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Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

Subscription

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Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax: +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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CONTENTS

Cover Story : CAG indicts PM

Manmohan Singh should now own up responsibility..... 7



On Assam violence

LK Advani..... 11

Arun Jaitley..... 13

Articles

Power policies — shrouded in darkness

By Nitin Gadkari..... 14

Hindus in Pakistan facing threats of existence

By Ram Prasad Tripathy..... 21

UPA's misgovernance, corruption makes life of people miserable

By Vikash Anand..... 24

Interview

Shri Satpal Satti : President, Himachal Pradesh BJP..... 16

Others

Yuva Sankalp Rally in Himachal..... 19

BJYM Yuva Sankalp Bike Rally, MP..... 26

State BJP Executive Committee Meeting Kerala..... 27

State Reports

Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh..... 29

Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand..... 30

HISTORIC PHOTO



**Yuva Atalji addressing a mammoth rally during
Goa Mukti Aandolan in Delhi on 13 June 1955.**



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The unreal has no existence, and the Real never ceases to be; the reality of both has thus been perceived by the seers of Truth.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 16)

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"UPA government cannot tolerate any voice of dissent. It has used the CBI even against its allies who expressed differences"

-Nitin Gadkari

"Let us say in one voice in this Parliament to all residents of the North-East that this country is yours...we are all with you...study, live where you want...you will be looked after"

-Sushma Swaraj

"In 2G, the Prime Minister was indirectly and vicariously liable; in this case five out of the eight years he himself was the Coal Minister. Thus, he is politically, morally and directly liable."

-Arun Jaitley

Letter to the Editor

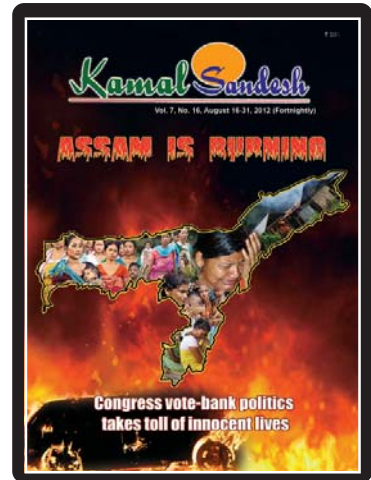
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**BJP gaining in West Bengal**

Dear Editor,

The recently concluded municipal election in six municipalities proves that B.J.P is very fast emerging as the only opposition party in West Bengal. Out of the six municipalities, which went to poll on 3rd June, BJP fought in five municipalities. But the poll result shows CPI(M) is falling freely, Congress became extinct to the 4th spot, TMC also have lost seats compared to its last assembly performance, but the BJP is the only party which has grown by 300% and the vote percentage went up from 0.56 to 5.4%.

We earlier had a single representation in Dhupguri under an alliance with TMC & Congress. This time BJP fought it alone, retained Dhupguri and bagged Durgapur & Nalhati one each. Became close second in 3 seats and became 3rd in 80 other seats pushing congress to fourth spot out of 90 contested seats. It may also be noted that state BJP has much stronger following in villages compared to cities.

**Rahul Sinha,**  
President,  
West Bengal BJP



**Attention Readers !**

Dear readers,

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Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas  
PP-66, Subramania Bharati Marg, New Delhi-110003  
Ph: 011-23381428, Fax : 011-23387887  
email : kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

-Editor

Write to us

*The Editor,*

Kamal Sandesh

**We welcome**  
Your views & Suggestions

Editor,  
**Kamal Sandesh**

Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas,  
PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg,  
New Delhi-110003  
e-mail: kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in



# Congress' face blackened by coal scam

## Editorial...

A bureaucrat cannot be a leader and a leader cannot be a bureaucrat. Leaders are born and bureaucrats are made. As a result of the Congress approach to bring an end to the natural leadership and make bureaucrats the leaders, the Indian democracy today has become a market of scams. Has Manmohan Singh been a natural leader, to save the dignity of the post of Prime Minister, honour of the parliament, respect of the constitution and to keep the faith of the people intact in democracy, he would have definitely quit. But he is basically a bureaucrat, and to expect the attributes of a natural leader from a bureaucrat is meaningless. The trait of a bureaucrat is to follow the order of his immediate senior without assessing whether it is right or wrong. Can anyone deny the fact that the Prime Minister of the country is best democratically suited bureaucrat of Smt. Sonia Gandhi? He does only what Soniaji tells him to do.

A bureaucrat neither thinks, nor discusses or debates; he only says 'yes', and 'yes' only. Dr. Manmohan Singh is the best specimen of the bureaucratic nature. Had he been a leader he would have debated, discussed, and would have displayed courage to say what is right or wrong. Can it happen that for 35 years of your life you led the life of a bureaucrat and after retirement you proceed to become a natural leader? Smt. Sonia Gandhi has no faith in the democracy. Had it been so the individuals discarded by the people would not be running the show in the Congress. It was an unfortunate day for India when Congress took decision to make a bureaucrat the Prime Minister of India.

Whatever has happened in the last eight years why it didn't happen in the six years prior to it - when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of the country? This was because Atalji had live contact with the soil of the country, culture, history and geography of the nation. It was the voice of the people that Atalji should be the Prime minister of India. Was the country imagining Dr. Manmohan Singh as prime Minister for the last fifty years? Has he been able to tour all the 35 States of the nation during his tenure of eight years as Prime Minister or during his lifetime? Is he a hero in the election meeting of the Congress? Is he the voice of the people? Has he any relationship with poor localities or any connection with the travails of the poor? Has he been ever a leader of any of the movements led by Congress? Has he ever struggled for resolving any problem of the people in his public life? Is he unanimously acceptable in the Congress or 'acceptable' under compulsion? Is not the country saying that he is the Prime Minister of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi alone and not of the country?

