



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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One endowed with spiritual intelligence can get rid of both positive and negative reactions in this very life, therefore be diligent in the science of uniting the individual consciousness with the Ultimate Consciousness; in all activities the science of uniting the individual consciousness with the Ultimate Consciousness is superlative genius – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 48)

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“We are fully confident that the BJP-led NDA will cross this magic number – 272. We expect that the NDA will get approximately 300 Lok Sabha seats.”
-Rajnath Singh



“The way India has voted, I can say that the Mother-Son government is sure to be defeated. Now we have to look at a strong Government”
-Narendra Modi

Akshaya Tritiya : 2nd May, 2014

Akshaya Tritiya, also known as Akha Teej, is a holy day for Hindus and Jains. It falls on the third Tithi (lunar day) of Bright Half (Shukla Paksha) of the month of Vaishakha and one of the four most important days for Hindus. The word “Akshaya” means the never diminishing in Sanskrit and the day is believed to bring good luck and success. It is believed that if you do charity on this day you will be blessed. The day is considered auspicious for starting new ventures. The legend is that any venture initiated on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya continues to grow and bring prosperity.

The most popular story regarding the celebration of Akshaya Tritiya is that Lord Karishna and Sudama were friends during their childhood. Sudama was poor and once he went to Krishna to ask him for some financial help as a friend. Sudama didn't have anything else except the pouch of fried rice and he felt ashamed when he gave it to Karishna. But he was overwhelmed by the hospitality shown by Lord Karishna but he couldn't ask his friend for financial support which led him to go home empty-handed. When he arrived at his home he saw that his run-down hut was converted into a palace and his family was wearing royal attire. Sudama knew that this was the blessing of his friend Krishna who blessed him with more wealth than he needed or could ever imagine. This is why Akshaya Tritiya is associated with material gains.

In Hinduism, Akshay Tritiya was the day when Ganesha, the god of wisdom, started writing the epic Mahabharata to Ved Vyas's dictation.

This day is traditionally celebrated as the birthday of the Hindu sage Parashurama, the sixth Avatar of lord Vishnu. According to Hindu tradition, on this day the Treta Yuga began and the river Ganges, the most sacred river of India, descended to the earth from the heaven.

It was on this day that Goddess Annapoorna devi was born. Kubera received his wealth and position as custodian of wealth and property with Goddess Lakshmi on this day, by praying to Lord Shiva. In Mahabharata, Yudhishtira receives the Akshaya patra, which he uses to serve food for all the needy in his kingdom. Goa and Konkan regions, Akshaya Tritiya is considered one of the most sacred days of the year. In Orissa on Akshay Tritiya farmers start ploughing their land and construction of chariots for Rath Yatra begins at Jagannath Puri. In Bengal, on the day of the Akshay Tritiya, “HalKhata” - a ceremony to start the new audit book is performed - with the worship of Ganesha and goddess Lakshmi. This day is most auspicious day for the Jat farming community. Early morning, a male member of a Jat family goes to the field with a shovel. All the animals and birds encountered on the way to the field are omens and predictions for rains and crops. Followers of the Jain religion consider Akshaya Tritiya to be a holy and supremely auspicious day. It is associated with Lord Adinatha, also known as Rishabhadeva, first of the twenty-four Tirthankaras. ■





Time to restore dignity of Prime Minister, credibility of PMO and integrity of constitution!

Editorial...

People are coming out of their homes and voting in large numbers. While it is a triumph of democracy where participation of voters has increased heavily, high turnout indicates the yearning for change. People want to see change, they are now not willing to tolerate the hopeless situation in which they are forced to remain under the Congress led UPA government. Urban and rural voters, male and female, new voters and older ones, almost everyone is coming out to exercise their franchise, their right to elect a government which can take India to new heights. "Abki bar - Modi Sarkar" and "Modi aane wala hai" are the songs which have made their place in the hearts of the people. The lyrics of the song "Yeh desh nahi jhukne dunga, yeh desh nahi mitne dunga" is instilling new confidence in the younger generation who are now viewing this election as a fight against corruption, misrule and policy paralysis. An atmosphere of hope has created new fervor strengthening the spirit of democracy while kindling new aspirations in the hearts of millions of people.

While nation is busy electing its new government, two books which have hit the stand have shocked the nation. What was hitherto considered political accusations despite BJP leaders raising it with all sincerity, have become established facts so far as the content of these books are concerned. "The Accidental Prime Minister: Making and Unmaking of Manmohan Singh", a book written by Sanjay Baru, former media advisor of Dr. Manmohan Singh makes startling revelations about the manner in which PMO functioned during UPA-I government. In his tell-all memoir of his days in PMO, Sanjay Baru confirms the overpowering control that Sonia Gandhi enjoyed in the PMO through one Pulok Chatterjee, who was appointed at her behest and used to brief her daily and seek her directions in important matters. Baru's observation that "Sonia Gandhi's renunciation of power was more of a political tactic than a response to a higher calling" speaks volumes of the double standard that Congress indulges in to cling to the power at any cost. It was an open secret that Prime Minister was in office but without having any power, even without the power to choose his cabinet or to allocate portfolios. The power vested in Sonia Gandhi who became an extra constitutional authority exercising her influence through her handpicked coterie in the PMO and in the name of National Advisory Council. In fact all these revelations are only confirmation of what has already been in the public domain.

"Crusader or Conspirator? Coalgate and other Truths" authored by former Coal Secretary PC Parakh reinforces the image of Dr. Manmohan Singh as weak Prime Minister having no authority over his cabinet. Parakh who resigned as Coal Secretary observed "By continuing to head a government in which he had little political authority, his image has been seriously dented by 2G scam and coalgate." These two books which are in fact memoirs clearly indicate that national interest was at risk while extra constitutional power centre was ruling the roost. These revelations are serious in nature as these are brought into the public domain by the people who were in responsible positions and one time confidants of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. These memoirs are in fact insider accounts of the real situation that prevailed in the PMO.

The country is paying the price of extra constitutional authority controlling the

PMO while reducing the Prime Minister to a mere figurehead. Earlier it was often complained that the 'diarchy' or "Double Power Centre" was pushing the nation to a regime of policy paralysis, loot and plunder of public money and unprecedented price rise. But this impression now needs to be corrected, it was not two power centres but single power centre which was extra-constitutional and enjoyed by Congress President Sonia Gandhi. In fact Dr. Manmohan Singh had no power at all, he exercised no authority. All the powers were vested in Sonia Gandhi who controlled the PMO and rendered the constitutional office of Prime Minister ineffective. It was the biggest fraud committed on the people who are determined to throw the Congress led UPA government out of power.

Time has come to restore the dignity of the post of Prime Minister, the credibility of PMO and integrity of constitution. The last decade of misrule has shown us how the people are made to pay if constitution is undermined and constitutional authorities are humiliated. The extra constitutional authority combined with a weak Prime Minister has played havoc with the country. It cannot be allowed to continue. People have made up their mind. They are coming out in large numbers to overthrow this extra-constitutional authority established through fraud and deceit. People have expressed their mind overwhelmingly in

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the six rounds of elections. This momentum needs to be maintained. BJP Karyakartas have huge responsibilities on their shoulders. We have to make this change happen, we have to realize the dream of 'Modi Sarkar' so that the nation is strengthened and led on the path of recovery and development. People are giving massive support to Shri Narendra Bhai Modi and BJP, we have to keep their hope and enthusiasm alive so that the festival of democracy throws a new government which is capable, strong and determined to write a new saga of peace, prosperity and progress. ■

In Delhi there is Mother & Son and in Assam it is Father & Son : Narendra Modi

Addressing massive rallies in Barpeta, Mangaldoi and Nagaon in Assam, on 19th April, Shri Narendra Modi came down heavily upon the mis-governance of the State and the Central government, which only believed in spreading lies and misleading the Nation for their personal gains. Shri Modi condemned the divisive politics played by them and urged the people to elect a government that would work for the development of the State and the country.

Criticizing the State government for the lack of development in Assam, inspite of it being in power for nearly a decade,



Shri Modi spoke of how the 'Mother-Son' duo in Delhi and the 'Father-Son' duo in Assam had only brought ruin to the people who had elected them. The Congress' blatant lies were exposed by Shri Modi who spoke of how the Congress Vice President was making false claims of giving employment through NREGA. Shri Modi said that while crores had applied for jobs through NREGA, only few thousands were given jobs. Even in Assam, out of the one lakh families that applied for NREGA, only a few thousand people had been employed.

The Congress' apathy towards the safety and

security of its people, especially the women, was condemned by Shri Modi who spoke of how females from the North-East had been victims of heinous crimes in Delhi, and also in their state of Assam. Shri Modi also stated recent figures which showed that Assam had figured in the list of top three states with the most crimes on women. He

spoke of how the Congress had misled the Nation by creating a Nirbhaya Fund of Rs. 1000 crore, but has not used a penny out of it till date.

