



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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a very happy Dushehra to its
esteemed readers*

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Faith on Lord Ram vindicated

Editorial...

The slogan, *Ramlalla hum ayenge, Mandir wahi banayenge*, is now a reality. Lord Ram was present in the slogan and in the verdict also Lord Ram is present. Here, there and everywhere there is Lord Ram and only Lord Ram. Lord Ram is the life of India. Lord Ram is the prestige of India. Lord Ram is the hope of India. Lord Ram is the *maryada* of India. Lord Ram is the embodiment of best qualities expected of a man. Lord Ram is the faith of India. Lord Ram is the spirit of moderation and accommodation of India. Lord Ram symbolizes the respect towards our ancestors. Lord Ram is an ideal husband. Lord Ram is an ideal father. Lord Ram is an ideal god. Lord Ram is the essence of social life. Lord Ram is the destroyer of the evil. Lord Ram embodies the essence of the man. Lord Ram is the protector of living beings. Lord Ram is the protector of everyone. Lord Ram is pure and pristine. Lord Ram epitomizes obedience. Lord Ram is also a forest dweller. Lord Ram is present in the berry of Shabari and also in the *rajyabhishek* of Ayodhya. Lord Ram is in the *khadau* of Bharat and also in the cries of weeping Kaikeyi. Lord Ram epitomizes the ideal brother. Lord Ram is also the killer of Ravana who personified evil. Lord Ram is in the creation and is present as much in its every particle and also in the consciousness of the entire universe. Lord Ram is in the heart of Hanuman and he is also the god for Sugriva. Lord Ram is for everyone, he is for those who do not worship him and also for those who worship him. Had it been not so the verdict of Allahabad High Court would not have clarified that the *ramjanambhoomi* in Ayodhya is the birthplace of Lord Ram.

The verdict which came on 30 September 2010 has created a history in the world. A message has gone out to the world that India is the biggest centre of divine power. It has the potential of once again becoming the *vishwaguru*. It was the impact of the decision on Lord Ram that there was nothing untoward happened in the wake pronouncement of the verdict. Who could have stood in the way of god? The verdict on Ayodhya issue has given a message of peace to the entire world - a message of brotherhood, amity and goodwill. All the three judges deserve to be congratulated. They have explained the definition of Lord Ram in well meaning terms. Indian Muslims should also take steps forward in the direction of strengthening national unity. All should together pave the way to the permanent settlement of the dispute. All should display sense of moderation and goodwill. Even if one goes to Supreme Court the fact will remain that *Ramlalla* was born where the *ramjanambhoomi* stands today. Everyone should come together unitedly without losing time for the construction of Temple so that there is a full stop on the cheap politics played in the name of secularism. ■

An open letter to 'secularists'

Respected 'Secular' Brothers,
Sadar Namaskar!

You all must have agreed with the verdict which has been pronounced by Lucknow bench of Allahabad High court on the issues related to Lord Shri Ramlalla but even now you will not shy away from raising baseless controversies. You all believe that there is nothing called god. Even then it has been recorded in the history that three human beings have given verdict on god although we believe that every human being is also an embodiment of divinity. But it is very unfortunate that our 'secular' brothers fail to see any divinity in human beings and so far as god is concerned they refuse to recognize even his existence. After the verdict the 'secularists' should at least acknowledge the fact that India is a land of theists who even believe in worshipping the atheists. Swami Dayanand was not a believer in idol worship but this nation has started worshipping him by installing his idols at every nook and corner of the country. The mindset, psyche and temperament of India epitomizes the spirit of tolerance and accommodation. Anyone taking up the task of measuring up India's tolerance is sure to record the highest mark in the world on any measurement scale. Even the secular countries of the world cannot surpass India in terms of commitment to tolerance and moderation. The saying that "Rom-Rom me Ram base hain" is not without basis. It is based on valid logic. The court had to accept that Lord Ram is a divine power because in this country people believe in divinity and god. The verdict has left the leftists dumbstruck while the people are overwhelmed by it. Baba Ramdev has rightly said that when Lord Ram and Babar are discussed, every Indian Muslim will express his respect and devotion to Lord Ram and will not even like to talk about Babar.



Even in the courts no decision is arrived at without getting witnesses swear by Gita and god. How can one write "Untruth always prevails" while sitting below the plaque of "Satyamev Jayate". Ramlalla was present in the heart of all the three judges at 03.00 PM on September 30. That's why they have unanimously accepted that the *janamsthan* belongs to Lord Ram though it is also true that the entire universe belongs to Him. I don't know why the 'secularists' were expecting a different verdict. There could not have been any other verdict. And the verdict which came in was representative of the sentiments of the entire world. Lord Ram can be Lord Ram, Lord Krishna can be Lord Krishna and there cannot be a question mark on the birthplace of Lord Ram.

We know that this debate will not end and it will never end because Lord Ram is inscribed in the faith of the people and is not a matter of any debate. It will be better if people like you stop playing with the faith of India. The *Sarsanghchalak* of RSS *Param Pujaniya* Mohan Bhagawat ji has given a clear message of goodwill and harmony by saying that verdict should not be seen as victory or defeat of anyone. Today we need harmony and amity and goodwill. RSS, BJP, VHP and other organizations working under the inspiration of Sangh feel elated just because those who were carrying on a campaign of vilification against Sangh now stand exposed. The court has also accepted the fact of the mosque having been built after demolition of a temple. The Indian psyche is led by *dharma*, it cannot ever think of building a temple by demolishing a mosque. Even in the past, there is no incident recorded in the history when any ruler had ever built a temple after demolishing a mosque. Muslim rulers have done it several times and these incidents are well recorded in history.

'Secular' brothers, now it is time to throw out the term 'communal' from your dictionary. And try to learn the fact that no person, even a *dharmanirpeksha* one, can be fully devoid of *dharma*. It is because *dharma* is always seen in positive terms.

We urge you to take India forward on the path of development in 21st century. Please don't take recourse to the discussion on 'communalism'. Majority should not be humiliated and minorities should be protected. There should be a feeling of brotherhood between Hindus and Muslims. This is the demand of today's India and the nation is looking for such an initiative. I fully hope that we will move on the path of creating a new history and you all *dhrannirpeksha* people will also become *sapeksha* extending respect to every religion.

Yours,
Prabhat Jha, MP

HC rules : It is Lord Ram's birthplace

The makeshift temple of Lord Ram at Ayodhya stands exactly at the place where lord Ram was born. this was the sum and substance of a historic judgement delivered sixty years after the matter first went into litigation by the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court on September 30.

As an anxious nation awaited the court verdict in the highly-sensitive issue with lakhs of security personnel deployed in Uttar Pradesh and other sensitive places across the country, the order of Justices SU Khan, Sudhir Agarwal and DV Sharma became public just before 4.30 pm while the entire nation waited for it eagerly.

Considering the sensitivity and emotion attached to the disputed land, the court came out with a balanced order that ruled that 2.77 acre land comprising the disputed site should

be divided into three equal parts and be given to Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and the party representing 'Ram Lala Virajman' (Ram deity).

The majority 2-1 verdict of the court, said to be running into nearly 8,000 pages, comes after

nearly 60 years of tortuous litigation over who holds the title to the disputed site.

The judges wrote three separate judgements, but the majority verdict held that the area covered by the central dome of the three-domed structure

Historic Verdict on Ramjanmabhoomi

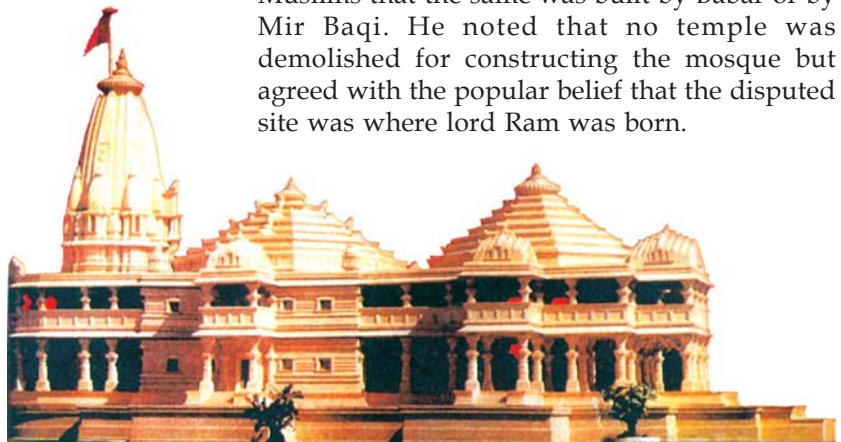
where the idol of lord Rama is presently situated belongs to Lord Ram himself.

The decision to apportion the land among Hindus, Muslims and Nirmohi Akhara was a majority verdict of Justice Khan and Justice Agarwal, while Justice Sharma, who was due to retire, gave a clear ruling favouring the temple.

With the majority view prevailing, the judges also made it clear that the place where the makeshift temple is situated (along with idols) will remain with Hindus where they can perform worship unhindered.

The Akhara was entitled to hold possession of Ram Chabutra, Sita Rasoi and Bhandar while Muslims would have to settle with the outer courtyard area of the 2.7 acre disputed territory. The HC even ordered status quo for three months, giving no rights to any parties to disturb the present position at the disputed area.

Justice Khan, who noted that there existed ruins of temple at the site where mosque was constructed, did not agree with the contention of Muslims that the same was built by Babar or by Mir Baqi. He noted that no temple was demolished for constructing the mosque but agreed with the popular belief that the disputed site was where lord Ram was born.



Justice Agarwal who concurred with Khan's view, clearly held "the area covered by the central dome of the three-domed structure, i.e., the disputed structure being the deity of Bhagwan Ram Janamsthan and place of birth of lord Ram as per faith and belief of Hindus belong to plaintiffs (party on behalf of lord Ram) and shall not be obstructed or interfered in any manner by the defendants."

