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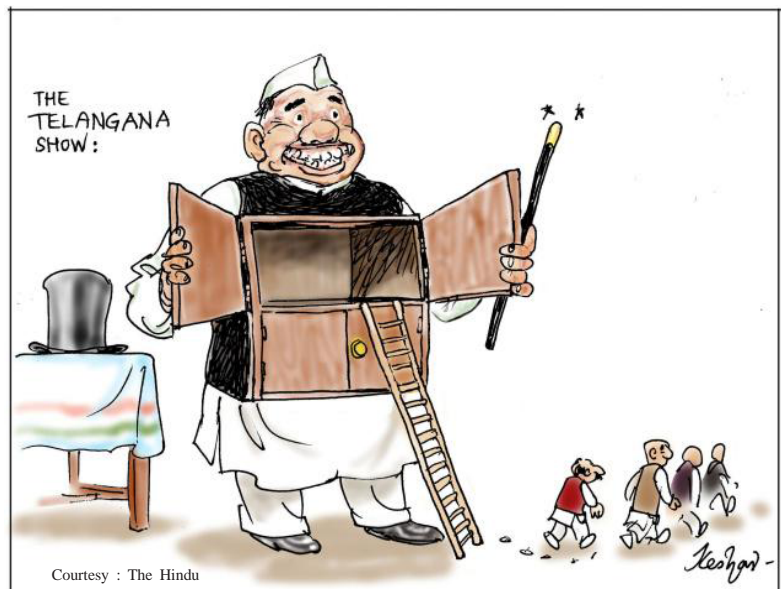
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Courtesy : The Hindu



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*Being equiposed in happiness and unhappiness, profit and loss, victory and defeat thereafter prepare for battle and in this way you will not incur signful reaction.*

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 38)

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“Since the incumbent UPA government has been pursuing a weak kneed policy against terrorism for the past many years, the terrorists have been emboldened to strike anywhere in India, almost at will.”

-Rajnath Singh

“Mai Sevak Hoon aur Kal Bhi Aapka Sevak Rahoonga (I am a humble servant of the people and will remain so in future). I am not a Nath (divine ruler) but a Dasa (humble servant)”

-Narendra Modi

## Vijaya Dashami (Dussehra) : 14 October, 2013



*Durga Puja is the greatest Hindu festival in which God is adored as Mother. The Durga Puja is celebrated in various parts of India in different styles. But the one basic aim of this celebration is to propitiate Shakti, the Goddess in Her aspect as Power, to bestow upon man all wealth, auspiciousness, prosperity, knowledge and all other potent powers. Durga Puja or Navaratri commences on the first and ends on the tenth day of the bright half of Aswayuja.*

*It is held in commemoration of the victory of Durga over Mahishasura, the buffalo-headed demon. During this period Her image is worshipped for nine days and then cast into water in the tenth day. The tenth day is called Vijaya Dasami or Dussehra.*

*There is also a mythological belief that Lord Ram, worshipped Goddess Durga before going for a war with Ravana. Rama had invoked the blessings of Durga, who blessed Rama with secret knowledge of the way to kill Ravana. On the day of Ashvin Shukla Dashami, Rama defeated Ravana and found his spouse Sita. This day is thus also celebrated as Vijaya Dasami or Dussehra. ■*



## Lotus will bloom in every home

*Karyakarta Gaurav Divas was a memorable event in 2010. Every BJP state unit in the country not only discussed it but praised the entire concept. The number of karyakartas was in lacs but the karyakartas who devote their entire life, a day should be earmarked for their glory was the main concept and that was why the program was appreciated and admired wholeheartedly. Madhya Pradesh BJP state unit has really created a niche for itself in the country for unique experiments.*

*25 December 2013*

*Place: Jamboori Maidan, Bhopal*

*Number of Karyakartas- More than 7 lac 21 thousand*

*Occasion: Pt Deendhayal Upadhyay Jayanti*

*Actually more than 7 lac 21 thousand Karyakrats paid respect to their ideologue Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay by coming together in a venue earmarked for the occasion. How can one fail to remember the father figure of BJP Kushabhau Thakre who weaved together the karyakartas of Madhya Pradesh BJP. Entire leadership and each and every karyakarta remebered him. Entire top leadership was present on the dais. And all those in front of the dais were the ones who use to fight with their sweat and blood on the polling booths during elections to make lotus bloom.*

*It was a rare scene. The name given to the programme, "Karyakarta Mahakumbh" was becoming a reality in itself. Everyone said that never before such a huge gathering of karyakartas, the mahakumbh was witnessed in the lifetime. Everywhere heads and only heads were seen. Everyone was concerned with only one thing – how arrangement would have been made? It was really a wonderful arrangement. There was no mishap. Karyakartas were feeling proud. Karyakartas were proud to see the endless horizon of their party before their eyes. By seeing one's own vastness, self pride increases and false pride vanishes. Everyone has taken the pledge to make Lotus bloom for the third time in Madhya Pradesh and bring back BJP. All karyakartas are getting ready to create a new history. The sea of unity in diversity was seen everywhere. Different kinds of dress, attires, folk songs, music from different districts were fascinating everyone. On the dais while North India, Central India, Capital of India were registering their presence, how could south be left behind. Venkaiah Naidu and Ananthi Kumar were present from south. Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi and Shri Rajnath Singh were making the presence of north felt. Umaji was representing both Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Advaniji was at the head of the event who inaugurated the Mahakumbh.*

*BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi was ruling the heart of everyone. Everyone greeted the leaders with the slogans like "Andhi nahi toofan hai-Shivraj Singh Chouhan hai" which were renting the air. BJP State President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar welcomed the guests. Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley were representing both the houses of parliament on the dais. Dais was full of life. All main leaders of state unit were present. National and state level leaders had come together on*

the dais. The cutouts of the leaders appeared lively. All leaders in one voice urged only one thing that BJP should be given opportunity to create history in Madhya Pradesh.

No word can describe it in its entirety. That's why Madhya Pradesh BJP has decided that it will send CDs to all leaders and karyakata so that they are also able to witness the event. The enthusiasm among the karyakarta, their fervour was for everyone to see. It was like festival of Deepawali and Dusshera and the sense of victory of these festivals can be read on the face of every karyakarta. The most important feature of this Mahakumbh was that the people of Bhopal had to face no traffic hassle due to Mahakumbh. People attending the event kept coming from routes outside the city. All the newspapers praised this arrangement. All karyakartas also enjoyed the food arranged by the grace of Ma Annapurna. All MLAs and ministers were engaged in this arrangement. It cannot be concluded without taking note of the tireless efforts and work of the karyakartas of Bhopal.

Lastly everyone said – "Jamboori Jagega, Madhya Pradesh me Ghar-Ghar Kamal Khilega". (Jamboori will rise and 'Lotus' will bloom in every home in Madhya Pradesh).

## Congress cannot make mockery of the country

Mockery can be made of Congress but not of the country. Country doesn't belong to any single party. Country belongs to all citizens. The highest executive of India is the Prime Minister. The world experiences the administrative capacity of India through Prime Minister. Rahul Gandhi can be a big leader internally for the Congress but he is not the Prime Minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister, not Rahul Gandhi.

After all what had happened to Rahul Gandhi? Why he was not in control? There was no control over his words. Why he got engaged in such a disgraceful conduct? After all who had asked him to 'awaken' is conscience and show that Dr. Manmohan Singh is 'nonsense'. Dr. Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister of India and not of Congress.

The ordinance brought on tainted leaders was a grave blunder of Congress. In any case the Congress which started from Mahatma Gandhi has become a Congress of tainted leaders by the time of Sonia Gandhi. But to save face this kind of ordinance should not have been brought. Once the first Speaker of Lok Sabha wrote to the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on 17 July 1954 that to bring ordinance is undemocratic. In response Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru wrote that we have been reluctant in bringing ordinances. Before bringing ordinances it is considered not once but for many times. Why Congress didn't do that? Dr. Manmohan Singh's cabinet said that it was considered twice but why Congress was silent then? Somewhere there is something fishy that's why Dr. Manmohan Singh is maintaining studied silence. He was on a foreign trip and Rahul Gandhi was roaring against him. After his return Dr. Manmohan Singh also roared but he could not act and finally he had to withdraw the ordinance brought by him. Congress will have to find out as to who is to be blamed – Congress or Dr. Manmohan Singh? But this has now become clear that there is a huge gap between Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress. They are entitled to have that gap but the country should not be made to pay for it.

Rahul Gandhi lost his cool when he felt that Congress was left behind in taking credit as BJP had already raised the issue by submitting memorandum to the President under the leadership of Shri LK Advani, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley. It is also being said that had the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee not intervened the ordinance would have been imposed over the country. Rahul Gandhi developed a cold feet as he gauged the mood of the nation. When he felt that the issue was out of his hand, he lost control over his words. ■

## More than 7 lakhs people attend Karyakarta Mahakumbh in Bhopal Narendra Modi calls for Congress Mukt Polling Booths to achieve Congress free India



Addressing the Karyakarta Mahakumbh on the occasion of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay's Jayanti in the afternoon of Wednesday 25th September 2013 Shri Narendra Modi called for the fulfillment of Mahatma Gandhi's dream of dismantling the Congress Party. He called for a Congress Mukt Hindustan and added that in order to achieve a Congress Mukt Hindustan we have to achieve a Congress Mukt Polling Booth. He inspired Karyakartas to ensure that the Congress Party is wiped out at the polling booth level itself. The BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate noted that all surveys are showing a clear BJP wave and are taking note of the popularity of BJP leaders such as Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje and Dr. Raman Singh in the states. At the same time, he stressed on

taking the wave in the minds of the people into the polling booth. BJP Rajya Sabha MP Shri Anil Dave announced that 7,21,083 people from all corners of Madhya Pradesh attended the Karyakarta Mahakumbh.