Stating that the Congress' only focus was on divisive and destructive politics, Shri Modi cited how

the division of Telangana and Seemandhra had only brought further ruin and misery for the people of these states. Referring to a similar step taken by the Assam government, and in context of the violence witnessed in the State due to conflicts between Bodos and non-Bodos, Shri Modi said, "Bodo and non-Bodo people are being divided by the Congress only for their own gains. They should take everyone together," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi spoke of how the Assam CM would spread one lie everyday, and stated how a TV channel recently had exposed the lack of basic amenities in the region. "News Time Assam actually came to Gujarat to verify the lies your CM said and they opened the eyes of the people of Assam," said Shri Modi.

He also spoke on other pertinent issues of infiltration from the borders, the need to protect natural resources and the much-required focus on ensuring education and skill development to the youth.

Nation wants to know about RSVP (Rahul, Sonia, Vadra and Priyanka) model

On 19 April, Shri Narendra Modi addressed rallies in Katihar and Supaul, Bihar, and gave the clarion call to end the Congress' misrule. Shri Modi also shared his vision for the overall

development of the country, and affirmed that under the BJP, equal emphasis would be given to the growth of villages and cities.



development of the country, and affirmed that under the BJP, equal emphasis would be given to the growth of villages and cities.

Speaking at the rally, Shri Modi stated that the Congress' wipe out was definite and the end of the misrule by the 'Mother-Son duo' was imminent. "The way India has voted, I can say that the Mother-Son government is sure to be defeated. Now we

have to look at a strong Government," said Shri Modi. Shri Modi also criticized the fake alliances in the State, which were actually created only to defeat the BJP. "Slowly, we are understanding what is happening behind the scenes here in Bihar. Some in alliance openly, some tacitly. Why couldn't these parties openly say we are in alliance to defeat BJP? Behind the scenes, candidates are being withdrawn," said Shri Modi.

The significance of all-round development of the country, across the borders, was also emphasized upon by Shri Modi, who further conveyed the BJP's focus on developing every state of the country, be it in the western or eastern province. Affirming the BJP's commitment towards the development of Assam, Shri Modi said, "India will become stronger when our villages are strengthened. If one state progresses but the other falls behind, it is not proper." He also cited the BJP's focus on ensuring employment for the youth.

UTTAR PRADESH

A change in government will change the lives of people

On 18th April, Shri Narendra Modi addressed massive rallies at Etawah and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and affirmed that the time had come to free the State from the misrule of the Samajwadi Party in State and the Congress at the Centre.

Taking a dig at Samajwadi Party chief Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Modi said how 'Netaji' was unable to take a stand where required. He stated



that the SP chief would go 'mulayam' (soft) when required to be tough, and vice-versa, and cited how during the recent riots, 'Netaji' had failed miserably in consoling the kin of those who had lost their lives.

Giving an example of the misplaced priorities of the SP and BSP Shri Modi said, "Some are busy in building Elephant Parks and some are on Lion Safari. Sadly, there is no one to worry about the people of UP." He also recalled how UP had asked for lions from Gujarat, and added that he would have been more happy in giving the cows from Gir too, so that the suffering cattle-rearers of UP could benefit.

Talking further on the misgovernance of the State government, Shri Modi spoke of how, on one hand, sugarcane farmers in the State were distressed over inadequate payment for their produce, and on the other, poor people too had to carry guns for their safety. "Why are people having to starve but spend money to buy guns in UP? Why aren't people protected here. Law & order

must be maintained," said Shri Modi, as he called for the need to tackle the rising crime rate in the State.

Shri Modi also criticized the Congress' inability to empathize with the poor, and said that for them 'poverty' and the 'homes of the poor' was a source of tourism and an attempt at attention-grabbing. Shri Modi recalled his childhood days as a tea-seller and affirmed that he very well understood what living in poverty meant. He assured that working for the poor and marginalized sections of the society would be a key concern for the BJP, after it wins.

Citing the recent media reports exposing the IT raids conducted at a meat exporting company, Shri Modi spoke of how reports claimed that the dealings were a big Hawala racket, with the involvement of 4 Central government ministers and a leader close to 10 Janpath.

Shri Modi stated that the turnout of people in the ongoing Elections only affirmed of the Congress' wipe out after the results.

MADHYA PRADESH

Bless BJP so that BJP can transform India

Addressing the 'Bharat Vijay rallies' in Betul and Chhegaon Makhan, Madhya Pradesh, on 18th April, 2014, Shri Narendra Modi affirmed that the only way to save the Nation from the corrupt policies of the Congress, was by voting for



the BJP and forming a development-oriented government at the Centre.

Shri Modi appreciated the extensive development work done by MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and spoke of how the state

was revived from the ruin done during the 'Bantadhaar' politics by the focused efforts of Shri Chouhan, who successfully brought the State out of its tag of 'bimaru rajya'.

Stating how the Congress' divisive and destructive policies had ruined the Nation in the past 60 years, Shri Modi urged the people to support the BJP for better governance. He also spoke of how the Nation had never seen a government as arrogant as the Congress. Referring to the recently released book 'The Accidental Prime Minister', Shri Modi stated that the book had affirmed that it was the 'Mother-Son' duo who took the decisions for the Nation, and not the Prime Minister.

Shri Modi gave an assurance that the BJP, with its focus on growth and the development of all sections of the society, especially the marginalized and oppressed, will undo the Congress' misdeeds of the past 60 years, in a span of merely 60 months.

This election is for 'India First' and to elect a decisive & accountable Govt.

On 17th April, Shri Narendra Modi addressed massive rallies in Erode, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, and made a strong pitch in support of the NDA alliance, which Shri Modi said would be ideal for the interests of Tamil Nadu and the youth of the state. He highlighted local issues ranging from job creation to improving the local economies and presented his vision on how the NDA would solve these issues.

The lack of development in Tamil Nadu, inspite of the vast potential of its textile industry and farm products, was hugely condemned by Shri Modi, who said that there was only 'one Lady' responsible for the mess. Referring to former Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan, Shri Modi spoke of how this 'Lady' had stalled all the infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu, citing the excuses of 'green projects'. "Crucial infrastructure was delayed, growth stopped and youth lost their jobs. Who is responsible for this? One lady of Tamil Nadu was responsible for delaying lot of infrastructure projects. This lady of Congress caused huge loss to TN and India. In the name of environment all projects were stalled and Jayanti Tax was being imposed. However, this 'Green' was not about trees but about currency," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi also condemned the game of politics played by the DMK and AIADMK, wherein they took turns to rule the State and simply ruin its resources rather than working for the progress of its people. "Till TN is not freed from these 2 main parties the interest of the people will not be served," said Shri Modi.

Highlighting the vast potential of Erode's burgeoning textile industry, Shri Modi stated that the city, with its cotton-dyeing, colouring and handloom sectors, could well become the textile heaven of India, and with the right infrastructure

linkages, could prosper and give employment to many youth.

Shri Modi appreciated the hard work of farmers of Erode, and acknowledged how this had contributed to making their produce preferred across the country, especially spices like turmeric.

Shri Modi also spoke of how the Centre's regressive policies had brought the market of the very popular Sivakasi crackers to a near-end, and



given the crackers from China an opportunity to capture the local market.

In Kanyakumari, Shri Modi spoke of the tremendous tourism prospects for the region, and stated how a double-line railway between Kanyakumari and Tamil Nadu could give a massive boost to the influx of tourists. "Scope of development in TN is immense. Kanyakumari alone can play such a big role. We can make such a Kanyakumari that the entire India will come here. This can be developed into a tourist spot," said Shri Modi, even as he further added how developing the tourism sector would directly lead to the creation of employment opportunities for scores of people.

Speaking on how unemployment remains a big concern in Tamil Nadu, Shri Modi quoted figures which proved that the employment exchange of TN had given opportunities to negligible number of youth in the past. He cited Gujarat's efforts at empowering the youth through skill development and employment generation, and

assured that the focus for BJP was on good governance and development, and thereby enable job creation. "We will reorient the economy in a way that job creation will be at the centre. National Multi Skill Mission will be created, and Tourism and labour intensive manufacturing will be promoted," said Shri Modi.

Affirming that the Elections 2014 were about

CHHATTISGARH

Country is fed up with divisive politics, it wants development & politics which can unite

Addressing a massive gathering at Surguja, Bilaspur and Durg in Chhattisgarh on 20 April, Shri Narendra Modi strongly condemned the divisive politics of the Congress that had ruined the Nation, and affirmed that the people were ready to vote them out and bring in a new



particularly towards the farmers of the country. He remarked that despite the Union Agriculture

Minister hailing from Maharashtra the condition of the farmers in that state is very poor.

Condemning the Congress President's recent statement made in Amethi, wherein she urged the

people of Amethi to take care of her son, as he took care of the Nation, Shri Modi questioned that if the 'Son' was incapable of taking care of Amethi, how he would take care of the entire Nation.

Shri Modi

government that was stable and strong.