Although Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Chandrashekhar were Prime Ministers for a short time but if someone will ask any political analyst or political thinker as to how he would like to compare Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Deve Gowda and Shri Chandrashekhar, the answer will be categorically clear that both of them were natural leaders but Dr. Manmohan Singh is neither a leader nor he remains to be a bureaucrat now. In democracy, political courage is earned by contesting elections. It is the first time that a member of Rajya Sabha has become the Prime Minister. Congress has become so hollow that it makes a foreigner its president and a bureaucrat its prime minister. The biggest panchayat of the country is reeling under the weight

of scams. The accounts of scams have reached from parliament to the villages. Congress is counting its last days of its political life. And this was the reason that the present President Shri Pranab Mukherji wanted to come out of the parliament which was reeling under corruption. Under the hands of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (a bureaucrat) the then union minister Pranab Mukherji was compelled to live for eight years but what could Pranab do after all he was the natural leader having the elements of nationalism and not of a bureaucrat. None of the leaders in Congress today has bright future without 'managership' skills.

See what an irony is it that the CAG of India is being accused by the Government of India itself saying that its report is incorrect. And CAG is forced to say that he is ready for a debate on its report. This challenge from the side of CAG is not only a slap on the face of Dr. Manmohan Singh but also a black spot of coal deals. The entire UPA government's face has been blackened by the deal in the coal scam.

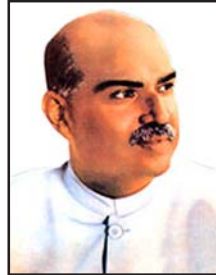
People are looking at the Opposition parties in India with hope. All the Opposition parties in India, not for the sake of its own existence but for the existence of the country will have to think that if India is not there then where will be they, if parliament is not there then where will be constitution, if faith is not there then where will be politics and if they are in politics then for what? Only for acquiring power? Today it is more important to save the nation rather than acquiring power. And the country will be saved only when the democratic movement to unseat the UPA government starts from the street. Enough debates seeking resignation have taken place in the parliament. Now it is time for the patriots to hit the street to conclude the debate.

The face of the Congress has been blackened by the coal scam. Congress has decided that even if the legs of democracy are broken, the legs of its chair should not be broken. Therefore Congress is trying every trick in its book to save its chair. Now if it has to be unseated the people will have to be awakened and country will have to be saved. People will be awakened by campaigns. And campaigns can be organized by hitting the streets. ■

September 1-15, 2012 ○ 6

## BJP strongly criticizes Govt's decision to change names of institutes Presently run in name of Mookerjee & Deendayal

The Congress led State Government's decision to change name of some educational institutions which are presently being run in the name of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, attracted strong reaction from the BJP as they strongly criticized the Congress-led State Government accusing it of playing 'appeasement' politics. The State BJP staged a protest in Dehradun on 22 August 2012 and



strongly condemned this decision of the Government to change the name of educational institutions. Interacting with media persons BJP Haldwani unit President Shri Deepak Mehra said it is quite unfortunate, the way, the Congress-led State Government is working. By changing the name of the educational institutions, it seems that the Congress is only playing appeasement politics in the State.



People are fighting with a lot of problems following flood and tough rainy conditions across the State. Instead of concentrating on such petty politics, this Government must work for the people, who are battling hard with natural calamities presently, they added. Similar protests were also organised by the BJP in Nainital. The State Government is going to rename some educational institutions in the name of some Congress leaders, who had nothing to do with Uttarakhand, said Shri BC Harbola, BJP Nainital Unit President. Changing names of great leaders and freedom fighters like Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya only shows what kind of politics the Congress is playing in the State. But the BJP would continue to oppose such move of this Government, he asserted. The State Government in its Cabinet meeting 21 August decided to rename the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee residential schools as Rajeev Gandhi Navoday Vidyalay. These schools were opened in the previous BJP Government in the State. Similarly, it also decided to rename the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya University as Shaheed Sridev Suman University. ■

# Manmohan Singh should now own up responsibility

From Our Correspondent

The CAG report has once again exposed the corrupt Congress led UPA regime at the Centre. The deep rooted corruption which has become the hallmark of the Congress led UPA rule is being witnessed in different forms and figures shocking the nation again and again. The report this time has directly indicted the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who also held the additional charge of the Coal Ministry between 2006 and 2009. The figures quoted by the CAG are also mindboggling – amounting to a whopping Rs. 1.86 lakh crore – even bigger than 2G scam. It cannot be denied that unlike 2-G spectrum scam, the Prime

Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is directly liable for the scam which has robbed the exchequer of 1.86 lakh crore and he cannot now escape from his moral and political responsibility.

The CAG report not only points to a huge scam in coal block allotments but it has also unearthed huge scams in civil aviation and power sectors. While the civil aviation scam is estimated to have caused a loss of 1.63 lakh crore, the power sector scam is calculated at 29,033 crore. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in Parliament on 17 August

2012 says that at least 25 private companies primarily in the steel and power sector got undue benefits from the allocation of 57 coal blocks

total the loss is calculated at staggering Rs. 38,00,00,00,00,000/-. The important points of the CAG Report is given hereunder:



without auction. While the introduction of the process of competitive bidding was delayed the private companies benefited by the existing process causing an estimated loss of Rs. 186,000 crore to the exchequer. Similarly in the civil aviation scam lands were allotted at a token lease amount of Rs. 100 per annum causing a loss of 1.63 lakh crore to the exchequer. In the Ultra Mega Power Projects scam the flawed process to identify the developers led to a gain for Reliance power which cornered three of the four projects causing a loss of 29,033 crore to the exchequer. In

1. Report of the CAG on Allocation of Coal Blocks and augmentation of Coal Production (Report No. 7 of 2012-13) - Irregularities Responsibility

The performance audit covered the period 2006-07 to 2010-11 and allocation of coal blocks by MOC from 2004 onwards. During this period, the senior minister's charge was held for the most part between Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh and the junior minister's charge remained with the Congress. From 23 May 2004 to 6 April 2008, former Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dasari

Narayana Rao and from 7 April 2008 to 29 May 2009, Congress MP from Rajasthan, Santosh Bagrodia, were ministers of state for coal.

The irregularities were observed in the allocation of coal blocks through the process of recommendation of the Screening Committee, rather than through competitive bidding.

