, 2006.

Not only should the CBI be given constitutional status but it must also have its own budget. The plethora of sanctions and permissions needed to prosecute the corrupt need to be removed. But the Government is only moving one step forward and two steps backward. For instance, the Union Cabinet passed a resolution on May 1 that shields retired bureaucrats. This in effect will only serve to protect corrupt regime loyalists.

India is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, and graft prevails at every level. To contain corruption, we need to strike hard at the root of it. The Government must exhibit firmness of purpose, as it is one of the best instruments for success. ■

(The writer is a former CBI Director)
Courtesy : The Pioneer

BJP President appoints incharges of States and conveners of Cells

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh has appointed In-charges, Co-incharges of States, Morchas and Cells and Conveners & Co-conveners of different Cells on 19 May 2013. Following is the list :

| No. | State | In charge | Co- In charge |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Uttar Pradesh | Shri Amit Shah | Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat
Shri Rameshwer Chaurasiya
Shri Satyendra Kushwaha |
| 2 | Madhya Pradesh | Shri Ananth Kumar | |
| 3 | Gujarat | Shri O P Mathur | |
| 4 | Rajasthan | Shri Captan Singh ji | |
| 5 | Karnataka | Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot | |
| 6 | Himachal Pradesh | Shri Balbir Punj | |
| 7 | Punjab | Shri Shanta Kumar | Shri Shyam Jaju |
| 8 | Chandigarh | Smt. Aarti Mehra | |
| 9 | Haryana | Shri Jagdish Mukhi | Dr Anil Jain |
| 10 | Uttarakhand | Shri Radha Mohan Singh | |
| 11 | Chhattisgarh | Shri J. P. Nadda | |
| 12 | Bihar | Shri Dharmendra Pradhan | Shri Vinod Pandey |
| 13 | Jharkhand | Dr. Ramapati Ram Tripathi | |
| 14 | Odisha | Shri Chandan Mittra | Shri Arun Singh |
| 15 | Goa | Smt. Smriti Irani | |
| 16 | Maharashtra | Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy | |
| 17 | Andhra Pradesh | Shri Prabhat Jha | |
| 18 | Tamilnadu | Shri Murlidhar Rao | |
| 19 | Kerala | Shri Bandaru Dattatray | |
| 20 | Puducherry | Shri Laxman | |
| 21 | Lakshadweep | Shri P. Krishndas | |
| 22 | Andaman & Nicobar | Shri Ganeshan | |
| 23 | West Bengal | Shri Varun Gandhi | Shri Siddharath Nath Singh |
| 24 | Assam | Shri S S Ahluwalia | |
| 25 | Meghalaya | Shri Kiren Rijju ji | |
| 26 | Nagaland | Shri Tapir Gao | |
| 27 | Arunachal Pradesh | Smt. Bijyo Chakravarti | |
| 28 | Mizoram | Shri Nalin Kohli | |
| 29 | Manipur | Shri Tapir Gao | |
| 30 | Jammu & Kashmir | Shri Avinash Rai Khanna | Sardar R P Singh |

Conveners & Co- Conveners of Cell's

| no | Name of the | Convener | Co- Convener |
|----|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | Election | Shri R. Ramakrishna, | Shri P.D. Gupta, Advocate
Shri Rajan Khosla , Advocate
Shri Ganesh Malviya
Shri M.H. Shridhar |
| | Training | Shri Alok Kumar | Shri Rampyare Pandey
Shri L. Ganeshan
Dr S S Agarwal |
| | Information Technology (IT) | Shri Arvind Gupta | Shri Vineet Goenka
Shri Sanjeev Singh
Shri Amresh Madival |
| | Panchayat Raj | Sh Mohan Singh
Gramvasi | Shri Yogesh Shukla
Sh Vinay Rohella
Rajneesh –Bihar
Shri Errena Kadadi |
| | Urban Local Bodies
Prabhari- Shri Suresh Kumar | Shri Vijender Gupta | |
| | Art and Culture | Dr Mithilesh Kr
Tripathi | Shri Mohan Yadav
Shri Gajendra Solanki
Shri Ravi Satija |
| | Cooperative
Shri Santosh Gangwar | Shri Bhanwar Singh
Sekhawat | Shri Laxman Savadi
Shri Om Birla
Shri Ashok Thakur |
| | Industry
Prabhari-
Shri Ravi wig | Shri Neeraj Tayal | Shri Pranav Tekchand
Shri Arun Bansal
Shri Shiv Shan kar Sharma |
| | Micro and small industry | Shri Rajneesh
Goenka | Shri Avanish Dalal
Shri Suresh Khandelwal
Shri S Prakash |
| | Traders | Shri Shyam Bihari
Mishra | Shri Ghanshyam Aggarwal
Shri Ashok Goyal
Shri Rajkumar Bhatia |
| | Investor | Shri Atul Garg | Shri Chandra Shekhar Sharma
Shri Shailendra Sharma
Shri Shubhendu Shekhar |
| | Sports
Prabhari- Shri Mohinder Lal | Shri Ashok Aggarwal | Shri Shri Rakesh Pahalwan
Shri Narendra Rana
Shri Sunil Gupta
Ranjan Aiyappa |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Ex service man | Brig BD Mishra | Capt Karan Singh Bhati
Capt Paramveer
Capt vikas gupta |
| Medical
Prabhari- Shri C P Thakur | Dr Mahesh Sharma | Dr N S Tyagi
Shri Rahul Mishra
Dr Aditya
Dr Jeevannavar |
| Sahyog | Shri Suresh Srivastava | Shri Mahesh Chadda
Shri Navin Sinha
Dr. Ram Sagar Singh |
| Sr. Citizen
Prabhari - Shri Balram Das ji Tandon | Shri Arun Jain | Shri Jayanti Bhai Barot
Shri Jagdish Mittal |
| Antyodaya Yojana (NGO)
Prabhari- Lalita Kumar Mangalam | Shri Basant Kumar | Smt. Medha Somaya
Shri Sanjay Chaturvedi
Shri Jitendra Mahajan |
| North-East India Samparak
Prabhari- P.Aachrya | Shri Sunil Deodhar | |
| Water Management

