



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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“Recent events have evidenced the declining popularity and the low credibility of the UPA Government. The credibility of the UPA has hit the rock bottom.”

-Nitin Gadkari

“My *Yatra* is for clean and value based politics and for good governance and development.”

-L.K Advani

“We must reach out to villages even in scorching heat with rises temperature upto 44 C. We must ensure that no girl child remains illiterate. I request all the social institutions and the media world to create a joyous environment for education in the month of June (when schools re-open), an environment to encourage children to go to school. We will derive the satisfaction of having done a social good.”

-Narendra Modi

Letter to the Editor...



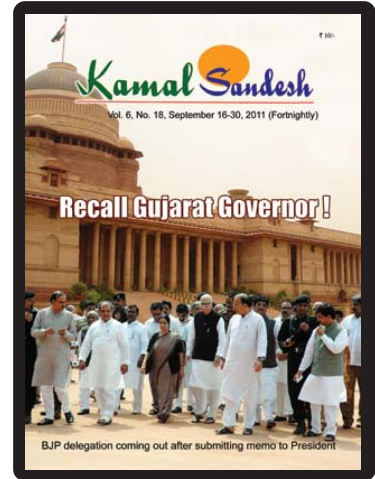
The PM and the CM : Pleasing Bangladesh

Dear Editor,

In terms of pleasing Bangladesh at the expense of Indian Paschimbanga, the PM and the CM have shown different standards. It is reported that Delhi and Mamatadi had agreed to a 25-75 split of Teesta water between P.Banga and Bangladesh. But the final agreement was deceptively changed to a 48-52 split of the same to the detriment of the farmers in long-suffering P.Banga.

They suffered in the past due to collusions of the CM and the PM, against the interest of the population of P.Banga. It is reported that W.Bengal received only 10% of the amount of money received by E.Punjab during the regime of Nehru and MC. Khanna, for rehabilitation when BC.Roy was the CM. People heard no protest! Again Jyotibabu had during an election campaign claimed his party supported partition for the advantage of the Muslims(which should now get him minority bank votes.). Hence, Mamatadi has done even better; she has stood up against the PM, in the interest of the people of her State. She is a true ideal for the Nationalistic and Patriotic BJP whose difference with the TMC will predictably diminish rapidly, after this!

Basudeb Ghose
London



Articles invited

Insightful and inspiring articles on the life and great work of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ji are invited for publication in Kamal Sandesh. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay remains a source of our inspiration, guiding us in our journey to restore the glory and greatness of *Maa Bharati*. We request his associates, co-workers, researchers, writers and journalists to become a part of this *vichara yatra* of Kamal Sandesh.

-Prabhat Jha, Editor

Write to us

The Editor,



We welcome

Your views & Suggestions

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The next cabinet meeting in Tihar now?

Editorial...

Today the nation does hang its head in shame for the unending everyday scams surfacing under UPA but, surprisingly the Congress led UPA is not at all ashamed of itself. It is rightly said that only those feel ashamed who are not 'shameless'. It is now as clear as the daylight that the UPA government is a house divided against itself and on the brink of collapse. According to the news repeatedly being flashed in the print and electronic media only Dr. Manmohan Singh remains to be directly indicted; almost every other minister seems tainted with corruption. It is a matter of shame that the nation was made to face such an ignominious situation. Is this situation a matter of pride for a government ruling at the Centre? The sentiment in the country is unable to reconcile to this spectacle of disgrace. It is a shocking disgrace to see the 'honourable' home minister of the country standing in queue for his turn in Tihar? The entire nation is in shock and anguish. In this despicable scenario, people are expecting the Prime Minister to display grace and resign immediately. It looks as if for the Congress party to continue to stick to power is more important than the honour and prestige of the nation. What message the Congress wishes to spread out to the world? What image of the country does the Congress wish to project the world over?

Entire country is anxious to know the truth behind 2G spectrum scam. What prevents the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh from presenting a white paper on 2G to satisfy the curiosity of the nation? No one had ever imagined that in just 64 years of independence a situation would arise in the country when union ministers would make a beeline to Tihar jail. This obnoxious situation has made the country and the Congress-led UPA government a laughing stock the world over. From the petty pickpockets to hardcore criminals all are today feeling honoured that they have the benign company of honourable ministers in the Congress-led UPA.

The situation in the country has deteriorated to such an extent that today people derive pleasure to see their political leaders languishing in jails. They wish every one in the union ministry in jail. It is ironic that while the whole country knows the truth about the scams, those running the government pretend ignorance about these. It is now more than clear that the credibility of the Congress led UPA government has touched its nadir. Now the crisis before Congress is how to face the people in the days to come.

The spirit of *rashtradharm*a makes it mandatory for a government that has lost the faith and confidence of the people to immediately quit; it has no moral right to continue in power a moment longer. But what is happening is the reverse of it. As the Union government is getting more and more submerged in one crisis after the other, its ministers are doing nothing else but to save their skin by hook or crook.

The question is not of the government alone; the prestige and honour of the country is at stake. The governments come and go, but the country goes on for ever. Once the power, prestige and credibility of the country is lost, it will be very difficult to reclaim it. As ruling party at the Centre, Congress should not put the image and honour of the country at stake to realize its narrow objective to continue in power come what may at all cost to the nation. But alas! They do not realize it! Congress and UPA government must see the writing on the wall. It is time for them to act, lest it is too late and people throng the streets and the situation goes out of control. If people show their strength, this government will crumble like a house of cards. ■

Narendra Modi observes 3-day fast to strengthen peace, prosperity and unity



From Our Correspondent

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched *Sadbhavna* Mission with three days fast on September 17. Shri Modi began his fast at the Gujarat University Convention Centre in Ahmedabad. Prayer were held for unity, peace, prosperity of Gujarat and India. From every part of the State people came to the venue and lent their support to *Sadbhavna* Mission. Former Deputy Prime Minister and BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L.K Advani, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley, former BJP National President Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Punjab CM Shri Prakash Singh Badal, representatives of AIADMK, Shiv Sena, NDA ruled Chief Ministers, Madhya Pradesh BJP president Shri Prabhat Jha and many other leaders of BJP and its allies attended the *Sadbhavna* Mission.

Before starting his fast Shri Narendra Modi wrote an open letter to the people of the country. In the letter he said : As part of

this *Sadbhavna* Mission, I have resolved to fast for three days. I deeply believe that this fast will further strengthen Gujarat's environment of peace, unity and harmony. He added, *Sadbhavna* Mission is completely dedicated to the society and the nation. I hope that our effort to take Gujarat to new heights of development through peace, unity and harmony will contribute immensely in the progress and development of the nation as well.

He described the *Sadbhavna* Mission as a campaign to link Constitution of India with

democracy and truly secular social fabric, to make India stronger and developed.

Shri Modi said the mission is to introduce to the world as to how the people of Gujarat changed the face of the State in an atmosphere of peace, unity and harmony. Gujarat has adopted Good Governance as the Model for Development, and as the next step forward is to spread the message of development for all across the country, free from conflict between different castes and communities. He exuded confidence that this herbal medicine in the form of ►►

Modi has liberated Gujarat from corruption and terrorism : Advani

BJP parliamentary party chairman Shri Lal Krishna Advani visited the *Sadbhavna* Mission venue on Sept 17. Extending good wishes to Shri Modi, he said that Shri Modi has put Gujarat on a new height by initiating various welfare schemes in the state. Due to Shri Modi's zero tolerance approach towards corruption and terrorism, the state has become free from such ills.



► *Sadbhavna* Mission would reach 120-crore Indians in every village, every home.

Expressing his empathy with the victims, he reminded the people that peace and harmony alone could speed up development.

Shri Narendra Modi, in his visionary speech, called upon Indians to dream and dream big, revealed the secret of Gujarat's success, proposed a new language and model of politics, and laid out an agenda for *Sadbhavna* Mission beyond the fast!

"The fast has ended but the mission has only begun", declared Shri Modi as he concludes his fast

Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, former BJP National President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Smt. Hema Malini MP, National spokesperson Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman were present on the last day of fast at venue.

"The support *Sadbhavna* Mission has received proves how popular Shri Narendra Modi is in the Nation", Smt. Hema Malini said.