Speaking on how the people were tired of the false promises of the Congress, Shri Modi stated that this was the most important reason why the people had been rejecting them in various states, and in some cases, for more than 2 terms.

Addressing these rallies Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the misgovernance under the Congress

stated how women were witness to heinous crimes across the Nation, and exposed the false claims of the Congress, wherein they made corpus funds for women's welfare but never used them. He also spoke of recently released figures by the Central government which stated that out of the first 10 states witnessing most number of crimes against women, 7 were Congress ruled, and 3 were

Congress allies.

Shri Modi further stated how even the Prime Minister of the country was unheard in his own office, while the Congress President was the final authority in all matters of national importance. This, Shri Modi said, had been clearly stated in the recently released book 'The Accidental Prime Minister'.

In Bilaspur, Shri Modi spoke of how the Central government had stalled many initiatives of the BJP

leaders in the region, since they were unconcerned of the State's development. Shri Modi also recalled Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's initiative to form Chhattisgarh, and spoke of how Dr. Raman Singh had taken the State forward in the development journey.

Shri Modi spoke of how the Elections 2014 were about the Nation wanting to punish those who had ruined the Nation, and electing a government that would take the Nation forward.

3rd Round of Bharat Vijay Rallies via 3D technology

For youth, 2014 elections are not about a new government but about their future

Shri Narendra Modi addressed people across India during the 3rd round of Bharat Vijay Rallies on 17 April 2014. Lakhs of people across 13 states attended the rallies in the various venues to hear Shri Modi. Appealing to the youth of India, Shri Modi said that the 2014 Lok Sabha elections

already voted and people have voted in large numbers braving the scorching heat. First time voters and women voters are showing immense enthusiasm. All this voting shows Congress' departure is certain. The focus is now on a strong government."



are not only about who will form the Government but also about their own future.

He added that even if a week is wasted in the lives of our youngsters it is considered a waste.

Expressing joy over the high turnout in the voting held across India so far, Shri Modi stated, "After today's phase a large section of India has

On the appointment of CVC, he recalled that it was Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and BJP leader who raised several valid objections but despite that the UPA did not listen and it was the Courts that finally

had to intervene. "Sonia ji, you have nothing left to tell the people that is why you are saying all this," Shri Modi pointed.

During his speech Shri Modi made a strong appeal to the people of India to bless the NDA with over 300 seats so that the nation gets a strong government that has the space to clear the deep mess left behind by 10 years of UPA misrule. ■

BJP led NDA will secure 300 Lok Sabha seats : Rajnath Singh

BJP national president Shri Rajnath Singh on 19 April, 2014 ruled out the possibility of a post-poll alliance and exuded confidence that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would secure 300 Lok Sabha seats.

Interacting with media persons ahead of an election rally at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, he said,



“We are fully confident that the BJP-led NDA will cross this magic number — 272. We expect that the NDA will get approximately 300 Lok Sabha seats,” he said.

Asked about the comparison of development in Tamil Nadu and the Gujarat, Shri Rajnath said the Gujarat development was not a myth because the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation headed by Smt. Sonia Gandhi appreciated the developments in Gujarat in 2008.

He said the BJP-led NDA alliance had emerged as a major political force in the state. “In Tamil Nadu, the political power has been changing hands between the DMK

and the AIADMK. Now, the BJP-led NDA with five political parties has emerged as a major political force in Tamil Nadu. Definitely, this alliance will provide an alternative to the people of Tamil Nadu and the alliance will win 20 seats in the state,” Shri Rajnath Singh said.

He accused both the DMK and the AIADMK of indulging in political vendetta. He said both parties were not concerned about the state’s development. “Due to lack of development in Tamil Nadu, unemployment is very high. There is no room for good governance and development because the DMK and the AIADMK believe in vendetta. Until Tamil Nadu is freed from the clutches of the DMK and the AIADMK, the people in the state will continue to suffer,” he said.

On Jayalalithaa’s recent accusation that the BJP was biased on the Cauvery issue, he said the issue would be resolved by dialogue between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

BJP President said a BJP-led government at the Centre would address the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. “The Congress led UPA government lacks diplomatic skills in handling sensitive issues like the Sri Lankan Tamil issue. The BJP believes that the provision of devolution of power and the

political settlements are crucial for the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and India. The dialogue between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Nadu government is very crucial for the peace process. The BJP believes that the Sri Lankan government should create conducive atmosphere for resumption of dialogues and we will work after coming to power at the Centre,” he said.

Answering a question about the continuing attack on Tamil Nadu fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy he said, “We are also concerned about the fishermen in Tamil Nadu. The security and the safety of the fishermen is also a major issue of concern for the BJP-led NDA. We will definitely discover new methods to minimize the risks to our fishermen community. We have already decided that if the BJP-led NDA comes to power, we will form a national fishermen commission to resolve the major issues of fishermen not only in Tamil Nadu but in other States of the country”.

Calling the UPA an ‘Unprogressive Alliance,’ Shri Singh said, “UPA’s government will be remembered for its misrule. He further said the BJP has announced Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Ministerial Candidate, but the Congress remains like a Ship without captain. Rahul Gandhi is most a visible face in the campaign. But his unimpressive performance compelled Congress president Smt. Sonia Gandhi to come forward to defend his son, but despite that the Congress Ship will sink soon” he said. ■

Captain's defence of Jagdish Tytler – The Devil's Advocate

By Arun Jaitley

1984 will always go down as the year of bad memories. The massacre of innocent Sikhs following the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi remains a black spot on Indian democracy. The fact that the innocents can be killed in thousands is terrible. What is worse is that the guilty went unpunished.

The collusion of the state was visible. None of the rioters were fired upon by the police. They were given a safe passage to loot and kill. For years, the FIRs were not registered. No arrests were made. The violence was politically rationalized by the then Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Justice Ranganath Mishra's Commission, appointed by the Congress government, provided a cover up for the state sponsored violence. After his retirement, this judge was rewarded with the Rajya Sabha nomination by the Congress Party. It is only the NDA government who appointed Justice Nanavati Commission of Inquiry which came out with the truth. Since then investigating agencies have tried to prosecute many of those involved in the riots.

It is for the investigating and judicial process to find out the truth. Why has Captain Amarinder Singh become the "Devil's Advocate" and decided to offer a clean chit to Jagdish

Tytler? Is he trying to prejudge the guilt of a person who is perceived to be involved in the riots? Is his personal and political relationship more important to the Captain than the interest of the victims?

Another Misstatement

The Captain has charged me for appearing for "Dow Jones" against the Bhopal gas victims.

involved in the tragedy, wanted to have the benefit of my advice, it is my professional ethics as a lawyer to give them the correct legal advice. This is what I have done.

India's Vulnerable
Defence

As the election campaign proceeds, I have come across hundreds of ex-servicemen who

The collusion of the state was visible. None of the rioters were fired upon by the police. They were given a safe passage to loot and kill. For years, the FIRs were not registered. No arrests were made. The violence was politically rationalized by the then Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Justice Ranganath Mishra's Commission, appointed by the Congress government, provided a cover up for the state sponsored violence. After his retirement, this judge was rewarded with the Rajya Sabha nomination by the Congress Party. It is only the NDA government who appointed Justice Nanavati Commission of Inquiry which came out with the truth.

Dow Jones has nothing to do with either the Union Carbide or Bhopal gas tragedy. It is a leading American financial company. Dow Jones incidentally owns the Wall Street Journal. The name of the lawyer who appeared against Bhopal gas victims is Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who is the chief spokesperson of Captain Amarinder Singh's political party. I have advised and appeared for thousands of clients as a part of my professional commitment. If persons or a company not

live in every part of the country. They served India through its crisis. They are patriotic and welled intention citizens. All of them are concerned with the issue of "one rank one pension" which has been a long standing demand of ex-servicemen.

The BJP has included the "one rank one pension" issue as a part of its manifesto. We are committed to implement this. The Congress has been repeatedly bluffing the ex-servicemen on this issue. A few years ago, the Finance Minister

announced, in the course of his budget speech, that this demand had been accepted. Subsequently, we found out that the acceptance was only in respect to a very miniscule category and not all ex-servicemen. This year again, in the budget speech, the Finance Minister announced the acceptance of this demand. However, again the ex-servicemen have been bluffed. No notification has been issued to give enforcement effect to this demand.

What is of equal concern is also the lack of India's defence preparedness. Our defence procurement has hugely suffered. The Raksha Mantri A.K.Antony's failure to take decisions is primarily responsible for this. Today the geostrategic realities of India's have changed. A Pakistan - China military axis has come in to existence. China's increased assertiveness and Pakistan's unpredictability in border relations calls for India never to lower its guard. However, modernization of defence equipment is woefully lacking. Obsolete technologies have to be replaced with the state of the art technologies. The gap between India's military superiority over Pakistan has somewhat narrowed down. No country with 15000 kms of international border can afford to rely on obsolete technologies. The recent tragedies involving Indian submarine flags the issue of obsolete Naval fleet. Whereas China continues to strengthen its border infrastructure, we have neglected ours.