He also observed that the area within the inner courtyard, except some portion, belongs to members of both the communities, Hindus and Muslims, since it was being used by both for decades and centuries.

Justice Agarwal said the open area within the outer courtyard shall be shared by Nirmohi Akhara and the party for lord Ram since it has generally been used by the Hindus for worship at both places.

In his findings on issues, Justice Agarwal said the parties of the Muslim side have failed to prove that the property in dispute was constructed by Babar in 1528 AD.

Justice Sharma, writing a separate judgement, observed that the disputed site is the birthplace of lord Ram. "Place of birth is a juristic person and is a deity. It is personified as a spirit of divine worshipped as lord Ram as a child. Spirit of divine ever remains present everywhere at all times for anyone to invoke at any shape or form in accordance with his own aspirations and it can be shapeless and formless also," he said.

Differing with the other two judges, he also ruled that the disputed structure was constructed on the site of the old structure after demolition of the same. "The Archaeological Survey of India has proved that the structure was a massive Hindu religious structure," he said. ■

Highlights of the judgments

The following are key parts of the judgments delivered on Ayodhya by Justice Sibghat Ullah Khan, Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Justice Dharam Veer Sharma of the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court on September 30.



Gist of findings:

1. The disputed structure was constructed as mosque by or under orders of Babar.
2. It is not proved by direct evidence that premises in dispute including constructed portion belonged to Babar or the person who constructed the mosque or under whose orders it was constructed.
3. No temple was demolished for constructing the mosque.
4. Mosque was constructed over the ruins of temples which were lying in utter ruins since

a very long time before the construction of mosque and some material thereof was used in construction of the mosque.

5. That for a very long time till the construction of the mosque it was treated/believed by Hindus that some where in a very large area of which premises in dispute is a very small part birth place of Lord Ram was situated, however, the belief did not relate to any specified small area within that bigger area specifically the premises in dispute.
6. That after some time of construction of the mosque Hindus started identifying the premises in dispute as exact birth place of Lord Ram or a place wherein exact birth place was situated.
7. That much before 1855 Ram Chabutra and Seeta Rasoi had come into existence and Hindus were worshipping in the same. It was very very unique and absolutely unprecedented situation that in side the boundary wall and compound of the mosque

Hindu religious places were there which were actually being worshipped along with offerings of Namaz by Muslims in the mosque.

8. That in view of the above gist of the finding at serial no.7 both the parties Muslims as well as Hindus are held to be in joint possession of the entire premises in dispute.
9. That even though for the sake of convenience both the parties i.e. Muslims and Hindus were using and occupying different portions of the premises in dispute still it did not amount to formal partition and both continued to be in joint possession of the entire premises in dispute.
10. That both the parties have failed to prove commencement of their title hence by virtue of Section 110 Evidence Act both are held to be joint title holders on the basis of joint possession.
11. That for some decades before 1949 Hindus started treating/believing the place beneath the Central dome of mosque (where at present make shift temple stands) to be exact birth place of Lord Ram.
12. That idol was placed for the first time beneath the Central dome of the mosque in the early hours of 23.12.1949.
13. That in view of the above both the parties are declared to be joint title holders in possession of the entire premises in dispute and a preliminary decree to that effect is passed with the condition that at the time of actual partition by metes and bounds at the stage of preparation of final decree the portion beneath the Central dome where at present make shift temple stands will be allotted to the share of the Hindus.

Order:

- ▶ Accordingly, all the three sets of parties, i.e. Muslims, Hindus and Nirmohi Akhara are declared joint title holders of the property/ premises in dispute as described by letters A B C D E F in the map Plan - I prepared by Sri Shiv Shanker Lal, Pleader/ Commissioner appointed by Court in Suit No.1 to the extent of one third share each for using and managing the same for worshipping. A preliminary decree to this effect is passed.
- ▶ However, it is further declared that the portion

below the central dome where at present the idol is kept in makeshift temple will be allotted to Hindus in final decree.

- ▶ It is further directed that Nirmohi Akhara will be allotted share including that part which is shown by the words Ram Chabutra and Sita Rasoi in the said map.
- ▶ It is further clarified that even though all the three parties are declared to have one third share each, however if while allotting exact portions some minor adjustment in the share is to be made then the same will be made and the adversely affected party may be compensated by allotting some portion of the adjoining land which has been acquired by the Central Government.
- ▶ The parties are at liberty to file their suggestions for actual partition by metes and bounds within three months.
- ▶ List immediately after filing of any suggestion/ application for preparation of final decree after obtaining necessary instructions from Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
- ▶ Status quo as prevailing till date pursuant to Supreme Court judgment of Ismail Farooqui (1994(6) Sec 360) in all its minutest details shall be maintained for a period of three months unless this order is modified or vacated earlier.



Justice
Sudhir
Agarwal

(Relevant paragraphs containing result/directions issued)

Gist of findings:

4566. *In the light of the above and considering overall findings of this Court on various issues, following directions and/or declaration are given which in our view would meet the ends of justice:*

- (i) It is declared that the area covered by the central dome of the three domed structure, i.e., the disputed structure being the deity of Bhagwan Ram Janamsthan and place of birth of Lord Rama as per faith and belief of

the Hindus, belong to plaintiffs (Suit-5) and shall not be obstructed or interfered in any manner by the defendants. This area is shown by letters AA BB CC DD in Appendix 7 to this judgment.

- (ii) The area within the inner courtyard denoted by letters B C D L K J H G in Appendix 7 (excluding (i) above) belong to members of both the communities, i.e., Hindus (here plaintiffs, Suit-5) and Muslims since it was being used by both since decades and centuries. It is, however, made clear that for the purpose of share of plaintiffs, Suit-5 under this direction the area which is covered by (i) above shall also be included.
- (iii) The area covered by the structures, namely, Ram Chabutra, (EE FF GG HH in Appendix 7) Sita Rasoi (MM NN OO PP in Appendix 7) and Bhandar (II JJ KK LL in Appendix 7) in the outer courtyard is declared in the share of Nirmohi Akhara (defendant no. 3) and they shall be entitled to possession thereof in the absence of any person with better title.
- (iv) The open area within the outer courtyard (A G H J K L E F in Appendix 7) (except that covered by (iii) above) shall be shared by Nirmohi Akhara (defendant no. 3) and plaintiffs (Suit-5) since it has been generally used by the Hindu people for worship at both places.
- (iv-a) It is however made clear that the share of Muslim parties shall not be less than one third (1/3) of the total area of the premises and if necessary it may be given some area of outer courtyard. It is also made clear that while making partition by metes and bounds, if some minor adjustments are to be made with respect to the share of different parties, the affected party may be compensated by allotting the requisite land from the area which is under acquisition of the Government of India.
- (v) The land which is available with the Government of India acquired under Ayodhya Act 1993 for providing it to the parties who are successful in the suit for better enjoyment of the property shall be made available to the above concerned parties in such manner so that all the three parties may utilise the area to which they

BJP ready to help build mosque outside complex : Gadkari

BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari said BJP would contribute to the construction of a mosque in Ayodhya if it comes up along River Saryu, outside the purview of the *Panch Kosi parikrama* area of the temple. He also said

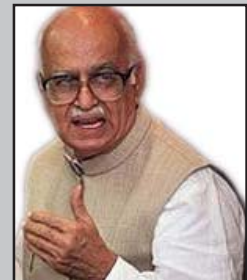


that the BJP was not in favour of moving the Supreme Court against the Allahabad High Court's verdict on the Ayodhya title suit. In an interview to a private news channel, *News 24* Shri Gadkari said, "Leaving aside the Panch Kosi area of the temple, if a grand mosque is built along River Saryu then the BJP will also contribute in the construction of the mosque.

Mandir and Masjid both should be built but at separate places so that there is no dispute, I have said this even before," Maintaining that the core of the (Ayodhya) matter has been decided by the (Allahabad) court, Shri Gadkari added, "Instead of going to the Supreme Court, if we can solve this problem with consensus and reconciliation that would be really good. I know that everyone has a right to appeal, it's his legal/constitutional right, but I would like to request that instead of taking this issue to the Supreme Court, we should be big-hearted enough to find a way out as the heart of the matter has been decided."

Ayodhya verdict upholds faith; time to resolve dispute: Advani

BJP Parliamentary party Chairman Shri LK Advani said the Allahabad High Court verdict in the Ayodhya title suit was "faith upheld by law" and that it has paved the way for reconciliation with judicial ratification. He said he was "extremely happy" to note that after the landmark judgement, the nation had "arrived at ▶▶



are entitled to, by having separate entry for egress and ingress of the people without disturbing each others rights. For this purpose the concerned parties may approach the Government of India who shall act in accordance with the above directions and also as contained in the judgement of Apex Court in Dr. Ismail Farooqi (Supra).

- (vi) A decree, partly preliminary and partly final, to the effect as said above (i to v) is passed. Suit-5 is decreed in part to the above extent. The parties are at liberty to file their suggestions for actual partition of the property in dispute in the manner as directed above by metes and bounds by submitting an application to this effect to the Officer on Special Duty, Ayodhya Bench at Lucknow or the Registrar, Lucknow Bench, Lucknow, as the case may be.
- (vii) For a period of three months or unless directed otherwise, whichever is earlier, the parties shall maintain status quo as on today in respect of property in dispute.

4571. In the result, Suit-1 is partly decreed. Suits 3 and 4 are dismissed. Suit-5 is decreed partly. In the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case the parties shall bear their own costs.