Shri Narendra Modi broke his 3- day long fast for *Sadbhavna* in the divine company of seers and well wishers.

The gathering lauded him as he spoke his heart out with truth, emotion and honesty. *Sadbhavna* Mission turned out to be a momentous journey!

Shri Modi exclaimed that none had imagined the Mission would create such a wave of movement not just in Gujarat but the entire Nation – that was the power of harmony, goodwill and determination!

At 10.30 am, Shri Modi and people at the venue observed a minute's silence for the victims of the earthquake that hit Sikkim and several areas in the eastern and northern parts of the country. ■

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When we hear praise of Gujarat in foreign countries our head rises high in pride : Sushma



Speaking on the occasion Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj praised Gujarat chief minister Shri Narendra Modi's work. She said, "When we hear praises of Gujarat in NIC meetings or in other countries, our head rises high with pride. When I went to Israel to study drip irrigation, I was told to go back to Gujarat to do so, 'why don't you go to Gujarat."

She said, development policy in Gujarat is made with the aim of serving a Hindu or Muslim. When 108 Ambulance gets an emergency call, it does not ask whether the caller is Hindu or Muslim." She added, I am a big fan of Narendra bhai's one quality - to carry on irrespective of the criticism. Modi ji does not govern from AC rooms, but out there amongst his people in the sun and dust, she said.

Gujarat takes lead in combining peace with prosperity : Arun Jaitley



Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said the Central government is indecisive on boosting the MP economy and is taking such decisions which make poor even poorer. In such a scenario, Gujarat has become a favorite state for the industrial houses and has emerged as a growth engine of the nation. It is historical that Shri Modi's leadership serves Gujarat not only for the economic

development but also for an atmosphere of unity, harmony and brotherhood.

Gujarat, a lighthouse for rest of India : Prakash Singh Badal



Extending his support Punjab Chief Minister Shri Prakash Singh Badal praised the achievements of Gujarat. He said that in Shri Modi's leadership Gujarat has become like a lighthouse for the rest of India. Whenever there is Chief Ministers' conference in Delhi, they look forward to listen to Shri Modi's

thoughts on the given subjects.

Gujarat's model exemplary : Dhumal

Extending well wishes to Shri Modi for the *Sadbhavna* Mission Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal said the height



of achievements scaled by Gujarat is exemplary for the rest of India. *Sadbhavna* Mission will put an end to all the misconceptions of the people regarding Gujarat.

'Narendra Modi working like Sardar Patel towards unification of India': Arjun Munda



Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda compared Shri Narendra Modi's *Sadbhavna* mission to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's acts and decisions which led to the unification of India around 1947.

"Sardar Patel took up the task of unification of India at the time of the independence... Now again such an effort is being launched from here in the form of Modi's *Sadbhavna* Mission. India is a peace-loving country and this message is being spread to every corner of the world through Shri Modi's mission," Shri Munda said.

Gujarat cares for all without discrimination : Ravi Shankar

BJP National General Secretary Shri Ravishanker Prasad said that the growth achieved by Gujarat is unparalleled. Gujarat government has cared for all the communities without discrimination.



Shri Modi himself prefers silence and lets the Gujarat's growth speak. Today when the nation speaks about collaborative effort and inclusive growth, it speaks about Gujarat, he said.

Jaya Lalitha extends support to Modi



AIDMK leader Shri Thumbidurai and Dr. Maitreyan conveyed Chief Minister Ms J. Jaylalitha's good wishes to Shri Modi and said that Gujarat's development under Shri Modi's

reign has attracted attention not only of India but also of the countries like America. He exuded faith that *Sadbhavna* Mission will create an atmosphere of social harmony in Gujarat as well in the entire country.

Rajya Sabha Member Dr. Maitreyan said that Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are two examples of having a mass-leader at the helm which is bound to ensure an all-round development of the state. ■

In Srinagar , BJP activists support *Sadbhavna* Mission

BJP activists on September 18 gathered at Lal Chowk in the heart of Srinagar and raised slogans



in support of Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi's *Sadbhavna* fast. The activists were led by BJP's state vice-president Shri C P Ganga and the party's provincial president in Kashmir valley Shri Ali Mohammad Mir.

The BJP leaders also urged the separatists to join the mainstream. This is the first time that BJP workers have come out on the streets, organising a rally and raising slogans.

The party's activists lauded Shri Narendra Modi. "Under his leadership, Gujarat has become the best governed state in the country. In the past 10 years, Gujarat has achieved 11 per cent growth and has become a role model for others," said Shri Ganga, adding, "We appeal to everyone, including the separatists, to join the mainstream and contribute towards creating a peaceful environment in Kashmir. This will lead to development here."

Shri Mir said, "We are here to support the fast for communal harmony. We support Narendra Modi's slogan of 'Hindu, Muslim, Sikh unity'. The country's well being depends on that." ■

BJP Minority Morcha observes symbolic fast in support of Sadbhavna Mission

In support of the 3 day Sadbhavna Mission started by the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi, BJP Delhi Pradesh, Minority Morcha observed symbolic fast at Jantar Mantar, on September 17. Thousands of people belonging to Minority community, women, children, sr. citizens and youth participated in it.

Addressing the people from Minority Community observing fast on the occasion, BJP National Spokespersons Shri Sayyed Sehnavaz Hussain MP said that today Gujarat is the only progressive state in the country where the rate of development is more than 11 percent. During the tenure of Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi no riot has taken

place after 2002. This is the reason why Gujarat is pride of India in the entire world. Congress and other parties indulged in misinformation campaign to defame BJP and Shri Narendra Modi but the people of country know that today Gujarat is the only state where people live in peace. Shri Modi has created such religious harmony in Gujarat which should be emulated in other states also.

President of BJP Delhi Pradesh Minority Morcha Shri

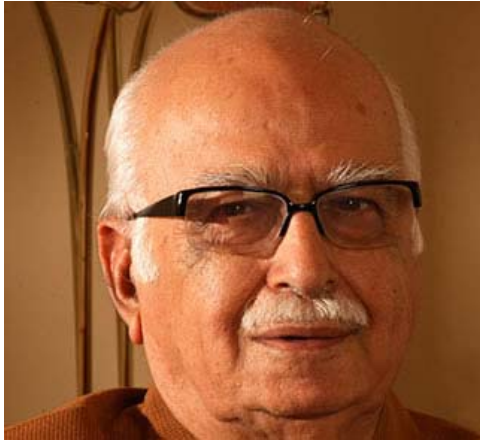


Atif Rasheed said on this occasion that BJP is the only party which is capable of protecting the minority. The works done for the welfare of Minority Community during the tenure of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee cannot be compared with any other Government. ■

Gujarat Governor helping Congress to run parallel government in Gujarat : Modi



Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi on September 25 lambasted the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government at the Centre accusing it of “conspiring” to dislodge his democratically elected government and demanded the “recall” of Governor Kamala Beniwal who, he alleged, was helping the Congress run a “parallel government” in the State. Addressing a mammoth rally of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers and others at Vastral between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, Shri Modi said Ms. Beniwal had transgressed the thin line and brought the office of the Governor to disgrace and disrepute by virtually turning the Raj Bhavan into “Congress Bhavan.” He claimed that the same words and sentences used by the Congress in their memoranda submitted to various authorities criticising the State government were also found in the Raj Bhavan communiqué. He also alleged that the Congress was calling meetings of the district-level officials through the Governor and issuing them “direct orders.” “How can you run a parallel government using the Governor’s office?” he asked. ■



Whistle-blowers must be hailed, not jailed

By L.K Advani

In August 2005, the Rashtrapati set up the second Administrative Reforms Commission headed by Shri Veerappa Moily “to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system.”

The Fourth Report of the Commission is titled “Ethics in Governance”. The Preface of this report carries this quotation of Mahatma Gandhi at the top:

As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world -that is the myth of the atomic age - as in being able to remake ourselves.

The Preface opens with this paragraph:

The Mahatma’s vision of a strong and prosperous India - *Purna Swaraj* - can never become a reality if we do not address the issues of the stranglehold of corruption on our polity, economy and society in general.

The report goes on to describe the crucial role played by ‘whistle-blowers’ in exposing corruption and why therefore legislation against corruption

must include laws to protect whistle-blowers. The report says:

Public servants who work in a department/ agency know the antecedents and activities of others in their organization. They are, however, often unwilling to share the information for fear of reprisal.