As a "nation first" party, the BJP is committed to be firm on defence preparedness. ■

(The write is Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha)

Opinion polls show NDA will win 275 seats

NDTV's opinion polls, 'The Final Word', claim that NDA will win 275 seats, crossing the half-way mark of 272 with a comfortable majority. BJP's share of the tally is expected to be 226 seats with the rest coming in from allies – old and new – such as Telugu Desam Party.

The UPA is supposed to lose out badly with just 111 seats for the coalition and a mere 92 for Congress, probably its worst performance.

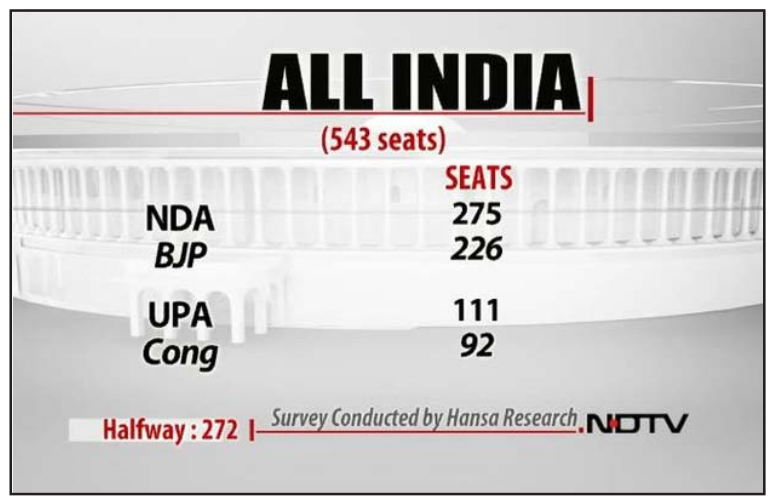
Almost all the opinion surveys so far have come up with similar results in favour of NDA, but the last two by CNN-IBN and NDTV have been rather categorical in announcing BJP as the clear winner while polling is still on.

The prediction of a BJP victory is based on the assumption that it will do exceedingly well in the Hindi heartland. For instance, the channel has claimed that BJP will win 51 out of the total 80 seats in UP, and along with its allies it will bag 24 out of the 40 seats in Bihar.

NDA's gains in the second most electorally important state of Maharashtra would also be substantial: 37 out of the 48 seats, according to the channel's pollsters.

BJP is expected to sweep Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. But the surprise victories are predicted from Odisha, Seemandhra region of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and a considerable share of seats in Karnataka.

The pollsters have projected a tally of 15 out of 25 Seemandhra seats, three out of 17 in Telangana and seven out of 21 in Odisha for BJP and its allies. They claim the party will win about 12 seats in Karnataka.



The shining knights of secularism on the prowl

By Balbir Punj

Faced with the possibility of having less than 100 seats in the Lok Sabha, its worst tally since Independence, the Congress is presenting itself as a saviour of the minorities. But Muslims have spurned the helping hand

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has been quick to come to the defence of his most voluble and controversial Minister, Mohammed Azam Khan. A contender with the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid for leadership of the Muslim community of the State, Mr Khan claimed that it were the Muslim soldiers of the Indian Army who captured the Kargil heights to drive out Pakistani infiltrators in 1999, and not the Hindu soldiers.

Mr Khan also demanded that more Muslims should be recruited in the Army. The obvious shadow of communal divide introduced into the Armed Forces by such talk naturally raised an outcry across the country. The Election Commission has now taken note of Mr Khan's remarks. But is Mr Khan an odd man out in this circus? On the contrary, he has a fair amount of competition in the arena, which is now charged with election fever. In this period, every party is competing to prove its 'secular' credentials.

Whether it is Congress president Sonia Gandhi courting the Shahi Imam in Delhi or Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee pandering to

Whether it is Congress president Sonia Gandhi courting the Shahi Imam in Delhi or Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee pandering to Muslims in West Bengal or rival RJD and JD(U) leaders, Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar respectively, competing for Muslim votes in Bihar, nearly all political parties are seeking to dividing the electorate on communal lines. Ironically, this divisive politics is played in the name of 'secularism'.



Muslims in West Bengal or rival RJD and JD(U) leaders, Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar respectively, competing for Muslim votes in Bihar, nearly all political parties are seeking to dividing the electorate on communal lines. Ironically, this divisive politics is played in the name of 'secularism'.

In fact, the regional parties are lesser sinners in this sordid game. The ball was set rolling by the Congress a long time ago. The Rajiv Gandhi Government's

decision to overturn the Supreme Court judgement in the Shah Bano case in 1986 stoked the flames of communal politics in the country.

More recently, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's infamous statement that Muslims have the first claim on national resources – obviously a crude and unabashed attempt to reclaim the minority vote-bank for his party – was in line with the trend set by Rajiv Gandhi.

The Congress has lost its electoral sheen, thanks to massive corruption, inflation and the manner in which it has compromised the security of the country and demeaned the office of the Prime Minister. No wonder the electorate is disenchanted with the Congress and Congressmen can read the writing on the wall. To make up for the loss of public support, they are falling back on their old war cry: "Secularism is in danger".

The entire political establishment wears the lapel of 'secularism'. Its daily discourse in this election campaign has revolved around the communal touchstone. The 'secular' campaign starts with the dubbing of whatever the BJP or its leader Narendra Modi says,

in communal-secular terms.

Even a cursory look at the reports from Varanasi reveals how the anti-BJP forces from the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party view everything from this angle. Phrases like 'polarisation of the electorate' have become the daily chant of the anti-BJP camp members.

They ask: Why is Mr Modi contesting from Varanasi? Their answer: It is to polarise voters. Why is the BJP giving so much importance to Varanasi? It is to polarise Hindu votes. It goes on like this, with our 'secular' politicians seeing communalism at every step.

Equally unfortunate is the inability of senior leaders of all parties to keep the election rhetoric within bounds. The BJP's Murlī Manohar Joshi perhaps spoke for many even outside his party when he appealed that "all senior leaders should show restraint while speaking in public and choose their words carefully". Election Commission member HC Brahma has called the 2014 campaign the "worst" in the past 30 years that he has been conducting elections, as a Government officer at various places and now as a regulator. The exercise of choosing a leader can never be a one-horse race if it is to be meaningful.

Also the task of governing, after the noise has settled and the grind of fulfilling the promises has begun, requires a high degree of accommodation between the different political parties who will adorn the benches in the two Houses of Parliament.

When the Rajiv Gandhi Government found itself unable to run Parliament, despite its two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, it was a warning for many future Governments. Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, on the other hand, was able to steer the Government for a full five-year term even though he headed a minority dispensation.

The Congress-led UPA

Had the Prime Minister taken the lead and removed A Raja from Government as soon as he found about the manipulation, without waiting for the Comptroller and Auditor-General's report, UPA2 may have managed a consensus in the Lok Sabha and retained its credibility outside Parliament.

regime had a wider mandate when it came back to power in 2009 with more than 200 seats in the Lok Sabha, as compared to its smaller strength in 2004. Yet it could not achieve consensus in its second term like it had done the first time. For all political parties, these are pointers on how to run a Government irrespective of the majority or minority numbers.

As some analysts have pointed out, the UPA2's failure was largely due to the regime losing its moral authority – both within and outside Parliament. The same could have also been said about Rajiv Gandhi's Government before and after the Bofors scandal. For Prime Minister Singh, otherwise a

much-respected economist, the moral authority was lost within a year of re-election after the 2G scam broke. Despite being aware of the controversy around the mis-allocation of 2G spectrum licences by the DMK's A Raja, Mr Singh did not put his foot down.

Had the Prime Minister taken the lead and removed A Raja from Government as soon as he found about the manipulation, without waiting for the Comptroller and Auditor-General's report, UPA2 may have managed a consensus in the Lok Sabha and retained its credibility outside Parliament.

There is no need to go to the pre-poll opinion surveys to get the feel of Congress's absolute inability to inspire the people's confidence in its governance record. It is because of this countrywide loss of credibility that the Congress, which has won large majorities in the last 65 years, will, in a best case scenario, sit in Lok Sabha with just around 100 MPs.

No wonder, the panic in the party is showing in the language of its leaders who are pushing the single-point agenda of secularism. The other day, a Muslim cleric said it well when he listed hundreds of riots that have taken place under the Congress's rule over the decades, including the demolition of houses of worship. He also listed the promises to his community that the party had made but not fulfilled. The loss of credibility for the Congress is across the board. Even the community it claims it wants to save is rejecting its hand of help. ■

(The writer is BJP National vice-President)

Modi wave turning into a 'TsuNaMo'



By Kanchan Gupta

If the findings of opinion polls hold true on counting day, India would at long last be free of not only the Congress but also its hand maidens

Opinion polls may not be an accurate means of estimating exactly how many seats each political party will get in an election, that too a general election spread over more than a month, but they can be useful in gauging the popular mood. The findings of the latest round of opinion polls, conducted by diverse agencies for various clients, confirm what has long ceased to be a debatable point in this summer's election:

Narendra Modi is leading the race, with others trailing way behind, and could push the BJP's tally to well above the much-talked about figure of 220. True, between the first phase of polling on Monday and the last phase in mid-May much could change – the imponderable is known to have happened in the past, most notably in 2004 when despite opinion polls predicting a huge victory for the NDA led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the BJP lost power to the Congress. A decade later, the reverse should happen.