Gist of findings:

- Whether the disputed site is the birthplace of Bhagwan Ram?
The disputed site is the birth place of Lord Ram. Place of birth is a juristic person and is a deity. It is personified as the spirit of divine worshipped as birth place of Lord Rama as a child.
Spirit of divine ever remains present every where at all times for any one to invoke at any shape or form in accordance with his own aspirations and it can be shapeless and

► a fortuitous point” where “judicial verdict” and “amicable solution” could be blended well. “As both the RSS as well as the BJP have emphasised, this judgement has given judicial recognition to the fact that millions in the country do believe that the makeshift temple where Ram Lala is presently installed is *Ram Janma Bhoomi* – the birthplace of Lord Ram. The situation no longer is ‘Faith versus Law’, is ‘Faith upheld by Law’,” he said.

Recalling the efforts of the post-Independence Jawaharlal Nehru cabinet in reconstruction of the Somnath temple that was demolished by “Muslim invaders”, Shri Advani said it was the same spirit in which the BJP had wanted the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

A significant step forward : BJP



The judgement of the 3-Judge bench of the Allahabad High Court at Lucknow has been pronounced today (September 30). In so far as the judgement upholds the right of the Hindus to construct a temple at the Garbh-Grih, it is a significant step forward towards the construction of a grand temple at the birth place of Lord Rama. The expert opinion of the Archaeological Survey of India and other expert agencies engaged by it had clearly opined that there were remains of a Hindu religious structure where the disputed structure stood. The Bharatiya Janata Party believes that this verdict opens a New Chapter for National Integration and a new era for inter-community relations. The BJP is gratified that the nation has received the verdict with maturity. ■

- formless also.
2. Whether the disputed building was a mosque? When was it built? By whom?
The disputed building was constructed by Babar, the year is not certain but it was built against the tenets of Islam. Thus, it cannot have the character of a mosque.
 3. Whether the mosque was built after demolishing a Hindu temple?
The disputed structure was constructed on the site of old structure after demolition of the same. The Archaeological Survey of India has proved that the structure was a massive Hindu religious structure.
 4. Whether the idols were placed in the building on the night of December 22/23rd, 1949?
The idols were placed in the middle dome of the disputed structure in the intervening night of 22/23.12.1949.
 5. Whether any of the claims for title is time barred?
O.O.S. No. 4 of 1989, the Sunni Central Board of Waqfs U.P., Lucknow and others Vs. Gopal Singh Visharad and others and O.O.S. No.3 of 1989, Nirmohi Akhara and Another Vs. Sri Jamuna Prasad Singh and others are barred by time.
 6. What will be the status of the disputed site e.g. inner and outer courtyard?
It is established that the property in suit is the site of Janm Bhumi of Ram Chandra Ji and Hindus in general had the right to worship Charan, Sita Rasoi, other idols and other object of worship existed upon the property in suit. It is also established that Hindus have been worshipping the place in dispute as Janm Sthan i.e. a birth place as deity and visiting it as a sacred place of pilgrimage as of right since time immemorial. After the construction of the disputed structure it is proved the deities were installed inside the disputed structure on 22/23.12.1949. It is also proved that the outer courtyard was in exclusive possession of Hindus and they were worshipping throughout and in the inner courtyard (in the disputed structure) they were also worshipping. It is also established that the disputed structure cannot be treated as a mosque as it came into existence against the tenets of Islam. ■

(Based on media reports)

Timeline : Ayodhya title dispute

The Ayodhya dispute has been an emotive issue for decades and mired in a slew of legal suits involving Hindu and Muslim religious groups.

Following is the history, chronology and timeline of the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue till the green signal given by the Supreme Court to the Allahabad High Court on September 28 to deliver its verdict on the Ayodhya title suit.



- 1528 | A mosque is built on the site by Mughal emperor Babar which Hindus allege to be the birth place of Lord Ram and where a temple earlier existed.
- 1853 | First recorded incidents of communal violence at the disputed site take place.
- 1859 | British officials erect a fence to separate the places of worships, allowing the inner court to be used by Muslims and the outer court by Hindus.
- 1885 | Mahant Raghbir Das files a suit seeking permission to build a canopy on Ram chabootra but his plea was rejected a year after by the Faizabad district court.
- 1949 | Idol of Lord Ram surfaces inside the disputed structure. Muslims claim that it was kept there by the Hindus. Muslims protest, and both parties file civil suits.

The government proclaims the premises a disputed area and locks the gates.

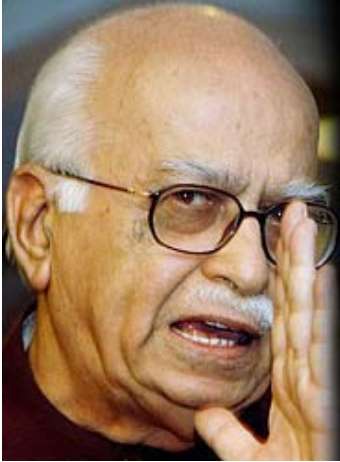
- January 18, 1950** | First title suit is filed by Gopal Singh Visharad asking for the right to worship the idols installed at 'Asthan Janmabhoomi'. The court restrained the removal of idols and allowed the worship to continue.
- April 24, 1950** | The State of Uttar Pradesh appealed against the injunction order.
- 1950** | Ramchandra Paramhans files another suit, but withdraws later.
- 1959** | Nirmohi Akhara enters the fray and files the third suit, seeking possession of the site, doing away with the court-appointed receiver. It claims itself to be the custodian of the spot at which Ram was supposedly born.
- December 18, 1961** | UP Sunni Central Board of Waqfs moves in to claim possession of the disputed structure and adjoining land.
- 1986** | On a plea of Hari Shanker Dubey, a district judge directs Masjid gates to be unlocked to allow 'darshan'. Muslims set up Babri Masjid Action Committee.
- 1989** | A fresh suit is filed by former VHP vice-president Deoki Nandan Agarwala in the name of Lord Ram for declaration of the title and possession in its favour at the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court.
- October 23, 1989** | All the four suits, pending before a Faizabad court transferred to a special bench of the HC.
- 1989** | VHP lays foundations of a Ram temple on land adjacent to the disputed mosque.
- 1990** | Gathered *Karsevaks* partially damage the disputed structure. Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar tries to resolve the dispute through negotiations, which fail the next year.
- 1992** | Disputed structure was demolished.
- January 2002** | Shri A.B. Vajpayee sets up an Ayodhya cell in his office and appoints a senior official, Shatrughna Singh, to hold talks with Hindu and Muslim leaders.
- April 2002** | Three High Court judges begin hearings on determining who owns the religious site.
- January 2003** | Archaeologists begin a Allahabad

high court-ordered survey to find out whether a temple to Lord Ram did exist on the site.

- August 2003** | The ASI survey says there is evidence of a temple beneath the mosque.
- 31 August, 2003** | All India Muslim Personal Law Board announced it would challenge the ASI report.
- July 2005** | Suspected Islamic militants attack the disputed site, using a jeep laden with explosives to blow a hole in the wall of the complex. Security forces kill five people they say are militants, and a sixth who was not immediately identified.
- June 2009** | The Liberhan commission investigating events leading up to the disputed structures demolition submits its report - 17 years after it began its inquiry. Its contents are not made public.
- July 2010** | Bench reserves its judgement and asks all parties to solve the issue amicably. But no one is keen.
- 8 September, 2010** | The High Court announces verdict would be delivered on 24 September.
- 14 September, 2010** | A writ is filed to defer the judgement but is subsequently rejected by the high court.
- 28 September** | Supreme Court rejects petition for deferment and gives the go-ahead to the Allahabad high court to deliver the judgement on the Ayodhya title issue. The high court chooses 30 September as verdict day. ■

Can't shut eye to rampant corruption : SC on CWG

The Supreme Court, according to the *Indian Express*, has said the Commonwealth Games project has bred corruption. Declaring that it would not shut its eyes on the "rampant corruption", the court criticised the government on its preparations for the international sporting event. The court cited the recent collapse of the new foot-over bridge near Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium like a "pack of cards" as an example of the quality of the infrastructure work done for the Games. "In this country, payments are made without work being done. The newly constructed bridge collapsed like a pack of cards," the Bench said. "There is rampant corruption. We cannot shut our eyes," the court said. ■



IT IS NOT FAITH versus LAW, IT IS FAITH upheld by LAW

By L.K. Advani

I spent the first twenty years of my life in Karachi. The only two languages I became conversant with during that period were my mother tongue Sindhi, and the language I had my education in, English.

Because of my fondness for films, I could somewhat understand Hindi and also speak some broken Hindi, but I could neither read Hindi nor write it.

In September 1947, a month after partition, I came over to this part of the country. The next one decade 1947 - 1957 I worked as an RSS pracharak in different parts of Rajasthan.

Being a total ignoramus in so far as the Devanagri script was concerned, weighed heavily on my mind. I spent a lot of time first familiarizing myself with the Devanagri alphabet and then reading as many Hindi books as I could.

It is during this phase that I read almost all the historical novels about Gujarat written by Dr. Kanaiyalal Maniklal Munshi. Having read earlier much of the fiction authored by French writer Alexandre Dumas, *Three Musketeers*, *The Count of Monte Crists*, *Black*

Tulip etc. I could see the influence of Dumas in Munshi's style. It is in the course of my study of Dr. Munshi's works (written originally in Gujarati) that I came across *Jaya Somnath*, a book that was to influence even my politics later.

Jaya Somnath, of course, was a fictional story set against the backdrop of the invasion of the Somnath Temple and its ransacking and destruction. But reading that made me interested in the story of Somnath as it developed in modern day Independent India. In an article published in *Selections from*

"Temple after temple was broken down by the foreign conqueror, but no sooner had the wave passed than the spire of the temple rose up again. Some of these old temples of South India, and those like Somnath in Gujarat, will teach you volumes of wisdom, which will give you a keener insight into the history of the race than any amount of books.