Cow Development
Prabhari- Shri Radhey Shyam Gupta | Shri Sriram Vedire

Shri Mayankeshwar Singh | Shri Umesh Thakur
Shri Madhav Bhandari
Shri Gangappa |
| Fishermen's | Dr. Prakash Malgave | Shri Lalji Maidan
Shri Ram charitra Nishad |
| Non Conventional Energy | Shri M.K. Anna Patil | Sri krishnan Kumar (Kumar Sahab)
Shri Y.B. Ramakrishan
Shri Alok Bhargava |
| CA | Shri Sunil Vashisht | Shri Sanjay Kapoor
Shri Deen Dayal Aggarwal
Shri Akhilesh Jain
Shri G V Krishna
Shri O P Mishra |
| External Affairs | Shri Sheshadri Chari | Prof. Shesh Giri Rao |
| Legal and legislative
Prabhari- Smt. Pinki Anand | Shri Raghvendra singh | Shri K Bala Subhramanyam
Shri Vivek Goyal
Shri Vivek Reddy
Shri Neeraj Gupta |
| Literature & publication
Prabhari- Shri Prabhat Jha | Shri Amba Charan | Dr. Anupam Alok |
| Weavers | Shri vijay Kumar Bharati | Shri Mangal Singh Kori
Mohd Ali Azad Ansari |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Artisan | Shri Vishwanathan | Shri Sunil Joshi
Shri Dharampal Prajapati |
| Overseas friends of BJP | Shri Vijay Jolly | Shri Amit Thakkar
Dr Rajni Sareen |
| RTI | Shri Vivek Kr. Garg | Shri Hariom Aggarwal |
| Friends of BJP | Shri Rajesh Jain | Shri Manoj Arora
Shri Amit Malviya
Shri Raghu Ram |
| Jhuggi Jhopri | Shri Arun dev ji | Shri Sunil Bharala,
Madhya Pradesh |
| Naturopathy
Samvad | Shri Jaiprakash Aggarwal Surya
Shri Anupam Trivedi | Dr D N Sharma
Shri Paritosh Vyas |
| Media | Shri Shrikant Sharma | Shri K K Sharma
Shri Hans Bhalla
Shri Shilp Kumar |
| Economic Activity | Shri C Rajshekhar | Shri Amod Aggarwal |
| Teachers | Narendra Singh | Prof Raghuveer Nandan |
| Good governance
Prabhari- Vinay Sahastrabudhe | Shri Ram Naik | Sh Nitin Patel
Shri Joseph Alphonse
Sushri Shikha Tyagi
Shri S K Singh |
| Ganga Samgra
Prahari - Sushri Uma Bharti | Anita Singh | Aacharya Hariom |
| Security
Prabhari- Gen. N.S. Malik | Sh P Chandra Shekhar | Shri Subhash Chauhan |

In charges & Co- In charges of Morchas

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Mahila Morcha | - | Smt. Mridula Sinha |
| Yuva Morcha | - | Shri P Murlidhar Rao |
| S. C. Morcha | - | Shri Satya Narayan Jatiya |
| S.T. Morcha | - | Shri Joel Oram |
| Kisan Morcha | - | Shri Purushotam Rupala |
| Minority Morcha | - | Dr. J. K. Jain |
| Coordinator for All Morcha's and Cells- Shri Mahendra Pandey | | |
| Sangathak For Kisan Morcha, Panchayat Cell & Gau Vansh Vikash Prakoshtha –Shri Hriday Nath Singh | | |
| Sangathak For Sahyog, Sr. Citizen, Antyodaya Yojna, NGOCeLL – Shri Makhan Singh | | |
| Sangathak For SC Morcha, ST Morcha & Co-operative Cell – Shri Bhagwat Sharan Mathur | | |
| Sangathak For Training & Sahyog Nidhi – Shri Ram Pyare Pandey | | |

More thick-skinned than any pachyderm

By A Surya Prakash

The Prime Minister pretends as if he was never involved. Most distressing of all, the Attorney General of India and the officials who interfered with the process of justice continue in office, as if nothing has happened

The brazenness with which the United Progressive Alliance has interfered with the working of the Central Bureau of Investigation's probe into Coalgate has left citizens wondering whether any

UPA1. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India investigated these allocations and said that by not adopting a transparent method of allocation to private parties through methods like competitive bidding, the Government's actions had caused a humongous loss of Rs 1,85,591 crore up to March 31, 2011 to the public exchequer. This was far more than the loss caused by the unscrupulous manner in which the Government sold 2G

blocks. Mr Kumar, who had ridiculed the CAG's findings earlier, had this inference removed from the CBI report. Among those who were involved in this exercise, which smacks of contempt for the highest court in the country, were the then Law Minister, the Attorney General, the PMO and the Coal Ministry. The Minister summoned the Director of the CBI and the law officer to his office to see the report. Alongwith Attorney General GE Vahanvati, Additional Solicitor General Harin Raval attended this meeting. The Attorney General later summoned CBI officials to his home office. Meanwhile, officials from the PMO and the Coal Ministry landed at the CBI headquarters and asked that they be shown the report. All the characters in this drama suggested changes of some kind or the other or approved the line taken by the Minister.