#### Allocation

The Department of Legal Authorities, in 2006, specifically recommended the allocation to be done through competitive bidding. Despite this, a total of 142 coal blocks (geological reserve of 36972.97 m.t.) were allocated since July 2004 to various Governments and private parties following the existing process of allocation. Under this, the Screening Committee recommended allocations by way of minutes of the meetings of the Committee. There was nothing on record in any document indicating the basis of evaluation of evaluations and a comparative evaluation of the applicants. Thus, a transparent method for allocation of coal blocks was not followed by the Screening Committee.

Illustrations of irregularities in allocation have been brought about in the report. In case of the Fatehpur coal block, out of 69 applicants, only 36 were selected for a presentation, and SKS Ispat and Prakash Industries Ltd. were allocated the coal block. For the Rampia and dip side of Rampia coal block, out of 108 applicants, only 2 were selected for a presentation, and 6 companies were eventually allocated Sterlite Energy Limited, GMR Energy Limited, Lanco Group Ltd, Navbharat Power Ltd, Mittal Steel Ltd and Reliance Energy Ltd.

The MOC defended its stance and stated that the allocation was  
September 1-15, 2012 ○ 8

needed to be done on an urgent basis to speed up coal production, and therefore, had to be done as per the existing system, rather than waiting for the formulation of the competitive bidding procedure. However, this justification does not hold water, since, as indicated by the Report, 9 blocks remain unallocated, 3 blocks were de-allocated after allocation and 9 blocks had not started production despite overshooting the normative production date. In the balance 27 blocks, normative production schedules were beyond July, 2011. Thus, the allocation of coal blocks did not yield the desired result.

The proposal for competitive bidding was first framed in June, 2004. However, the modality of the bidding process is yet to be finalized. The procedure for introducing competitive bidding was deliberately protracted, and the Prime Minister and the Minister of Coal have been identified in the Report to have facilitated this.

The CAG Report estimated a financial gain of Rs 185591.34 crore to have accrued to private parties in respect of the 57 OC/Mixed mines as on 31 March, 2011. The MOC refuted this by stating that the coal produced from the allocated blocks was not for commercial sale. Further, the tariff in the power sector is regulated, and the prices of the products of the cement and steel sectors are kept in check in a competitive market.

However, this explanation is insufficient. Since there is a substantial difference between the price of coal supplied by Coal India and coal produced through captive mining, and the input costs are significantly lower with captive mines. Therefore, there is a windfall profit to those who are allocated coal blocks. The competitive

bidding process would only tap a part of the profit that accrued to such companies.

The MOC, in an explanatory statement, stated that the purpose of allocation of the coal mines were for increasing investment in the sector and thereby increasing the production of coal, rather than revenue generation. However, in this situation, much like the 2G spectrum allocation, it leads to the possibility of non-serious players entering the fray only to acquire precious resources, which they could later sell at a premium. It is clear that once the auction procedure comes into force, these very blocks that the government was giving away for almost free would be priced at market-determined rates.

The Coal Controllers' Organization (CCO) was set up as the nodal agency for monitoring the production of coal. However, it did not conduct any physical inspection of allocated coal blocks. It was also supposed to conduct monthly reviews of the progress of the allocated coal blocks. This was also not followed.

II. CAG Report No. 5 on Implementation of the PPP IGI Airport, Delhi

The Cabinet approved the restructuring of Delhi airport through the Joint Venture mode in September 2003. On 4 April 2006, the AAI signed an Operation Management Development Agreement (OMDA) with DIAL. On 26 April 2006 Government of India signed the State Support Agreement (SSA) with DIAL. CAG's observations pertain to operationalization of the JV mode and implementation of the OMDA and SSA and to verify whether the interest of Government and the revenue accruing to it has been

protected. It is to be noted that at the time when OMDA and SSA were being considered, no regulator was in place. The Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) Act was established in December 2008.

**Misuse of the concept of Upfront Fee to transfer 190.19 acres of land to DIAL at a paltry amount of Rs 6.19 crore :** A onetime upfront fee of Rs 150 crore was fixed for each of the Delhi Airport by MoCA. But later DIAL sought the lease of an additional 190.19 acres of land out of the carved out assets and the AAI applied the upfront fee to the additional land thereby fixing a onetime fee of Rs 6.19 crore. It is to be noted that OMDA allows DIAL to use 5 per cent of demised land for commercial exploitation. The current value of 9.50 acres as per AERA amounts to Rs 950 crore. The earning potential for 58 years from 9.50 acres based on DIAL's own projections (Rs 681.63 crore per acre) is Rs 6475 crore.

**Commercial exploitation of 239.95 acres of land worth Rs 24000 crore :** The demised premises of 4799.09 acres were leased out at Rs one hundred annually to DIAL. The demised premises were leased out at Rs one hundred annually to DIAL. Article 2.2.4 of OMDA permits DIAL to utilize 5 per cent of the total land area of 4799.09 acres or 239.95 acres for commercial exploitation. The potential earning from the land, according to the calculations worked out by DIAL itself, amounts to Rs 1,63,557 crore. The AERA has worked out the current valuation of the land at Rs 100 crore per acre and thus the total current value of the land available to DIAL for commercial exploitation, would amount to approximately Rs 24,000 crore.

**Airport Development Fee :** The decision to levy Development Fee (DF) after the effective date, has vitiated the sanctity of the bidding process, as the draft OMDA does not mention about funding of the project through levy of development fees. In case the JV was to have been permitted to levy DF to finance the project after signing of the OMDA, this condition should have been known upfront to all the bidders at the time of bidding. This led to undue benefit to DIAL at the cost of passengers who were taxed for using Delhi Airport through levy of DF amounting to Rs 3415.35 crore.

**Actual Project Cost vis-a-vis Original Project Cost increased by Rs 3882 crore :** The original project cost approved by DIAL was Rs 8975 crore and the actual project cost claimed by DIAL was Rs 12857 crore. However, the final project cost adopted by AERA was Rs 12502.86 crore. The variation between the approved project cost and the final project cost was Rs 3882 crore, i.e., 43.25 per cent higher than the original project cost.