The COMPLETE WORKS OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA under title "The Future of India", Swamiji writes:

"Temple after temple was broken down by the foreign conqueror, but no sooner had the wave passed than the spire of the temple rose up again. Some of these old temples of South India, and those like Somnath in Gujarat, will teach you volumes of wisdom, which will give you a keener insight into the history of the race than any amount of books. Mark how these temples bear the marks of a hundred attacks and a hundred regenerations, continually destroyed and continually springing up out of the ruins, rejuvenated and strong as ever ! That is the national mind, that is the national life-current. Follow it and it leads to glory."

It is therefore only natural that, when India became independent, many Hindus felt that 1947 should signify not only freedom from British rule but also a clean break from those aspects of the pre-British history that were identified with subjugation, assaults on Hindu temples, vandalizing idols and erosion of our noble cultural

traditions.

One such occasion presented itself in the princely state of Junagadh in Gujarat's Saurashtra region where the Somnath temple is located. Over eighty per cent of Junagadh's population was Hindu, but its Nawab was a Muslim. On the eve of Independence, the nawab announced the accession of his state to Pakistan. This enraged Junagadh's Hindus whose revolt against the Nawab culminated in their setting up a parallel government under the leadership of Samaldas Gandhi, a local Congress leader. The Nawab, an uncaring and decadent ruler, who was highly unpopular with his people, sought the support of Pakistan. All his

tricks were of no avail, so one night he finally fled to Pakistan.

Samaldas Gandhi and the Dewan of Junagadh, Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto, who, incidentally, was Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's father, conveyed to India that Junagadh was acceding to India. Munshi recalls in his book *Pilgrimage to Freedom* that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Home Minister and the chief architect of the integration of the princely states into the Indian Union, handed over the telegram of accession to him with the words: 'Jai Somnath'.

Four days after the take-over of Junagadh on 9 November 1947 by the Government of India, Patel visited Saurashtra. He was accompanied by N.V. Gadgil, the Minister of Public Works

and Rehabilitation of Refugees in Nehru's Cabinet. They received a rousing welcome from the people of Junagadh. At a public meeting in his honour, Patel made an important announcement: the government of independent India would reconstruct the historic temple of Somnath at the same spot where it stood in ancient times, and re-install the jyotirlingam.

Shortly after Sardar Patel's

10000 km long Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya commencing Sept. 25, 1990 was intended to mobilize support for the cause of the Ayodhya Temple. The Yatra precipitated in the country a debate: Genuine Secularism versus Pseudo Secularism – a debate that had first come to the fore forty years earlier when Pandit Nehru had reprimanded Dr. Munshi for his activity related to Somnath.

return from Junagarh, Prime Minister Nehru convened a Cabinet meeting and formally endorsed Patel's announcement. That evening when Patel and Munshi called on Gandhiji, he also blessed the move, but told them that the cost of construction should be borne by the people, and not by Government. A decision therefore was taken that a Somnath Trust would be set up.

The Government of India appointed Dr. K.M. Munshi as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the construction of the Somnath Temple. Dr. Munshi had contemplated that he would have Sardar Patel inaugurate the temple. But by the time the construction was completed, Sardar Patel had passed away.

In his book Pilgrimage to

freedom, Dr. Munshi writes:

"When the time came to install the deity in the Temple, I approached Dr. Rajendra Prasad and asked him to perform the ceremony, but added a rider to my invitation that he should accept it only if he was prepared not to fail us.

"Dr. Rajendra Prasad that he would come and install the deity whatever the attitude of Prime Minister and added: "I would do the same with a mosque or church if I were invited" This, he held, was the core of Indian secularism. Our State is neither religious nor anti-religious.

"My foreboding proved correct. When it was announced that Rajendra Prasad was attending the inauguration of the Somnath Temple,

Jawahar Lal vehemently protested against his going to Somnath. But Rajendra Prasad kept his promise."

The BJP's National Executive met at Palampur (Himachal Pradesh) in June 1989 and formally adopted a resolution supporting the Ayodhya movement. The resolution urged the Government to adopt the same approach towards the Ayodhya Temple that the first Government of independent India displayed towards Somnath Temple.

My decision to embark on a 10000 km long Rath Yatra from Somnath to Ayodhya commencing Sept. 25, 1990 was intended to mobilize support for the cause of the Ayodhya Temple. The Yatra precipitated in the country a debate: Genuine

Secularism versus Pseudo Secularism – a debate that had first come to the fore forty years earlier when Pandit Nehru had reprimanded Dr. Munshi for his activity related to Somnath.

Dr. Munshi writes in one of the issues of his Bhavan's journal reproduced in Pilgrimage to Freedom:

At the end of a Cabinet meeting, Jawaharlal called me and said : "I don't like your trying to restore Somnath. It is Hindu revivalism."

Dr. Munshi did not react immediately. But his considered reaction was a several pages long letter to the Prime Minister emphasizing that his activities in relation to Somnath were not any personal enterprise, but were in pursuance of the Government's own decision.

Stressing the social reform aspect of Somnath's reconstruction, Munshi wrote:

"The intention to throw open the temple to Harijans has evoked some criticism from the orthodox section of the Hindu community. However, the objects of the Trust Deed make it clear that the temple is not only to be open to all classes of the Hindu community, but according to the tradition of the old temple of Somnath, also to non-Hindu visitors. Many have been the customs which I have defied in personal life from boyhood. I have laboured in my humble way through literary and social work to share or reintegrate some aspects of Hinduism, in the conviction that that alone will make India an advanced and vigorous nation

under modern conditions.

The letter concludes with these stirring and challenging words:

"It is my faith in our past which has given me the strength to work in the present and to look forward to our future. I cannot value India's freedom if it deprives us of the Bhagavad Gita or uproots our millions from the faith with which they look upon our temples and thereby destroys the texture of our lives. I have been given the privilege of seeing my incessant

The NDA believes that an early and amicable resolution of the Ayodhya issue will strengthen national integration. We continue to hold that the judiciary's verdict in this matter should be accepted by all. At the same time, efforts should be intensified for dialogue and a negotiated settlement in an atmosphere of mutual trust and goodwill.

dream of Somnath reconstruction come true. That makes me feel-makes me almost sure-that this shrine once restored to a place of importance in our life will give to our people a purer consciousness of our strength, so vital in these days of freedom and its trials."

On reading this letter, V.P. Menon, the legendary civil servant who assisted Sardar Patel in the gigantic task of the integration of the princely states, wrote a missive to Munshi. 'I have seen your masterpiece. I for one would be prepared to live and, if necessary, die by the views you have expressed in your letter.'

In my autobiography, completed in early 2008, I have

recorded that a solution to the Ayodhya dispute was imminent during Vajpayee's rule. On pages 419-421, I have written:

"As one of the principal participants in the Ayodhya movement, it had been my endeavour throughout the six years of the NDA rule to see how the dispute could be resolved speedily and peacefully.

"The three options for dispute-resolution were obvious:

1) Legislation; 2) Judicial verdict; and 3) Amicable settlement between representatives of Hindu and Muslim communities.

"After a thorough review of both the political and judicial aspects of the Ayodhya issue, I came to the conclusion that the best path to follow was the last option- and I articulated it on several occasions, both inside

and outside Parliament.

"In a nutshell, my view was: The potential for a legislative solution cannot be ruled out, but its chances are slim. The judiciary may give its verdict, but it is likely to upset one side or the other. The third option offers the prospect of a solution of mutual acceptability and durability. Of course, even a mutually acceptable settlement has to be sanctified by the judiciary, which has to extinguish all the pending cases before it.

In this sense, the ultimate solution will be a combination of options 2 and 3.

"I am happy that Atalji and I succeeded in convincing our allies in the NDA to endorse this constructive approach.

...Continued on page 28

People want to have NDA govt. again in Bihar : Dr. Thakur



Besides politics, the present Bihar State BJP President, Dr. C. P. Thakur, is as much active in social and medical field. After receiving a gold medal in MBBS honours he did M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.P. He revolutionised the concept of treatment of Kala-azar and is recognised as an international authority in this field. Decorated with Padma Shree honour and awarded BC Roy National Award, Dr. Thakur was elected to Lok Sabha from Patna constituency in 1984 and 1991 and became a Cabinet minister in NDA government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee where he held the health and other portfolios. Amba Charan Vashishth interviewed Dr. C. P. Thakur in New Delhi last week. Excerpts:

What is the electoral scenario emerging in the State?

Bihar suffered a long trauma of mismanagement by RJD for a long period of 15 years. An NDA coalition government of JD (U) and BJP which during the last 5 years has established new milestones and norms of development followed this. This has ignited a new hope in the mind of Bihar people. Good work done by the Nitish-led NDA government has infused greater faith in the administration.

People start shivering at the very thought of those 15-year RJD misrule when massacre of innocents, murders, abductions, dacoities were the order of the day. Lalu regime opened Charwaha schools (schools for grazer families), but closed the same too soon. Education was the worst casualty under his regime. There were no teachers. Right from the primary to the medical college stage education went topsy-turvy. There was nothing in the name of administration. During the last five years the people's experience has been very sweet. People wish to see the present government in power again so that the pace of development will accelerate further.

The elections have been spread over six phases for almost over a month. What is your reaction to it?

I welcome it. This will help in deployment of para-

military forces to ensure law and order during elections. This will also obviate the chances of booth capturing which was a common feature during RJD regime.

How strong and united is BJP to face the twin challenge of Congress and Lalu-Paswan unity?