The CBI was expected to keep its report confidential because the status of the Government in this case is that of a suspect or an accused in a criminal case. Have you ever come across an investigating officer being asked to show his investigation report to an accused before submission in a court? Secondly, have you ever come across an investigating officer changing the contents of the charge-sheet on the suggestions of the accused? This is common sense and very easily understood by India's 1.2 billion

The Prime Minister pretends as if he was never involved. Most distressing of all, the Attorney General of India and the officials who interfered with the process of justice continue in office, as if nothing has happened.

institution will remain intact when hopefully, someday, this Government and its Prime Minister bow out of office. While the story of the interference of the Prime Minister's Office, the then Union Minister for Law and Justice, the Coal Ministry and the Attorney General in the preparation of the CBI's report to the Supreme Court in this matter is indeed shocking, the lies uttered by key players in this episode have shaken public confidence not just in the Ministers but for the first time in the country's law officers.

How despicable the conduct of these individuals has been can be gauged from the following facts: The Government allocated coal blocks to its cronies in an irresponsible manner during

Spectrum to private telecom companies.

When the CAG report became public, Ministers in the Government hurled abuses at the CAG and sought to ridicule the findings of the auditor. Thereafter, the matter came before the Supreme Court and the court directed the CBI to investigate the allocations and report back to it. It was decided that the CBI would file its report in a sealed cover. But, such was the respect that the UPA and its former Law Minister Ashwani Kumar had for the court that they insisted on seeing the CBI's report before its submission.

The CBI had said exactly what the CAG had said. Its report spoke of the absence of clear cut norms for allocation of coal

people, but persons in the Union Government are so drunk with power that this simple logic went over their head.

But, the story does not end here. When news of the Government's interference in the CBI's report came into the open,

contradicted the claims made by the then Law Minister and the Attorney General. He said the Minister made two significant deletions in the report, called two meetings in this connection in February and March, and Mr Vahanvati was present at both

Mr Vahanvati's dishonesty before the court. Mr Sinha's affidavit and Mr Raval's letter gives us an idea of the audacity with which the key players lied to the court and the people about their involvement in this case.

In the light of these facts, the court has indicted the Government for its conduct and asked the CBI whether it is a "collaborator or investigator". No Government has ever got such a tongue-lashing from the Supreme Court. This moment is one of the most shameful in the history of the Union Government after independence. Yet, the Law Minister was screaming and kicking when he demitted office and he remains defiant to this day. The Prime Minister pretends as if he was never involved and, most distressing of all, the Attorney General and the officials who interfered with the process of justice continue in office as if nothing has happened. Never before have we seen so many thick-skinned persons in one Government. Where do we go from here? ■

(Courtesy: The Pioneer)

The court has indicted the Government for its conduct and asked the CBI whether it is a "collaborator or investigator". No Government has ever got such a tongue-lashing from the Supreme Court. This moment is one of the most shameful in the history of the Union Government after independence.

the persons involved resorted to outright dishonesty. Shockingly, Attorney General Vahanvati, the country's topmost law officer, claimed in the Supreme Court that he had not seen the CBI report before it was presented to the court. The then Law Minister and his friends in Government resorted to a string of untruths to explain what he had done. It was said that he did not call a meeting of the CBI Director and others. Next, he said he had made only grammatical changes in the report, as if that is the job of the Law Minister. Thereafter, it was said that he had not made any "substantial changes" in the report. Finally, in an attempt to brazen it out, Mr Kumar and his friends argued that as Law Minister he had the right to oversee the legal side of the CBI's work. As the scandalous conduct of the then Law Minister, the PMO and the law officers came to light, the Supreme Court directed CBI Director Ranjit Sinha to file an affidavit stating exactly who had interfered with the report and what changes were made at their behest and why the court was misled on this issue.

Mr Sinha's affidavit

these meetings. Further, on March 6, Mr Vahanvati called CBI officers to his home office, saw the report, made some observations and suggested some changes. The PMO and the Coal Ministry had also interfered with the status report – which tells us a lot about the respect that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has for the Supreme Court. In addition, Mr Raval, in a letter to Mr Vahanvati, has also confirmed that both the then Law Minister and the Attorney General directly interfered with the contents of the CBI report. Mr Raval, in addition, has exposed

Democratic transition in Pakistan a welcome development : Rajnath Singh

On the victory of Mr. Nawaz Sharif in the recently completed Pakistan polls BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on 14 May 2013 said the democratic transition of government in Pakistan is a welcome development. The BJP congratulates Mr. Nawaz Sharif on his historic electoral victory. He said Mr. Sharif's statements on rebuilding relations with India are a positive sign.

He further said since Mr. Sharif has publicly stated to pick up the pieces of 1999 peace process we hope that the agenda for peace and stability in the region is not hijacked by vested interests operating from Pakistan. Keeping in view our past experiences with Pakistan, the BJP views Mr. Sharif's statements with cautious optimism. We hope Mr. Nawaz Sharif is able to walk the talk he said.

India-China relations should go beyond diplomatic niceties

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

The new Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived on a three-day visit to India on 19 May for the first leg of his maiden foreign trip since he took office in March this year. During the meeting with his Indian counterpart, Premier Li Keqiang's statements regarding India-China ties have been quite warm and exude hope and confidence. He said, "Cooperation between China and India means that the two great civilizations can learn from each other, the two major markets complement each other, the two major emerging economies fulfill common development, and the two neighboring countries achieve mutual benefit and win-win results".

Li added China regarded India as an important partner and friend and also expressed confidence that his visit would strengthen mutual trust, deepen cooperation, expand common interests and consolidate bilateral friendship, which would inject new vigor into the China-India strategic cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity.