Shri Modi paid rich tributes to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and said that the manner in which the Madhya Pradesh unit of the BJP has organized the Karyakarta Mahakumbh, it is the best tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya. Shri Modi said that Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya devoted every moment of his life to strengthening the organisation. He added that 2015-2016 would mark the 100th birth anniversary year of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and the Karyakartas of the BJP must take it on themselves that there is a BJP Government in New Delhi when this happens. Shri Modi

paid rich tributes to former BJP President Shri Kushabhau Thakre and pointed that while he never got to see Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, through Kushabhau ji he got to know how Pandit ji would be.

In a direct attack on the Congress party Shri Modi said, "Congress ruled the nation for 60 years but never before did their leaders talk about inclusive growth. Now the Congress has to accept inclusive growth because wherever the BJP has served, their Governments have delivered on inclusive growth. The Delhi Sultanate has to talk about inclusive growth and the credit for this goes to Shivraj ji." Referring to the anti-development attitude of the Congress Shri Modi shared that when the Congress came to know that the top 5 performing states in the 20 point programme were BJP or NDA ruled states, they

stopped the evaluation of the programme instead of telling their Governments to improve.

Shri Modi showered praise on the development works done by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh and expressed confidence of the BJP's win in the state in the coming elections. He recalled that the good governance that the BJP Governments provided under Shri Sunderlal Patwa and Shri Kailash Joshi was undone by the Congress Government in

Humanism' that made him understand Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay even better. Shri Modi pointed that whatever Shivraj ji spoke at that time, he has put into practice in the last many years while serving as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Narendra Modi came down heavily on the Congress-led UPA for their discriminatory attitude against states that have elected non-Congress Governments. He pointed that both Atal ji and Advani ji ran a

misuse of Central agencies by the Government, Shri Modi avowed that it is not the Congress that is fighting the coming elections but the CBI that is doing so. "Congress lacks the strength to defeat the BJP so they have put the CBI in the field," he stated.

At the rally Bharatiya Janata Party National President Rajnath Singh lauded his party's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi at the "*Karyakarta Mahakumbh rally*", and said that if the country worked together, nothing could stop the Gujarat chief minister from taking over as the next head of government.

"If we work together, there is no force in the world which can stop Narendra Modi from becoming your Prime Minister in 2014," Shri Singh said, drawing massive cheers from the gathered audience.

Shri Singh also lashed out at the Congress-led UPA Government, and praised the BJP's tenure at the Centre, saying that it was the sole block of history in independent India when the country flourished.

"You are witness to the condition of the country, ever since the Congress party took over. Corruption is ever prevalent, security is threatened, and the country is passing through extremely difficult times," Shri Singh said.

"In independent India, if there was a regime that could control inflation, it was Bharatiya Janata Party's senior leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Ever since this government has taken over, there is a continuous trend of price rise in the country. ... During our tenure of six years at the Centre, no one could point



Madhya Pradesh for 10 years, which put MP in the BIMARU category. "Madhya Pradesh has once again risen under the leadership of Shivraj ji and we cannot let the Congress win at this critical stage," he affirmed. Shri Modi also spoke about Shivraj ji's achievements in the power and other sectors of development.

Sharing his own personal experiences with Shri Chouhan, Shri Modi recalled that the two of them have worked shoulder to shoulder a long time ago and that he had heard Shivraj ji talk about Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's 'Integral

Government in Delhi but none of the states complained that their development is suffering due to the NDA. He gave the example of the Centre's refusal to build gates on the Sardar Sarovar Dam, which is affecting the generation of 800 MW power to the people of Madhya Pradesh. Likewise, he asked why is it that Congress ruled Kerala is getting money to build houses for the poor while Madhya Pradesh is not? He affirmed that the Government may be of the BJP but the poor are Indians and that the Centre should stop playing with their lives.

Commenting on the blatant

a finger and accuse us of any corruption," he added.

Rajnath Singh also alleged that the Congress-led UPA government was trying to misguide the people of the country with their facts, figures and statements, and predicted that this trend would lead to their downfall.

"Taking the path of fabrication, this government is trying to misguide the people of this country. ...All of this has come into the open. ...When a government tries to stay in power, on the basis of fabrication, history is proof that it always leads to a bad eventuality," Shri Singh said.

Earlier, at the event, veteran Lal Krishna Advani said his party will give the nation a stable government.

"The BJP will give India a stable government at the Centre. The BJP has reached where it is, not due to speeches but owing to the hard work of party workers," he said, while addressing the BJP's 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' rally.

Shri Advani praised Modi and other BJP-ruled chief ministers for their creditable achievements.

Expressing confidence about her party achieving a splendid victory in the 2014 general elections, Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said the upcoming polls will be fought on courage, and urged the people to vote fearlessly to defeat the Congress.

Addressing the BJP's 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' rally, Smt. Swaraj invoked the Mahabharat to put the Congress-BJP electoral battle in context.

"Yeh chunao himmat ki hogi (this election will be fought on courage). This is Mahabharat of Kaliyug and it is different of Mahabharat of Dwapar Yug, have to ensure that each discontented voter goes to the poll booth," She said.

"Our party workers make us win and form the government," she said.

Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said his party will form the government at the Centre in 2014 under Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Shri Jaitley also expressed confidence that Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will secure a third term in office.

"After Shivrajji retains power in November, we will form the government at the Centre under Modiji's leadership next year," he said, while addressing the BJP's 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' rally.

Shri Jaitley also highlighted the rampant corruption and inflation under the UPA government to prove his point. Sushri Uma Bharti said her party will make India a true superpower under the leadership of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

"Under Narendra Bhai, we will make India a true superpower," said Bharti, while addressing the BJP's 'Karyakarta Mahakumbh' rally.

"Let my elder brother Shivrajji (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) get a bigger mandate than in 2003 also," She added.

Sushri Bharti also took a jibe at Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi considered by many to

be the face of his party in 2014.

"Rahul went to the houses of poor, but that is not development," she said. Sushri Bharti said the coming together of party workers is god's blessing to make Modi the Prime Minister.

"The party workers have shown 'Virat Roop of Shri Krishna' to make Shivrajji the Chief Minister of MP and Narendra Bhai the Prime Minister," She said.

"Narendra Bhai once told me that Advani is such a leader that one starts to like him more and more as one gets closer to him," She said.

The Karyakarta Mahakumbh was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, propounder of the Philosophy of 'Integral Humanism'

BJP Parliamentary Party chairman Shri LK Advani, Lok Sabha MP Dr. Murlu Manohar Joshi, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar and BJP National Vice President Sushri Uma Bharti spoke on the occasion.

All party Leaders including BJP National Vice President Shri Prabhat Jha and Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar from Madhya Pradesh attended the rally. ■

## Nation must choose between dynasty and democracy : Narendra Modi



On the afternoon of Sunday 29th September 2013 Shri Narendra Modi addressed the BJP's Vikas Rally in Delhi. Shri Narendra Modi presented a new ray of hope to the people of India and asked them to think ahead on the nation we want when India completes 75 years of freedom in 2022. He said that the nation does not want the dirty team of the UPA whose work the nation has seen for the last decade but it wants a dream team that will ensure that the elderly get respect, the poor are well fed, the poor have adequate housing, tribal communities get adequate education opportunities. He inspired every village, every district to dream big so that the nation can move ahead.

Shri Modi asked the people of India to trust the BJP and its leadership. He said, "I urge the nation to have faith in the BJP.

Have faith in our work and in the Karyakartas of our Party. We will never break your trust. We will live for your dreams and if need be we will give our lives for your dreams. We are coming to you on the basis of what we all have learnt from Atal ji, Advani ji and Kushabhau Thakre ji."

Striking an emotional note, Shri Modi said, "See the values of the BJP, see the culture of the Party. A man who sold tea to make ends meet has been put here. *Na Shasak Thaa, Na Shasak Hoon, Na Banne Ke Sapne Dekhta Hoon* (I was never a ruler in the past, I am not a ruler now and I do not aspire to be a ruler in the future). *Mai Sevak Hoon aur Kal Bhi Aapka Sevak Rahoonga* (I am a humble servant of the people and will remain so in future). I am not a *Nath* (divine ruler) but a *Dasa* (humble servant).

In a display of immense statesmanship Shri Narendra

Modi stood up for Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in the wake of reports that Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif called him an old woman from a village. Shri Modi's comments come a time when even Dr. Singh's own Party is terming his work as 'nonsense.' He affirmed, "I have to say something that is very painful. The Pakistani PM called some journalists for breakfast. There Nawaz Sharif said our PM is a *Dehati Aurat*. We have differences of opinion with our PM at home but he is the PM of 125 crore Indians. Nawaz Sharif *yeh aapki kaunsi aukat hai?* (How do you have the courage to say that Mr. Nawaz Sharif?)"