If adequate statutory protection is granted, there is every likelihood that the government would be able to get substantial information about corruption.

The term ‘whistle-blowing’ itself is a relatively recent addition to our lexicon. In the United States, in the post-Watergate era, after the trials and tribulations of Daniel Ellsberg, the man who ‘blew the whistle’ on the so called “Pentagon papers”, whistle blowing has not only been protected by statute, but is also encouraged as an ethical duty on the part of the citizens.

Laws providing such

protection exist in the UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand.

The Law Commission in its 179th Report has proposed a Public Interest Disclosure (Protection of Informers) Bill, which provides protection to whistle-blowers. This ARC report goes on to cite the tragic examples of two Indians who while performing this ethical duty of exposing corruption had to pay for it with their lives.

The Report says: “Manjunath Shanmugam working with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) was a graduate of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. He refused bribes and ignored threats to his life in his fight against adulteration by the petrol pump owners. He paid the price. He was shot dead on 19th November, 2005, allegedly at the behest of corrupt petrol pump owners.

“Satyendra Dubey, working with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) exposed the rampant corruption in construction of roads. He was also found dead on 27th November, 2003”.

I have quoted all this above

because I hold that in the political history of Independent India, the Cash for Votes Scandal has been the most shameful.

If has been a black spot not only for the UPA Government; it has besmirched Indian democracy as well.

And the three MPs who exposed the Government's dark deed have rendered a signal service to democracy. And Government, whose official ARC report has emphasized that this kind of whistle blowing merits not only statutory protection but is an ethical act as well. Statutory protection may be necessary for government employees. But for Members of Parliament ethical conduct is a justification by itself.

When on September 6 evening I heard that two of the three MPs who had acted as whistle blowers had been sent to jail, I did feel extremely upset. It made me say in the House on the last day of the session: "I knew that they intended to place the entire bribe money on the Table of the House. If I felt that they were doing anything wrong, as Leader of the Party I would have stopped them. If, however, Government thinks that what they have done is wrong and so has put them behind bars I would like to tell the Treasury Benches, I am even more guilty because I did not restrain them. Send me also to Tihar." The three MPs who made history in 2008 by laying bare this scam were Kulaste, a Tribal, Bhagora and Argal, both Scheduled Caste. Obviously those who approached them with cash presumed that these MPs would be vulnerable. Argal is a sitting Member and so his case has been referred by the Speaker to the Attorney General. ■

(Courtesy : blog.lkadvani.in)

UPA's credibility has hit Rock bottom : Gadkari



Recent events have evidenced the declining popularity and the low credibility of the UPA Government. The credibility of the UPA has hit the Rock bottom.

The Government's inability to control prices has burdened the common man immensely.

The Government's mindset of being soft on terror now stares in its face as a

reality. The inability of the intelligence agencies to infiltrate into terrorist modules coupled with the government's failure to resolve terrorism cases is worrisome.

The Government has failed to read the popular mood on corruption. The people of India are exasperated with corruption. Display of arrogance and police power cannot be a response to corruption. We commit our self to creating a mechanism where corruption at all levels is penalized and punished.

The Government's effort to introduce the Communal Violence Bill which is highly discriminatory, undemocratic and in violation of the federal structure of India has been criticized by most political parties and State Governments. The appointment of the Lokayukta in Gujarat by the Governor without the Aid and Advice of the Council of Ministers is unprecedented and unconstitutional.

The Prime Minister's recent visit to Bangladesh and the agreements entered there in has caused concerns with regards to the territorial integrity of India.

The chargesheet in the Cash-for-Vote Scandal has conclusively proved that the vote of confidence in 2008 was influenced by bribery. The UPA has not learnt its lessons. We condemn the arrest of BJP's MP's in this case. Whistle blowers can't be equated with bribe givers as the government has chosen to do. ■

Brief points made by BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, at National Office-Bearers meeting on September 11, 2011 in New Delhi

India's leadership will shape future of Asia Pacific : Sushma

Speaking at the institute of South Asian studies, Singapore on "Building Bridges For Peace And Regional Cooperation- India and It's East Asian Neighbours" Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj on September 14 said, it is my contention and belief, that there is no need to

build new bridges since they already exist— we have only to rebuild them, mend the damaged parts and restore old links modified by contemporary realities. The foundations of the



old bridge are very strong. It is only the architecture of cooperation and progress that needs to be reconstructed and modernised.

held in New Delhi in 1947 was the earliest attempt by India to engage East Asia. Nehru along with Indonesian President Sukarno took the lead to assert Asian identity which later manifested in the "Bandung Spirit" of 1955.

She said, a key imperative of Indian foreign policy has been to secure an environment in which we can face up to the central challenges of nation building. This includes addressing the persistence of mass poverty in India, substantially upgrading our administrative delivery systems and infrastructure not just to sustain a high rate of economic growth but also to improve substantially access to education and health services. A continued integration with the world economy is also essential for us to achieve as much as possible in the attainment of these national development goals in as short a time span as possible. At the same time we remain cognizant of both the large size of our country and the fact that its correspondingly large and growing economy is our real strength.

foundations of the old bridge are very strong. It is only the architecture of cooperation and progress that needs to be reconstructed and modernised.

She said there is an erroneous impression that India became interested in its Eastern neighbourhood only as late as '90s. It has always figured high in our national priorities though economic and political realities defined the limits of their growth. Under Pandit Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, India engaged with East Asia under his grand, though somewhat utopian, vision of "Asiatic Federation of Nations". The Asian Relations Conference

It is true that India's Look East Policy acquired a major traction only after 1992. End of the cold war, India liberalizing its economy, revolution in informatics, economic rise of Pacific Rim countries all catalyzed the phenomenon in 1992.

Smt. Swaraj said we are on the eve of observing the 20th anniversary of a reorientation in our foreign policy focus. If a precise date has to be set for its formalization we will obviously have to begin with the India ASEAN sectoral dialogue partnership in 1991.

This policy has had all the characteristics of bipartisanship which is one of the strengths of Indian democracy and the Indian political system when it addresses central issues of national importance. It is in that spirit that I make these remarks and review the past two decades to look ahead about how many of us in India see Southeast Asia, East Asia and the wider world. My approach is not to conduct a

post mortem or a pathological examination of these past 20 years. Obviously over that span of time from certain angles the glass will look half empty. From others it will look half full. Whether half empty or half full is a judgment for historians and specialists to make and it is not my intention to embark on a critique of one or the other actors responsible. My party has also been in power during the 20-year period and as such we are equally liable for a half empty or a half full glass.

The spirit of my remarks, therefore, is in terms of understanding the new structures that have emerged over these past 20 years and what further evolution and structural changes we need to gear ourselves up for in the next decade.

She said, a key imperative of Indian foreign policy has been to secure an environment in which we can face upto the central challenges of nation building. This includes addressing the persistence of mass poverty in India, substantially upgrading our administrative delivery systems and infrastructure not just to sustain a high rate of economic growth but also to improve substantially access to education and health services. A continued integration with the world economy is also essential for us to achieve as much as possible in the attainment of these national development goals in as short a time span as possible. At the same time we remain cognizant of both the large size

of our country and the fact that its correspondingly large and growing economy is our real strength.

In the context of this foreground let me come to how we see India and Southeast Asia and India and East Asia engage in the future. Next year we will be observing the anniversary of 20 years of the Indo-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership. In this 20-

“There are big questions for us to consider. Will this region adopt basic rules of the road or rules of the sea to mobilise strategic and economic cooperation and manage disagreements? Will it build the regional architecture of institutions and arrangements to enforce international norms on security, trade, rule of law, human rights, and accountable governance? Through its Look East policy, India is poised to help lead toward the answers to these questions.”

years span trade between India and ASEAN has substantially increased. There have been at the same time purposeful and important initiatives with regard to investment.

We recognise that in the construction of the edifice of the Look East Policy in which our relations with ASEAN are a central pillar, the first brick was laid in Singapore. The conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in 2005 is the most obvious and visible sign of this engagement. The CECA treaty system has worked well

and it has led to similar agreement with Malaysia, Japan etc and that we are at the threshold of a more comprehensive agreement with all the ASEAN countries to expand the FTA in goods which has already been concluded between India and ASEAN to areas of investment and services.