Congress and Laluji have always been in direct or indirect electoral understanding. Therefore, I do not think it is a twin challenge; I treat it as a single, combined challenge. Lalu government in Bihar had people from Congress too. Whenever Congress-led UPA was in trouble at the Centre, it has always been Lalu Yadav who has come to their rescue in Parliament. Their alliance and unity will help BJP-JD (U) combine.

Are there any strains between BJP and JD (U) over any issue?

Nothing at all. There are no points of difference between us. We have reached an understanding on sharing of seats. We will contest 102 seats and JD (U) 141. Everything stands settled amicably.

What role you foresee is religion and caste going to play in the elections?

I admit caste and religion do play an important role in the election. This happens in every election. Minorities, particularly Muslims, do have some reservations about BJP because of

false propaganda against our party. However, of late, the response of minorities towards BJP has been very positive. Recently we organized a rally of minorities, which was very impressive and successful. We hope to receive greater support from minorities this time in the election. BJP-JD(U) government has done a lot for the minorities during the last five years. I appeal to the minorities to come forward to support us.

What about the performance and re-nomination of sitting MLAs?

By and large, we have re-nominated our sitting MLAs with a few exceptions.

What are the main achievements of NDA and in particular of BJP during the last five years of office?

In NDA Government in Bihar both JD (U) and BJP are partners. The Nitish government has done exceptionally well.

The BJP ministers in the government have made a mark in the field of health, road, urban development, finance, animal husbandry

and the like. Our main achievement is that we have provided good governance. People now lead a normal, peaceful life. Now they move about freely and fearlessly in the streets. Children go to school without any fear and worry to the parents. Earlier, students were subjected to abduction during RJD rule there was no movement on roads after 8 PM. Many new roads have come up. These are in good condition. Distances have been shortened. Many bridges on rivers have been constructed fast. New school buildings have sprung up. Girls have started going to school. They have been provided with school dress. Both girl and boy students have been provided with cycles to go to school. All this has left a good impression of the government on the mind of the people.

Why should the people vote NDA to power once again?

Because the people do not wish to revert to the dark era of RJD and Congress misrule and lawlessness. Till 1960 Bihar was considered one of the best States in the country. How-

ever, after that Chief Ministers of Congress started being changed too often which resulted in deterioration in the quality of administration. The pace of development was hindered. From 1990 onwards when Shri Lalu Yadav and Smt. Rabri Devi came on the scene, that was the worst period during which they did nothing for the State. There was hardly any constructive work worth the name at all during all these 15 years. Abductions, rape, murder, dacoity, massacre were the only activity in the State. Education became extinct; killing of teachers was too frequent. There was flight of industry and investment from the State. First the heavy industry made an exit. Then followed the medium industry and eventually even small entrepreneurs left the State.

Now the situation has changed. The work culture and law and order scenario has changed for

What was the criterion for grant of party nominations?

Winnability was the first criteria, as it is in any election. The conduct and character of the candidate was also important. Commitment to the party and ideology was the other consideration. Length of service in the party also weighed heavily.

the better. People now feel more safe and confident. They feel the change. An era of affluence has set in in the State. The rent rates during the last five years have multiplied by three-four times and so about

the value of property. There were no buyers of property in the State. Now the rates of land compare well with those prevailing in NOIDA. Investment climate has changed. Entrepreneurs are investing in the State without fear. This is the sign of faith of the people in the government. Keeping all these things in view the people would certainly wish to vote NDA government to power once again in their own interest and in the interest of the State.

What is your party's strength and weakness in the coming elections?

But our karyakarta is the main source of our strength. BJP has a plenty of committed *karyakartas*. During electioneering, they forget all their grouses and work day and night sincerely to ensure the success of the party candidates. BJP workers and leaders will give a united and collective fight. There is a good response from the people. The electoral environment is in our favour. We are sure to win. Our weakness lies in the fact that we cannot afford to spend that much lavishly as do our opponents - the Congress, the RJD and others. ■

Bangladeshi infiltrators would be sent back once BJP is elected : Gadkari

From our Correspondent

Addressing a huge public rally at Nagaon in Assam on September 29 BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said that Prime Minister has failed in creating job for the youth in his home state where Central government fund

ministers in Assam.

He said the state goes to the polls in 2011. BJP is going to emerge as one of the most powerful forces in the next election. Shri Gadkari further said BJP does not practise vote-back politics. Ours is politics of development and our top priorities will

UPA government and BJP holds a bright chance to form an alternative government in the next elections, he said. Shri Gadkari further said we vow to create an India free of illegal foreigners and hunger. Farmers will not commit suicide due to poverty and jobs will be created for the youth, he said.

He said the Centre refused to budge even after the Supreme Court asked it to give foodgrains to the poor. But this govern-



ment won't listen. It will let foodgrains rot but won't give to poor people even if they starve," Shri Gadkari said.

Earlier, Shri Gadkari visited the birth place of Assam's Vaishnavite saint Sri Sri Sankar Deb, the 16th century social and religious reformer who laid the foundation for Assam's literature, culture, dance and music. Driving straight from the Guwahati airport, BJP National President sought blessings at the Batadrava Satra holy shrine along with BJP National General Secretary Shri Vijay Goel, BJP National Secretary Shri Varun Gandhi, State BJP President Shri Ranjit Dutta, Nagaon MP, Shri Rajen Gohain, Guwahati MP, Shri Bijoya Chakraborty besides other senior leaders. ■

was not percolating down to genuine beneficiaries. He accused that the Central fund has made the Congress ministers and its workers richer. Referring scams rocking the region, Shri Gadkari said, "I want to know why Prime Minister was indifferent to corruption in the Congress ruled states of the Northeast? What is the reason that the CBI probe in Arunachal Pradesh's subsidy scam has not been ordered?" He criticised the CBI, saying it is acting merely as a "Congress Bureau of Investigation" and is the most trusted ally of the Congress party. He said this while elaborating on both state and Central government's failure to unearth the corruption charges levied against many of the Congress

be the development of the state, distribution of free ration to the poor and keeping prices under control. He further added that Bangladeshi infiltrators will be sent back honourably once the BJP is elected. The BJP National President held the Congress responsible for all the problems facing the country and said wrong economic policies and bad governance had created chaos. "Whenever Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh are in power, prices and inflation rise, infiltration from Bangladesh increases and unemployment rises. The vote bank politics of the UPA government has put the nation in danger", Shri Gadkari said.

The people are frustrated by the policies of the Congress-led

Women can change the destiny of our Nation: Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

The newly constituted BJP Mahila Morcha held its first National Executive Meeting on 29th and 30th September 2010 in Mumbai. The 2-day meet was inaugurated by former Union Minister Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and presided over by BJP National Vice-President and Mahila Morcha Prabhari Smt. Karuna Shukla and BJP National Vice President and Mahila Morcha Sah-Prabhari Smt. Kiran Ghai.

In her keynote address Smt. Sumitra Mahajan emphasized that the Millennium goals

society in the BJP.

“Our endeavour is to facilitate the social, political and economic emancipation of women. In order to achieve our goal, we shall initiate establishment of *Nari Shakti Kendras* in every district in every State which will help provide support and solutions for women in the employment, health and education sector. Be it health camps wherein free medical check ups



revolve around women and child and we should in a combined effort work towards achieving them.

In her inaugural address BJP Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Smriti Irani urged the BJP Mahila Morcha National Executive to ensure increased participation of women from all segments of

convert challenges into opportunity”.

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi held an interactive session with all the delegates and answered questions pertaining to good governance, development, agriculture, law and order.

BJP Mahila Morcha National Vice-President Smt.

will be provided or free legal aid, our aim is to support women in need thereby helping them

Darshana Jardosh MP presented a proposal to host the first ever *Mahila Haat* wherein selected craftswomen from every State will be invited to participate in a 2-day exhibition.

The Political Resolution presented by Smt Lata Elkar and Smt Meenakshi Lekhi outlined the failures of the Congress led UPA government. Be it the continuous rise in prices of essential commodities, increase in crimes against women, the UPA was condemned for its bad governance and ineffective policies.

“*Grameen Mahila Netritva Prashikshan*” an initiative to help train women in rural India convert social activism into political leadership was also

launched.

BJP Mahila Morcha National Vice President Smt. Sharda Devi presented a paper on the challenges faced by women in the North East whereas the Jammu and Kashmir Mahila Morcha State President of Smt. Sakina Bano highlighted the plight of women in her State. BJP National Vice President Smt Lalita Kumarmangalam presented a paper on the National Literacy Mission.

On the second day, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the first ever website for the Mahila Morcha www.bjpmahilamorcha.com. In support of the Antodya Yojana, BJP Mahila Morcha donated an ambulance to the BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari.

In his address Shri Nitin Gadkari said "Our biggest challenge is to overcome the lack of political credibility in our country today.

Women can play an active role to help change the destiny of our Nation. Our commitment towards political emancipation of women is reflected in our effort to provide women a platform within the party by reserving 33% of organisational posts for women; thereby making us the only political party in the country to take such an initiative".

The 2-day meet was also graced by BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal, Deputy Leader of Lok Sabha Shri Gopinath Munde BJP Sah- Sangathan Mantri, Shri V. Satish and Co-ordinator of All Cells and Morchas Shri Mahendra Pandey. ■

Gujarat Speaker Ashok Bhatt passes away



Gujarat Legislative Assembly Speaker and senior BJP leader Shri Ashok Bhatt passed away late on September 30, 2010 at a city hospital in Ahmedabad. The 71-year-old leader is survived by his wife, three sons and one daughter. He was the longest serving MLA in Gujarat, having been elected from Khadia city seat since 1975.

He was admitted in hospital for over a month with heart and kidney ailments that required artificial support systems.