Mincing no words, Shri Narendra Modi said that this was an insult to the Prime Minister of India and that the nation will not tolerate its Prime Minister getting insulted.



Referring to the Indian journalists who attended the meeting with Mr. Sharif Shri Modi said, "I want to ask those journalists who were eating with Nawaz Sharif, we expected you to walk out. Yes, we may be opposed to each other at home but no one can point fingers at our nation. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is elder to Mr. Nawaz Sharif in age at least respect that."

Shri Modi attributed to this disrespect to the PM to his own Congress Party not according him with clear respect. "His own party leaders call him nonsense then what do you expect?" asked Shri Modi.

Narendra Modi came down heavily on the Prime Minister for telling President Barack Obama that India is poor and asked the Prime Minister if he is also one of those people who market India's poverty to win laurels.

The BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate categorically stated that the nation must chose between dynasty and democracy. "Today there is a conflict between *Parivarshahi* and *Lokshahi* and the former is strangling the latter. Will we run on the constitution or on the wishes of the prince? This is what we have to decide," affirmed Shri Modi as he even questioned the allies of the UPA whether they want democracy or dynasty to run the nation.

Referring to the lackluster performance of the UPA, Shri Modi hit out against the increasing corruption, price rise and unemployment among the youth. He said the departments that the UPA is saying are their achievements are actually the

achievements of the states and that the Centre has made a mess of the subjects that are exclusively under its control. Shri Modi gave the examples of failure in railways, highways and aviation sector to show what the Centre has done to the departments exclusively under its control. He shared that 20,000 MW of power cannot be produced because there is not enough coal. Shri Modi declared that good governance is the way ahead and while the world is

too. There is an alliance and even there we have Governments within Governments," Shri Modi avowed. He added that while numbers make coalition, they are run by good chemistry that is clearly lacking. He said that if there is a Chief Minister who is breathing most easy today, it is the Delhi Chief Minister who always has some or the other authority to blame, leaving only ribbon cutting to do. He came down on the failure of the Delhi Government on the issue of



moving forward, the UPA is pushing us backwards. He attacked the UPA for being immersed in Gandhi Bhakti of a different kind, which entailed taking away all the notes with Mahatma Gandhi's face on them.

Shri Modi stressed on the need to attain Surajya, which was experienced during the NDA Government under Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and LK Advani ji.

Referring to the poor governance in Delhi, Shri Modi affirmed that the problem lay in too many Governments, each of which considers itself a power in its own right. "Just see how many Governments are there, there is a Government of the Mother, there is a Government of the Son and there is a Government of the Son-in-Law

women safety and even on the CWG scam, which Shri Modi said was not only about economic corruption but affecting India's image on the world stage. Former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari delivered a strong speech on the misgovernance of the Congress and its failure to control rising prices. Delhi State BJP Co-incharge Shri Navjot Sidhu, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Shri VK Malhotra, former Delhi Mayor Smt. Aarti Mehra, BJP leaders Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Dr. Jagdish Mukhi and Shri Parvesh Verma also spoke on the occasion. The hovering clouds did not dampen the spirit of the people as a record number of people came to attend the Vikas Rally. (FOC) ■

# “Man Se, Vachan Se, Karm Se, Congress divisive hai” : Modi

## Narendra Modi talks about close bond between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu

Addressing the BJP Youth Conference in Trichy, BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi attacked the economic and foreign policy of the UPA, saying that it has failed to enhance India's prestige at the world level and failed in giving opportunities to the youth. “Man Se, Vachan Se, Karm Se, Congress divisive hai” (From their minds, in their speech and in their work the Congress is divisive) Shri Modi affirmed, adding that being divisive was in the DNA of the Congress. He shared that from administration, water sharing between states, language, communities, caste groups, even villages and cities, the Congress has always divided. Mincing no words Shri Modi affirmed, “We have to save this nation and if we want to take it ahead we need Mukti from this divisive Congress.” He called for the fulfilling of Mahatma Gandhi's dream of dismantling the Congress and added that the same must happen to all those associated with it.

Referring to the poor policies of the Congress, Shri Modi noted that 20,000 MW power capacity has not been used only because

of lack of coal and gas. “The only want to do things where there is corruption. Things of public welfare do not interest them,” he avowed.

Shri Narendra Modi strongly rebuked the Centre over the recent judgment by the Honorable Supreme Court on the Aadhaar Scheme. Shri Modi said

consulted but nothing of that sort happened.” Furthermore, Shri Modi wanted to know if all Ministers of the Cabinet, all departments were on board for going ahead with this project.

Attacking the Central Government for weakening the economy, Shri Modi opined that due to the policies of the Centre,



that the nation wants to know how much money was spent on Aadhaar, who gained from it and sought answers from the Government on the issues raised by the Supreme Court. He himself shared that for the past three years he raised issues about Aadhaar to the Prime Minister but these issues were not addressed. Elaborating, he said, “I said that Gujarat is a border state and if you keep giving out Aadhaar cards like this then illegal immigrants will take advantage. I said a National Security Council meet must be called and Chief Ministers must be

industries are shutting down and small businessmen are facing troubles at the hands of the Government. He pointed that the youth must be at the centre of any roadmap for development and that their talent must be able to serve the nation. He even called for the strengthening of crores of small-scale industries that would give jobs to the youth. Shri Modi stated how experts are predicting massive unemployment if things go on like this for the next five years.

Shri Modi even took on the UPA for their failures in their foreign policy. He wanted to

know why has the Centre allowed the soldiers of the nation to be killed by terror, why does it allow neighbouring countries to take our fishermen or allow Italians to kill fishermen? "Every citizen asks why we are so weak that our neighbours can do what they want and we keep our eyes shut and our mouths locked?" questioned Shri Modi.

Shri Modi questioned the people at the public meeting if the PM should hurry towards meeting Pakistan when our soldiers are killed, innocent people are killed and terror troubles the people. When the audience responded with a thunderous NO, Shri Modi affirmed, "Pradhan Mantri ji, this is not me or the BJP speaking. It is the people of Trichy, the youth of Trichy telling you this." He told the Prime Minister, "Pradhan Mantri ji, you are in USA, the nation wants to know is the nation's pride more important or to look nice & hurry to talk is your priority."

At the start of his speech Shri Modi talked about the close bond between Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. He lauded the state of Tamil Nadu for their progress in industry and added that the Tamil people are hardworking, sincere and above all loyal. He pointed that the Tamil language is one of the oldest languages and that he is very fond of knowing about Sangam literature. "Due to the hardwork and dedication of the people, Tamil Nadu is one of the most advanced states of the nation," pointed Shri Modi.

Shri Modi said that Mahatma Gandhi was from Gujarat while his conscience

keeper C Rajagopalachari was from Tamil Nadu. He also mentioned the large number of Tamil people on Maninagar, who supported him in the elections.

BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh delivered a strong speech in which he spoke about the

misgovernance of the UPA and its failure to control prices. He urged the youngsters to register themselves as voters. Talking about the good work during the NDA, he pointed that the NDA kept prices under check while the same has not happened under the UPA. ■

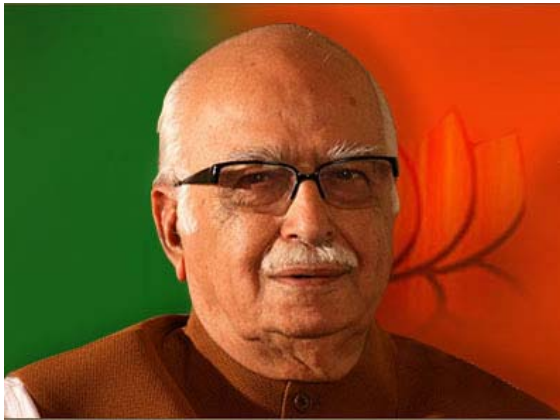
## Rajnath condemns terror attack on Indian forces in Jammu

The BJP strongly condemned the terrorist attack launched 26 September on the police and security forces in Jammu region. These terror strikes on Indian soil are carried out by anti-India forces operating from Pakistan. BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said "Since the incumbent UPA government has been pursuing a weak kneed policy against terrorism for the past many years, the terrorists have been emboldened to strike anywhere in India, almost at will."

"Contrary to the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's belief there is no signs of improvement on the ground in Pakistan as the ISI and Pakistan army continue to play its active role in destabilising India's internal and external security." "Let the newly elected government led by Miyan Nawaz Sharif be given some time to prepare the ground for talks by taking strong action against anti-India forces operating from Pakistan. Therefore the scheduled meeting of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh with his Pakistani counterpart at New York later this week should have been immediately be called off."

He added "As per media reports the Prime Minister has shown no indication to cancel his appointment with Pakistan PM. Ever since the UPA government has come to power it has adopted a compromising Pakistan policy. Be it 'Havana Declaration' or the 'Sharm al Sheikh' fiasco the UPA gov't has considerably weakened India's position in Indo-Pak bilateral relations." When the NDA was in power we had engaged Pakistan from a position of strength and achieved the 'Islamabad Declaration' in which Pakistan promised to us that terrorist activities would not be carried out from Pakistani soil. The UPA government has lost that diplomatic edge. Pakistan should be pursued and compelled to implement 'Islamabad Declaration' signed on January 6, 2004 before initiating any meaningful dialogue.