The CECA with Singapore followed a Defence Cooperation Agreement which had been concluded earlier. An over view would suggest a broadly similar framework now evolving on the larger canvas as India is now a part of the East Asia Summit process and equally a member of the ADMM+ mechanism. We recognise the importance of growing economic and financial integration proceeding apace with greater understanding and appreciation of each other's strategic concerns.

A Look East policy or an integrated South East and East Asia Policy necessarily requires a maritime perspective of and from India. In cartographic terms, we need to look at ourselves not as if we are only looking down from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean but rather down from the peninsula towards the Himalayas. Such a cartographic inversion is by no means easy. We cannot disregard our continental compulsions whether on the North West, on the North or in the North East. Nevertheless we have to balance these compulsions with a maritime perspective in which our southern peninsula equally becomes the heart and mind of

Irrespective of caste or religion poor must get first right to National Resources : Gadkari

Note submitted by Shri Nitin Gadkari, President Bharatiya Janata Party at National Integration Council Meeting on 10th September 2011 at New Delhi

We need to strengthen and maintain an atmosphere of Communal Harmony. We need to ensure that the principles of federalism, equality and Non-discrimination have to be the basis of the state policy.

The draft bill circulated by the National Advisory Council is a dangerous draft. It not only usurps the power of the States, but also encroaches on personal liberty and discriminates on the basics of caste and religion. India can not countenance a situation where members of various religious denominations have a separate criminal law. Such a proposal if implemented would be unconstitutional.

Economic development must benefit all. We must ensure that the economically weaker sections get the benefit of development.

On the top most priority, the poor must get the first right to National Resources irrespective of caste or religious bias. Affirmative action must be need based and not religion based.

Civil disturbances have to be handled with care. Even though the authority of state must not be compromised, yet we must not stand by the law and order approach alone in dealing with civil disturbances. Negotiations, political dialogues, engagement, must precede any police action. Police Action must be the last

resort and must be proportionate.

Radical actions of youth in the name of religion or caste must not be permitted. This radicalization has led to the increased emergence of Terrorism. Our intelligence agencies must improve their professional skills and should be able to give advance and adequate information about these organizations. We need to check the growth and expansion of these bodies. Education, economic development and employment is the key. Our youth must be proud of our cultural heritage and legacy. Our commitment must be to our nation, its' heritage and its growth ■

BJP attacks P Chidambaram on Boeing deal

Days after the Comptroller and Auditor General slammed the government for showing undue haste in concluding the 50 Boeing aircraft deal for Air India, BJP on September 14 said the decision to increase the number of Boeing aircraft to be acquired by the carrier from 28 to 68 in a year had the approval of Prime Minister and the then Finance Minister P Chidambaram. It demanded the Public Accounts Committee look into this specific decision. BJP spokesperson and former civil aviation minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy argued that Air India had proposed to buy 28 aircrafts in 2004. "It went up to 68 in a year. The EGoM headed by Chidambaram decided in 2005 that Air India "will place the entire order for 68 aircraft with Boeing on firm basis," he said. "We want to know on what basis was the decision taken by Chidambaram to make that order on firm basis. And how the proposal for 28 became 68 in a year? Why was that decision taken? There is no clarity. We are not an investigating agency. But we want to understand the logic behind that decision," he said. Rudy also circulated a note written by Chidambaram to the Prime Minister on December 30, 2005 on the actions taken by the Chidambaram has written that Air India will place the entire order for 68 aircraft with Boeing on firm basis. He alleged the purchase had the approval of the Prime Minister. "Both Chidambaram and the Prime Minister cannot absolve themselves." Shri Rudy alleged there was a scam but qualified the charge by saying that he was "unable to pinpoint the beneficiary of the scam".

A crisis of leadership clearly visible in UPA : Jaitley

On September 17, Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha), delivered an address in Mumbai on "The Current Political Situation"

The past few months have witnessed the depleting credibility of the Government in power. There is a significant drift in governance which has taken place. The Government appears to be on war with its own self. A crisis of leadership is clearly visible. The Prime Minister is in office but not in power. The desire of the ruling establishment to bank on family charismas doesn't appear to be working. There are several reasons for the above crisis. Mismanagement of Economy

The Nation had faith in the abilities of the Prime Minister as an Economist. However, mismanagement of the economy is the hallmark of UPA-II. The concerns about the disruption of nation's economic environment are now being realized both in India and internationally. The investment flows into the country are depleting. Even domestic investors are keen to invest elsewhere since they are not finding India as the best place to invest in. The highlight of the mismanagement of the economy can be realized from the following factors:-

There has been an uncontrolled and a near double-digit inflation for over two years. The food inflation has been the



initiated by the NDA government, were indeed landmark. Internal government decision making has slowed down the expansion of this sector.

There is a policy paralysis in the government. No significant steps are being taken to expedite decision making on certain economic reforms.

Environmental clearances

Mismanagement of the economy is the hallmark of UPA-II. The concerns about the disruption of the nation's economic environment are now being realized both in India and internationally. The investment flows into the country are depleting. Even domestic investors are keen to invest elsewhere since they are not finding India as the best place to invest in.

primary factor for pushing up the inflationary trend in the economy. The government has run out of ideas as to how to tackle the inflation. Except periodically increasing the interest rates which is make the economy lethargic, the government is not concentrating on improving the supply side.

Infrastructure creation has taken a hit. Highways and telecom which were the two success stories, have produced scandals in recent years.

The power sector reforms

have delayed several mega projects.

The huge level of corruption which has erupted during the UPA regime has dis-incentivized investors from considering India a lucrative investment destination.

The result of some of the above factors is that investment into India is drying up. Economic activity is getting reduced. Let alone international investors looking towards India, even domestic corporates are shifting a significant part of their balance

sheet assets out of the country.

The leadership Crisis

In democracies the nations cannot be administered on the principles of corporate management. Companies can be administered where decisions are taken by a Board and professional CEOs administer the company. A Prime minister must always be a natural leader of the country and the party in power. The Prime Minister cannot be a person whose writ does not run either in the government or in the party. The depleted authority of the prime minister renders the leader of the government helpless. He finds himself only involved in the day to day running of the government without being able to take crucial policy decisions.

It was only when the going was good that the Congress leadership was at its best. Today you have a beleaguered Prime Minister, squabbling ministers and a paralyzed party. This will inevitably happen to political parties which primarily adopt dynasty as mode of succession for creation of new leadership. Dynasty is a negation of both merit and meritocracy. It disincentivizes men with talent to aspire for the top job. Aberrations of the dynasties become the limitations of the parties. The Congress party's strategy has been to project future leadership by keeping the potential leadership under veil, not letting the nation know of the views on

crucial policy matters and

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generating glamour through a series of photo opportunities. Such leaders are good only when the going is good. When the going is challenging they collapse. The Lokpal bill debate in Parliament was indeed a game

The allocation of natural resources under the UPA has become a principal source of corruption. The scandal in the allotment of 2G spectrum is a scandal of enormous magnitude. The Commonwealth Games, an important international event had negativity created around it because of serious allegations of corruption. Each report of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) raises serious question marks about the allotment of natural resources such as coal, gas and other minerals. The Cash for Vote scandal conclusively established that a vote of confidence in 2008 was vitiated because of bribery; that the government instead of taking on corruption head on has either been living in denial or taking adversial position towards it.

changer. It was a game changer because it helped the country to discover the real potential or the lack of it of people who are only visible through photo opportunities.

As against this, parties like the BJP (and even the Left) are structured parties. Leaders have to go through hard work of years

and decades. It is only the most meritorious who are able to achieve some recognition. The BJP today has a significant number of very competent leaders. Most of our Chief Ministers are young and performing exceedingly well. Our Central leadership has a renewed enthusiasm and even an opportunity to display their potential. The BJP is willing to crystallize the leadership debate in India to be a contest between merit and dynasty. We firmly believe that till such time the myth of the charisma of dynasties is smashed the real worth of Indian parliamentary democracy will not be realized.