Starting with Food Minister in the Janata Dal-BJP coalition Government in 1990, he held important portfolios like Revenue, Labour and Health in all the BJP Ministries since 1995. Shri Bhatt became the Speaker after the BJP's thumping victory in December 2007.

Paying tributes to Bhatt, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi described him as a firebrand leader who had relentlessly fought for the rights of the common man for more than five decades. The Gujarat Government has declared two-day mourning. Government offices in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar remained closed on October 2 as a mark of respect to him.

Condolence message of BJP National President Nitin Gadkari

"I am deeply saddened by the news of Shri Ashok Bhatt's (Speaker, Gujarat Assembly) untimely and unfortunate demise. Shri Bhatt was a seasoned and popular politician from Gujarat elected a record eight times from the same constituency of Khadia, Ahmedabad. He has been known for his commitment for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. His political acumen was acknowledged by all senior leaders cutting across party lines. Gujarat will always remember him as an illustrious MLA, Minister and Speaker of the Assembly.

His death is an irreparable loss to the party and the people of Gujarat. I extend my heartfelt condolences, pray to God to provide solace to the departed soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude." ■

BJP-JD(U) all set to gain power with greater strength

By Vikash Anand

Bihar is now in election mode these days. The Election Commission has announced the dates for the elections. Polling to 243-member Bihar legislative Assembly is scheduled to be held in six phases -- on October 21, 24, 28, November 1, 9 and 20. Counting of votes will take place on November 24. Over 5, 50, 88,402 electors are eligible to exercise their franchise through 56,943 polling stations.

BJP is contesting 102 assembly seats leaving the rest (142 seats) to its alliance partner Janta Dal (U). It is for the first time that in Bihar, elections are being contested on the issue of development and good governance.

During its present five-year tenure the NDA Government under Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar and BJP Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Modi is being widely credited with pulling the State out of the morass that remained a feature of the 15-year regime of Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and putting this eastern state back on track to development. Once notorious as a BIMARU State and for Jungle Raj under Lalu Prasad's RJD, Bihar had also earned the dubious distinction of being a State plagued by corruption, kidnappings, and heinous crimes.

Issues related to development are expected to

gain precedence over all other factors in the polls. For the first time development-centric politics is likely to dominate the scene over caste and class considerations.

Governance under NDA

Statistics paint a very health picture of Bihar. Bihar's economy grew by a startling 11.35 per cent during the last five years, which is 3 per cent more than the national average.

Construction and auto

According to official sources, prominent industrialists like Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries, Ratan Tata of Tata Group, Anand Mahindra of Mahindra & Mahindra, and Sunil Bharti Mittal of Bharti Group, have shown business interests in Bihar.

business recorded a boom. Businessmen made a beeline to invest in the state with around 300 investment proposals worth over Rs 1.42 trillion (USD 116.43 billion) cleared by the State Investment Promotion Board. Women's empowerment was given a boost. Governance was made people-centric and the faith of the masses was restored in the government.

According to official sources, prominent industrialists like Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries, Ratan Tata of Tata Group, Anand Mahindra of Mahindra & Mahindra, and

Sunil Bharti Mittal of Bharti Group, have shown business interests in Bihar.

State Government's major achievements are notably construction of several bridges, improvement of roads, distribution of bicycles and school uniforms to boy and girl students and, above all, fostering of communal harmony among different castes and minorities.

The government has distributed cycles to more than 27 lakh boys and girls in Bihar.

According to the Report Card, 40 schemes are being run by the State Government under the Mukhyamantri Yojana. The Government has completed 1,657 Central and 1,671 State Government-sponsored road and highway schemes.

Anti-crime drive

One of the great achievements of the NDA Government has been to restore law and order in Bihar to infuse faith of the masses in the government. It started with the speedy trials of criminals and punishment to the guilty.

According to a government report, 38,824 criminals, including some well-known politicians, were convicted, and jailed in the last four years. This special drive put an immediate brake on crime and more specifically the kidnappings.

The NDA turned its attention towards economic sector and continued exerting pressure on the Central

government to grant more and more funds to carry forward the development agenda. But the Congress-led UPA government gave a step-motherly treatment to the State.

Presently, the government is said to have won almost half the battle."It was possible due to better governance and increase in investments, but we lost 40 years in the process. What the other Indian states did 40 years back, Bihar is doing today," says Dr Shaibal Gupta, an economic expert and secretary of Patna-based Asian Development Research Institute. NDA government has delivered an all-round socio-economic development during its tenure", according to him.

During RJD Jungle Raj, not a single examination -- University level exam, provincial civil services exam -- could take place on schedule and on regular basis. But it is not so today. Youth are extremely happy with NDA government. It has created more jobs than any

previous government could do in the past.

Towards the right to freedom of expression and right to information, Bihar has done tremendous work. For example, Bihar RTI-on-phone project earned top e-governance prize. It is Bihar's unique attempt to accept Right to Information (RTI) through phone calls.

Triangular fight

The battle lines have since been drawn. JD(U) and BJP are going to contest 243 seats in alliance. The other two camps are the Congress, which is contesting alone, and the RJD-LJP alliance.

In the two assembly elections in February 2005 and October-November 2005, which witnessed a brief of spell of Central rule, Congress fought in a virtual alliance with the RJD from 84 and 51 seats, respectively, but won only 10 and 9 seats. The BJP-JD(U) alliance was voted to power in November 2005.

In the current election, too,

Congress does not seem to be even in fight and reckoning despite the tall claims made by Congress and media hype on Rahul's visits. Developmental work done by NDA has put the alliance in advantageous position. Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav came to power on "MY" formula but befooled both Muslims and Yadavs.

Shri Yadav did nothing for minorities. Both communities now feel cheated by Shri Prasad. BJP-JD(U) alliance has established a good rapport with the minorities. This time they are going to vote for development and for NDA.

According to the present trends, the BJP-JD(U) alliance is all set to return to power once again. Keeping all the factors and BJP-JD(U) government performance during the past five years he voter, according to BJP President Dr. C. P. Thakur, would certainly wish to vote NDA government to power once again in its own interest and in the interest of the State. ■

Ladakh Union Territory Front merges with BJP

The Patron President of Ladakh Union Territory Front Shri Thupstan Chhewang met BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on September 24 in New Delhi to formalize his party's merger with the BJP and announced that Ladakhis would fight against the separatists by strengthening the ideology of BJP as was espoused by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.

LUTF is the ruling body in the present Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council, where elections have been announced last week. Shri Gadkari welcomed Shri Chhewang and hailed the day as a great milestone in J&K's journey towards patriotic and nationalistic goals.

It's to be noted that the former Congress President of Ladakh unit, who was also the President of the highest body of Ladakhi Buddhists Association also joined the BJP with all his workers and office bearers recently on September 16 at Leh in the presence of former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. (FOC) ■





We must increase our vote strength by 10 percent : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

On September 21, 2010 a meeting of all the national conveners and co-conveners of the Bharatiya Janata Party was held at party's national headquarters in New Delhi.

The meeting was inaugurated by the BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, who in his illuminating address, said that the work of every Cell shall be assessed and reviewed every quarter.

Everyone has to be serious about one's work and responsibility. A culture of taking people along and a tradition of having collective decisions have to be inculcated.

Shri Gadkari said that performance audit shall be undertaken. He asked the Cell conveners to undertake division of work and resort to decentralisation of power. "You must have planning in advance and in detail", he said.

Delving on the importance of *karyakartas*, Shri Gadkari said that office-bearers in the party

come and go but the *karyakartas* goes on for ever. "A *karyakartas* becomes an ex-office-bearer but a *karyakartas* is never an ex-*karyakarta*", he added.

Shri Gadkari outlined the party's objective to increase party's voter percentage by 10 percent by 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

He felt proud that the party has the strength of the horsepower of 10 lakh workers but regretted that there are only one lakh active workers. If we are able to harness even 25 percent of our worker power, we shall be in power, he added. He exhorted the party to concentrated their work and energy to achieve this objective.

At the start, the Cells and Morcha in-charge Shri Mohinder Pandey dwelt on the importance of the cells and outlined their role.

The Cell conveners gave an outline of the work to be done by them in the next few months.

The cells were sub-divided into three sections and a detailed discussion on their

activities was held separately.

Shri Shyam Jaju, Headquarters incharge, also addressed the meeting.

The meeting concluded late in the evening with the concluding remarks by BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal who also answered certain queries by the participants. He clarified to the participants that they have been an opportunity to work and it is not an office. If they work devotedly and whole heartedly they will earn greater satisfaction and contentment.

He called upon the Cells to be mentally prepared for positive thinking and achievement. He said the activities of the Cells, as per the nature of their activity, should extend to *mandal* and village level.

The meeting was also attended by BJP senior leader Shri Bal Apte, National General Secretary Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. Shri Mohinder Pandey compered the whole programme. ■



Nitin Gadkari felicitates Boxing Medalists Mary Kom & Kavita Chahal

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari felicitated MC Mary Kom, a boxer from Manipur, who won her fifth gold medal at the World Boxing Championships in Bridgetown (Barbados) on September 18, 2010. Shri Gadkari presented a cheque for ₹ One Lac and a memento to Mary Kom for her excellent performance. He also presented toys for her twin sons. The felicitation function was organized by the BJP-North-East Cell at BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

BJP President also presented a cheque for ₹ Fifty One Thousand and a memento to another boxer Kavita Chahal from Bhiwani in Haryana who won a bronze medal at the world championship. Kavita had won silver medal in the Asian boxing championship in 2008.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gadkari expressed the hope that Mary Kom will do equally well in the Commonwealth Games and in the 2012 London Olympics. Kavita Chahal too will win gold next time, he

added.

Shri Gadkari said Mary Kom is a role model for young women in the country and said the BJP will continue to encourage Indian sportspersons to win titles in their respective disciplines.