"Pursuing a spineless diplomacy at this juncture will present India as a 'soft state' which could be pushed around by any big or small country. The Prime Minister and the UPA government seems to be in a hurry to initiate dialogue with Pakistan. It also gives an impression as if he is motivated by certain conservative political motive instead of safeguarding our national interest. The BJP believes that there should be no talks with Pakistan unless the environment is conducive for dialogue." (FOC) ■



## It's Pranab Da, not Rahul, who saved the Situation

By L.K. Advani

**P**ranab-mukherjeeWith the Cabinet deciding on 4 October to withdraw the Ordinance as well as the Bill pending before Parliament in respect of convicted MPs and MLAs yet another ugly chapter in the unflattering history of the UPA Government has ended.

That most of the media reports on this development have described it as a victory for Rahul Gandhi is a comment on how superficial the media generally has become these days.

sharif1barrack-obamaIn fact, when just before departing from the U.S. after his meetings with President Obama and Pak P.M. Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh observed that he would discuss with his Cabinet after his return what the party's Vice President has said about the Ordinance, I commented to a friend that all that Rahul Gandhi had said about the Ordinance in his three-and-a-half minute speech was that the Ordinance was "complete nonsense" and deserved to be "torn" and "thrown away."

What was there in this outburst which the PM could possibly discuss with his

Cabinet?

After all, Rahul Gandhi had not given a single argument why he felt the Ordinance was wrong.

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**After all, Rahul Gandhi had not given a single argument why he felt the Ordinance was wrong. In contrast, when on September 26 evening, accompanied by our leaders in the two Houses, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley, I went to Rashtrapati Bhavan, and presented to the President a four-page representation, our memo elaborated why we of the BJP regarded the Ordinance not only unconstitutional and illegal, but also immoral, besides being procedurally wrong inasmuch as the Bill which the Ordinance sought to replace had been already referred to a Standing Committee of the Rajya Sabha.**

In contrast, when on September 26 evening, accompanied by our leaders in the two Houses, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley, I went to Rashtrapati Bhavan, and presented to the President a four-page representation, our memo elaborated why we of the BJP regarded the Ordinance not only unconstitutional and illegal, but also immoral, besides being procedurally wrong inasmuch as the Bill which the Ordinance sought to replace had been already referred to a Standing Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

Arun-jaitleysushma-swarajI recall that it was on Tuesday 24 September that the Cabinet approved the Ordinance to protect convicted MPs, MLAs, in effect negating the Supreme Court's order. The first reaction from the Opposition was Sushma's tweet that BJP would oppose the Ordinance. She consulted me shortly thereafter and we decided to approach the Rashtrapati and urge him not to sign the Ordinance. When she sought an appointment from Rashtrapati Bhavan, she gathered that the President had gone to Puducherry and would return only on September 26 at

4.00 pm.

We met him at 5.30 pm that day and were with him for 45 minutes or so. At the end of our meeting we got the clear impression that he was convinced that the situation merited his intervention.

When shortly thereafter TV channels began relaying that he had summoned Shinde and Sibal, and still later, Kamalnath, it became evident that things had started moving.

Rahul-gandhiIt seems these Ministers were told that the President had reservations about signing the Ordinance. This must have alarmed the Ministers. The President returning the Ordinance to the Government unsigned would have been a major setback for Government.

It is then perhaps that Soniaji may have thought of doing some damage control using Rahul for the purpose. It is obvious however, that no one advised him how precisely he was to carry out this task. The objective would have been fully served if Rahul had simply said that the decision taken by the Government needs to be reviewed. What he said instead has made The Indian Express (October 3, 2013) write a caustic editorial captioned "Losing Face". The sub heading runs: "He may have won, but Rahul Gandhi has rubbed off more of the U.P.A.'s authority."

Rahul's victory is really confined to rubbing off U.P.A.'s authority, and not merely the Prime Minister's. From Day One, U.P.A. has always meant Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

So, the 'nonsense' slur

hurled at the Cabinet approved ordinance cannot apply only to the P.M. and His Ministers. Soniaji must also share responsibility.

Dr-manmohan-singhsonia-gandhiSpeaking to Barkha Dutt (NDTV) on board P.M.'s Special Aircraft on his way back home, Dr. Manmohan Singh stressed that the Ordinance had been cleared at a meeting of senior Congress leaders including the Party President Sonia Gandhi, held on September 21. The victory that has come to the country by withdrawal of this illegal and immoral ordinance has thus been thanks only to the Rashtrapati, who has proved that U.P.A. would err seriously if it assumed that like most other Congressmen who had earlier occupied the high office of President, he too would remain a rubber stamp

President !  
TAILPIECE

The concluding paragraph of THE INDIAN EXPRESS editorial mentioned in the above blog reads as follows:

Manmohan Singh has ruled out the possibility of leaving office, but there is no missing the sense of resignation about the rest of his term. Rahul Gandhi has not followed up his ambush with a fuller explanation of his position on these bills. His views on matters of governance are unknown, but his capacity to disrupt the government's decisions has been proven. Now, his silence will only seem louder and more suspenseful. Whether or not this move pays off politically for the Congress in the upcoming election, for its remaining term, its government has effectively lost face. ■

## UPA government is indulging in divisive tactics: Venkaiah Naidu

Former BJP National President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu accused the Union government of indulging in "divisive tactics", referring to Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde's recent letter to Chief Ministers of all States, asking them to ensure that no "innocent Muslim youth" is wrongly detained in terror cases. It was time for the United Progressive Alliance government to "wake up" in the light of arrests of two terrorists in Puttur of Andhra Pradesh. "The arrests were just a tip of the ice berg. If the Union and State governments have the determination to act, a strong message could be sent to Pakistan which was harboring terrorists," he said. Pakistan was trying to destabilise the country's economy by sponsoring terrorist activities. Terror outfits, albeit in different names, continue to carry out their acts to disturb peace in the country, he said. Demanding an explanation from the Union government on the happenings in Kashmir, while Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was holding talks with his Pakistani counterpart, he said, "The country should be given a clear picture of the entire issue."

Releasing a booklet, "NDA v/s Congress-led UPA", comparing the rule of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government and the Congress-led UPA government, Shri Naidu challenged the Congress leaders for a debate on the achievements of the two governments. ■

# Stop government from legislating unconstitutional legislation : BJP

## BJP submits memorandum to the President of India over ordinance on convicted MPs & MLAs

Thursday, 26 September 2013

Mananiya Rashtrapati ji,  
Rashtrapati Bhavan,  
New Delhi.

We encroach upon your busy schedule to bring to your notice an issue of public interest which deals with probity in public life and improving the quality of politics in India.

Criminalization of politics and politicization of criminals have been a matter of grave concern for the Indian democracy. India is still grappling with the problem of allowing politicians charge-sheeted with offences involving moral turpitude who contest elections and get elected to legislative bodies. The credibility of politics, public life and governance has suffered. The Judgement of the Supreme Court dated 10th July, 2013 striking down section 8(4) of the Representation of Peoples Act 1951 as ultra vires was an opportunity for political parties to take at least one step forward. The UPA Government, has suggested through an Ordinance an amendment to the Representation of Peoples Act and substituted the original ultra vires section 8(4) with a new formulation. The new formulation entails that the disqualification of a convicted member of a legislative body would be deferred and the member would continue to be a law-maker with a restriction that he cannot draw his salary or vote in the process of law making. A question has been asked – why should a convicted person be a law maker?

The moral dilemma

People expect a convicted person to be in prison. However, the original section 8(4) required that if a person is a Member of a legislative body his conviction would not take effect for a period of three months and if within that period such a person files an appeal or Revision then his current membership would continue till the appeal or revision application are disposed of. The contrary view is one based on probity, ethics and morality. If a person is convicted why should such a person be continued as a law-maker. Many in the past have questioned the rationale behind this principle. The presumption of innocence cannot apply once conviction has already taken place. This provision has been justified on the ground that an elected person is a class apart – a separate class from an ordinarily convicted person. The ordinarily convicted person's rights would be governed by the appeal and the interim or final orders passed. However, an elected representative has been given a statutory protection so that during the pendency of the appeal there is no bye election which is necessitated. The Supreme



Court has struck down this provision vide its judgement dated 10/7/2013 as ultra vires Article 102 and 191 of the Constitution. The Judgement of the Supreme Court is final. The Review Petition against the judgement has been dismissed. This Judgement lays down a law applicable to the whole country unless the Supreme Court on a future date take a contrary view. The moral question being asked is once a provision has been held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court should the Indian Parliament exercise its' legislative jurisdiction to enable convicted persons to continue as a law maker. Even though he cannot vote , his participation in the debates certainly influences the course of law making. Should the Indian Parliament not have utilized this opportunity to allow a provision of this nature to be wiped from the statutes.

On Procedure

The Bill was introduced before the Parliament . It is pending before the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha did not consider it appropriate to take up the matter for consideration. The Bill has been referred by the Chairman Rajya Sabha to the Standing Committee. Having been referred to the Standing Committee all stake holders and those holding contrary view will all get an opportunity to influence the opinion of the Standing Committee. What was the urgency that the Government was compelled to bring this legislation through the Ordinance route? The only compelling reason for bypassing parliament and taking the ordinance route is to help a class of tainted politicians who have been already convicted or are apprehensive of a court judgement in near future. That a government can be pressurized by the logic of the tainted speaks volume of the lack of integrity of this government. Procedurally it is improper to bring an ordinance in a matter which is already pending before the Standing Committee.