Such is the intensity of the surge of support for the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi that it would not be an overstatement to suggest that what was a NaMo wave has turned into a tsunami – the social media refers to this amazing phenomenon as 'TsuNaMo' – that threatens to

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**Those who have spent the past decade berating, defaming and slandering Modi in the hope of containing the rise of a politician and the emergence of a leader the like of whom India has never seen, are now struggling desperately to clutch at any straw that may come floating their way. This is no longer a battle to stop Modi's march to Delhi; for them it's a battle of survival. If the Delhi Durbar, which kept them in clover, falls, they will be left without a lifeline. The worst fear of the pink champagne Delhi elite, the pseudo-Left commentariat and the fake liberal intelligentsia of not only being shown up as inconsequential but getting kicked out of the free-loaders' banquet hall known as Lutyens's Delhi, is rapidly, inexorably, coming true. This is a nightmare beyond their wildest imagination.**  
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demolish and drown those opposing the chaiwallah from Gujarat. This could well turn out to be true and we could yet witness a re-run of the 1977 'lamp post' election when virtually everybody contesting on a Janata Party ticket won the polls, riding the crest of a massive anti-Congress, anti-Indira Gandhi wave. This time, they would coast to victory riding the crest of the Modi wave.

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The calculation of the Congress and harlots on its payroll, many of them masquerading as 'journalists'

and 'editors' of 24x7 news channels, others pretending to be 'thinkers' at think-tanks and at least one claiming to be "India's most well-known historian", all of them opedists who firmly believed their bunk would mould mass opinion, has

formulate new tactics, if not to trip Modi but to at least stop him from grabbing all the medals. Strangely, that has not happened. Instead, what we are witnessing is a reinvigorated attempt to push the secular-communal debate to the

that they should avoid "splitting the secular vote", which is at once laughable and condemnable. Laughable because it is an absurdity to suggest that Muslim votes alone are 'secular' and condemnable because faith and politics invariably produce a toxic cocktail.

Not that Sonia Gandhi, the Shahi Imam and the tired, rag-tag army of secularism's foot soldiers are alone in making a last ditch attempt to stall the storming of the gate. The Economist has weirdly sought to influence Indian voting as has The Guardian, raising a snigger or two among

Among the millions who will be voting for the first time this summer are Muslim youth whose aspirations are the same as those of Hindu, Christian and Sikh youth — they want a better life, they want a better India. In a sense, if Modi does succeed in sweeping the polls, which is now seen as a foregone conclusion, he would have also redefined the 'idea of India' — a country that now values development, growth and prosperity over bogus socialism and fraudulent secularism.

gone horribly wrong. They had calculated that this election would be a referendum on 'secularism', they had banked on defeating Modi by portraying him as a threat to what they flaunt as their 'idea of India', they had hoped time-worn clichés would sufficiently motivate voters to keep a corrupt Congress in power in order to keep a communal BJP out of power. Clearly they horribly miscalculated. The deeply-flawed strategy of turning the 2014 general election into a school auditorium debate on the virtues of Nehruvian secularism has left the Congress still struggling to get off the starting line with Modi sprinting to victory and preparing to mount the victory stand.

Common sense would suggest that even at this stage the Congress and its hand maidens would re-strategise and

centrestage of the campaign. Not unexpectedly, nobody is impressed: This election is not about judging who is more secular and who is more communal, but who can deliver jobs and ensure there's food on the table.

It's the economy, stupid, says the writing on the wall. What the Congress reads is best left unstated.

And so we have the sorry spectacle of Sonia Gandhi meeting the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid, known as a land-grabber, a hafta-collector and a racketeer in the claustrophobic confines of Old Delhi beyond whose walls the peddler of Muslim votes neither wields influence nor commands fear. Even around Jama Masjid there are few who would have flattering words for him. The Shahi Imam has obliged Sonia Gandhi by appealing to Muslims

the voting classes. Their collective appeal is to exercise the veto and not the vote as India goes to polls. It is unlikely that much will come out of this appeal: India's Muslims are no longer a community nursing imaginary grievances or pining for the Mughal era. Among the millions who will be voting for the first time this summer are Muslim youth whose aspirations are the same as those of Hindu, Christian and Sikh youth — they want a better life, they want a better India.

In a sense, if Modi does succeed in sweeping the polls, which is now seen as a foregone conclusion, he would have also redefined the 'idea of India' — a country that now values development, growth and prosperity over bogus socialism and fraudulent secularism. ■

(The writer is BJP National Executive Member)

Fight Black Money at home and abroad

By Joginder Singh

On March 26, the Supreme Court rejected the Union Government's plea to recall the court's order to set up a Special Investigation Team, headed by its two former judges, to monitor investigations relating to black money and the flight of unaccounted amounts to foreign banks.

The court also slammed successive Governments at the Centre for "doing nothing to bring back the black money stashed away in tax havens abroad". Indeed, it was only after six decades of independence, that at least one citizen came forward, in 2011, and complained that the Indian economy was being destroyed due to black money park in tax havens abroad.

The court said: "There will be a body (SIT) because you have failed. Were you not aware where the black money is deposited? You know it very well... Even if you have taken steps, this court being the highest court and the constitutional court can pass such an order".

The Government has a number of agencies to deal with the problem of black money, like the Directorate General of Economic Enforcement, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the office of the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax and even the Central Bureau of Investigations. But they are all parts of the larger Government machinery, and most of them cannot act on their own.

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*There is talk about bringing back Indian funds illegally stashed in foreign banks. But what about the dirty money floating inside the local economy, particularly in sectors such as real estate?*  
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For instance, the CBI has to take permission from the Union Government before starting an inquiry against officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above. In 2013, the Union Cabinet has passed a resolution extending this shield to retired officials from the above ranks as well.

Politicians often think that the people are fools and the electorate does not see through their empty promises. One example of this is the announcement by the Congress that it will appoint a special envoy to track black money. But the Congress-led Government at the Centre has done little with the information it received regarding people who have stashed black money abroad. This is despite the fact that it has people from the Revenue and Intelligence services posted abroad in important Indian Embassies. Surely, they are doing some work.

Apart from black money hidden in foreign shores, there

is also black money floating around inside the country. It is commonly known that almost nothing moves in the Government before the palms of bureaucrats are greased at all levels. This brings us to the question: What is the point of wasting time in requesting other countries to cooperate with India on the black money issue when we will do so little to resolve the issue at home?

Take, for instance, property transactions. Having taken a Government loan of Rs80,000 in 1977 and another of Rs40,000 from an IAS/IPS cooperative society, I built a house in Bangalore. I wanted to sell it before retirement, as I was keen on settling down in either Punjab or Delhi. When I received an offer of Rs1.40 crore, I promptly agreed to the sale. But the buyer said he would pay one crore in cash and only Rs40 lakh by cheque. Without a second thought, I rejected the deal and said that I would take everything by cheque and pay all taxes.

He was surprised and tried to persuade me to change my mind, but I was clear that I would not touch black money and ensure that every tax penny goes into the Government treasury. When he persisted, I shared with him an Urdu proverb: "Kya is umar hum khaak mussalman honge!" (I cannot convert to some other ideology or religion at this age). Eventually, I had to wait for two years before I sold the house to a nationalised bank for

Rs73 lakh which was half the market price – and I still had to pay taxes on the transaction. Such stories are the norm in the real estate world.

The Government has to create an atmosphere in the country wherein there is no need to bribe others to get legitimate work done. Passing new laws here is not the solution as they

Recently, I asked a businessman why he generates black money and does not pay taxes. He told me that he needs to pay bribes to get his work done, and nobody accepts bribes in cheque! There are several such examples across the country. No wonder, corruption in India has become a major issue that adversely affects the economy.

social welfare schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the National Rural Health Mission. Here too, excessive regulation, complicated taxes and licensing systems, numerous Government departments which function in an opaque manner and enjoy wide discretionary powers, end up in complicating the situation.

Another source of corruption in India are the Government's entitlement programmes and social welfare schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and the National Rural Health Mission. Here too, excessive regulation, complicated taxes and licensing systems, numerous Government departments which function in an opaque manner and enjoy wide discretionary powers, end up in complicating the situation.

only create new bottlenecks and clog the process of business.

Also, the Government has to be willing to investigate its own bureaucrats, as the latter generate much black money from their corrupt practices. When I joined the Indian Police Service, I used to walk to my police station in Mysore, as even at the level of Assistant Superintendent of Police Probationer, my salary was not enough even to purchase a bicycle.