Li also clearly stated that, "The purpose of his current visit to India is three fold – to increase mutual trust, to intensify cooperation and to face the future". The two countries also signed a series of agreements on cooperation in trade, agriculture,

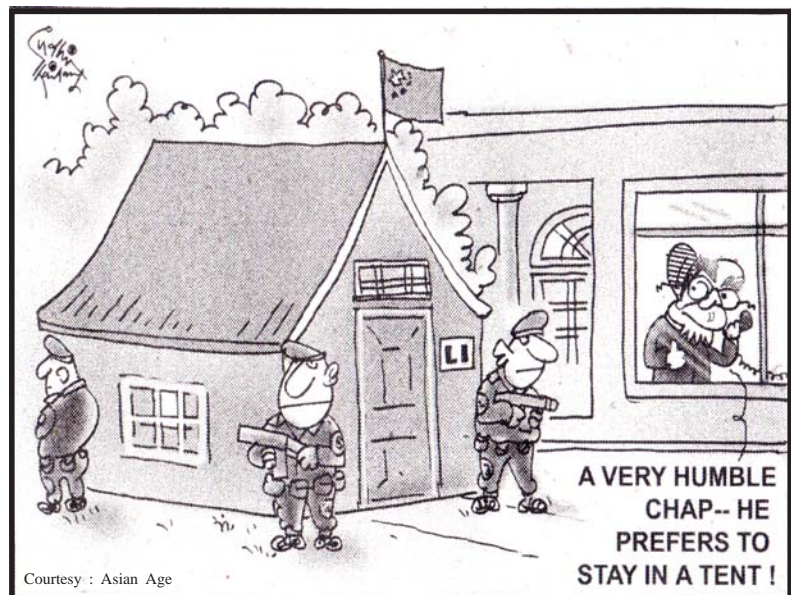
environmental protection and culture.

Prime Minister Dr. Singh welcomed the statement of his counterpart and said it was the first meeting between them and they would continue the high-level exchanges to strengthen the bilateral ties. He said that, "The new Chinese leadership is serious to promote good neighbourly relations and to find practical and pragmatic solutions to outstanding issues between our two countries".

Notwithstanding the camaraderie and diplomatic niceties from both sides, many fundamental questions at the heart of the bilateral relations between India and China remained unanswered. There were no answers to the recent

atmosphere of confusion on the border and incursion in Ladakh. There earlier incidents of refusal of visa to our army commander from Northern sector, stapled visa to Indians from Arunachal and the Depsang wound too did not evoke any convincing answers from China. Can bilateral relations between these two nations improve in an atmosphere of confusion? After a tense border standoff between China and India just days before the Chinese premier's visit to India and in the absence of mutual trust between the two neighbours, can peace and stability in the region become a reality?

Before going into the details to seek answers for the recent standoff between the two Asian



Courtesy : Asian Age

giants it is important to know that there are many outstanding bilateral issues though India and China are neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. Dealing with an aggressive China has been a major challenge for improving bilateral relations which has resulted in an atmosphere of mistrust and conflict between these two ancient nations. Border dispute has been a perennial problem between India and China. 15 rounds of border talks have taken place till now but haven't bore any fruit. India has always raised the issue of illegal occupation of 38,000 square kilometers of its territory by China in the Aksai Chin region, while China continues to claim 90,000 square kilometers in Arunachal Pradesh of India. Recently, Chinese platoons erected tented posts in Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) sector in eastern Ladakh causing tensions between the two countries.

Secondly, the other major issue which has strained bilateral relations with China is Tibet. China has raised its objection to the presence of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama and other 150,000 Tibetans in India. The Dalai Lama maintains that he is seeking more autonomy for Tibetans, while China accuses India and Dalai Lama of conspiring and wanting to split Tibet off from the rest of China.

Third point of conflict is Pakistan. China's unflinching support to Pakistan also raises the temper between the two countries. China is the largest arms supplier to Pakistan. Recently, Pakistan had handed over Gwadar Port operations to

China. Earlier in 2012, Pakistan had allowed China to build the Karakoram highway providing strategic land link between Xingjian and Pakistan.

The growing trade imbalance has also been an irritant between the two countries. India maintains that trade remains heavily skewed in China's favour. Indian Prime Minister has pressed his counterpart Chinese Premier Li

Instead of answering these critical questions China had raised the issue of infrastructure development by the Indian side along the LAC. In fact the Chinese troops intruded 19 km into Ladakh during the recent stand-off in Depsang Valley and engaged in a face-off to make a point about India's infrastructure development there. Reality is India has upgraded some airfields

Another major point of conflict is the overpowering nature of China in South-East Asia region. China is trying to overpower India by growing its strategic presence in neighbouring countries. China has developed its naval facilities in Burma, Bangladesh, the Seychelles and Sri Lanka. China is also developing ports in East Africa, including Lamu in Kenya and Bagamoyo in Tanzania. According to reports, China has also made inroads into Nepal recently and has completed a 22-kilometre road connecting central Nepal with Kyirong district in China. These are main points of conflicts between India and China in recent years.

Keqiang to do more to redress a trade imbalance that has left a \$29 billion deficit with China.

Another major point of conflict is the overpowering nature of China in South-East Asia region. China is trying to overpower India by growing its strategic presence in neighbouring countries. China has developed its naval facilities in Burma, Bangladesh, the Seychelles and Sri Lanka. China is also developing ports in East Africa, including Lamu in Kenya and Bagamoyo in Tanzania. According to reports, China has also made inroads into Nepal recently and has completed a 22-kilometre road connecting central Nepal with Kyirong district in China. These are main points of conflicts between India and China in recent years.

including Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), Nyoma and Phuckche in Ladakh region in the last few years to maintain logistics for its troops guarding the inaccessible LAC. Most of the forward posts are air-maintained and these airfields are the lifeline as transport planes land there carrying supplies.

Incidentally, DBO airfield is about 30 km from the face-off point and about 150 km from the Karakoram Highway and the Chinese had objected to it. Instead of stopping their activity on the Chinese side of the boarder Beijing asked India to stop its capability and capacity building to counter Beijing's vastly superior infrastructure across the LAC.