The Ordinance is unconstitutional

Article 102 of the Constitution clearly provides that the disqualification applies to a person 'for being chosen as or for being member of parliament' if he is disqualified by a law made by the Parliament. Article 191 similarly deals with State legislatures. Section 8 of the Representation of Peoples Act 1951 disqualifies a category of convicted persons mentioned in section 8 (1), (2) and (3) of the Act. The Supreme Court in the case of Lily Thomas vs. Union of India in its' judgement delivered on 10/7/2013 has clearly held as under:-

Articles 102(1)(e) and 191(1)(e) of the Constitution, on the other hand, have conferred specific powers on Parliament to make law providing disqualifications for membership of either House of Parliament or Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of the State other than those specified in Sub-clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Clause (1) of Articles 102 and 191 of the Constitution. We may note that no power is vested in the State Legislature to make law laying down disqualifications of membership of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of the State and power is vested in Parliament to make law laying down disqualifications also in respect of members of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of the State. For these reasons, we are of the considered opinion that the legislative power of Parliament to enact any law relating to disqualification for membership of either House of Parliament or Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of the State can be located only in Articles 102(1) (e) and 191(1)(e) of the Constitution and not in Articles 246(1) read with Entry 97 of List I of the Seventh Schedule and Article 248 of the Constitution. We do not, therefore, accept the contention of Mr. Luthra that the power to enact Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of the Act is vested in Parliament under Articles 246(1) read with Entry 97 of List I of the Seventh Schedule and 248 of the Constitution, if not in Articles 102(1)(e) and 191(1)(e) of the Constitution

To put it differently, if because of a disqualification a person cannot be chosen as a member of Parliament or State Legislature, for the same disqualification, he cannot continue as a member of Parliament or the State Legislature. This is so because the language of Articles 102(1)(e) and 191(1)(e) of the Constitution is such that the disqualification for both a person to be chosen as a member of a House of Parliament or the State Legislature or for a person to continue as a member of Parliament or the State Legislature has to be the same.

The result of our aforesaid discussion is that the affirmative words used in Articles 102(1)(e) and 191(1)(e) confer power on Parliament to make one law laying down the same disqualifications for a person who is to be chosen as member of either House of Parliament or as a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State and for a person who is a sitting member of a House of Parliament or a House of the State Legislature and the words in Articles 101(3)(a) and 190(3)(a) of the Constitution put express limitations on such powers of the Parliament to defer the date on which the disqualifications would have effect. Accordingly, Sub-section (4) of Section 8 of the Act which carves out a saving in the case of sitting members of Parliament or State Legislature from the disqualifications under Sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Act or which defers the date on which the disqualification will take effect in the case of a sitting member of Parliament or a State Legislature is beyond the powers conferred on Parliament by the Constitution

The law declared by the Supreme Court thus clearly is that there is an express limit on the power of parliament which cannot wholly or partially allow the convicted legislator to continue to exercise any rights of a legislator. The right to attend and participate in the proceedings which the proposed Ordinance confers on a convicted legislator such a right.. The parliament in view of the express language of Article 102 and 191 cannot confer such a facility to an otherwise disqualified legislator. The proposed Ordinance amending section 8(4) of the Representation of Peoples Act 1951 is as unconstitutional as the original section 8(4).

We, therefore, request your Excellency to advise the Government that it ought not to legislate an Unconstitutional legislation. Your Excellency should, therefore refer this Ordinance back to the Government.

(L.K. ADVANI)

(SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(ARUN JAITLEY)

## BJP opposed both bill & ordinance, Congress spreading lies : Sushma Swaraj

In a series of posts Leader of Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that at an all-party meeting held to discuss the proposed legislation, four choices were placed before the leaders but there were divergent views and no consensus could emerge.

Charging Congress with spreading “complete falsehood” about her party’s stand on the controversial legislation on convicted lawmakers, Smt. Swaraj said her party has consistently opposed both the Bill and the ordinance.

In a series of posts on the social networking site Twitter, she said that at an all-party meeting held to discuss the proposed legislation, four choices were placed before the leaders but there were divergent views and no consensus could emerge.

She further said that after the all-party meeting, Finance minister P Chidambaram and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kamal Nath had told her that all the four options should be sent to the Standing Committee for thorough deliberation. “After the Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha, Law Minister Shri Kapil Sibal met Shri Arun Jaitley and me in my Chamber and we made our opposition very categoric and clear. We told Kapil Sibal that the Bill was wrong and unconstitutional. It was because of our opposition that the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee,” Smt. Swaraj said. She said when the ordinance was approved; BJP had voiced opposition on day one and requested the President not to sign it. “We said the ordinance was immoral, illegal and unconstitutional. We opposed the Bill. We opposed the ordinance. What Congress is spreading is complete falsehood” she said. ■





# BJP opposed the Bill to enable convicted Legislators to continue

By Arun Jaitley

The Supreme Court delivered two Judgements in quick succession. The first Judgement dealt with the question of debarring the candidates who were in police custody from a right to vote and consequently the right to contest. All political parties including the BJP felt that this Judgement if allowed to stand could be destructive of the democratic process. 'Law and order' is a State subject and all the State police has to do is to arrest a few candidates on the eve of filing of nomination papers and subvert the electoral process. The law amending section 62(5) of the Representation of Peoples Act has already been passed.

The second of the two Judgements dealt with a more serious issue. Should a person convicted of a criminal offence which entails disqualification of the membership of the Legislature be allowed to continue as a member till his appeal against the conviction is disposed of? The Supreme Court struck down section 8(4) of the Representation of Peoples Act as being violative of the constitutional provisions contained in Article 102 and Article 191 of the Constitution.

On August 13, 2013, the Government convened an All Party meeting in the Parliament House. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and I attended that meeting. In the meeting we were told that the

Government wanted to discuss a series of issues including the Judgement of the Supreme Court in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences case, the disqualification of membership

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**On the issue of a convicted legislator's right to continue his present membership, various proposals were discussed. At the end of the discussion the impression conveyed to us was that the Government would finalise the proposal and refer the matter to a Standing Committee for formulation of opinion. The Government has tried to convey an impression that the BJP was in full support of the legislation which was proposed. In fact, only various options were discussed. I am constrained to set the record straight on account of his disinformation being spread by the Government.**

of a convicted legislator under section 8(4), The Judicial Appointment Commission legislation, the Judgement of the Supreme Court depriving the right of a jailed person from voting or contesting and measures to be taken for the smooth functioning of both houses of Parliament.

On the issue of a convicted legislator's right to continue his present membership, various proposals were discussed. At the end of the discussion the impression conveyed to us was that the Government would finalise the proposal and refer the matter to a Standing Committee for formulation of opinion. The Government has tried to convey an impression that the BJP was in full support of the legislation which was proposed. In fact, only various options were discussed. I am constrained to set the record straight on account of his disinformation being spread by the Government.

After this meeting, on 15th August, 2013 I was told by the Union Law Minister at the conclusion of the Prime Minister's speech at the Red Fort on Independence Day, that the Government was contemplating a Constitution amendment. This was conveyed to me in the presence of the union Finance Minister. I expressed my apprehensions at the proposal. My apprehensions were that

public opinion would disapprove the fact that Parliament was amending the Constitution in order to enable convicted persons to continue as

General Body of the BJP Parliamentary Party met, I explained this to my colleagues why this amendment was unconstitutional. I further stated

Representation Act should not be approved.

We felt that it was morally questionable and constitutionally invalid. The Parliament was originally expected to adjourn sine die on 6/9/2013. The sitting of the Parliament was extended by one day to enable the passage of certain Bills including this amendment. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and I categorically informed the Government that we were opposed to the passage of this amendment. In view of a divided opinion the Government informed us that this was being referred to a Standing Committee.

**The Union Law Minister came to the chamber of Mrs. Sushma Swaraj in the Parliament. On receiving the message I also reached her room. There was at least half an hour discussion/argument between the three of us as to why this amendment to Peoples Representation Act should not be approved. We felt that it was morally questionable and constitutionally invalid. The Parliament was originally expected to adjourn sine die on 6/9/2013. The sitting of the Parliament was extended by one day to enable the passage of certain Bills including this amendment. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj and I categorically informed the Government that we were opposed to the passage of this amendment.**

a law maker. In any case there are no more than a handful of people who fall in this category. We can easily live with this Judgement and it was not necessary to amend the Constitution to overrule this Judgement. The Law Minister informed me that he would now start examining if amendment to the law was possible rather than a Constitution amendment.

After a few days the Government conveyed to us that they were contemplating an amendment in section 8(4) of the Representation of Peoples Act. I had examined this matter and consulted various informed persons including several legal experts. My own understanding upon reading of section 8(4) which was being proposed was that such a provision would suffer from the vice of the unconstitutionality which the original section 8(4) suffers. I had conveyed this myself to the Law Minister.