BJP president also said he has asked the party North-East Cell to prepare a vision document for the all-round development of North-Eastern region.

Mary Kom thanked the BJP president for honouring her and Kavita Chahal and said felicitation of sportspersons always encouraged them to perform better. She presented a Shawl and a spear to Shri Gadkari as a token of love and affection on behalf of the people of entire North-East.

Also present on the occasion were BJP National General Secretary, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, BJP National Secretary Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha President, Shri Anurag Thakur, BJP North-East Cell In-charge Shri Sunil Deodhar, among other ₹ ■

Chhattisgarh by-poll

BJP humbles Congress once again

The ruling BJP pulled off an impressive victory on October 4 in the Chhattisgarh assembly by-election from the Bhatgaon constituency in Surguja district, handing over one of the worst defeats to Congress in recent years.

BJP candidate Smt Rajni Tripathi won the seat by a margin of over 35,000 votes, defeating her nearest rival, Congress candidate U.S. Singhdeo. There were 12 candidates in the fray.

The seat fell vacant following the death of the BJP's sitting legislator Shri Ravi Shankar Tripathi, 55, in a car crash in April and the BJP fielded his widow while the Congress picked a member of the erstwhile royal family of Surguja as its candidate. The Bhatgaon constituency, recorded over 75 percent votes in peaceful polling.

"People have reiterated faith in the BJP and has given a thumbs-up to the party to carry on the development policy and welfare schemes for poor and down-trodden people with more commitment," Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh said as he reacted to the party's success.

With the impressive victory, the BJP's strength in the 90-member state assembly has risen to 48 while the Congress remains at 39. (FOC) ■

Why not gather courage to ban RSS, Mr. Rahul?

By Amba Charan Vashishth

Experience and intelligence are gained and earned; these traits cannot be gifted or inherited. That seems true of the Congress heir apparent and General Secretary Rahul Gandhi who on October 6 at Bhopal equated the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) with the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) saying that both were “fanatical” holding “fundamentalist” views. When the media persons pointed out that SIMI was a banned organization with most of its leaders behind bars, he clarified, “I am speaking about the ideologies of the RSS and SIMI. Both preach the same fundamentalist ideology”.

The Congress leadership, as usual, jumped to the defence of the Congress scion, brushing it aside as a “political comment”. Congress general secretary Digvijay Singh said: “The Congress does not have to learn history and culture from RSS”. Yet, the fact remains that both Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Congress “have to learn history and culture”.

Must learn history

By hurling the invectives against RSS Mr. Rahul Gandhi has himself condemned what the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and his *par-naana* (great maternal grandfather) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru thought and said about the RSS.

After a visit to the RSS camp in Delhi’s scheduled caste colony on September 16, 1947 (just a month after

Independence), Mahatma Gandhi had said: “I was greatly impressed by the sense of discipline, complete absence of the curse of untouchability, and hard and simple life in your (RSS) camp”. (*Aapke shivir mein anushasan, asprishyata ka puran roop se abhav aur kathor, saadgipuram jeevan dekh kar kafi prabhavit hua*)

It was India’s first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who on being impressed by the sense of duty, devotion and nationalism exhibited by RSS *karyakartas* in the aftermath of the Chinese invasion of India in 1962 that he specially ensured that the National Parade on the occasion of Republic Day 1963 had one contingent of the RSS *karyakartas*.

They condemn Mahatma & Nehru

It is time both Mr. Rahul and Mr. Digvijay condemned in no uncertain terms the words and actions of both Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru if they stand by their conviction about RSS.

There is also one mitigating feature in Mr. Rahul Gandhi’s language. The fault may not lie with his tongue, but with the ignorance and lack of foresight of those who write his speeches and brief him.

The SIMI was first banned by the then NDA government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in September 2001 and the ban has been extended by successive Congress-led UPA governments since then. The Supreme Court of India too has upheld the ban on this organization.

Have guts to ban RSS

As a corollary to what Mr. Rahul says, it means that the activities of RSS are as ‘unlawful’ as those of the banned SIMI. If both Mr. Rahul and Congress stand by their words, the RSS too should be banned and the Congress-led UPA is very much competent to do so. What prevents the Congress from doing so if it stands by its conviction?

Madhya Pradesh BJP State President, Shri Prabhat Jha MP in news channel discussion on October 6 rightly challenged the Congress to ban RSS. We feel proud to be RSS *karyakartas* believing in its nationalist ideology and we are ready, he challenged, to go to jail and make any sacrifices for upholding the nationalist ideology and cause.

It appears, after the verdict of Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Ramjanmabhoomi title suit the Congress finds itself in a tizzy and directionless. Worried over the political and electoral ramifications of the verdict, it is indulging in thoughtless actions and speeches to appeal to the minority sections.

By equating RSS with SIMI, it is only trying to appeal to the gallery of minority voters. But should a national party thoughtlessly and immaturely stoop so low just for a few votes at the cost of the national interest?

That remains a question vying for answers. ■

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

Even 60 years after independence food security remains a distant dream : Naidu

From Our Correspondent

Speaking at the 3rd Agriculture Leadership Summit, organized under the Chairmanship of world renowned Agricultural Scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan on September 29 in New Delhi, former BJP National President Shri Venkaiah Naidu MP said even after more than 60 years of independence food security has remained a distant dream. India's food security is worsening year after year because of the huge and glaring mismatch between agricultural production and the population growth. Shri Naidu emphasized that food security must be made a fundamental right. He referred to the various challenges to the food security on fronts such as production, procurement, storage, distribution etc.

As regards production, Shri Naidu said that our per capita production is one of the lowest in the world. He said production levels must keep pace with the demand to meet the future needs and that there is need for an 'evergreen revolution'. He strongly felt that farming has to be made a viable option for the rural masses to boost agricultural production. He said unjustified acquisition of fertile agricultural land for any non-agricultural uses should be avoided in the name of development. A balance between the two has to be

struck.

While pointing out lack of investment in agriculture sector in comparison to industry and services sectors, Shri Naidu said government must set its investment priorities keeping the aspect of food security in the country. He also highlighted the need for efficient credit delivery system in rural areas and effective implementation of farmer-friendly crop insurance schemes.

He referred to the ironic situation where grains are rotting in the open and millions sleep hungry. He advocated construction of a godown/grain bank in every Panchayat and that rural godowns, cold storages, refrigeratory vans etc. are the priority. He also expressed that states should be incentivized for constructing additional storage space.

On distribution aspect, while highlighting the deficiencies, pilferage and corruption in the food distribution system, he said the existing system of PDS needed a complete overhaul. All BPL, APL and other extremely vulnerable sections have to be covered. The policy must address the special needs of the vulnerable sections like street children, orphans, HIV - AIDS

patients.

Referring to the delay in bringing out food security legislation, he questioned the UPA's sincerity. He also questioned the government's sincerity in achieving 4% agriculture growth rate. He strongly felt Indian agriculture requires infrastructure and investment.

He said that food security cannot be achieved by resorting to imports. Self-sufficiency is the key. Accelerated growth in farm productivity, enhanced investment in agriculture both by the public and private sectors, adequate infrastructure for agriculture like processing and cold-storage facilities, roads etc, better agricultural inputs like better seeds, fertilizers etc., proper marketing infrastructure and support, etc. are the need of the hour to ensure food security.

He also highlighted the need to incentivized private sector to build additional storage space and also the need to revamp the PDS to arrest pilferage and corruption. He said Farmers are soldiers behind country's food security and FIELDS and FARMERS are key to FOOD SECURITY. ■



PDS scandal in Arunachal Pradesh

In a press statement issued by BJP National Spokesperson, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on September 23, 2010 said that 96 people inclusive of former Chief Minister Shri Gegong Apang are accused in a scandal related to the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Arunachal Pradesh. Other prominent citizens accused in this scandal are Shri Pema Khandu, son of the present Chief Minister Shri Dorjee Khandu and Shri Jarkar Gamlin (MLA) and the brother of a Cabinet Minister Shri Jarbom Gamlin. Four sitting MLAs Shri Likha Saaya, Shri Lokam Tassar and Shri Takam Pario are also accused.

This scandal relating to distribution of food grains

through the Public Distribution System is estimated to involve one thousand crores of rupees.

The scandal has taken place from 2000-2004 and continues till now in, 2010. During 2004-2009 Shri Gegong Apang and from 2009 Shri Dorjee Khandu are the Chief Ministers - both belong to the Congress party.

It is alleged that all "bogus bills" relating to 2000-2004 have been cleared and we demand the pending bills of 2004-2010 should not be cleared but await the investigation results.

Considering the seriousness of the matter the BJP demands:



▶ Arrest all accused immediately

▶ The pending bills of 2004-2010 should not be cleared but await the court orders.

▶ The SIC consisting of state level police officers have not progressed in the investigation. We

demand a CBI investigation.

The Congress Party has remained silent on this massive scandal involving the former CM and the son of its current CM and sitting MLAs. We demand a statement from the Congress High Command as the "Aam Aadmi" of Arunachal has been denied his food. ■

Dineshanand Goswami is new Jharkhand BJP President

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has appointed Shri Dineshanand Goswami as president of Jharkhand Pradesh BJP on September 25, 2010. Formerly, Shri Goswami was Vice-President of Jharkhand Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party and he is the seventh BJP President in Jharkhand ever since it was carved out of Bihar in 2000.

After his appointment, talking to media persons he said, "The BJP already has an efficient leader in Shri Arjun Munda. The coalition government has already made its priorities clear - good governance and development. My aim is to facilitate strong co-ordination between the state government and the party organization".