Corruption

Unquestionably the UPA has been one of the most corrupt governments in recent history. Both in terms of the numbers of scams and enormity of scams, UPA has done disservice to the credibility of public life in India. Natural resources are national assets. The allocation of natural resources under the UPA has become a principal source of corruption. The scandal in the allotment of 2G spectrum is a scandal of

enormous magnitude. The Commonwealth Games, an important international event had negativity created around it because of serious allegations of corruption. Each report of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) raises serious question marks about the allotment of natural resources such as coal, ►►

MP BJP delegation submmits memo to President

A fifteen- member delegation led by BJP State president Shri Prabhat Jha MP on September 22 handed over a memorandum to the President Smt. Pratibha Patil demanding release of former Union minister of state Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste and former MP Shri Mahavir Singh Bhagora. In the memorandum Shri Jha mentioned that three BJP MPs, during confidence motion in the Lok Sabha, tabled cash in crores of rupees as proof which was given to them as bribe to save the UPA government. Since these MPs gave information about the scam, they should have been considered as whistle blower but unfortunately, they were made accused in the case. According to Shri Jha, those who gave example of honesty were put behind



the bars whereas those who committed corruption are in the government. The State BJP President appealed to the President of India to give protection to the tribal leader, Shri Kulaste. The delegation included Sarvshri Vijay Shah, Ranjana Baghel, Jagannath Singh, Devisingh Saiyyam and Jai Singh Maravi. Apart from them the SC/ST MPs and MLAs of Madhya Pradesh and SC/ST Morcha members of BJP were present ■(FOC)

► gas and other minerals. The Cash for Vote scandal conclusively established that a vote of confidence in 2008 was vitiated because of bribery; that the government instead of taking on corruption head on has either been living in denial or taking adversial position towards it. The hostile attitude of the government to the enactment of Lokpal Bill which provides for an independent and fair mechanism of investigation has done dis-service to the popularity of the government.

Terrorism

Both Jihadi terror and Maoist insurgency are again on the increase. The UPA government has failed to implement any cogent measures to fight terror. Case after case relating to Jihadi terror perpetuated either by cross-border elements or by Indian Mujahideen have failed to resolve the cases. The "soft on Terror" policy of the UPA now stares us in the face. Today,

significant part of India is impacted by Maoist violence.

Federalism

Federalism has been a significant casualty during the UPA government. All non-Congress State are complaining of uneven treatment being given to them by the Centre. Several laws enacted by the States have been denied assent by the Governors on political grounds. The Governors have no constitutional jurisdiction to withhold consent indefinitely. The Centre has been trying to encroach upon those legislative or Executive areas which belong to the States. The manner in which the NIA has been transferring cases from the State Police to itself without the consent of the State is one such illustration. The recent attempt to legislate the Communal Violence Bill which besides being highly discriminatory, relates to steps like 'public order' which are exclusively within the

domain of the States. These effort of the Central government are creating a sense of anxiety and concern amongst all non-Congress States.

The response to the above political situation by the ruling establishment has been one of arrogance and smugness. The manner in which the movements of Shri Anna Hazare and Baba Ram Dev have been dealt with, is illustrative of this effort.

The BJP today has emerged as the principal focus of non-Congress political activity. Our organizational environment is positive; our party's programmes have been highly successful. Our positioning on political issues have struck a chord with the people. In Parliament the government has been on the mat. The result of this is that the BJP is now emerging as the alternative focus to non-Congress politics in India. We are determined to pursue this political agenda. ■

BJP demands return of 700 acres land in Assam given away by PM to Bangladesh

The Delhi BJP on September 16 staged a demonstration at Jantar Mantar to demand the return of about 700 acres of Indian land in Assam which it alleged had been given to Bangladesh by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his recent visit to the country.

The protest was led by Delhi BJP president Shri Vijender Gupta and was addressed by party national vice-president Ms. Bijoya Chakravorty (Assam), national general secretary organisation Shri Ram Lal, national general secretaries Shri Anant Kumar, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and



BJP for details of land swap with Bangladesh

The BJP has said that the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has just returned from his official tour of Bangladesh. Over ten agreements have been signed with Bangladesh during this visit. One of the agreements is on land swap. There is a concern in Assam that the details of this Agreement have not been disclosed yet. In a Press release on September 9, the Party said it is necessary to place on record that during the meeting with the BJP leaders in the Parliament the Congress led UPA government had not given any details of land swap, if any envisaged, and of the treaty itself. Notwithstanding, the BJP issued a note of caution even prior to the departure that the PM keep in mind the territorial integrity of India.

Already there are clear voices of worry and concern being expressed in Assam that the political parties or the citizens groups have not been

consulted on this matter even before the treaty was drafted.

In specific, the BJP demands to know:

1. Did the Assam Cabinet discuss the details of the handover of Assam's land to Bangladesh?
2. When were the MPs and MLAs informed of this agreement?
3. What and When were the people of the concerned villages informed?

Well before the visit of the Prime Minister, the Assam Chief Minister has been speaking of "the agreement" when signed will "not only be beneficial for Assam but also Assam would gain more land than Bangladesh..." However, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri M Ramachandran has been referring to the Fourth Joint Boundary Working Group and suggesting the extent of land under adverse possession with India and with Bangladesh. The

Group had cited 665 acres of Assamese land as being under the adverse possession of Bangladesh.

With no details of the treaty available yet, the BJP voices concern of the people of Assam. What is the agreement on? Why is the government silent on the details of this agreement?

It is estimated that there are over 40 lakh Bangladeshi infiltrators in Assam alone. Surely, the Prime Minister representing Assam in the Rajya Sabha, is fully aware of its implications. How is it that this issue was not discussed during the recent visit? The demographic invasion is too critical an issue to be neglected any further!

The BJP demands that the PMO release the details of the land swap agreement immediately and reassure the citizens that the territorial integrity of India is not compromised, in the least. ■

Shri Vijay Goel, besides other party leaders.

Shri Ram Lal charged that the UPA Government has proved to be a failure in protecting the borders of the country. "India got freedom after thousands of sacrifices. Bangladesh became a free country only with the help of India. The same Bangladesh has been gifted valuable land of Assam by a weak Government though it still continues to provide shelter to anti-Indian elements," he said.

The senior leader lamented that instead of adopting a hard posture towards Bangladesh for its soft line on terror, the UPA Government handed over Indian land to the neighbouring country. "This is shameful for India. Due to this the prestige of India has been downgraded," he said.

Ms. Chakraborty noted that the people of Assam were suffering due to Bangladeshi infiltrators. "But this Government is not concerned about the interests of the people of its own country," she charged.

The sentiment was shared by Shri Goel, who is also party in-charge for Assam. He said time has come for the people of the country to unitedly dislodge the UPA Government because it was more concerned about the neighbouring countries than its own people.

Delhi BJP president Shri Vijender Gupta said rather than doling out the largesse, the Prime Minister should have tried to solve the problem of the "Chicken Neck" during his Bangladesh tour. "He should also have signed agreements for deporting illegal Bangladeshis living in Assam, Bihar, Delhi and other States of India.

At present a terrorist group called HUJI is organising terrorist activities against India from Bangladesh. The Prime Minister should also have made agreements for declaring HUJI a terrorist organisation so that anti-Indian activities being carried out from Bangladesh could come to an end." ■

BJP constitutes team on Land Swap with Bangladesh

The Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Gadkari constituted on September 12 a team to study the issue of the Land swap and the Agreement which the Government of India has "entered into" with Bangladesh. The government of India has not made public, as yet, the details of this agreement.

The Group will be led by Shri SS Ahluwalia, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

The other members of the team are:

- Shri Kabinder Purkayasth, MP
- Smt Bijoya Chakraborty MP and BJP National Vice-President
- Sri Rajiv Pratap Rudy MP
- Sri Chandon Mitra MP
- Sri Muralidhar Rao National Secretary

Shri Sarbonand Sonval former MP and Member, National Executive, will function as the coordinator of the group and Shri Mission Ranjan as Co-Coordinator.