On Tuesday, the 2nd September, 2013 when the

that this was morally unacceptable to a large section of public opinion which found the very idea of enabling convicted persons to continue as law makers as objectionable. The fact that I had raised an objection against this amendment and also the amendment in relation to the non-applicability of the RTI

We were shocked when the Ordinance was issued even though a Bill was pending consideration before the Standing Committee. We opposed the issuance of the Ordinance on several grounds.

There has been a series of discussions in relation to this Bill. The BJP had opposed it all

*We were shocked when the Ordinance was issued even though a Bill was pending consideration before the Standing Committee. We opposed the issuance of the Ordinance on several grounds. There has been a series of discussions in relation to this Bill. The BJP had opposed it all along and conveyed its opposition to the Government. The above is a record of some of those conversations.*

to political parties was widely reported in the media. On the same day the Union Law Minister came to the chamber of Mrs. Sushma Swaraj in the Parliament. On receiving the message I also reached her room. There was at least half an hour discussion/argument between the three of us as to why this amendment to Peoples

along and conveyed its opposition to the Government. The above is a record of some of those conversations.

I am making the above facts known publicly since a campaign of disinformation has been launched by a beleaguered Government. ■

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

# Right to Reject : A great step towards future electoral reforms

By Narendra Modi

The Honourable Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to include negative voting by allowing the voters to reject all the candidates in an election.

I wholeheartedly welcome this. I am sure it will have a long lasting impact on our polity and will be a great step in the direction of further electoral reforms that can make our democracy even more vibrant and participative.

Friends, for a very long time I have called for a provision for a right to reject in elections. Without it, there was something lacking in the system. Right now, if there are ten candidates contesting from a seat, we are compelling the voters to choose from those ten candidates. This judgment will empower the voters to express their anger and reject all of them. The voters can give a message that we do not like the candidate or the candidates' party or the party's policies. This will give out a very strong message to political parties- parties will be forced to think why is it that people are not accepting them. It will make parties more responsible.

Many friends in some political parties are skeptical of having a Right to Reject in forthcoming elections. However, I am not surprised. We introduced a bill on compulsory voting, which even included the Right to Reject but Congress

Party opposed it tooth and nail. The bill was passed twice, in 2008 and in 2009 but it was then withheld by the Honourable Governor.

**Compulsory voting too, has several advantages that can make our democracy stronger. It will even mitigate fears about elections becoming display of money power. Many citizens are disturbed by the large amounts of money being spent on elections. However, by bringing compulsory voting, mindless and extravagant expenditure on elections will not happen as the voter will anyway have to come to the polling booth and cast his or her franchise.**

It is natural for many of you to ask- do things like Right to Reject and Compulsory voting violate our Right to Expression? No, I would say it is adding completeness in the opportunity for expression. Right now, you are getting only half the right of expression- that of selecting the person or party. In future, you will get a complete right of expression- of even rejecting the candidates.

And it is not that something is being snatched from the voters. If compulsory schooling for children is advocated, can you say that we are denying a child his or her childhood?

Once someone asked

Mahatma Gandhi what are the fundamental rights of the people? Gandhi ji said that it is not about the fundamental right but the fundamental duties of the people. When we do our duties properly, the rights will be automatically safeguarded and if we do our duties properly, our democracy will be safeguarded.

But friends, while it is good to talk about Right to Reject and Compulsory Voting, this debate will be meaningless if you are not registered as voters! I am told that a large number of youngsters who are 18 to 24 years old are not registered as voters. There is nothing more unfortunate than this. The Election Commission has started a special drive across all states for enlisting voters and I urge all of you to make use of the drive and get registered as voters. It is equally true that many of our NRI friends who retain their India passports do not know that they can vote in elections. Thus, I even urge my NRI friends to check the Election Commission website and get registered as voters.

Democracy can only be strengthened by all of us! As voters, we are the 'Bhagya Vidhata's' of our nation. What the Supreme Court said today is a wonderful step but it is now for us to come together, put it into practice and strengthen our democracy so that our nation can shine in the years to come! ■

*(The writer is Chief Minister of Gujarat)*

# Combat ideology and guns simultaneously

By Balbir Punj

*Behind the hands that pull the trigger and brandish the sword, is a mind that interprets the world in terms of religious obligations of the faithful versus the infidel. This indoctrination has been going on for centuries*

Three incidents last week – deadly explosions in Peshawar, Pakistan, a terrorist hold-up in Nairobi, Kenya, and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s call at the 16th National Integration Council meet in New Delhi to fight the menace of communalism – appear to be unrelated on the surface. But look deeper and there is a common thread running through them all.

The blood-soaked incidents in Nairobi and Peshawar and the scourge of communal riots, be they in India, Pakistan or Bangladesh, are two sides of the same coin. Behind the hands that pull the trigger and brandish the sword, is a mind that interprets the world in terms of religious obligations of the faithful versus the infidel. This indoctrination has been going on for centuries through sermons and education provided by religious seminaries. Those who perpetrate savagery against infidels and their places of worship claim religious sanction for their actions and have even won acclaim from the clergy.

In this context, Mr Singh’s call at the NIC meet is an exercise in futility. He is like a physician who deals only with the symptoms and ignores the underlying reasons for the

disease. In fact, the Prime Minister’s case is even worse, as his Government and party are guilty of strengthening those very factors that sustain this ghoulish mind-set because of vote-bank politics.

This macabre thought-process entered the Indian sub-continent with Muhammad bin Qasim from Saudi Arabia ransacking the Hindu kingdom of Punjab and Sind in 712 AD. He wrote to the ‘kings of Hind’

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**No wonder, Bakhtiyar Khilji burnt to ashes universities of international standing – Nalanda and Vikramshila, for instance – when he invaded India in 1193. Mughal emperor Jehangir put Sikh Guru Arjun Dev, a man of peace, to death. Another Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur, was killed on the orders of Aurangzeb because he refused to change his faith and stood by the Kashmiri Brahmins who were given the choice to convert to Islam or face death. The four young sons of Guru Govind Singh also fell victim to the same mindset. And, this is just an illustrative list.**

to surrender and accept Islam. Indians were given two options – submit to Islam peacefully or deal with the consequences. This tradition has since continued unabated. The intensity, however, depends on the motivation and relative strength of the faithful and their intended victims at any given point of time.

The subsequent Muslim invaders and kings – from Muhammad Gazni to Aurangzeb – followed this template, without exception. Of course, some of them (like Akbar) did make occasional concessions to the Hindus, depending on the exigencies of the situation and the larger interests of the empire. However, the overall character of successive Muslim regimes continued to be defined by Islamic traditions and scriptures. The non-believers were kafirs and were treated as such.

No wonder, Bakhtiyar Khilji burnt to ashes universities of international standing – Nalanda and Vikramshila, for instance – when he invaded India in 1193. Mughal emperor Jehangir put Sikh Guru Arjun Dev, a man of peace, to death. Another Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur, was killed on the orders of Aurangzeb because he refused to change his faith and stood by the Kashmiri Brahmins

who were given the choice to convert to Islam or face death. The four young sons of Guru Govind Singh also fell victim to the same mindset. And, this is just an illustrative list.

This divisive mindset also formed the bedrock on which the Islamic state of Pakistan stands. Nearly all Muslims in Pakistan (like in the rest in the sub-

**This divisive mindset also formed the bedrock on which the Islamic state of Pakistan stands. Nearly all Muslims in Pakistan (like in the rest in the sub-continent) are either Hindus or Buddhists who converted to Islam and rejected their pre-Islamic past. They also consider the followers of their 'original' faith as kafirs. It's this animosity and hate against kafirs that constitutes Pakistan's DNA.**

continent) are either Hindus or Buddhists who converted to Islam and rejected their pre-Islamic past. They also consider the followers of their 'original' faith as kafirs. It's this animosity and hate against kafirs that constitutes Pakistan's DNA. The vicious paradigm responsible for Pakistan's birth continues to be its lodestar and largely shapes its domestic and foreign policies.

The sordid events resulting in communal riots in the three countries of the sub-continent, in most cases, can be traced to this mindset. In Pakistan, a country created to safeguard Muslims,

Hindus were the first to be driven out. Then the persecution list was extended to include Ahmadiyas, then Shias and now even moderate Sunnis who the extremists do not consider to be 'good Muslims'. The Kashmir valley has also been cleansed of its Hindu population by the dominant Muslims.

The Nairobi attack was carried out by the Islamist group, Al Shabaab, that is linked to Al Qaeda. What Muslims themselves can expect from Al Shabaab's rule is illustrated by what this organisation does in areas that it controls. There, it enforces an extremist version of Sharia'h law that includes barbaric punishments like amputation, beheading and stoning.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have drawn daggers because each believes that its version of Islam is the right one. Sunnis and Shias are killing each other through suicide

bombers in Iraq, where both sects live in good numbers.

What should worry the international community that is facing terror threats from Islamists is the mindset that triggers such organised killings. The notorious Indian Mujahideen in this country is also part of the global Islamist terror network. The likes of Yasin Bhatkal and other IM operatives, recently cornered by our security organisations after a decade-long pursuit across many countries, from Bangladesh and Nepal to the UAE and Saudi Arabia to the UK, are driven by

the same mentality.

So, what makes Islamists bomb schools, kill girls and condemn all other religions? Also, how are these groups able to mobilise public support for their regressive measures?