I had to hire my first cycle for Rs10 per month, and even that was difficult to maintain as my salary was only Rs350 per month. Later, I purchased a cycle for which I had to make a Rs50 down-payment and paid the rest with Rs15 over 10 months. Today, even Class Four employees believe that it is beneath their dignity to walk to work or travel by public transport.

Another source of corruption in India are the Government's entitlement programmes and

Occasionally, after prodding by the apex court, the Government gives the impression that it is tackling the problem. But the matter is forgotten till the next date of hearing. The Government must remember that good governance cannot be imported from outside. It has to take up cudgels on behalf of the people and ensure the effective delivery of services. ■

(The writer is former CBI Director)

40 nations of the World prefer "Modi for PM"

OFBJP claimed that not only citizens of India but citizens of Indian origin in 40 nations of the world prefer "Modi 4 PM".

OFBJP Convenor Shri Vijay Jolly stated NRIs (Non Resident Indians) settled in USA, UK, France, Japan, Germany, Israel, Italy, China, Canada, Mexico, Russia, Guyana, Bahamas, Surinam, Trinidad Tobago, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Iceland, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Armenia, Taiwan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Macau, Nepal, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Mauritius, Turkey, Kenya, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Reunion Islands, Madagaskar, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda etc. have pledged their support to "BJP & MODI" in Indian parliamentary polls. Their first choice is Modi 4 PM. It is widely believed that opposition in India led by BJP shall sweep the Indian polls. OFBJP unit members are actively engaged in contacting registered voters, family members & friends in India thru direct cash calling cards, emails, text messages, internet, facebook, google hang outs, run for unity, chai pe charcha from all over the globe. The recent successfully organized programs were organized in Canada, New Zealand, US & Nigeria stated OFBJP Convenor Vijay Jolly. ■

Rahul should do his homework properly : Javadekar

Rahul Gandhi's accusation against Gujarat Government for doling out vast tracts of land at Rs 1 is a deliberate attempt to defame Gujarat Govt. and Modi. This shows exasperation of the Congress.

Rahul Gandhi should do his homework proper before pointing fingers at others. The fact of the matter is that some industries were given land at Rs. 1 during Congress supported regime of Shri Shankar Singh Vaghela and not by the BJP Govt.

Modi is raising vital issues like inflation, corruption and unemployment. Congress has no answers to these important issues. Therefore, Congress is making false and baseless allegations with the intention to confuse the voters.

Before leveling baseless charges Rahul Gandhi should answer following 3 questions :

He should tell the nation as to how much land has been given to his brother-in-law and under what price formula?

He should also clarify as to how the land was allotted in the vicinity of the Rashtrapati Bhawan to one of the companies related to his brother-in-law?

Rahul Gandhi should also answer as to how the Coal Blocks and 2G Spectrum licenses were allotted to the Congressmen and ineligible companies?

All the state Governments allot land to the industries at a concessional rate as a state policy to increase production and employment. Till it is implemented in transparent manner nobody has

The relevant questions which need to be answered by the govt. are as follows :

- **Whether it is not true that there was a quid-pro-quo arrangement through which the decision was arrived at outside the government and conveyed to the PMO?**
- **Why comparative appraisal was not carried out of all the applications?**
- **Why the reasons of allotment to a particular party and reasons for rejecting other applications were not recorded?**
- **Why PM did not overrule the objections by his ministers for the competitive bidding?**
- **How relevant files went missing?**
- **Why government did not acted against the officers from the Coal Ministry and the PMO, who tried to influence the CBI report?**

a point to object. The present Gujarat Government has implemented its industrial policy in a transparent manner.

2. Smt. Sonia Gandhi's appeal on television yesterday was a farewell speech of an exhausted Congress. It was clear display of an effort to create a fear psychosis amongst the voters about the BJP and Sh Modi. It also connotes a shift of campaign leadership from Rahul Gandhi to Sonia Gandhi and a tacit admission that Rahul has not clicked.



It was full of hypocrisy. She talked about giving power to the people but has deprived the PM of his powers, which stands exposed by two recent books written by the former aides of the PM, Manmohan Singh.

She charged others of being divisive and communal but the track record shows that the Congress is the most communal and divisive party.

3. Congress should answer the questions raised by former Coal Secretary, P.C. Parakh regarding the coal block allotment through his book. BJP's stand is vindicated by this first person account as to how the Congress manipulated the process of coal block allocation and rejected a proposal of competitive bidding.

It is established that the coal block allocation was non-transparent and due diligence was not followed deliberately to benefit hand-picked congressmen and others.

17 billion tonnes of coal reserves worth 50 lakh crore were distributed on platter to 140 private companies. The CBI investigation was launched by the CVC on the basis of complaint of 2 BJP MPs. Government tried to influence the investigation and indulged into a massive cover up of the scam. ■

People need answer from Congress : Nirmala Sitharaman

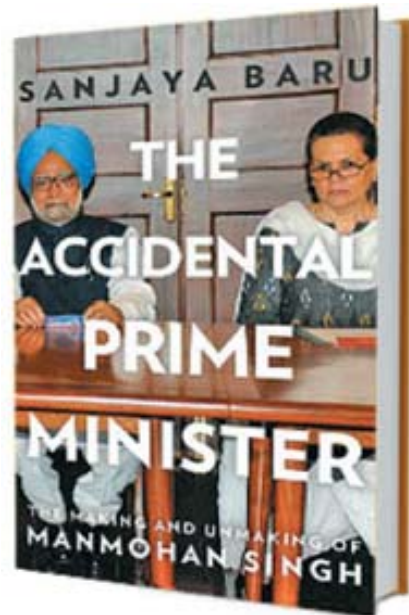
On April 12 BJP National Spokesperson Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman reacting on former media advisor of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Shri Sanjay Baru's book on UPA-II said "Today marks the end of the 4th phase of the elections to the 16th Lok Sabha. Steadily with each phase of the election getting completed, the turnout at the polling booths reinforces the prevailing public perception that the people of India are coming out for a change in government. In addition people of India have started viewing the BJP led NDA which now has 25 political parties all standing for a Congress Mukta Bharat."

"The BJP came up with a manifesto 2014 which placed importance for jobs and job creation. It marked issues which need urgent and immediate attention to restore the confidence in the Indian Economy and to reduce the burden on the shoulders of the Indian citizen. Shri Modi has highlighted periodically on the three 'D's - Demographic Dividend, Democracy and Demand. For example he has emphasized on Congress' poverty tourism as opposed to BJP's idea of promote tourism to remove poverty. Fine tuning this idea to suit

region the 2T idea was emphasized in Darjeeling - Tea & Tourism. The BJP is also talking of building 100 urban centres building on the satellite town & twin cities. There and many more. Thus the BJP is speaking of providing a positive and contractive alternative.'

She added, "Whereas, the ruling Congress party as India reaches mid-stream in this polling season is rattled. It stands exposed with no answers to any of the question being raised by the BJP. Hence they have resorted personalised attack on Shri Narendra Modi where no issue exists."

She drew the attention of the Congress party to introspect on these issues. She said "They need to answer the people of India on their failures in the past decade. The questions raised on failure to control prices, provide jobs, manage the economy etc. A constrictive and issue based political discourse is the need of the hour. People of India need answer from the Congress."



She said "With this background even as the election is on going, a book written by Shri Sanjay Baru has raised important issues. All of these need answers; answers particularly from Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Smt Sitharaman raised 5 questions :

- *Where cabinet files shared with Smt. Sonia Gandhi as is mentioned in the book?*
- *Was any deal on Siachen finalised by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, along with Gen. J.J. Singh?*
- *For the PM to answer : Did the PM refuse to take daily briefings from the Intelligence agencies, the first PM to do so, if at all. Did this not have a bearing on our security situation.*
- *Did the PM forfeit his prerogative to decide on who would be in his cabinet. Was the '2G frame' A. Raja appointed at the behest of Smt. Sonia Gandhi?*
- *Did the PM knowingly overlook corruption by his colleagues as alleged in the book. 2G, CWG and Coalgate happened because of this? ■*

I believe in delegation, decentralization and empowerment : Narendra Modi

As the largest democracy of the world votes to elect its new government, people are eager to know the policies and programmes of BJP. Recently representatives of Economic Times have talked to BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi on a range of issues, from political to economic. Emphasizing a stable policy framework he said that



credibility, clarity and continuity is required as the economy has dipped further under Congress led UPA government and a mood of pessimism prevails in the country. He said that he believes in Team work and the concept of delegation, decentralization and empowerment. Excerpts:

If you win, you will inherit a sickly economy. A new government will have short-term pressures to lift investor mood and medium-term pressure to lift actual investment. What are your plans for these most critical areas?