**DIAL's financing of the project :** Out of the capital expenditure of Rs 12502 crore as accepted by AERA, only 19% has been promoters' contribution. Rs 5266 crore (42%) have come from loans and Rs 1471 crore (12%) has come from Security Deposits. Rs 50 Crore has come from internal accruals and Rs 3415.35 crore (27%) have come from Airport Development Fees. The internal accrual of Rs 50 crore is in sharp contrast to Mumbai airport, where the internal accrual has been Rs 1999 crore. Thus, with an equity contribution of Rs 2450 crore out of which the private consortium's share was Rs 1813 crore, DIAL has got a Brownfield airport for 60 and

in addition, commercial rights of land valued at Rs 24000 crore.

**Sharing of revenue from existing leases with DIAL resulted in loss of Rs 23.15 cr :** Audit had pointed out a loss of Rs 23.15 crore (March 2011) to AAI, due to lease rent in respect of existing leases being collected by DIAL in contravention of the OMDA.

III. CAG Report No. 6 on UMPPs under Special Purpose Vehicles

Government of India decided in November 2005 to develop Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs), each with a projected capacity of around 4000 MW and cost of Rs 16,000-20,000 crore. Ministry of Power (MOP) designated (November 2005) Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) as the nodal agency for the purpose of development of UMPPs through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). SPVs invited bids for six UMPPs during March 2006 to March 2012 and awarded four UMPPs, viz. Sasan in Madhya Pradesh, Mundra in Gujarat, Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, and Tilaiya in Jharkhand to the identified Developers. For selection of Project Developers two stage bidding was adopted. In the first stage called 'Request for Qualification' (RFQ), the bidders satisfying the minimum technical and financial criteria were shortlisted. The bidders successful in the first stage were eligible to participate in the next stage called 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) and were required to quote the tariff for 25 years from the Scheduled Commercial Operation Date of the concerned UMPPs.

Audit was conducted to obtain a reasonable assurance on the competitiveness of the Standard Bidding Documents, bidding process and to assess whether

selection of the Project Developers/consultants was done with objectivity and in a transparent manner and whether land was acquired and captive coal blocks were allocated to the Developers as per their optimum requirement.

#### Major Audit Findings

**Appointment of bid process management consultant :** Though the lowest bidder (M/s ICRA) was declared technically qualified for the consultancy assignments for two UMPPs (Sasan and Mundra) by the bid evaluation committee, their bid was not considered and the contract was awarded at a higher price to M/s Ernst & Young (M/s E & Y), on the ground that they had advised on bid process management of a power project in Bangladesh. M/s. E&Y was also awarded the consultancy assignment for Krishnapatnam UMPP. The consultancy work for Tilaiya Project was also awarded to M/s. E&Y without inviting bids. Thus, principle of equity was not followed while awarding consultancy assignments to M/s E&Y. Later, PFC debarred them for three years for their lapses in bid evaluation.

**Gaps in Bid Evaluation :** As per the minimum technical qualifying criteria stipulated in RFQ document, the Bidding Company or Consortium Member must meet technical requirement of having experience of developing projects in the last 10 years whose aggregate capital costs must not be less than Rs 3,000 crore. Out of these projects, the capital cost of at least one project should be equivalent to or more than Rs 500 crore. Audit observed that in all the three UMPPs which were awarded to the Project Developer, Reliance Power Limited (RPL), they claimed having experience of developing projects based on additions to the fixed

assets (Rs 3,123.88 crore for Sasan & Mundra, Rs 2,137.49 crore for Krishnapatnam and Rs 2,254.61 crore for Tilaiya UMPPs) during the last 10 years despite the fact that only capital cost of projects commissioned during the last 10 years was eligible to be counted for project experience.

**Financial benefit to Project Developer :** Three coal blocks viz. Moher, Moher-Amlohri Extension and Chhatrasal were allocated to Sasan UMPP to meet its coal requirement of 16 Million Tonne per annum. RPL was allowed to use the surplus coal from blocks allotted to Sasan UMPP for its other projects where power was sold through tariff based bidding.

This decision resulted in financial benefit of Rs 29,033 crore with a net present value (NPV) of Rs 11,852 crore to the Project Developer.

Permission for use of excess coal by RPL from the three coal blocks allocated to Sasan UMPP after its award not only vitiated the bidding process but also resulted in undue benefit to RPL.

#### Conclusion

The CAG report clearly established the loss to the exchequer after analyzing the details exhaustively. The Coal-block scam has even surpassed the 2G spectrum scam. Everyday the Congress led UPA government is breaking its own records and bringing out the figures which are unbelievable and very shameful. The manner in which all these scams have to light and the manner in which the Congress led UPA has sought to stubbornly deny has shaken the faith of the people in the system. There is no one to take moral responsibility, no one held accountable and no intention to set the system right is seen from the

approach of the Congress which has shown no determination to fight corruption and scams. In fact the Congress led UPA and its ministers are seen to be defending scams and resisting any probe while stalling any bid towards transparency and accountability.

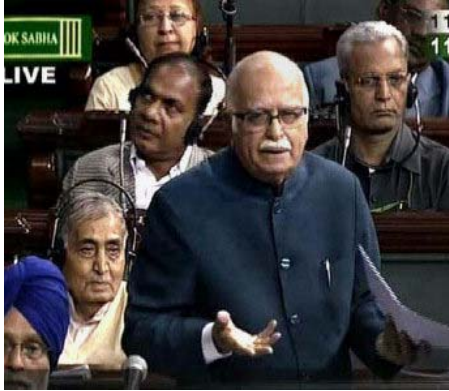
A large number of scams have come to fore and still these seems to be a tip of the iceberg. The achievements of Congress led UPA government are CWG scam, Adarsh Society scam, ISRO-Devas Deal, 2G Spectrum scam and many more to count. Two major scams – ISRO – Devas Deal and Coal Block scams have taken place in the ministries which were directly under the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. A senior UPA minister was lodged in Tihar Jail by the order of the Supreme Court, a chief minister had to resign and many more ministers and MPs are facing trial and under the scanner of the investigating agencies. The government defends these ministers and scamsters and acts in the interests of the corrupt and those indulging in the loot of the public money.