For instance, in Kerala, where Muslims now constitute 21 per cent of the population, Islamist groups have united to demand that the Government lower the minimum age of marriage for girls from their community from 18 to 16. Similarly, across India, the Muslim leadership is content with education for the faithful being limited to madarssas where there is nominal secular education, no mingling with young people from other religions, and the entry of modern ideas is stonewalled through a ban on television and radios.

If every idea of change in a modernising and globalising world is opposed in the name of religion, it is natural that the young become easy victims of extremist ideology that justifies violence in the garb of jihad. The fact that jihadis also target other sections of their own religion, and competitive extremism and militancy are the rule in such situations, should normally push for re-think on the mental make-up that it promotes.

The global campaign against terror needs to be fought on two fronts. Guns held by terrorists will have to be met with guns. Simultaneously, the world has to combat the venomous ideological mindset which motivates the faithful to kill and be killed. ■

*(The writer is BJP National Vice President)*

# MALIGNED AND RIDICULED AGENCY HAS LAST LAUGH

By Joginder Singh

*A job is a job, and the CBI has done it remarkably well over the years, though it has come under political pressure in several instances. The fodder scam case is a good example of the probe agency's efficiency*

The fodder scam had its origins long before the matter fell into the CBI's lap. It had been on for decades already when, in 1996, the Supreme Court upheld the orders of the Patna High Court that the case should be investigated by the CBI and monitored either by the Chief Justice of Patna High Court or a Bench constituted by him. The public interest litigation on the fodder scam was filed in 1990 by Bihar's anti-corruption department, but it remained in limbo, because it would open an hornet's nest for the high and mighty.

On September 30, as many as 45 accused in the fodder scam were convicted, including former Bihar Chief Ministers Lalu Prasad and Jagannath Mishra. This is a unique example of two Chief Ministers, belonging to rival political parties, being convicted in one case. Apart from Lalu Prasad and Mishra, Janata Dal (United) leader and Jahanabad MP Jagdish Sharma as well as three former IAS officers have been convicted.

This only goes to underline the all-pervasive nature of the scam, in which politicians of different hues collaborated with bureaucrats to siphon off public money. In the case at hand, the money had been earmarked for the Animal Husbandry

**January 1996:** Fodder scam surfaces after Deputy Commissioner of Chaibasa finds that the animal husbandry department is embezzling funds.

**March 1996:** Patna High Court directs the CBI to investigate the scam. The CBI registers an FIR in the Chaibasa treasury case. The Bihar Government appeals to the Supreme Court to let the case remain with Bihar Police. The appeal is rejected.

**June 1997:** CBI completes its investigation and files a charge-sheet naming Lalu Prasad as an accused.

**July 1997:** Lalu Prasad surrenders before the CBI court and is sent to judicial custody.

**October 2001:** Supreme Court transfers fodder scam cases to Jharkhand, after the creation of the new State.

**February 2002:** Trial begins in the special CBI court in Ranchi.

**August 2013:** Supreme Court rejects Lalu Prasad's plea to transfer the case from the trial court judge on the ground that the presiding officer is related to a Minister who is inimical to him,

**September 30:** Lalu Prasad, Misra and 43 others are convicted by the CBI trial court.

Department to be spent on fodder and medicines for livestock.

Only two fodder scam cases are being tried in Bihar. The other 53 cases are in the jurisdiction of Jharkhand. Of these, 46 have been disposed and nine are pending. There are a total of about 600 accused, out of which 550 have been convicted. It will be worthwhile to recall the landmarks of this case and how it was delayed.

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I have been pursuing this case for long and have been lampooned and criticised for my zeal, not to mention that I have come under pressure from the highest levels of the Government. But I have just ignored it all.

An investigation is a painstaking job. But the CBI has to do it. And it is not left to a Sub-Inspector, Assistant Sub-Inspector or Head Constable. Under the law, CBI investigators have to be of the rank of either an Inspector or a Deputy Superintendent of Police. In my entire career, I have never told any investigator to work with a vengeance to prove or disprove a case.

The conviction rate in the fodder cases has been over 90 per cent. This is a rare occurrence and should be an eye-opener that the Indian law enforcement system is capable of handling complicated tasks, provided it is allowed function effectively.

Apart from some black sheep – and some of them are senior officers – in the CBI who stonewalled my investigative efforts, I also had to deal with the political class and its 'Oust Joginder' campaign. In April 1997, Prime Minister IK Gujral took me to task for carrying out a "witch-hunt", and lashed out at me for indulging in "publicity-

oriented" probes. He said that some people were being "prosecuted" even before their cases had reached the courts.

"I think the publicity-oriented investigation is something we have to prevent", he explained. He went on to add, "And publicity sometimes gives me the impression that there is really some sort of exhibitionist trend in the personalities who think that it is more important for the public to know what they are doing." And the Prime Minister said this while he was criticising corruption in public life at a Chief Ministers' conference. While he did not mention me by name, the indirect reference to the fodder scam, which was in the news at that time, was unmistakeable.

**He took up the matter with me, and for talking to the Press, in a one-on-one meeting. I told him that I would tell the media what had been done and cannot be undone, but never what CBI would be doing. He laughed and agreed with me. Irrespective of the official stand and his being occasionally annoyed with me, there was a certain amount of cordiality and respect that we had for each other. I appreciated his political compulsions and he understood my legal and also personal compulsions.**

Without my having to say much, it is worthwhile for the discerning readers to judge where I went wrong. I claim no personal credit for the conviction of any accused in fodder scam.

After all, every action has a cause, and what we are seeing today is the result of what we did yesterday. It is the team-work of everybody, right from the constable to the Director, and those that were determined to bring the case to its logical conclusion.

Hardships, obstacles and difficulties are natural in any worthwhile task, though any police job is unpleasant. The CBI has played a tremendous role in sending messages to the dishonest bureaucrats and the corrupt politicians; "Beware. Big Brother is watching you." It is, therefore, no wonder, that several people are upset over the functioning of the CBI when the probe agency does its job well.

A job is a job, and the CBI has done it remarkably well over the years, though it has trodden on many a corn. My transfer for taking the decision to charge-sheet the high and mighty involved in the fodder scam was a small price that I paid. A Press reporter asked me on my transfer to a nondescript post at an airport on my return from Interpol. I smiled and said with a mischievous smile, "Wonderful, same salary and no work!"

I paid the price as a humble public servant in the interest of probity and ethics, in the interest of the country. The conviction and sentencing of Lalu Prasad and Rajya Sabha member Rasheed Masood, effectively leading to their disqualification from the House, is a good beginning. ■

*(The writer is a former CBI Director)*

# LOOK BEYOND THE ECONOMICS HERE

By Shivaji Sarkar

*The Raghuram Rajan panel, set up to evolve a composite development index of States, has made observations both convenient and troublesome for the Congress-led UPA regime.*

India is neither a developed country nor a developing country; it's an under-developed country. This is what the Raghuram Rajan panel on evolving a composite development index of States virtually says.

It is possibly also one of the reports most damning of the UPA Government and virtually indicates that Manmohanomics since 1991 has not helped the country come out of the syndrome of poverty. The development process, as per its conclusion, is a virtual misnomer.

The committee has not found any State which is developed. Gujarat was found to be in the middle category of less-developed as its development pattern is 'not uniform'. There are patches which do not conform to parameters of development. The supposedly-developed States like Punjab, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Maharashtra, Goa and Tamil Nadu could be considered as 'relatively developed'.

It means that these States do not come anywhere near the international development standards. The committee found that these States were only ahead in relative Indian terms. In the overall parameters of 10 counts,

that included individual per capita consumption, these States also demonstrated districts and regions which are far behind than the supposedly-developed areas in a State. Development is only restricted to certain pockets.

This also raises questions on the globalisation of the economy. Since, in 1997-1998, India was less integrated with the global system, it was cushioned off from the upheavals in the South-East Asian economies. The tumble

The Raghuram Rajan panel has re-opened the question: Should India rethink how it should reduce its dependence on the US and other Western countries? It has pointed out that pouring foreign direct investment is not helping the hinterlands.

The committee was set up by the UPA Government for an ostensible political purpose. The Centre wanted to placate Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar by

*In 2008, as its integration increased, India found itself in a difficult situation to cope up with, say, the Lehman crisis. This has affected its growth, increased the losses of banks — as there are more defaults in repayments, shrunk jobs and lesser developed areas face graver situation. In the process, India's currency has been the worst hit.*

did not have much effect except for a few businesses which had exposure to South-East Asia.

In 2008, as its integration increased, India found itself in a difficult situation to cope up with, say, the Lehman crisis. This has affected its growth, increased the losses of banks — as there are more defaults in repayments, shrunk jobs and lesser developed areas face graver situation. In the process, India's currency has been the worst hit.

granting his State a 'special category' status. This category was created by the Finance Commission to basically benefit the politically-sensitive States of the North-East so that they could be given extra financial benefit to overcome their development deficit.

The committee responded by recommending the abolition of the 'special category' status and evolving a new index on the basis of severe development deficit. Bihar was clubbed in the



category of least-developed. But in reality, when it comes to allocation of funds, it would be way behind Uttar Pradesh.

The committee found that Uttar Pradesh, having worse development indicators, needs a higher allocation of funds. It is a windfall for the State and possibly suits the UPA Government too, keeping in view the general election round the corner.