The group will meet with as many stake holders as possible. This will include MPs, MLAs, elected representatives in Panchayat and other interested citizens. The group will submit a comprehensive report at the earliest. ■

Smriti Irani, condoles Death of Rajbalaji

The BJP Mahila Morcha President Smt. Smriti Irani, MP (RS) on September 26 expressed her profound shock and grief over the demise of



Rajbalaji. Severely injured during a lathicharge at Baba Ramdev's camp at Delhi's Ramlila Ground on June 4th this year, Rajabalaji awaited justice that was delayed and denied. "We in the BJP Mahila Morcha extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones. May her soul rest in peace", said Mrs. Irani. ■

Monetary tightening will not impact food inflation : Yashwant Sinha



Former Union Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha, presently the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance spoke to Shruti Srivastava of the Indian Express on September 18 on the challenges ahead and solutions for the current problems that are hurting the growth story such as high prices and poor sentiments. Excerpts:

Inflation continues to hover around double-digit levels despite steep monetary tightening. What could you have done to rein in prices?

Inflation is the single most important challenge for policy makers today. This should have been anticipated 2-3 years ago when we injected massive amounts of liquidity into the system by raising fiscal deficit almost 2.5 times in 2007-08. Secondly, starting 2009, we noticed that food prices were going up despite bumper crops. The government is sitting on massive quantity of food grains — over 66 million tonnes. It has thrown up its hand and is entirely dependent on the RBI to tackle inflation. Monetary and fiscal policies have to move in tandem; monetary policy alone can't tackle inflation. So the money has become both scarce and unaffordable. This will impact both consumer sentiments and corporate investment and lead to a slowdown. Worse, this intervention will not have any impact on food inflation since the demand for food is inelastic. The government has to change its policy and control its expenditure. Had I been there, I would have released foodgrains for half the salary amount in NREGA.

I don't think the budget target of 4.6 per cent of GDP will be met. Moreover, much

of it is on account of revenue deficit, which is not only unproductive but also can't be rolled back. Fiscal deficit for the year will not be less than 5.5 per cent of the GDP. The government has to take very strong measures to control expenditure. There should be austerity; they should curb revenue expenditure.

Many in the corporate sector say the government is slow in decision making. Is it partly because of things stuck in Parliament?

The government is under huge policy paralysis. There are many things it can do. The first and most important is to control inflation. It's only after this it can focus on reforms where there is a huge unfinished agenda. They can't say Parliament is not supporting, or that the Opposition is not cooperating. Earlier they used to blame the Left, but now they have nobody to blame except may be Mamata Banerjee. They raised hopes by saying we will have a manufacturing policy. Now they are doing nothing. There is an urgent need for a manufacturing policy.

But what about issues such as multi-brand retail. Will the BJP support it?

No, we oppose FDI in multi-brand retail. There are two reasons. One, you need FDI for shoring up your investment kitty and two, for the technology. We need FDI in sectors where

you get some technological benefit. There is hardly any need of technology in retailing. Retail trade is one of our biggest employers after agriculture. It is completely decentralised. Companies like Walmart operate on very thin margins. What they don't earn here, they earn on account of volumes and therefore, you have to necessarily go to bigger supplier and only then will you have economies of scale. In the process, many farmers and SMEs will lose their livelihood. Our country is not ready yet for that.

Black money is not just this government's

problem. What is the way forward?

India should take fullest advantage of the situation today where everyone wants greater transparency. It should put pressure on such tax havens and countries which operate through banking secrecy laws. They should make one change that an offence committed in India will be considered an offence in that country because at the moment they say their laws have not been violated and they don't act. We don't have a convertible currency. The option is to force the Swiss to disclose names and give us back the money. ■



Shivraj Singh visits China on World Economic Forum's invitation Invites industrialist to invest in state

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, paid a nine-day visit to China on the invitation of World Economic Forum. He took stock of development works in information technology sector in Dalian city on the first day of his visit.

During the visit of Dalian Ascendas IT Park, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan and members of the delegation also inspected the workspace of India's second largest software company 'Infosys'. Senior officers of Infosys were also present on the occasion. Shri Chouhan and delegation members also visited other software companies.

The Chief Minister attended various programmes under World Economic Forum. Interacting with media persons and noting the economic progress made by China, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said industrialisation was easier there than in India, as a democratic system is followed back home in the decision-making process.

"Democracy has several advantages, but we may not implement decisions at such a fast pace," he said.



Referring to the issue of land acquisition, Shri Chouhan said in India, a government has to ensure that the land owner is satisfied and gets adequate compensation before his land is sold for infrastructure development. "People are free to criticise the decision taken by the government," he said.

The CM said the BJP government was with the Centre on the issue of security, even as he invited Chinese firms into his state. Indian agencies have raised red flags over

security with certain Chinese firms.

The CM said that besides infrastructure development, his state would like investments under the public-private partnership (PPP) mode in the tourism sector.

Shri Chouhan claimed his government has ensured that 30 per cent of forest cover is maintained, and there is no over exploitation of natural resources.

He added that while his state's growth rate of nine per cent could reach the double digit mark soon, it will have "little meaning" till the common man derives benefits. ■

B C Khanduri takes over as new Uttarakhand Chief Minister

From Our Correspondent

Major Gen (Retd.) Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand who took over following resignation by Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on September 11, 2011 at Rangers Ground, Derhadun. Uttarakhand Governor Smt. Margaret Alva administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Khanduri, who returned to the top post after two years. Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP National General Secretaries Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and Shri Thavar Chandra Gehlot (state in-charge) and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, former Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and many senior leaders of the party were present on that occasion.

Earlier on September 11 morning Chief Minister Shri Nishank put in his papers to pave the way for Shri Khanduri to take the reins of the State. Later, Shri Khanduri was unanimously elected the new leader by BJP Legislature Party in a meeting where BJP National General Secretaries Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and state in-charge Shri Thavar Chandra Gehlot were the central observers. All the eleven ministers, who were part of Shri Nishank cabinet, have been retained by the new Chief Minister. The cabinet ministers who took oath at the function at Rangers Ground, in Derhadun were Sarvshri, Matbar Singh

K a n d a r i , B a n s h i d h a r Bhagat, Prakash Pant, Diwakar Bhatt, Madan K a u s h i k , Trivendra Singh Rawat, Rajendra Singh Bhandari, Govind Singh Bist, Vijaya Barthwal, Khajan Das and Balwant Singh Bhoryal.

Soon after taking oath, speaking to media persons Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri said the ministers in the state, bureaucrats and police officials (IAS and IPS) would be asked to declare their assets by October 15, which would be made public soon after. He also said he would bring a law against *benami* (property bought on somebody else's name) on the lines of Bihar government. He declared that the state would soon come out with a public service rights charter which would display the time-frame within which the services



were to be provided to the people by public servants. He said the institution of Lokayukta would be strengthened and its anomalies would be removed by studying Anna's Jan Lokpal draft as well as consulting other civil society bodies. He stressed that the Chief Minister would be brought under the Lokayukta's jurisdiction and a committee would be formed soon to look into these matters. Interacting with media persons former Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, "I'm a BJP *Karyakarta*. I will do whatever the party wants me to do". ■

Fuel price hike, BJP slams govt

The BJP on September 16 slammed the Congress led UPA government for the rise in fuel prices, saying that the ruling party is not concerned about the common man. "Petrol prices have gone up by Rs 25 under UPA rule. Is this government concerned about the common man? Trinamool Congress should pressurise the government on this issue," BJP National spokesperson Shri Shahnawaz Hussain said. He demanded immediate rollback of the fuel hike. He criticised the government for claiming that the petrol price hike was due to the losses to the petroleum companies. "CAG report shows that most of the companies have made profits. ONGC, Hindustan Petroleum, Bharat Petroleum and Indian Oil have made considerable profits in the year 2011," he said. On the rupee going weak against US dollar, he said, "Many Indian companies have made investments aboard. It is because of the wrong policies of the government." ■

MADHYA PRADESH

Citizens' charter through online



Apart from applications received directly, Public Service Guarantee Act is also being implemented by Madhya Pradesh Government in the state through online applications. Due to this dual system, number of

applicants is rising constantly. Now, members of the state cabinet will undertake reviews in their districts under their charge vis-à-vis staff's attitude and promptness towards the work so that people do not face any difficulty in getting government services in time. Minister of State for Public Service Management Brajendra Pratap Singh will undertake special reviews by holding meetings in various districts. The State Government is giving special priority to Public Service Management Act. It has made its intentions clear to collectors to implement the Act strictly. In the series, all the people's representatives right from up-sarpanch up to area MPs have been made aware of the Act's provisions. Due to this, work is being monitored at every level apart from knowing its actual progress.