It is high time that Dr. Manmohan Singh should quit. Not only he has failed to rein in his ministers but the scams have taken place in the ministries held by him. Loot of public money, scams and corruption is taking place directly under his nose and also within his own ministries.

He has failed to act, never showed any real intention to act against corruption and nor he will take any step in the future. He has lost all his credibility. He has no moral authority to continue as Prime Minister of this great nation. The best service to the nation he could render now is by quitting the post of Prime Minister. May good sense prevail upon him! ■



# Bangladeshi infiltration a threat not only to Assam but to the entire nation : L K Advani



*The violence in Assam has sent a shock wave across the nation. In pursuance of its vote-bank politics the Congress led UPA has kept its eyes closed to the plights of the people of Assam who have been facing the threats of Bangladeshi infiltrators. The Congress led UPA even failed to act in the face of Supreme Court order and huge public outcry against the infiltrators. BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani while speaking in Lok Sabha on 8th August 2012 said the root cause of the Assam problem was in the failure of the government to honour Supreme Court order scrapping IMDT Act. We are publishing the synopsis of his speech for our esteemed readers:*

I seek the leave of the House for moving the Adjournment Motion regarding failure of the Government in assessing the situation arising out of the illegal infiltration into Assam and in curbing the large scale ethnic violence in BTAC area of Kokrajhar district, Dhubri and other districts where many persons have been killed and thousands have been displaced. I am of the view that it is mainly the Central Government that has failed in curbing the recent incidents in Assam. I had been to Assam recently on 30th -31st and visited the most affected Kokrajhar district. I do agree that whenever there is violence many a lives are lost. But I am of the view that whatever has happened in Assam this time, which has a population of around 3 crore, has rendered around 2 lakh people dislocated which is unprecedented.

I had visited both the Bodo and non- Bodo relief camps in which mostly women and children were there. In both the

**We publish selected speeches delivered in parliament so that the issues debated and discussed therein and the stands taken thereof reaches to our nationalist readers in detail. The fine points of debates, the issues involved and the position taken during the debate sometime gets lost as the mainstream media rarely shows an inclination to cover all these debates and discussions in detail. We are also constrained by availability of space in publishing all the speeches but to keep our readers aware and informed we publish selected speeches. We hope that our readers would be benefited by our efforts.**

**-Editor**

camps the people were apprehensive as to whether they will be able to go back to their homes. At the very outset I would like to submit that this issue should not be given a communal colour. We will have to understand that Hindu vs. Muslim or Tribal vs. non-tribal is not behind the present situation in Assam today.

The root of this problem is as to who is Indian and who is a foreign national. We must try to understand that infiltration from Bangladesh for years together is not only becoming a threat to Assam but to the entire nation.

The Chief Minister of the State has stated that Assam is sitting on a volcano. If proper steps are not taken then at any moment there can be explosion and such a situation can arise. A feeling is gradually setting in the Indigenous Assamese that the immigrants are going to grab their land and they will be deprived of it. Therefore, it is a very serious issue. For the first

time, the students and the youth of Assam drew the attention of the country towards this problem by agitating against it during the year 1980. Even the people there did not participate in elections. I am of the view that it is the responsibility of the Government to provide shelter to a dislocated Indian but even if a foreigner is killed then the murderer cannot be pardoned.

Therefore, I have said it time

intervene and to say that what has been done now is to undo our judgement, and in a way to bypass our judgement and said that last time, no time limit was imposed to repatriate the foreigners.

I cannot think of a greater failure of the Central Government than this. On 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 it passed an order that IMDT Act should be scrapped within four months and its order should be

examined by the state and Central governments. Normally, any country of the world will never tolerate such massive illegal immigration and will take action against it.

But, here, in our country, no action has been taken even after the repeated pleas by the Supreme Court. I hope that as soon as this debate concludes, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Hon. Prime Minister will inform the House as to the exact number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who have been living in the different states of India and how many of them are living in Assam and particularly in the Bodos territory. At the outset, I had told that this issue concerns with the Indians vs. foreigners.

*The root of this problem is as to who is Indian and who is a foreign national. We must try to understand that infiltration from Bangladesh for years together is not only becoming a threat to Assam but to the entire nation. The Chief Minister of the State has stated that Assam is sitting on a volcano. If proper steps are not taken then at any moment there can be explosion and such a situation can arise.*

and again that it is not the question of ethnicity. I think that the infiltration from Bangladesh and the outcome thereof is a very serious issue and the responsibility of it is more on the Central Government than the State Government. In the year 2005 when the IMDT Act was nullified by the hon'ble Supreme Court, the remarks of the hon'ble Supreme Court at that time were very serious. The hon'ble Supreme Court had asked the Government to implement the Foreigner's Act, repatriate the foreigners and implement the order of 1964. But the Government decided not to implement the order of 1964. This is the first time that the Supreme Court within one year, after it had struck down the

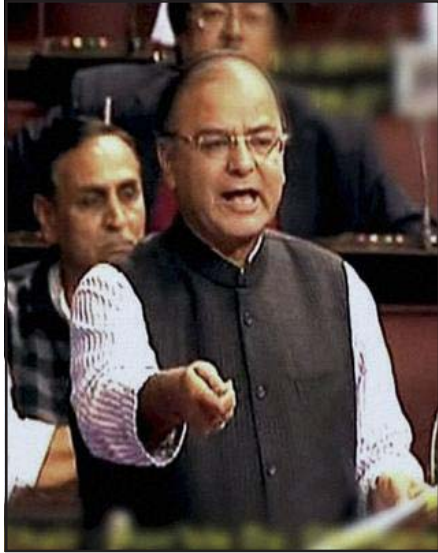
IMDT Act, had once again to  
September 1-15, 2012 ○ 12

implemented. I would like to submit this much only that not implementing this order of the Supreme Court has resulted in such a situation which is not only a threat to Assam but a grave crisis for the safety and security of the entire country. I am of the view that Assam is strategically important for us, which should not be neglected, otherwise it will pose a serious threat to us.