The panel thus serves more than the development cause of the States. It decides the dynamics of Indian electoral politics through its composite index. It also penalises States that are political opponents of the UPA like Tamil Nadu. As the index puts the State in the highest category of 'relative development', it tends to deprive Tamil Nadu of less than half of what would be transferred on an average per capita basis. The State would be getting far less of Central allocations in the process.

Though the State has been clubbed with the highest category, its development deficit in more than half of its districts is striking in terms of poverty, consumption, female literacy, and other indicators that the committee has referred to.

It would also cause political problems in the North-East too. Earlier, the region comprised special category States and enjoyed a particular benefit. Now Meghalaya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh would continue to get the maximum funds being in the 'least-developed' segment. But Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim would get far less being in a higher category of 'less-developed'. So would Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. ■

(Courtesy: The Pioneer)

## 'Nation First', book on Bal Apte released

**N**ation First, a compilation of the selected speeches and articles by veteran BJP leader late Shri Bal Apte was released by BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani in New Delhi on September 30. RSS Sarkaryavah Shri Bhaiyaji Joshi Presided over the function. Other prominent people who also shared the dais were RSS Sahsarkaryavah Shri Dattatreya Hosabale and BJP National Executive Members Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe. The book was published by Prabhat



Prakashan, New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Advani said no other organisation can match the amount of work that has been done in the field of nation building and national awakening as has been done by the Sangh and its associated organisations. He said Shri Bal Apte's writings reflect the whole ideology of the Sangh and the title of the book, 'Nation First', describes this ideology in a nutshell.

Shri Bhaiyaji Joshi said Bal Apte never compromised on the values. He lived a noble life. He never made people his 'followers' but 'companions'. Shri Joshi further said that Apteji's was like a guiding star showing path to all.

Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe said Apteji was an activist as well as a philosopher, it was necessary that documentation of the thoughts of such person is done.

Shri Hosabale said the present book is a compilation of his English writings and speeches, independent books of his Hindi as well as Marathi writings will be published later. Sharing his memories Shri Hosabale said Apteji was "candid as well as stern"; he had a very down to earth personality and always took care of party workers as his family members.

## Congress allegation against Gujarat Govt on malnutrition is based upon falsehood : Ravi Shankar Prasad

The entire campaign on the issue of malnutrition unleashed by the Congress against the Gujarat Government is false and malicious. It may be noted that CAG report no. 22 of 2012-13 relating to performance audit of ICDS scheme (relating to malnutrition) is before the Parliament and is also available on the website of CAG. Annexure 6.4 of the said report contains State wise Nutritional Status of Children from the year 2006-07 to 2010-11. This shows that all the BJP State Government have done remarkably well in reduction of grade I & II malnutrition. Grade III & IV i.e. severe malnutrition is below 1% in all the States except two. Gujarat has done remarkably well in reducing it from 70% (69.83) to 34% (34.21%) if the data of March 2013 is taken it is 25.09%. In comparison the record of all Congress led State Government except Maharashtra has been very poor in reducing it. The entire data was provided by the Ministry of Women and Child development. The comparative chart shown in Annexure 6.4 (refer to paragraph 6.3.2) of CAG report no. 22 of 2012-13

is reproduced below.

The chart clearly shows that among the big States the BJP ruled have done very well in reducing the number of malnutrition. Gujarat has done indeed very well by reducing it from 70% to 34% and now to 25%. In Gujarat as per June 2013 percentage of severely underweight children has come down to 1.61%. on the contrary except Maharashtra the performance of all the Congress led Governments has been very-very poor in reducing malnutrition which stand confirmed by the data of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. ■






## Election Commission announces poll dates for five states; voters to get Right to reject option

Election season 2013-14 has begun. Eleven crore voters in five states will exercise their franchise between November 11 and December 4 - according to the assembly election schedule announced by the Election Commission on 04th October. The votes will be counted on December 8.

The fate of four high-profile chief ministers will be decided in the polls, and the results will be read for clues to the big fight - general elections in 2014.

Although Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram represent a relatively small part of the Indian electoral map, these assembly elections are being seen as a sort of a test run for Congress and BJP, which are pretty much face to face in all the election-bound states barring Mizoram. ■

<b>CEC V S Sampath</b>		<b>Rajasthan 200 seats</b>	
Delhi	70 seats	Electorate	4.1 crore
Voters	1.15 crore	Polling on	December 1
Polling on	December 4	2008 results	Cong 96, BJP 78, BSP 6, Others 20
2008	Cong 43, BJP 23	<b>Madhya Pradesh 230</b>	
Chhattisgarh	90	Electorate	4.6 crore
Electorate	1.7 crore	Polling on	November 25
Polling on	November 11, 19	2008	BJP 143, Cong 71
2008	BJP 50, Cong 38, BSP 2	<b>Mizoram 40</b>	
		Electorate	6.9 lakh
		Polling on	December 4
		2008	Cong 32, MNF 3

### Deendayal Upadhyaya Jayanti celebrated

## Safety of women, corruption and value degradation major challenges of contemporary India : Meenakshi Lekhi

Every year, Deendayal Upadhyaya College, Delhi celebrates its Founder's day on 25 September, the Jayanti of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. This year Bharatiya Janata Party National Spokesperson Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Addressing on this occasion she spoke on challenges of contemporary India like safety of women, corruption, value degradation and emphasized on transforming our mindset according to the principles propounded by Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya.



BJP National Secretary Shri Shyam Jaju delivered the key note address. He spoke on the principles of Integral Humanism and its relevance in today's time. He emphasized on the relevance and the implementation of the idea of Integral Humanism. He also reinforced the power of youth in building of a nation. Chancellor, Maharaja Agrasen University, Himachal Pradesh and former Chairman of Deendayal Upadhyaya College Dr. Nand Kishore Garg, presided over the programme. He spoke on preserving the rich traditions and cultural heritage of India and enlightened the gathering on the life history of Pt. Upadhyaya. ■ (FOC)

# DURGA PUJA

By Sri Swami Sivananda

**S**ALUTATIONS to the Divine Mother, Durga, who exists in all beings in the form of intelligence, mercy, beauty, who is the consort of Lord Shiva, who creates, sustains and destroys the universe.

This festival is observed twice a year, once in the month of Chaitra and then in Aswayuja. It lasts for nine days in honour of the nine manifestations of Durga. During Navaratri (the word literally means "nine nights") devotees of Durga observe a fast. Brahmins are fed and prayers are offered for the protection of health and property.

The beginning of summer and the beginning of winter are two very important junctions of climatic and solar influence. These two periods are taken as sacred opportunities for the worship of the Divine Mother. They are indicated respectively by the Rama-Navaratri in Chaitra (April-May) and the Durga Navaratri in Aswayuja (September-October).

The bodies and minds of people undergo a considerable change on account of the changes in Nature. Sri Rama is worshipped during Ramnavmi, and Mother Durga during Navaratri.

The Durga Puja is celebrated in various parts of India in different styles. But the one basic aim of this celebration is to propitiate Shakti, the Goddess in Her aspect as Power, to bestow upon man all wealth,

auspiciousness, prosperity, knowledge (both sacred and secular), and all other potent powers. Durga Puja or Navaratri commences on the first and ends on the tenth day of the bright half of Aswayuja (September-October). It is held in commemoration of the victory of Durga over Mahishasura, the buffalo-headed demon. In Bengal Her image is worshipped for



nine days and then cast into water. The tenth day is called Vijaya Dasami or Dussera (the "tenth day"). Processions with Her image are taken out along the streets of villages and cities.

Durga Puja is the greatest Hindu festival in which God is adored as Mother. Hinduism is the only religion in the world which has emphasised to such an extent the motherhood of God. One's relationship with one's mother is the dearest and the sweetest of all human relations. Hence, it is proper to look upon God as mother.

Durga represents the Divine Mother. She is the energy aspect of the Lord. Without Durga, Shiva has no expression and

without Shiva, Durga has no existence. Shiva is the soul of Durga; Durga is identical with Shiva. Lord Shiva is only the silent witness. He is motionless, absolutely changeless. He is not affected by the cosmic play. It is Durga who does everything.

Shakti is the omnipotent power of the Lord, or the Cosmic Energy. The Divine Mother is represented as having ten different weapons in Her hands. She sits on a lion. She keeps up the play of the Lord through the three attributes of Nature, namely, Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas. Knowledge, peace, lust, anger, greed, egoism and pride, are all Her forms.

You will find in the Devi Sukta of the Rig Veda Samhita that Vak, symbolising speech, the daughter of the sage Anbhirna, realised her identity with the Divine Mother, the Power of the Supreme Lord, which manifests throughout the universe among the gods, among men and beasts and among the creatures of the deep ocean.

In the Kena Upanishad, you will find that the Divine Mother shed wisdom on Indra and the gods and said that the gods were able to defeat the demons only with the help of the power of the Supreme Lord.

The worship of Devi, the universal Mother, leads to the attainment of knowledge of the Self. The story in the Kena Upanishad known as the "Yaksha Prasna", supports this view. It tells how Uma, the Divine Mother, taught the Truth to the gods. Goddess Shakti thus sheds wisdom on Her devotees. ■

*Courtesy : The Divine Life Society*