Shri Goswami said restoration of the party's glorious era in the state will be his top priority. There was a time when our party bagged all 14 Lok Sabha seats and 58 out of 81 assembly seats in the region. My effort will be to bring back party's glorious era here." Even during the last Lok Sabha elections, the party won 8 out of the 14 seats. "We will strengthen the party's support base in Jharkhand. There are a few areas where we do not have good penetration. Our slogan will be 'Mazboot BJP, Mazboot Jharkhand,' he said.

Accordingly, the alliance's election manifesto for the 2004 parliamentary elections stated: 'The NDA believes that an early and amicable resolution of the Ayodhya issue will strengthen national integration. We continue to hold that the judiciary's verdict in this matter should be accepted by all. At the same time, efforts should be intensified for dialogue and a negotiated settlement in an atmosphere of mutual trust and goodwill.

"I am gratified to record here that, as Home Minister, I had made considerable progress in bringing influential representatives of the Hindu and Muslim communities on a common negotiating platform. This endeavour was facilitated by some sincere and well-meaning mediators on both sides. Several rounds of talks, beyond the glare of publicity, took place. A mutually acceptable solution was clearly in sight, which would have paved the way for construction of the temple.

"The principles and contours of a workable agreement had emerged in the beginning of 2004, and it was decided by the two sides that an announcement to this effect could be made immediately after the elections to the 14th Lok Sabha in May. Of course, this was done on the expectation, on both the Hindu and Muslim sides, that the Vajpayee government would win a renewed mandate in the election and take the responsibility of implementing the mutually agreed formula. Sadly, that was not to happen.

"I am, however, a firm believer in destiny. I am

convinced that the rise of a befitting temple at Ramjanmabhoomi in Ayodhya is pre-destined. How and when it will happen is a matter of secondary importance to be determined by the forces of history. But the fact that it will happen is as certain as the certainty that brought the oft-demolished and oft-reconstructed Somnath temple into existence yet again.

"I am humbled by the awareness that destiny granted me an opportunity to play a role in this collective national effort that is waiting for the fulfillment of a centuries-old Hindu resolve.

My only wish and appeal is that our Muslim brethren come forward with a gesture

of magnanimity and goodwill that matches that of the Hindus."

I feel extremely happy to say today that after the landmark judgement delivered by the Allahabad High Court two days back, the country has arrived at a fortuitous point, where Option 2 and 3 identified above can well be blended.

As both the RSS as well as the BJP have emphasized, this judgement has given judicial recognition to the fact that millions in the country do believe that the make shift temple where Ram Lala is presently installed is Ram Janma Bhoomi - the birthplace of Rama.

The situation no longer is Faith versus Law, it is Faith

Congress, NC failed to reach out to people of J & K: Anurag Thakur

Addressing a huge gathering of students and youth in Delhi University BJYM National President Shri Anurag Thakur held the Congress-National Conference coalition government responsible for the present crisis in J&K. He was speaking in a public meeting that was held under the banner of "Save Jammu and Kashmir - India First Campaign" initiated by Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Thakur said, "J&K is an integral part of India." He charged that the Congress and NC have failed to reach out to people in Kashmir, where certain separatist forces were hand in glove with Pakistan. "Some separatists in collusion with Pakistan are provoking and misleading the Kashmiri youth against India", he added. Launching an attack on the Congress he said, "Congress does youth politics through newspapers but BJYM has strong hold on ground".

BJYM General Secretary Shri Manoranjan Mishra in his speech held Nehru responsible for what is happening today in Jammu & Kashmir. He urged the Indian youth to participate in the campaign.

BJP National Secretary Smt. Arti Mehra raised the slogan- "Jaha hue balidan Mookerjee woh kashmir humara hai" drawing immediate response from the gathering.

The meeting organised by Delhi State BJYM was attended by BJP National Secretaries Smt. Arti Mehra and Sushri Vani Tripathi, Delhi State BJP President Shri Vijender Gupta, Delhi BJYM President Shri Nakul Bhardwaj, and Shri Rajesh Yadav and other BJP and BJYM leaders. ■

KARNATAKA

Many schemes for minorities launched by BJP Government

- Rs. 172 crore released for minority welfare in 2010-11
- Rs. 113.64 crore distributed among 81,679 beneficiaries

Chairman of Karnataka State Minority Development Corporation (KSMDC) Shri N.



B. Aboobakkar has said that the Bharatiya Janata Party Government led by Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa has introduced many schemes for the welfare of the minority communities in the State.

Addressing presspersons in Karwar Shri Aboobakkar said that successive governments had released funds for minority welfare department ranging from Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 35 crore. But the government led by Shri Yeddyurappa released Rs. 167 crore during 2008-09 and Rs. 172 crore for 2010-11. The financial assistance for KSMDC was raised to Rs. 51.20 crore in 2008-09, Rs. 49.20 crore in 2009-10 and Rs. 60 crore in 2010-11.

The KSMDC Chairman said that State Government had extended financial assistance to people belonging to the minority community under different schemes like the *Karnataka Minority Development Scheme*, NMDFC schemes etc. and total Rs. 113.64 crore was distributed among 81,679 beneficiaries belonging to the minority community in the last two years, he said.

Apart from this the KSMDC had extended financial assistance to 40,643 beneficiaries during the financial year 2010-11, Shri Aboobakkar said.

He said that the recovery of the money distributed among beneficiaries of minority community people under different schemes was very poor all these years. It was just Rs. 40 lakh a month against the extended loan of Rs. 136 crore.

KERALA

BJP blasts LDF, UDF for freezing investigations into attack on Professor

The Kerala BJP on September 28, 2010 unleashed a scathing attack against the CPI (M)-led LDF and the Congress-led UDF for their allegedly hypocritical position with regard to electoral associations with Islamist outfits like Abdul Nasser Madani's PDP and the Popular Front of India, which was allegedly responsible for the cutting off of the right hand of a College Professor.



State BJP President Shri V. Muraleedharan charged the LDF Government with freezing the investigations into the attack on the professor under CPI (M) instructions in the context of the Panchayat elections. The Marxists wanted the probe to be stopped in order to ensure the votes of the Islamists, he said in Thodupuzha.

Shri Muraleedharan said many of those arrested in the case of attack on the professor are activists of the DYFI (CPI-M's youth wing) in daylight and Popular Front workers by night. The Congress and the CPI (M) were keeping the same policy of appeasement as far as their approaches to the Popular Front were concerned, he added.

ODISHA

Naveen failed to protect State interests : BJP

The BJP condemned the Congress led UPA government at the Centre for showering favours on Andhra Pradesh and blamed the ruling BJD for failing to protect the State interests.

Addressing activists of the BJP Yuva Morcha who staged a Dharna on September 21 near Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar protesting against Polavaram project, senior leaders of the party

blamed Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his failure to take up the issue with the Centre in right earnest.

Former minister and senior BJP leader Shri BB Harichandan said the Chief Minister did the gravest mistake by ignoring the invitation of his Andhra counterpart for a discussion on the multipurpose irrigation project. Things could have been different had the two discussed the issue. Now Patnaik is shedding crocodile tears over Polavaram to divert attention of the people. But the people have seen the BJD game, he said.

Senior leader and BJP National executive member Shri Bijay Mohapatra said the Chief Minister was still ignorant about the Polavaram project and not sure about the extent of damage the project will do to South Orissa and particularly in Malkangiri district. Even though the Chief Minister is holding the Water Resources portfolio for more than 11 years, he has not yet visited the areas likely to be affected by the Andhra Pradesh project, he remarked.

Describing the series of 'Save Orissa' rallies, organised by the BJD, as an attempt to cover up the multicore mining scam and its failure to protect the interest of Vedanta, former party president Shri Suresh Pujari and general secretary Nayan Kishore Mohanty said the people of the State will not forgive the Government if any part of the State is affected by the Andhra Pradesh project.

The BJP Yuva Morcha took out a rally under the leadership of Morcha president Shri Bibhuti Jena in Bhubaneswar and staged a Dharna near Raj Bhawan. The Morcha submitted a memorandum, to the President of India, through the Governor.

UTTARAKHAND

Declare Uttarakhand a national disaster-hit area : Nishank

Uttarakhand is facing an unprecedented rain fall, landslide, flood, and other similar forms of disasters simultaneously. In this hour of crises Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been constantly engaged in disaster management along with his team of Ministers and other officers and the BJP Government bent on pulling the State out of crisis.

Since then the Chief Minister made every possible effort to reach the disaster-hit areas immediately and unflinchingly. He wanted to ensure immediate help to the people. Seeing the plight of the State Shri Nishank put forth his demand of declaring Uttarakhand a national disaster-hit area before the Central Government and also asked the Prime Minister to give an aid of Rs 21,000 crore to the Uttarakhand Government so that the State could be pulled out of the crisis. ■

CHHATTISGARH

Govt. to give education, self employment loans at 3%

BJP Government led by Chief Minister Shri Raman Singh is working on an ambitious scheme aimed at drastically slashing the rate of interest to just 3 per cent per annum on loans for self-employment and education.



A draft policy and working plan are being prepared to implement the CM's Skill Development Programme under which the state's youth would be imparted training and provided with a soft loan at a rate of interest of 3 per cent per annum for taking up self-employment initiatives.

The state also plans to launch a Skill Development Mission, to be implemented in all the districts, to impart technical and vocational training to youths as the BJP government feels it could directly help the unemployed men and women.

In the second phase, the government plans to launch a scheme aimed at providing educational loan for higher studies at the rate of interest of 3 per cent for students, who now avail education loans from banks at a rate of interest of over 11 per cent per annum. Both schemes are to be implemented through banks. The state government would reimburse the difference in the rate of interest to the banks concerned.

The state has already slashed the rate of interest of farm loan to 3 per cent per annum and has been providing subsidised rice to 37 lakh BPL families under the CM's Food Security scheme. ■