I agree that the new government will inherit an economy in a very bad shape. I do not know whether it was by design that the UPA government has left the economy in a shape that is worse than ever before. Probably, it is the Congress' way of making it difficult for successor governments to work. The NDA government had demitted office in 2004 leaving the GDP growth rate in excess of 8.5%. India was poised to attain double digit growth rate and the economy looked in great shape with inflation being under control. UPA has mismanaged the economy.

When UPA is going out of power, the GDP growth rate has gone down to 4.5%, inflation is at an all-time high and the mood is of pessimism.

As far as perception-related issues are concerned, thankfully we have our track record to fall back upon. Therefore, it would be much easier to handle perception-related issues. We will

have to immediately get on the job and come out of the present state of policy paralysis and lack of decision-making.

We are very clear that we want a government that does not shy away from taking decisions. We would like a stable policy framework and whatever incentives and tax structures are there should be made known to investors upfront. There should be credibility, clarity and continuity in both policy formulation and its implementation.

You are perceived to be investor-friendly. However, your party is opposed to big reforms such as FDI in multi-brand retail. Don't you think this will depress foreign investor sentiments? What happens to companies like Tesco, whose JV with the Tatas has already been approved by the Centre?

While we have expressed our reservations on FDI in multi-brand retail, our party manifesto is very clear that we welcome FDI in all sectors. Wherever we think that FDI can help in generating jobs for the youth and growth in employment, we will encourage the same. As regards individual cases, any decision will

depend upon the merits of the case as revealed by its details. However, we are equally committed to take care of investor sentiments and to ensure that we do not send any message of uncertainty and lack of continuity in decision-making process which is likely to adversely impact the confidence of investors in general and foreign investors in particular.

You have said you don't believe in 100 days performance targets. But first perceptions are important. How do you plan to make your first perception?

I don't think with my own track record of more than 12 years as the chief minister of a strong and vibrant state and the track record of the six years of NDA rule, I am under much of a pressure of perception management.

Central policy has many stakeholders and vested interests. What are your plans to tackle this, do you have any fundamental reform in mind? You have said there has to be a Team India, one office can't run the country – how will you create that Team India?

I think the Team India is already there. As a chief minister, I have experienced first hand the problems that the state governments face vis-a-vis the Centre. I fully understand the expectations of the state governments. Thus, I am better placed to work closely with the chief ministers.

I also believe in delegation, decentralisation and empowerment. We should work with the principle that a work that can be done at a lower level should never be escalated to a higher level.

On land issues, the Centre has much less freedom – will you make a special effort to clear up the land for industry? If so, how?

As of now, it is the states who are taking the lead in implementation of projects and bringing about growth and development. The Centre in the last 10 years has only ended up delaying projects on one or the other pretext. Apart from an all-pervasive policy paralysis coupled with a lack of decision-making ability, it has also been large-scale corruption in the guise of environment protection which has been responsible for project delays. If the Centre

can become a facilitator, then a healthy competition between the states is going to take care of issues related to project implementation.

Regarding the issue of land for industry, we are very clear that a win-win solution is possible and industrial investment need not come at the cost of sacrificing the interest of farmers. Right now we are having a situation wherein due to procedural delays the farmers are not getting adequate and timely compensation and the projects are also not taking off in time, leading to project delays and cost overruns.

So it is a lose-lose situation today. This is due to the Congress party's belief in symbolism and lip service to the interest of farmers.

We will move towards the system of speedy and more transparent process where the first priority will be to give adequate compensation to the farmers to their satisfaction and protecting the interest of the farmers. At the same time, there will be equal emphasis on time-bound project implementation.

I seriously think that in the end the additional amount paid to the farmers on enhanced compensation will be less than the money saved by timely implementation of projects.

Relations between BJP and Congress have nosedived, but won't you need Congress to get Parliament to support policy-making? Do you plan to reach out if and when you are in power?

I do not think it is a correct assessment that the relations between BJP and Congress have nosedived. It is natural during elections for pitched battles to be fought. In the last 10 years, the BJP has supported several initiatives of the Congress; be it the Food Security Bill or the Land Acquisition Bill, Lokpal Bill, Telangana etc. Today, all mature politicians understand the importance of working together on issues of vital national importance.

We hear that if you win you plan to run a smaller government. If that's true, how small will your government be... Do you have a finance minister on mind?

I think these questions are premature. It would be appropriate that we wait till 16th May before

getting into these discussions.

How will a Modi government be different from earlier ones? How will your cabinet be different? Will you go for a government of technocrats?

Again, let's wait till 16th May.

We also hear you want the Centre to focus only on areas listed out in the central list, while leaving the states to work on the states list. Will you please elaborate?

I have been a firm believer in the federal structure of our country as enshrined in the Constitution.

While any BJP-led government will never do anything to trample upon the authority of the states, we would also not shy away from our responsibility to play a role in coordinating the efforts of the states wherever needed.

Cabinet ministers frequently underperform and PMs frequently look helpless when they underperform. Will you set targets for ministers, set goals and hold ministers accountable?

As I have said, I believe in team work and collective responsibility. I believe that all the members of a team should be given specific responsibilities and empowered to discharge those responsibilities.

Needless to say, accountability has to be there in any such arrangement and it also includes me. When we work as a team, every member including the captain has to be accountable to the team. Further, in democracy ultimate accountability is to the people.

You have had difficult relationships with other countries after 2002, especially with the US. Will you travel to the US ever?

These are all figments of the imagination of certain people. I have always had the best relations with various countries. In fact, more than 100 countries participated in the last Vibrant Gujarat Investors Summit-2013. In any case, I am clear that issues between countries are far too important to be even remotely influenced by individuals or events.

How many seats will BJP win this poll as per your assessment?

This is an unprecedented election we are seeing.

In every way this election is going to be difficult to predict even for psephologists. However, I have travelled the length and breadth of the country and the tremendous groundswell of support that I have seen makes me confident about a few things.

Firstly, this election we are going to see the highest turnout and the largest participation of young voters.

Secondly, the sentiment against the Congress party is very strong. The Congress party is not only staring at a certain defeat, but also going to fall to its lowest tally in independent India's electoral history. I would not be surprised if the Congress fails to attain double digit score in any state and almost certainly it is not going to reach the triple figure mark nationally.

Thirdly, this is the first election in which anti-incumbency feeling is present along with overwhelming positive vote for change. Thus, I see the BJP and the NDA both achieving their best performances ever. Now, it is almost certain that the pre-poll alliance of NDA will get a clear majority.

What is Narendra Modi the person like? What motivates him, what does he dislike? What does he want to be remembered for?

You can call me a workaholic. It is most often working and the possibility of positively impacting the lives of millions which motivates me. I am stickler for punctuality and discipline. Therefore, at times I don't like it when my schedules get delayed.

It is probably too early in the day for me to be thinking about what I would like to be remembered for.

You have been critical in your speeches about Manmohan Singh.. Is there anything that you would give him credit for?

I would certainly give Dr Manmohan Singh a lot of credit for the work he did as finance minister in the Narasimha Rao government. Even as prime minister, he may have been able to do some good work had he been given the authority and independence to function.

That, however, is in the realm of history now. I certainly respect him as an individual. ■

(Courtesy : Economic Times)

People come out in large numbers to elect new Government

The nine phases vote- the longest election in the country's history- in 16th Lok Sabha election began on 7th April 2014 and will conclude on 12 May. In this 2014 general election, the electoral population is 81.45 crores, the largest in the world. There is an increase of 10 crores newly eligible voters. This also will be the longest and the most expensive general election in the history of the country with the Election Commission of India estimating that the election will cost the exchequer INR 35 billion, excluding the expenses incurred for security and individual political parties.

The first five phases of polling in the Lok Sabha saw a significant rise in voter turnout.

According to final figures released by the Election Commission (EC) on April 16, there was an 8 percentage point increase in turnout in the 111 constituencies that went to polls on April 7, 9, 10 and 12, compared to turnout at the same constituencies in the 2009 general elections.

While the total aggregate turnout for these constituencies in the ongoing polls was 68.29%, the figure stood at 60.39% for the same set of constituencies in 2009. Turnout in 11 of the 13 states and union territories

where polling is complete saw an increase from 2009. These include Goa, Delhi, Haryana, Kerala and Chandigarh.

Goa, Tripura and Chandigarh have registered their highest turnout ever. The only

saw an increase of 28.81% in the total absolute numbers of voters.

The highest increase in turnout was for Goa at 76.83%, a jump of more than 20 percentage points from the last general election. The state registered



two states where the polling is complete but which registered a lower turnout are Meghalaya and Sikkim.

Political analysts say the high turnout could be because of young voters—52% of the 814 million-strong electorate is 18-to-40 years old.

According to EC Northeastern states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Sikkim, as well as Goa, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep saw more women vote than men.

The first four phases also

turnouts of 58.77% in 2004 and 55.28% in 2009.

Delhi, whose voters are often portrayed as apolitical and apathetic to elections, registered a turnout of 65.09% as opposed to the 51.85% in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections and a dismal 47.09% in 2004. In Haryana too, the final turnout was 71.86% in comparison to 67.49% and 65.72% in 2009 and 2004 Lok Sabha elections.