HIMACHAL

Withdraw petrol price hike : Dhumal

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal has demanded withdrawal of the hike in petrol prices saying it would affect the common man badly. He said the fourth hike in petrol prices in the recent past is unjustified and unfair as the common man is reeling under



rising prices of all commodities. He said the

Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre is solely responsible for the plight of Aam Aadmi and added that the common people will give a be fitting reply to this anti people govt.

UTTAR PRADESH

Naqvi slams Mayawati's demand for minority quota

The BJP on September 19, 2011 criticized Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Sushri Mayawati and BSP President for bringing up the issue of reservation for minorities. In a statement, BJP national Vice-president M A Naqvi said the Chief Minister's move to woo



minorities by speaking of reservation for them "cannot save her government". Calling the Mayawati government as one seeped in corruption, Shri Naqvi accused her of trying to use the reservation card for minorities as a "protective cover" and questioned her on what she had done for economic and social uplift of minorities in the state during her rule. Reacting to Mayawati's suggestion, Shri Naqvi said she should tell people "why in the last four years, more than 40,000 people belonging to the minority community were slapped with false cases under the SC/ST Act in the state"?

KARNATAKA

Governor hand in gloves with the opposition : Eshwarappa

Karnataka BJP President K S Eshwarappa criticised Governor Shri Hans Raj Bhardwaj saying he would write to the President of India to bring an amendment to the Constitution to limit the powers of Governors.



UTTARAKHAND

Shri Eshwarappa accused the Governor of being hand in gloves with the opposition parties in Karnataka. "The Governor has exceeded his limitations. According to the constitution, the duty of the opposition parties is to keep a critical vigil on the ruling party. Instead in Karnataka, the Governor invites the opposition party to Rajbhavan to discuss about the ruling party," said Eshwarappa. Shri Eshwarappa opined that Minister C P Yogeshwara was innocent and was being framed by the opposition for political gains.

He claimed that the allegations made by the opposition leaders targeting Yogeshwara over Megacity Project were baseless.

He hit back at JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy and said, "HD Kumaraswamy was behaving like Satya Harishchandra till recently. But now both Kumaraswamy and his wife-MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy are attending court hearings over irregularities related to a mining lease and obtaining a site in return for favouring a housing society." Confident of winning the Koppal bypolls, Eshwarappa said, "BJP candidate Sanganna Karadi's winning prospects brightened the minute he joined BJP from JD(S)." ■

State waives taxes on petrol

While the latest petrol price hike threatens to throw household budgets in disarray across the country, the Uttarakhand BJP government has decided to provide relief. Shri BC Khanduri led government of Uttarakhand waived the VAT, bringing down petrol prices in the state by 78 paise per litre.

Shri Khanduri has announced a complete waiver of the state's share of 25% of VAT. Following the Centre's move to hike petrol prices, the state was due to get 78 paise per litre as its share of 25% of VAT. Petrol had become R3.14 costlier after the recent hike. ■



Earthquake rocks Northeast India Biggest in 20 years, 112 dead, thousands injured

The northeastern region on September 18 experienced. The earthquake measuring 6.8 on Richter Scale which hit the east and Northeast region, was the biggest in 20 years. Hundreds of people have died and several thousands injured due to the massive earthquake in North-East India and many still trapped under the debris of collapsed houses. Earthquake hit most parts of Sikkim, Bihar, and Paschim Banga (West Bengal). The earthquake was centered on the Sikkim-Nepal border 64 kms north-west of Gangtok. Many people also died in Nepal and Tibet. Heavy rains in the regions caused heavy landslides during night, thus making it difficult for rescue teams and doctors to reach these areas. The roads connecting Gangtok with north Sikkim has been cut off at several places. Records of Central Seismological Observatory showed increasing seismic activity in the region. It is note worthy that a total 34 quakes of light and moderate intensity were felt in the region in 2009. The area witnessed 26 earthquakes each in 2008 and 2007, while it was 23 in 2006, the data showed. On February 4, 2011, a quake of 6.4 magnitudes with its epicentre in the Indo-Myanmar border in Manipur shook the region. An earthquake of similar intensity (6.8) had rocked the northeast on August 6, 1988. ■

Gadkari expresses solidarity with earthquake victims

BJP National President Nitin Gadkari has expressed his solidarity with the earthquake victims in the entire North-East region, Nepal, Bihar and other parts of the country. In a message, Shri Gadkari has conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the families of those killed and injured in the earthquake in Sikkim, Assam, Nepal, Bihar and other areas. He appealed to the BJP workers in the earthquake affected regions to extend every possible assistance in relief and rehabilitation operations.

...Continued from page 13

our foreign policy. I would like to imagine that this maritime perspective is now embedded in our foreign policy thinking. I will however readily grant the point to a sceptic that it needs to be even more deeply embedded.

It has become a truism almost to speak about the shift of power to Asia. I doubt that anyone would seriously question the fact of this seismic shift or that its main driver has been the rapid economic growth in China, and in the tiger economies of southeast Asia and now for the past decade rapid growth in the Indian economy. I would however like to dwell on what is happening within Asia even as this overall shift of economic, political and financial power takes place from the west to the east. Evidently there is a reconfiguration within Asia also underway and we have to see and juxtapose south, southeast, north and northeast Asia.

Smt Swaraj said, I had the occasion to engage with US Secretary of State Mrs Hillary Clinton during her visit to my country in June this year. During our extensive discussions at my residence, we talked about India's emerging role in the Asia and the focus naturally turned towards East and South East Asia. Emphasising that it was the Bharatiya Janata Party that reshaped India's foreign policy priorities during its rule under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, I said the time had now come not only to "Look East" but "Act East". It was most heartening to find the US Secretary of State incorporate many of the points we discussed in the course of her public lecture

in Chennai a couple of days later. In fact, Mrs Clinton articulated the issues so succinctly and powerfully that I believe it merits to be recalled in the context of today's lecture.

This is what Mrs Clinton had to say, and I quote:

"There are big questions for us to consider. Will this region adopt basic rules of the road or rules of the sea to mobilise strategic and economic cooperation and manage disagreements? Will it build the regional architecture of institutions and arrangements to enforce international norms on security, trade, rule of law, human rights, and accountable governance? Through its Look East policy, India is poised to help lead toward the answers to these questions."

"Ultimately, if we want to address, manage, or solve some of the most pressing issues of the 21st century, India, China, and the United States will have to coordinate our efforts.

In all of these areas, India's leadership will help to shape positively the future of the Asia Pacific. That's why the United States supports India's Look East policy, and we encourage India not just to Look East, but to Engage East and Act East as well."

She said, now coming to North East Asia, my contention is that with Japan and South Korea- we envisage a future in which India's young labour force, large market offer major opportunities for investment. The future then is to construct a financial and investment corridor between North East and South Asia. The long term logic to this has been discernible for

some time; however the tragic Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan have catalysed this process further. The challenge for India is to construct legal and financial regimes to provide a more enabling environment to encourage investment from Japan and Korea in manufacturing in India.

In both these sets of relationships a vital role will be played by ASEAN: First as a bridge and a fulcrum between South Asia and North and North East Asia. Secondly, and equally importantly, as a political and economic association of over 500 Million people with strong cultural and historical links with India.

How we address this change internally in our countries will determine the externalities of Asia in the next 20 to 30 years. Our environment will, therefore, be one in which there are two major forces at play: A global shift of greater economic, political and military power to Asia; and societies undergoing tremendous internal social change. We need to recognize this frontally and see how we equip ourselves to address the issues that arise.

She said, in India in the past 20 years we have seen major changes in the fabric of our society and societal values. As a political figure I eat, live and breathe this change daily and therefore can intuitively understand it. It is in this context that I feel that the diplomatic and political institutions must be further strengthened by consciously embedding in them greater people to people interaction. That is the best safeguard we will have to the

prevention of conflict and misunderstandings. People to people interaction are more than tourism. If that is so then it would be fair to say that such exchanges have lagged behind the economic and financial integration that has taken place between India and East Asia. Even at an intellectual level knowledge in India about South East Asia is limited. Perhaps it is the same in South East Asia about India. These gaps need to be addressed in educational curricula and institutions. There must be more exchanges between students and teachers. A lesson we must learn from post war Europe is that people level exchanges are the best foundation for any diplomatic architecture. I believe that this should be applied as an integral part of the East Asia Summit process and the earlier we do so the better it would be for all the constituent countries.