On one hand China has pointed out that the choice of

India as the first stop of Chinese PM's maiden foreign tour indicates the great importance Beijing attaches to its relations with India but on the other hand China has continued to indulge in activities targeting India with great impunity in recent times.

Notwithstanding the diplomatic mistrust, the bilateral trade between the two countries has grown manifold in recent years to touch 66.5 billion U.S. dollars in 2012 making China India's second largest trade partner. Even the goal set by the two countries' to expand bilateral trade to 100 billion dollars by 2015 looks achievable if China realizes its pivotal role in ensuring improved bilateral relations with India. This can create a win-win situation for both the emerging economies and bring prosperity to both the large Asian neighbors.

The principal opposition Party of India, the BJP, welcoming the visit of Li has said that, "Premier Li's visit must be a path-breaking initiative addressing issues of enhancing bilateral cooperation and friendly ties, including more youth exchanges between India and China, resolving the border issue, resolving issues like the construction of dam on the river Brahmaputra along with the border, China's military help to Pakistan and correcting the trade imbalance between India and China". It has also added that the trust levels between the two countries must be improved for a sincere and long lasting handshake. For a healthy Sino Indian relation, China must understand the sensitivity of these issues and has to take the concerns more seriously.

Even Chinese media like the *Global Times*, came out with editorial, saying that "There are many weaknesses in the Sino-India bilateral relationship which can be exploited by outsiders. Without mutual respect, small frictions can be exaggerated," it said, apparently referring to the recent military standoff at the Daulat Beig Old in Ladakh area after Chinese troops intruded 19 km inside Indian territory.

The paper further said, "However, China's surrounding environment will suffer if India, a country which has the prospect of running neck-and-neck with China, becomes another Japan or Philippines in terms of its policies toward China". If China wants a good bilateral relation with its biggest neighbour then the Chinese Premier has to listen to the voices raised by its own media carefully, behave responsibly and must show his commitment to improve mechanisms to settle a long-running border dispute with India.