India's total voter turnout was under 60% in the past two general elections—58.19% in

2009 and 58.07% in 2004.

The 5th Phase was biggest of the nine-phased Lok Sabha polls was held in 12 states covered 121 constituencies. While there was nearly 79 per cent polling in rural districts of West Bengal, around 65 per cent polling was recorded in Karnataka. The IT hub Bangalore saw just above 50 per cent polling. The Karnataka capital didn't even have bad weather conditions, pointing to voter apathy in the city's four seats.

An estimated 65 per cent of the 4.62 crore voters in Karnataka exercised their franchise on April 17 for 28 Lok Sabha seats in the single-phase polls. Nearly 79 per cent votes were cast at the close of polling in the first of the five-phase Lok Sabha elections in West Bengal, which determined the electoral fate of 47 candidates. The 19 constituencies in Maharashtra where polling was held on April 17 in the second phase of Lok Sabha elections in the state recorded an average 61.7 per cent turnout. Around 62 per cent of the electorate voted in the second phase of polling in six Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh. 54 per cent votes were cast in seven parliamentary seats in Bihar. A maximum 54 per cent voting was recorded in Buxar and Jehanabad Lok Sabha seats. Around 62 per cent of the electorate voted in the second phase of polling in six Lok Sabha seats in Jharkhand amid Maoist violence that left five persons, including 4 CRPF men, injured. Around 65 per cent voter turnout was recorded in three Naxal-hit Lok Sabha constituencies of Chhattisgarh where Maoists

targeted a polling team but there was no casualty. An estimated 70 per cent voters exercised their franchise for the simultaneous second and last phase of the elections to 11 Lok Sabha and 77 assembly constituencies in Odisha on April 17. A moderate 54.41 per cent polling was recorded in Madhya Pradesh for ten Lok Sabha seats amid rains, intense heat conditions and poll boycott in some villages. First phase of polling in 20 Lok Sabha

constituencies in Rajasthan ended with 63 per cent voter turnout. In Manipur Inner constituency, the turnout was an impressive 80 per cent and it was likely to go up further.

Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency in Jammu and Kashmir recorded over 69 per cent polling

The elections will see the remaining voting take place on 24 April, 30 April, 7 May and 12 May. ■



Why the rush on Lokpal appointments, asks BJP

The BJP has launched a scathing attack on the United Progressive Alliance government's attempt to appoint the first Lokpal, calling it a violation of the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct. Meanwhile the party had also written to the Election Commission asking that the process be halted. Shri R. Ramakrishna, National Convener, BJP Election Cell, wrote to the EC, asking Election Commissioner V. Sampath to put on hold all major appointments until a new government was formed.

In a letter Shri Ramakrishna maintained that government was trying to hurry major appointments during the elections and cited the case of the new Naval chief's appointment. "We learn that something similar is cooking in respect of the Army chief, where the present incumbent is due to superannuate in July, 2014. We also hear that there is some hurried activity in hastening the selection process of the Lokpal. It may be recalled the process of selection got aborted by the exit of the eminent jurists and as such the whole selection process currently stands vitiated. These are not desirable trends in a healthy democracy," Shri Ramakrishna said.

The EC on Sunday could not confirm receipt of the letter and had no decision to announce. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had written to members of the Selection Committee on April 11, asking if they were available to meet in the last week of April.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley asked if it was proper for the UPA "on the eve of its departure" to rush through the appointment of the Lokpal.

Andhra Pradesh

Modi wave marks end of Congress era : Venkaiah Naidu

Owing to the stronger wave in favour of BJP and Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi the “Congress era” will soon come to an end, said former BJP National President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu while interacting with media persons in Hyderabad.



“The only way for better future of the country is BJP coming back to power and Shri Narendra Modi becoming Prime Minister. Because, we have got the credibility, we have got the ability and we could provide

the stability. That’s why this confidence among the people.

“The Congress era is coming to an end. The dynasty is over. It is good news for the country. The BJP era will start and Shri Narendra Modi’s era also is beginning,” he said.

Hitting out at Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi for reportedly promising to provide roofs to all, Shri Naidu said, “Who prevented you from giving roof in 50 years, who prevented you from giving security, food security, women’s reservation, bringing down prices, bringing back black money, to stop suicides of farmers, not giving employment in 50 years? What are your answers? He asked.”

He said the allegation by Congress that BJP was spending Rs 10,000 crores on elections is absurd as the expenditure made by the party is known to Election Commission. “Congress should not spread canards. The affairs of BJP remained transparent,” he said.

The allegation made by Congress that BJP had tried to scuttle the Telangana bill in Parliament is nothing but a lie, Shri Naidu said. “Right from Sonia Gandhi to Jairam Ramesh, they are telling lies. BJP support only enabled Telangana bill to be passed in Parliament. The delay has to be explained by Congress and TRS, which was a partner with Congress,” he added.

Chhattisgarh

Rahul’s vision limited to ‘balloons and toffees’ : Raman Singh

Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi’s vision is “limited to balloons and toffees” and his only USP in politics is that he ‘belongs to the Gandhi family’, says Chhattisgarh’s Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh.

Referring to Congress’ poor results in the states where Rahul had led the party’s Assembly poll campaigns, he said, “Congress’s debacle in



recent Assembly polls (in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi) has proved that he is very immature when it comes to politics.

In an email interview he said, “His only USP is that he belongs to the Gandhi family”. He said that Congress would not be able to cross double-digit figure in the Lok Sabha elections even if it declared Rahul to be its prime ministerial candidate.

Asked which was the best development model out of the ones being followed in Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Dr. Singh said no fixed model could work for the people of the country. “For a complex and diverse country like ours, there can’t be a fixed model. Any model which adds to the all-round development of a state is good,” Dr. Singh said, adding that he was ready to implement the successful schemes and programmes of other states in Chhattisgarh.

“Other states, too, are emulating Chhattisgarh’s food security model. Our sole objective is to see Chhattisgarh among the top three developed states of the country,” he said. On the remarks of Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh, he said “Digvijay Singh was a leader with tremendous potential, but alas, he has reduced himself to such a stage that even in his own party, his remarks are not taken seriously,” he said. ■

The Importance of Understanding

By Sri Swami Atmaswarupananda

When Gurudev formed his forest university, he called it the Yoga-Vedanta Forest University. He wanted both Yoga and Vedanta to be taught—Vedanta primarily being the philosophy, Yoga primarily being the practice. However, in his teachings, Gurudev concentrated primarily on practice or doing. Indeed, he didn't have too much patience with those who spent too much time on philosophy; sometimes he referred to them as dry-Vedantins.

So too with us. The important thing is to practice, not spend too much time on philosophy. And yet Gurudev did call it Yoga-Vedanta, because there is also an importance in developing our understanding, even if it seems somewhat esoteric and unnecessary compared to our normal practices. Because the truth is, unless we develop some understanding of what we're seeking, even if we discover it, we won't likely be able to recognise it.

Therefore, every morning when he comes here, while Pujya Swami Chidanandaji always ends up by telling us to do some practical Yoga, he always begins by offering worshipful homage to the Supreme Reality. In other words, he lifts our minds up to That which is beyond our minds. And frequently in offering worshipful homage he describes

the Supreme as unknowable and unthinkable. Therefore, our first understanding must be that what we are is, in the final analysis, unknowable, ungraspable to the mind.

What is it then that we can know about God? Brahman is described as Existence-Consciousness-Bliss. God we



cannot know, but we can be aware of our existence. We know that we exist, or we say "I am." And Swamiji has told us that there is no harm in "I am." Hold on to your existence. It is only after "I am" that we get into trouble. The problem is when we identify with lower forms and forget our sense of pure existence.

This unfortunately is our plight. We who are ultimately unknowable, we who can know ourselves as Existence-Consciousness-Bliss, have lost

ourselves in identification with a body and mind. What is the purpose of understanding this? It is to recognise that the purpose of all our spiritual practices is to lead us back to that sense of existence, that sense of pure "I am" or the conscious presence.

Therefore, we should ask ourselves the question, "When I am repeating God's name, am I getting that sense of Pure Existence?" We probably are, but it is not recognised, and so we just repeat God's name mechanically without recognising that its purpose is to lead us back to our sense of existence.

This is the purpose of all our spiritual practices. When we're studying Vedanta, it isn't just to add more information to our brain, but rather to recognise the pure existence that it is trying to show us. Ramana Maharshi said that the enquiry of Who am I? is a direct route back to our sense of existence, our sense of "I am."

Therefore, while both Gurudev and Swamiji want us to concentrate on doing, on our practices, it is important to recognise what their purpose is, which is to lead us back to our sense of existence, our sense of "I am." And it is from that point that we can ultimately recognise our true source, which is beyond words, beyond thoughts, but is the Reality. ■

Courtesy : Divine Life Society