Indian Express has published an article which states that the systematic grabbing of Government lands and the steady encroachment of denuded forest areas by illegal immigrants and nonindigenous communities have created serious differences among the local indigenous populations. This needs to be seriously

This is the reason that I demand that an updated National Register of Citizens should be prepared and the names of those, who are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, should be deleted from it. The inviolability of the tribal areas should be maintained. The House should accept that, by securing Assam, we will be strengthening the unity and security of India.

It will be appropriate if this discussion begets consensus on this issue. I believe that if any Bangladeshi comes into India illegally, he/she must be deported and if it is not possible he should, at least, be disenfranchised. This problem can be resolved if the Government fix a deadline for this purpose and informs the House about it. " ■



## Congress makes impossible the detection, determination and deportation of illegal foreigners : Jaitley

*While raising the issue of Assam violence on 9th August 2012 in Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition in the House Shri Arun Jaitley said that the Congress lacks the determination to deport the Bangladeshi infiltrators. We are publishing the synopsis of his speech for our esteemed readers:*

I am extremely grateful to you for permitting me to make a brief intervention before the hon. Home Minister gives his reply to the debate that we have had yesterday on the very serious situation in Assam for the last few weeks. The Government has said that it will have a CBI enquiry into this matter. I would urge the hon. Home Minister, in his response, not to consider it as a law and order problem that so many people have been uprooted, so many people have been arrested, so many people have been sent back and relief has been provided to so many people. The State Government has completely failed. Please go into the root cause as to why this problem has taken place. If this problem gets repeated, the consequences not only on the State of Assam but also on India, as a nation, our national identity, our personality and even our geography, are going to be severe. The North-East, therefore, is a very sensitive region for India. The North-East was one of the regions very badly

affected due to India's partition. There was a lot of violence which took place on the western borders when the country was partitioned. The life was certainly not very comfortable. The North-East had different kinds of tribes. What was Bordoloi's approach to this problem and what is your approach today? Are you protecting its cultural identity and its linguistic identity? The inclusion of Bengali-speaking areas of Sylhet and Cachar and immigration and importation of lakhs of settlers on wastelands has been threatening to destroy the distinctiveness of Assam and has, in practice, caused many disorders. So, even when you had the Re-organisation of States, the cultural identity, the linguistic identity of the region had to be maintained. Unfortunately, somewhere post-Independence, the line which the Congress Party took in Assam was altered by subsequent leaders of that Party.

Because they were in search on an alternative vote-bank. For

that, you wanted a change in demography. Once people came and settled down, there was no way of pushing them back. You had the most unprecedented demographic change which has taken place. The 2001 Census shows Dhubri with almost 71 per cent population of migrants. This figure is likely to cross 80 percent. No country will allow encroachment into its territory by illegal immigration. We have allowed it to take place. How do we get rid of these people in terms of jurisprudence? It can be done on the due process of law. The result of that *en masse* migration is that you have a complete demographic change in those regions leading to social tensions. You had a law which is called the Foreigners Act. It can check the illegitimate entry of foreigners into our country. You should have applied the Foreigners Act. But the Government said in 1983 that this Foreigners Act will not suit Assam. You have a Tribunal to determine it. Thus you made impossible the detection,

*Continued on page 28...*

# Power policies — shrouded in darkness

By Nitin Gadkari

**T**he massive breakdowns in the Northern, Eastern and North-Eastern Grids in the last couple of days resulting in major power failures in large parts of the country might have been restored, giving a sigh of

relief to the people. But it has once again highlighted the vexed issue of huge shortfall in power generation to meet the ever-growing demand of power in the country.



*Electricity consumption in India, currently at some 600TWh annually, is set to double by next decade.*

Electricity consumption in India, currently at some 600TWh annually, is set to double by next decade.

The economy is passing through a difficult phase. Recent statistics have suggested a fall

in industrial production to less than 5 per cent. Revised GDP projections have slipped to less than 6.5 per cent for this year. The electricity sector is facing problems with availability of coal.

According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 100,000 MW of additional power generation will be required during the 12th Plan from 2012-2017 to meet the growing power demand if the economy is to grow at 9 per cent. Seventy per cent of this additional capacity generation is to be introduced through coal-based thermal power plants.

## COAL SHORTAGE

The most serious bottleneck in power generation is the shortage of coal. As per the Planning Commission statistics, the gap between the demand and supply of coal was 35 million tonnes at the end of 2007 and it is expected to be around 83 million tonnes at the end of this year. The shortage would have been even more had all the planned coal-based power plants been commissioned on time.

By 2017, the coal shortage is forecast to be 200 million tonnes, says the Planning Commission. The Government has admitted that the shortage of domestic/imported coal has affected thermal power generation, and some of the blame for this can be laid at the door of the Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, whose controversial policies have led to an immediate halt of mining activity in 2003 blocks, which had a potential capacity of over 600 million tonnes.

The Coal Ministry argues that this ban could affect power generation to the tune of 1,30,000 MW. The matter is now before a GoM on mining. This decision has put a question mark on the investments in power sector. Various study reports have estimated that India needs an investment of at least \$135 billion to provide universal access of electricity to its population.

The capital goods sector — seen as an advance indicator of sorts — shrunk by over 25 per cent as companies put investment plans on hold. More than 26 power plants are reported to have gone into super critical coal stock position.

Increase in power production is vital for growth of industry and agriculture. Coal will remain the dominant fuel for the power sector, given the lower-than-expected gas production from existing fields and no new major gas discoveries. Additionally,

majority of the future generation capacity additions will be coal-fired. Coal accounted for 54 per cent of total power capacity at end-April 2011 and 66 per cent of total electricity generated in the last financial year.

Coal demand has increased significantly with the commissioning of new coal-fired generation capacity. Given India's chronic power deficit, this trend is likely to continue. A meagre increase in domestic coal production, particularly due to delays in the development of captive coal blocks allocated to the power generators and delays in environmental clearances issues, has added to the demand-supply gap.