No doubt, this is the supreme need of this hour and in line with the fundamental interests of the two countries and the two peoples that China and India maintain peaceful and friendly relations and can be a blessing to Asia and the world at large. Only after that the trust deficit will change into cooperation, the two great civilizations can learn from each other, the two major markets complement each other, the two major emerging economies fulfill common development, and the two neighboring countries can achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

~~~~~●●●~~~~~

## Protests against Chinese Premier's visit to India

Protesters in Jammu and Kashmir and New Delhi took to the streets and demonstrated against the visit of the Chinese premier Li Keqiang in India by shouting slogans and burning effigy. The President of Jammu West Assembly Movement, Sunil Dimple said that they did not want any negotiations or red carpet treatment for the Chinese Premier but wanted the Prime Minister of India to act strongly over the recent Chinese incursion into the country's territory. Similarly, in Delhi, inspite of the heavy security deployed around the Taj Palace hotel where Li Keqiang was staying, a group of Tibetan protestors gathered outside the hotel premises and shouted slogans while holding banners reading 'Free Tibet'. ■

# Yoga not only a way towards *Rog Mukti* but also towards *Bhog Mukti* : Modi

On 23rd May 2013 Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Lakulish Yoga University in Ahmedabad. He said, "The law may see this as a Yoga University. But, it is much more.

about Rog Mukti, it is also about Bhog Mukti (desisting from worldly greed)." Shri Modi challenged the conventional belief of some people that only performing Asanas is Yoga. He affirmed, "Some think Asana is

The Chief Minister pointed out that Yoga gives the individual the strength to determine what the person wants to do in his or her life. He also added that in the history of our nation, there have been various types of Yoga that have been written about by great individuals and texts. He stated that time and again, our land has been home to saints and seers who have taken Yoga to the world in an extremely scientific manner. He also shared that some individuals have made the effort to make Yoga a collective exercise.

In his speech, he also linked Yoga with stress management. He said, "Stress management is a big thing. A day is not far when stress management professional experts will assume immense importance. Earlier we had joint families, which were natural ways of mitigating stress. Now we are in micro families are common, both parents are working and stress among children is increasing. That is why they are taking to guns." Shri Modi went on to say, "Take children to a toy shop. Eight out of ten children will chose guns. If this goes on, how can we build a social fabric?" He also stressed on the need to create good Yoga teachers and said that this University is a wonderful step in this direction. (FOC) ■



It is a Yoga University. From here a new Yuga will be born that will work towards the benefit of mankind." Shri Modi recalled that when he talked about Gujarat having a Yoga University, there were skeptics who asked where the university is but today this dream has been realized. Shri Modi expressed confidence that this Yoga University will benefit not only Gujarat and India but also the world.

Shri Modi talked at length about the importance of Yoga in our lives. He described it as the simplest way to work towards the good of the world. He said, "Many feel Yoga is a way towards Rog Mukti (eradication of diseases) but Yoga is not only

Yoga. Some say we cannot bend properly so we find Yoga tough. But ask yourselves- those who work in circuses are very flexible. But, is every one of them a Yogi? If only doing Asanas was Yoga then everyone working in a circus could be Yogi! But Yoga is much more. It is a blend of Gyan (knowledge), Karm (work) and Bhakti (devotion) together."

Shri Modi opined that another definition of Yoga is what integrates. He said that Yoga is far beyond and more important than converting dollars and pounds into rupees. Quoting a poem by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Modi affirmed that it is possible to experience Yoga even in political life.

# Phase-II of BJP Vikas Yatra in Chhattisgarh culminates in Rajnandgaon

From Our Correspondent

After the commencement of Phase-II of Vikas Yatra on 14 May 2013 in Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh addressed several massive rallies in various places on the route. Speaking on those rallies during the yatra Shri Raman Singh said the BJP led State Government is successfully implementing the development schemes in Chhattisgarh. This wave of development has touched every part of the State, right from the remote villages to the big cities. Hardworking labourers, farmers and every other section of society have



developed tremendous confidence in themselves and in the Government as well. And

this confidence of public is the biggest strength of State Government, said the Chief

## Two things essential to take India ahead are development and trust : Narendra Modi

On the culmination of second phase of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh's phase-II Vikas Yatra Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a large public meeting in Rajnandgaon on 18, May 2013. Speaking on the occasion Shri Modi said that the only way ahead is development and two things are essential to take India ahead are development and trust.

Shri Modi stated that the nation has seen years of votebank politics propagated by the Congress Party and they have seen successive BJP Governments, be it of Dr. Raman Singh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Smt.

Vasundhara Raje and in Himachal Pradesh comprehensively reject votebank politics and embrace politics of development. The Chief Minister added that development politics is not easy, saying, "The path of development politics is not easy. There is lot of hard work. Sometimes, a lot remains to be done, people may have complaints too but when one embraces development politics, there is a trust in the minds of the people."

Contrasting the work and outlook of the BJP Governments with that of the Congress, Shri Modi pointed that a lack of trust is the biggest thing affecting this country. "Biggest crisis in India is a lack of trust. Whom to

trust...does anyone have faith in the Government in Delhi? Will you feel safe when your daughter has gone to Delhi alone?" he asked.

The Chief Minister recalled former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and affirmed, "The amount of times we praise Atal ji, it is less. We have seen what all happened while creating new states. But, due to Vajpayee ji Chhattisgarh was born without any bloodshed. And now, when Chhattisgarh is scaling new heights of development that is when we remember Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji."

During his speech, Shri Modi showered immense praise on the leadership of Dr. Raman Singh. ►►

Minister.

While addressing the massive gathering at Pandaria of Kabeerdham district on the second day of Vikas Yatra phase-II the Chief Minister said that every scheme related to the basic necessities of public like roads, irrigation, drinking-water supply, health services, rural development, education and power supply, are being implemented on expedited pace. On the occasion, Dr Raman Singh presented 118

construction works worth ₹87.39 crores for development of Pandaria.

This includes 'bhumi-pujan' of 38 new works and inauguration of 80 completed works. During the programme, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the distribution of

bonus for paddy and sugarcane to 10,851 farmers.

Dr. Singh expressed his gratitude to public for the overwhelming response to Vikas Yatra despite the odd weather



conditions. He said that he wants to personally interact with the farmers and people of State during the 45 days of Vikas Yatra, which will conclude on June 20. He added that this relation with public will only grow stronger with time.

Addressing a huge gathering

in Kabeerdham, Dr. Raman Singh said the wave of development also touched Kabeerdham district, bringing about a positive change in the lives of people over here. Over the years, sugarcane cultivation and other advanced methods of agriculture have drawn interest of farmers. While, the Sutyapat and Karanala Irrigation Projects in Kabeerdham district are providing better