She said Myanmar and the North Eastern States of India are together the bridge between South and South East Asia. That bridge needs special focus and concerted attention. It is a vital strategic lynchpin which can transform our economies. India and ASEAN together have the means and the capacities to face up to this challenge. We must find the political will to do so. 2012 is a special year in the history of the ASEAN India interface. It will provide a suitable platform to bring this bridge to the centre of our radars.

India and ASEAN if seen as independent entities are giant conglomerations of people. Yet looking only at the overall entity can obscure or blur important facets of both entities.

I represent Vidisha a

October 1-15, 2011 ○ 30

constituency named after an ancient town which is its headquarters. Vidisha has been for at least 2500 years in the midst of trunk routes through which trade, ideas and people moved between India and West and East Asia. In the second century BC a Greek Ambassador by name Heliodorus to the Monarch in Vidisha raised a column to propitiate the God Vishnu. This column still stands and reminds us that cross cultural interactions and fusion is by no means a preserve only of our age. Not far from Vidisha town is the very important historical site of Sanchi where the Emperor Ashoka commissioned work on a great Stupa which still stands.

In her concluding remarks

she said, "Our heritage is shared to a far greater extent than is now generally known and we must encourage greater scholarly attention on that history. Again 2012 as a commemorative year is the platform to launch such studies. We need only to reflect on the name of Singapore to evoke that past- as indeed think of names such as Champa, SriVijaya, Nalanda, and so on. The study of the past is not just an academic indulgence but in fact a vital component of the entire enterprise to construct architecture of cooperation and progress between India and South East Asia." ■

(Excerpts of the speech delivered by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj at the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore on Sept. 14, 2011.)

BJP criticises UPA on Telangana issue

BJP slammed the UPA Government for not delivering a separate Telangana state during an all-party meeting on September 25 in New Delhi. BJP Spokesman Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad warned the UPA Government against playing with the people's sentiments. Rebel Congress leader K Keshav Rao joined hands with the BJP to slam the UPA Government for not delivering a separate Telangana state. The Telangana Joint Action Committee had organised the all-party meeting to garner a national-level support for its ongoing protests in Andhra Pradesh. The meeting was attended by representatives from the BJP, rebel Congress, rebel TDP, TRS, RLD, and the CPI. While Shri Prasad accused the UPA of manipulating the democratic institutions, including the Lok Sabha's Speaker's office to delay the formation of Telangana, Shri Rao targeted Union Home Minister P Chidambaram for his reported comment in Parliament that the Congress has not yet taken a stand. Shri Prasad promised that his party would deliver a separate Telangana state, if it comes to power at the Centre. The party had already delivered Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. He also criticised former SC Judge Justice Srikrishna for writing a chapter that allows use of rubber bullets to suppress protests. ■



Advani advocates for "clean politics"

From Our Correspondent

On September 25, the Jayanti of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani released the *Kamal Sandesh* special issue on 'Nationalism, Good Governance and Development' published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas both in English and Hindi in New Delhi. Top intellectuals, academics and political leaders of the country made a valuable contribution with their articles specially written on important issues of Nationalism, Good Governance, Development, internal security, Antyodaya and the like in this issue.

The book release function commenced with the lighting of the lamps by Shri LK Advani in the presence of former BJP National President Shri M Vankaiiah Naidu, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation)

Shri Ramlal, Madhya Pradesh BJP President and *Kamal Sandesh* Editor Shri Prabhat Jha MP, Nyas Secretary Dr Nand Kishor Garg, Nyas Treasurer Shri Gopal Krishan Agarawal and BJP National Literature and Publication Cell Convenor Shri Amba Charan Vashishth,.

Addressing the elite intellectual gathering Shri Advani said *Kamal Sandesh* special issue 'Nationalism, Good Governance and Development' is a piece that must be read by everyone. It is bound to ignite the imagination and thought of every right-thinking Indian, he said. Shri Advani eulogized the services of the editorial team of both the fortnightlies, *Kamal Sandesh*, English and Hindi, for straining every nerve to bring out such a magnificent Special issue. He exhorted the audience to cultivate the habit of good

reading. He said the first difficulty was to find good writers. If they were found, there was dearth of good readers who can understand and analyze things.

Shri L K Advani enlightened the gathering with his speech on the theme of nationalism, democracy, internal security and national integrity. He narrated how Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee sacrificed his life for the cause of nationalism while fighting against the prevalence of 'Do Nishan, Do Vidhan and Do Pradhan' scenario in the country which were sowing the seeds of disunity and disintegration of the nation. He recalled how the first deputy Prime Minister of the country *Lauh Purush* Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had integrated over 560 states into the Indian Union and the only one that Shri Jawaharlal Nehru did not allow

Shri Patel to deal and himself looked after was Jammu & Kashmir which continues to be a sore point even today after 64 years.

Shri Advani also remembered the great contributions of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay in nation building through his 'Integral Humanism' and emancipation of poverty through Antyodaya.

On this occasion, Shri Advani also slammed the incumbent Congress government on the issues of corruption and black money. He said, 'I am once again taking a Yatra in the interest of the nation'. "I am going on a journey once again. It will emphasize upon not only good governance and



development but on the fact that India needs proper administration and clean politics. Inspiration today comes from the spirit to fight corruption. There are huge amounts of black money in foreign banks. There are so many speculations on that", Shri Advani said.

Nyas President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said that the sense of nationalism was under attack from all sides under the



change. He hoped that the purpose of Advani Ji's yatra will be realized in arousing the conscience of people and create proper environment in the country for good governance and also mobilize public opinion against the present bad governance.

He said today there was dearth of quality writers and publishers. He said there was dearth of writings on issues like Nationalism, Good Governance and Development. He appreciated the Nyas for its endeavour to publish good writings and added that the Nyas was doing a good job in filling this void.

Madhya Pradesh BJP President and *Kamal Sandesh*



present Congress led UPA government at the Centre. He exhorted the people to rise up to safeguard nationalism and work for the development of the country.

Shri Naidu said the present UPA is the example of extreme bad governance so now we need to revert back to good governance to create awareness among the people and then send the message that there is a need for



Editor Shri Prabhat Jha MP who edited the special volume, dwelt at length on the activities of the Dr. Mookerjee Smriti Nyas, aimed at propagating the spirit of nationalism, particularly in

'Sankalp' and 'Vikalp' need special mention. He said the Nyas will carry this noble work forward. The executive editor of Kamal Sandesh Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi highlighted the

his deep sense of appreciation for the contributors.

In recognition of their services to Kamal Sandesh, Shri Advani felicitated BJP National Co-Convenor, Media Cell Shri KK Sharma, by presenting a shawl and a *Srifal*.

Among others who attended the function included veteran BJP leader and former Governor, Shri Kidar Nath Sahni, BJP National General Secretary Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, BJP Headquarters In-Charge Prof. Om Prakash Kohli, BJP Morcha/Cell Coordinator Shri Mohinder Pandey, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijendra Gupta, BJP National



the field of literature. He said that the Nyas, besides coming out with annual Special issues, had been publishing two fortnightlies, *Kamal Sandesh* separately in English and Hindi, which commanded a combined circulation of more than two lakh per month.

In his address, Nyas Secretary Shri Nand Kishor Garg said the *Kamal Sandesh* team is relentlessly trying its best to produce great literature of merit. He said that during the last five to six years the Nyas has published several books/booklets on important issues

significance of the special issue

Secretaries Ms Arti Mehra and



concerning the problems and solutions of the country, out of which 'Antyodaya', '21st Century: India's Century', 'Chunotiyani', 'Samadhan',

on 'Nationalism, Good Governance and Development' and briefly summarized the range of issues covered in the special volume while extending

Ms Vani Tripathi Delhi Mayor Ms. Rajni Abbi, eminent writers, columnists Sarvshri J. S. Rajput, Satpal Mallik and many other luminaries. ■