#### IMPORT BILL

Another adverse impact of the domestic coal shortage is the resultant higher import of coal. It is estimated that India will need foreign exchange of almost \$20 billion (above Rs 1 lakh crore) every year for importing coal from 2015 onwards.

Hence, it is also in the interest of our balance of payments position and foreign exchange management that domestic coal production is enhanced and import of coal reduced. Therefore, the Government must put in all efforts to increase domestic coal production. All domestic coal mining companies must be asked to enhance their production immediately by increasing investments, enhancing productivity and use of latest technology for mining.

We may consider creating a framework for the short term to allow enhanced production by companies having captive coal blocks and allow them to sell coal

through Coal India Ltd. by levying twice the royalty for this short period of five years. This would encourage conversion of domestic coal to power, thus ensuring energy value addition. Given the gloomy economic scenario, India will have to take urgent steps so that our basic industry gets the necessary fillip to bring the economy back on track.

The urgent need of the hour, therefore, is an immediate and comprehensive review of country's power and mining sector, as a whole, and coal production, in particular, at the

highest level. This review must look into all aspects of coal and mining policy, including production, availability of coal for priority sectors such as power, transparent coal pricing through e-auctioning, environmental clearances, sharing of profits to local population and royalty on natural resources. The Government should also expedite policy initiatives on alternative energy sources such as solar, wind and bio-fuels. ■

*(The author is National President, Bharatiya Janata Party.)*

*(Courtesy: The Hindu)*

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Nothing concrete in the white paper on Black Money : Naidu



The speech on issue of Black Money and Corruption in Public Life delivered by Rajya Sabha MP Shri Venkaiah Naidu in Rajya Sabha on August 13, 2012

Thousands of people are marching towards Parliament, demanding the Government, to explain what are the steps taken to unearth black money, to bring back black money slashed in foreign countries by influential persons. If that money is brought back by our Government with all the efforts then we can have electrification for the villages; we can have roads; we can solve drinking water problem; we can have all other basic requirements for the common people met. But unfortunately, Government has not come forward with any specific, concrete action so far. There is nothing concrete in the white paper. There is no time-bound action plan to unearth black money. This is not a political issue of one party. But, unfortunately the Government has failed miserably to take concrete action in this regard. We demand that Government should exhibit a political will and come out with a concrete action plan. ■

Whoever may be its leader, we're determined to defeat Congress at all cost : Satpal Satti

On February 21 this year Shri Satpal Singh Satti was appointed the Himachal Pradesh State BJP President and thus became the youngest incumbent to hold this post. Initiated into politics during his student days when he became active in Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Shri Satti holds a post-graduate degree with MPhil in political science. He held various posts in the organization including that of state secretary and later national secretary of ABVP from 1994-97. He was first elected to the HP State assembly in 2003, he is presently running his second consecutive term. When the party decided to draft him into the organization as the State chief of BJP, Shri Satti immediately quit his job as Chief Parliamentary Secretary in BJP government. He is clear in his objective and forthright in his opinion. He did all what he could sincerely to bring back those who for some reason or the other had left the party. He is credited with having infused unity of thought and sense of purpose in the organization. He does not feel elated at the internal bickering within the main opposition Congress. "All I know", he says, "is that BJP's only rival is the Congress and we have to humble it decisively this time again. Who is the leader of Congress doesn't matter to us", he told firmly.



BJP National Convener of Literature & Publication Cell Amba Charan Vashishth spoke to Shri Satti at Shimla last week.. Excerpts from the interview:

As perhaps the youngest State BJP president in Himachal what difference does it make to the party?

I am grateful to the leaders and BJP karyakartas who have reposed faith in me. As party president I have tried to inject the spirit of the youth in the party and did my best to infuse a sense of purpose and zeal in the party to win the next elections by myself working hard in this direction. I pray to God to give me strength to come up to the expectations of my leaders and karyakartas.

What else are your main achievements during the last over six months you have been the chief?

To a great extent the party is united in thought and has unity of purpose. In fact, I feel, there was no dissidence or difference of opinion in the party. It was more a media hype. If there was any, it was just a difference of approach but the goal of everybody was the same: good of the party. Now everyone is putting his body,

heart and soul together to ensure that the "Mission Repeat" of the present BJP government under the leadership of Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal is accomplished. The party has adopted the slogan "kaho dil se, Dhumal phir se" and "kaho dil se, Bhajapa phir se."

During the last few months I have given an impetus to the programmes and the campaigns that had been pending for some time for some reasons. I have extensively toured almost every part of the State and made the district and mandal units to rise to the occasion to face the challenges before the party. I am glad to say that the party karyakarta is fully geared up for the elections to the State assembly any moment.

Since 1977 BJP and Congress had been ruling the State by turns. Congressmen entertain great hopes on this myth. What do you feel about it?

It is a wrong notion and this time the people of the State are going to smash this myth. BJP governments in many States, like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh have returned to power again on the strength of their excellent performance and good governance. In our neighbouring State of Punjab BJP-SAD government has recently been returned to power. We are going to repeat it in Himachal also this time.

Why should the people vote for BJP again this time?

This is not me but the people of the State who are saying that BJP government will be voted back to power again because the Dhumal government has done extremely well despite many handicaps. The amount and pace of development has surpassed the performance of all Congress governments which did pretty little despite having a supportive Congress government at the Centre. BJP government did its home work well and has been able to present its case forcefully with the Centre with the result that it has been able to surmount this handicap. It has been able to secure many central projects and institutions for the State. BJP government has earned the patting of Union government in many spheres, like implementation of 20-point programme, higher than the average national growth in GDP, greater employment, helping people fight the phenomenon of mounting prices and inflation by providing essential items at subsidized rates. These achievements have surpassed the performance of Congress governments in States and even at the Centre.

BJP government has not only implemented in letter and spirit every promise made in the 2007 election but went much beyond that. This has infused a greater sense of faith in the mind of the people. Every section of the society is happy because the Dhumal government has done something for everyone.

There is a great turmoil within the opposition Congress, your main challenger. How do you see it?

Whatever is happening within the Congress is their internal matter with which BJP has nothing to do. I do not wish to comment on it.