irrigation facilities to the farmers. State Government is also implementing Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana, with the goal of connecting each and every village with all-weather roads he said. ■

► He said that Dr. Raman Singh has effectively carried forward the development of the state. He described Dr. Raman Singh as Pranvaan, Tejasvi, Lokpriya and person who is totally committed to the welfare of Chhattisgarh.

Shri Modi praised Dr. Raman Singh for his unrelenting and courageous fight against Naxalism. He said that during meetings of the National Development Council, everyone takes Dr. Raman Singh's views very seriously but when he talks about Naxalism, Congressmen become silent and they urge Dr. Raman Singh to talk on everything

else part from Naxalism. Shri Modi expressed confidence that if Dr. Raman Singh gets five more years then Chhattisgarh will go ahead of even Gujarat and that he would be very proud if that happens.

He declared that Chhattisgarh needs development, security and trust and that the BJP has tirelessly worked towards that. Shri Modi went on to say, "I am sure you will give the BJP Government another chance. And if you are confused, think of the faces that ruined Chhattisgarh from 2000 to 2003 and you will automatically get drawn to Dr. Raman Singh."

Speaking on the occasion,

Chhattisgarh CM Dr. Raman Singh talked about the development initiatives of his Government in the last decade. He stated that Shri Modi is a person who has defeated the Congress by an innings and said that this is the first time Shri Modi is visiting Chhattisgarh after defeating the Congress.

He praised Shri Modi for its development initiatives and shared that Shri Modi has been attached to Chhattisgarh even before becoming the Chief Minister, as the *Prabhari* of the state. Several top BJP leaders were present on the occasion. ■



## Congress Govt. failed to increase Special Plan Assistance in 2013-14 Annual Plan : Dhumal

The former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal has criticized the Congress led Himachal Pradesh State Govt. for its failure to get increase in the Special Plan Assistance in the Annual Plan of 2013-14. He said that the special Plan assistance in the annual Plan 2012-13 was Rs 1400 crores which has been reduced to Rs. 1350 Cr in the next year's Annual Plan of 2013-14 by the Planning Commission. In a Press Statement Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal said the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister has failed to present the case of the State before the Planning Commission in the CM- Deputy Chairman level meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013. He said that during the BJP government the State got the Special Plan assistance of Rs. 1400 Cr in the Annual Plan of 2012-13 which was an increase of Rs. 400 Cr over the Annual Plan of 2011-12.

Shri Dhumal said that the Special Plan assistance has always been decreased during the Congress rule in the state. The Special Plan assistance was Rs. 524.75 Cr when BJP left the Govt. in 2002-03. The Plan assistance was reduced to Rs. 342 Cr in 2007-08 during the Congress rule. The Congress Govt. has always failed to protect the financial interests of the people of Himachal Pradesh whenever they came to power in the state, he said.

He said that during the BJP



**Shri Dhumal said that the Special Plan assistance has always been decreased during the Congress rule in the state. The Special Plan assistance was Rs. 524.75 Cr when BJP left the Govt. in 2002-03. The Plan assistance was reduced to Rs. 342 Cr in 2007-08 during the Congress rule. The Congress Govt. has always failed to protect the financial interests of the people of Himachal Pradesh whenever they came to power in the state, he said.**

Govt. the Special Plan Assistance was increased to Rs. 450 Cr in 2008-09 from Rs. 342 Cr which was an increase of Rs. 108 Cr. During the financial year 2009-10 the Special Plan Assistance was increased to Rs. 500 Cr which was an increase of Rs. 50 Cr over the last Financial Year. The Special Plan Assistance was increased to Rs. 782 Cr in 2010-11 which was an increase of Rs. 282 Cr over the last financial

year. The Special Plan Assistance was also increased to Rs. 1000 Cr in 2011-12 by him after strongly presenting the case before the Planning Commission.

In the Last Financial year i.e. 2012-13 the State got the Special Plan Assistance of Rs. 1400 Cr from the Planning Commission which was a record increase of Rs. 400 Cr in one year.

He said it is very unfortunate that Shri Virbhadra Singh has even failed to maintain the present level of the Special Plan Assistance and agreed for a cut of Rs. 50 Cr in the Special Plan Assistance in the annual Plan of 2013-14.

He said, "During my speech on the budget 2013-14 I had categorically cautioned Chief Minister to be very particular for the increase in the Special Plan Assistance in the annual Plan of 2013-14." He said that the Congress Govt is raising loan of Rs. 2448 Cr during 2013-14 to fund the annual Plan of 2013-14. The Loan liability of the State has increased during the Congress Govts as they have no resource mobilization plan. The Congress government raised the loan of Rs. 8032 Cr from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and total loan liability was Rs. 21241 Cr at the end 2007-08.

The BJP Govt has paid all the arrears of the pay revision, pension and DA liabilities of the employees and the total loan rose from 2008-09 to 2012-13 was Rs. 7272 Cr. He said that the cut in the Plan assistance will increase the loan liability of the govt. ■

## JHARKHAND

### 'BJP is sole solution to instability in Jharkhand': Rajnath

**B**JP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said all of its leaders were united and would put in their maximum efforts in the upcoming elections. He also stressed that only the BJP could possibly give a stable Government to the State.



Shri Singh was speaking at the BJP office in Ranchi during a personal visit. "Both Parliamentary as well as Assembly elections in the State are likely to take place soon, and both the elections are challenge for the party. According to a recent survey conducted by some agencies, there will be a BJP-led Government at the Centre as well as in Jharkhand soon," Shri Singh asserted. He said, "Jharkhand never had a stable Government due to the wrong policies of the Congress". Accusing the Congress led UPA Government at the Centre for doing nothing to rein in price rise across the country and to curb corruption; Shri Singh said it was high time the Government should do something, adding that the Prime Minister needed to introspect. "There should be some moral benchmark for at least some posts in the country," he added. ■

## MADHYA PRADESH

### State Govt. fulfilled the dream of 24X7 power supply : Shivraj Singh Chouhan



**M**adhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the BJP led State Government has fulfilled the dream of 24X7 power supply as per its resolve. He said that power generation is increasing constantly in the State. Continuous power supply will

change the state's image. It will no longer be among sick states. He was launching Atal Jyoti Abhiyan in 20th district Khandwa. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also announced a medical college at

Khandwa.

Shri Chouhan said that earlier no one had imagined that power will be supplied 24X7 hours in the State. He said that the State Government fulfilled this dream as per its resolve. He said that the State Government has provisioned Rs. 25,000 crore for ensuring 24-hour power supply in the State.

The Chief Minister said that fixation of Rs. 1,500 per quintal support price for wheat procurement has resulted into competition among traders. It is due to the Government policy that farmers are getting better price for their produce. For the first time, farmers are selling wheat at the rate of Rs. 1,700 and Rs. 1800 per quintal in the State. He said that poor persons will be provided wheat and iodised salt at the rate of Re. 1 per kg from next month.

Shri Chouhan said that the poor have also equal right to live. For this, the State Government has decided to provide them constructed houses in urban areas. The Chief Minister said that now only bungalows will not be planned in cities, but houses for labourers will also be planned. Now, houses costing upto Rs. 3 lakh will be provided to them. For this, the State Government will give subsidy worth Rs. 70,000 and bank loans will be provided to the beneficiaries. The Chief Minister said that families with upto Rs2 lakh per annum income in rural areas will also be covered under *Mukhyamantri Grameen Aawas Yojana*. ■

## CHHATTISGARH

### State to be role model in health security also : Raman Singh



Like food security, public health security scheme of Chhattisgarh it would also be a role model for the country, said Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh. The State Government has been continuously making efforts in a planned manner in this direction, he added. The CM while expressing this view at a programme

organised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) in Raipur said the State Government would not take rest till every citizen of Chhattisgarh are provided with health security. School Education Minister Shri

Brijmohan Agrawal presided over the function. Dr. Raman Singh, who was the chief guest of the programme, congratulated the Indian Medical Association for reaching to a solution to the obstacle while came under the Mukhyamantri Health Insurance Scheme (MSBY) in a cordial atmosphere.

He said that it would be really a challenging task before the State Government to make health facilities available to each and every citizen. IMA has come forward to cooperate with the State Government in this great work, he added. The Chief Minister said that there could be problems at the beginning of any new scheme, but IMA, by taking decision in the interest of patients, had accepted the aspirations of the State Government. This decision of the Association has showed the sensitivity of doctors toward patients, he added. He said that under the *Sanjeevani Yojana*, the State Government has decided to give financial assistance for the treatment of seventeen more diseases. For the treatment of these diseases, they would get the benefits of *Sanjeevani Yojana*, along with the Chief Minister health insurance scheme.

The review of the CM health insurance scheme would be done after a year and if the work was found satisfactory, the insurance amount would be increased, he added. The Chief Minister further said that after the creation of the state, because of the well-planned efforts of the State Government rapid improvement has been taken place in the health index of the State. The infant mortality rate (IMR) has come down from 95 per 1000 to 51, whereas, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) has come down from 407 to 269 he added. ■

## PUNJAB

### SAD-BJP alliance bagged comfortable majority in all Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samitis

The people of Punjab have once again reposed faith in the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) combine. On a victory-spree, the alliance has bagged a comfortable majority in all the Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samitis that went to the polls on 19 May 2013.

In what could be termed a one-sided battle, the alliance swept six of the total 22 zila parishads and 43 out of 146 block samitis, while maintaining a respectable lead in all most all the seats as per the [results and trends available](#).

June 1-15, 2013 ○ 29

Heading for a clean sweep, SAD-BJP combine has secured clear majority in the zila parishads of Amritsar, Bathinda, Kapurthala, Faridkot, Mohali and Patiala districts. While interacting with media persons SAD spokesman Dr. Daljeet Singh Cheema said eight hundred and fifty-one candidates of the SAD-BJP combine have already won their seats out of a total of 2,732 seats in the state. Similarly, in Ferozepur district, Kapurthala district, Mohali district, Mukatsar district, Nawanshahr district and in Patiala, the alliance has swept the maximum seats. Dr. Cheema further added that as per the results and trends, the alliance would have complete sweep of the polls. ■

## GUJARAT

### Ahmedabad BRTS wins silver rating from globally renowned committee

Ahmedabad BRTS, known as Janmarg has added yet another feather in its cap. It has received the Silver Rating from a BRT Standard technical committee comprising of world renowned experts in the field of BRT. This Technical Committee certifies corridors and recommends revisions to the BRT Standard annually. The benefit of certifying a BRT corridor as gold, silver, bronze, or basic is that it sets an internationally recognized standard for the current best practice for BRT. The Committee in 2013 gave Silver rating for Ahmedabad Janmarg.

Ahmedabad started its BRT system in 2009. Since its inauguration in October 2009, Janmarg has been accepted as the first 'complete' BRTS in India and has influenced planning and design choices in other cities – in India and abroad. The trans-vision of Ahmedabad is captioned as 'Accessible Ahmedabad'. As part of this vision, the Ahmedabad BRTS is officially called 'Janmarg' – the people's way.

The Ahmedabad BRTS has won numerous national and international awards in the past too. The Prime Minister adjudged the BRTS as the best Mass Rapid Transport System in the country. It also won the 'Best New Innovation Project' award under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for excellence in Urban Transport. It won the Sustainable Urban Transport Award (2010) in Washington. The Central Government again lauded it when it won the National Award for 'Best Intelligent Transport System – 2011' at the 4th Annual Urban Mobility Conference, New Delhi. ■

# The future is full of potential

By M M Gangadeb

**D**id seers and savants of the past in the Indic region foresee the potential for evolutionary growth in the region? Swami Shivananda, who was then the president of the Ramakrishna Mission and Math (1922) was answering queries posed by a devotee concerned about India's future. Swami Shivananda said that the regeneration of the region was a certainty. He pointed out that "India's advance in art, science, philosophy and education - in every field, secular and spiritual - will be so great that it will astonish the whole world. Compared with her future achievement, her glorious past will pale into insignificance".

However, in the race for economic growth we must not forget our cultural and spiritual heritage. The soul of India is its eternal values acquired by 5,000 years of civilisation. Add to this inputs from Islamic culture and European knowledge in matters of science, communication and liberal values. This then is our composite culture.

Where did we go wrong? According to Sri Aurobindo, a former Bengal revolutionary, "It was because our public life became most irreligious, egoistic, self-seeking and materialistic that we fell." By 'religion' Sri Aurobindo meant Sanatana Dharma and not its bigoted form. Material wealth is essential. No one should go hungry. The basic requirements of people must be



met. Poverty must be alleviated. But the essence of Indian thought has always maintained that material wealth should never be the only aim. We must not neglect the moral and spiritual values that are the cornerstone of our civilisation. In 1897, Swami Vivekananda had predicted the fate of Europe after having travelled there and seen the material advancements of the European people. "Europe, the centre of the manifestation of material energy, will crumble within 50 years, if she is not mindful to change her position, to shift her ground and make spirituality the basis of her life," he said.

German Indologist Max Mueller said, "If I were to look over the whole world to find out the country most richly endowed with all wealth, power and beauty that nature can bestow - in some parts a very paradise on earth - I should point to India. If I were asked

under what sky the human mind has most fully developed some of its choicest gifts, has most deeply pondered on the greatest problems of life, and has found solutions to some of them which well deserved the attention even of those who have studied Plato and Kant - I should point to India. And if I were to ask myself from what literature we, here in Europe, we who have been nurtured almost exclusively on the thoughts of Greek, Roman and the Semitic may draw that corrective which is most wanted in order to make our inner life more perfect, more comprehensive, more universal, in fact more truly human, a life not for this life only but a transfigured and eternal life - again I should point to India."

Emperor Ashoka's and Gandhiji's principle of non-violence and Sri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions cannot be disputed, said Arnold Toynbee who stated, "Here we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family - and, in the Atomic Age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves."

The world is looking to us to show the way towards world peace. Didn't Swami Vivekananda say, "This time India is the centre"? Let us therefore aim to be not merely the richest country of the world but strive to be the greatest. ■

(Courtesy : Times of India)