All I know is that BJP's only rival is the Congress and we have to humble it decisively

this time again. Who is the leader of Congress doesn't matter to us.

A court has ordered framing of corruption charges against former chief minister and union minister Virbhadra Singh and his wife. How do you see it?

It is not a political matter, although Shri Virbhadra Singh and Congress are trying to appear it so. All I can say is that the court found a prima facie criminal case against both Shri Virbhadra Singh and his wife that it decided to frame corruption charges against both. He is the first former chief minister of the State to be embroiled in a criminal case. Now that the matter is before the court, law will take its own course. That the Prime Minister accepted Shri Virbhadra Singh's resignation immediately after the court order means something. Before that Shri Singh had also met Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.

But Virbhadra is charging CM Dhumal and BJP with political vendetta.

In fact, Shri Virbhadra Singh is trying to gain political mileage out of it. The fact is that CM and BJP are not in any way involved. The CD was made public not by BJP but by Shri Singh's one time close confidant Maj. Vijai Singh Mankotia who had been a minister in his cabinet. This happened in 2007 when Shri Singh himself was the chief minister. All that the BJP government is doing is that it is providing Shri Singh an opportunity to prove himself innocent in a court of law.

By what time do you think BJP will finalise the names of its candidates for the ensuing assembly election? What would be the criterion?

The process is going on since long. The Party has assessed the performance of the sitting MLAs and the chances of those who fought election last time but lost. The matter will be considered first by the State election committee and finalized after being considered by the BJP parliamentary Board in Delhi.

As for the criterion, it will obviously be how best the aspirants have served the party, their commitment to its ideology, rapport with the people, clean image and finally their winnability.

Can the Party think of changing the tickets of the sitting MLAs or of the old candidates who

could not make it to the assembly last time?

Certainly, there can be some changes. The effect of delimitation has also to be kept in mind. Those who have failed to deliver and could not come up to the expectations of their constituents may have to be changed.

What is BJP's strong point in the election?

Excellent performance of the BJP government by all standards, people's satisfaction and support, UPA-II having been the most corrupt and inefficient Congress-led government at the Centre, rising prices and inflation, internal and external threats facing the country.

Who will be the main star campaigners for the party in elections?

The main campaigners will be our veteran leader Shri Shanta Kumar and Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal. From the Centre we have a galaxy of star campaigners led by our National President Shri Nitin Gadkari ji who will be campaigning extensively. As the campaign gets going, we will decide, as per demand in a particular area, who will

campaign where.

How far will you inject new and young blood in the party?

Party will certainly do its best to inject young blood wherever possible.

Will the youth and women get adequate representation?

Certainly. Where youth and women stand a good chance to win, they will certainly get preference. But our main concern remains the winnability of the candidate.

How do you propose to deal with those who left BJP recently to form a new party?

The matter stands closed as far as BJP is concerned.

How strong do you feel is the challenge of the third front trying to raise its head in the elections?

Third front has never been a force in Himachal elections. It has always been the BJP versus Congress in the State. If ever third front has won a few seats, after elections it has ceased to exist; its members have later joined BJP or Congress. That is the history. ■

BJP CMs' conclave held in Delhi

BJP accuses Centre of "step-motherly" treatment

The BJP held a conclave of its Chief Ministers on August 18 to discuss the economic growth in their States and lambasted the Centre of giving them "step-motherly" treatment in fund disbursement. All Chief Ministers, including Shri Narendra Modi (Gujarat), Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal (Himachal Pradesh), Shri Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh), Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh) and Shri Jagadish Shettar (Karnataka), CM Manohar



Parrikar (Goa), Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and Punjab's senior-most BJP Minister Chunni Lal attended the conclave. Jharkhand was represented by a senior Minister Vimla Pradhan. They also dwelt on how the Centre's alleged "discriminatory" attitude towards opposition-ruled States in distribution of funds and implementation of schemes was affecting them. It was said in the conclave "It is clear that the UPA has mismanaged the Indian economy for the last 8 years. The nation and our people cannot afford to suffer any more. The BJP/NDA states have demonstrated high governance standards. In this regard, the BJP demands the following."

Yuva Sankalp Rally- 'Mission repeat 2012', Himachal Pradesh

Country is not secure under the regime of Congress led UPA : Rajnath Singh

From Our Correspondent

Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh lashed out at the Congress led UPA for betraying the common man of the country and said, "In the regime of the UPA-II, the common man has

Government."

Talking about Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Shri Rajnath said he is a robotic leader which is operated with the remote and the remote is in the hands of someone else and

heavily on the indifferent attitude of the Central Government towards the State.

The Chief Minister said that carry bags free of cost would be provided along with the essential food grains being



come to know about the worth of this Government, who has given inflation and series of scams."

Addressing a massive Yuva Sankalp Rally- 'Mission repeat 2012' in Dharamshala on 11 August 2012 he said, "In the regime of the UPA-II, the country is not secure. China has established various posts along the borders but the Centre is not capable to negotiate with the situation as it is busy in negotiating with its internal fighting. It has created a situation of the insecurity in the country which has been revealed by the mass protests against this

he lacks decision making power. Rajnath added that he is confident in accomplishment of the mission repeat in Himachal.

At the rally, Himachal Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhupal flayed the UPA Government for step motherly treatment being done with the BJP ruled State Government.

Prof. Prem Kumar Dhupal said that the Centre had imposed restriction on taking loan by the State with a limit of mere Rs 16 crore. The special industrial package given by the NDA Government had also been withdrawn. He came down

provided under PDS to the consumers so that they did not find any problem in carrying ration. He said that this would be started soon. He said that the State had witnessed speedy development under the present regime which had come to a standstill. He said that the Congress led UPA Government had curtailed to the State the Ration quota being availed by the common man. He said that special industrial package given by the NDA Government had also been withdrawn. He came down heavily on the indifferent attitude of the Central

Government towards the State. The Chief Minister also said that the Centre had imposed restriction on taking loan by the State with a limit of mere 16 crore.

He said that State had launched various schemes like Atal Bijli Bachat Yojna , Atal Swasthaya Seva, Atal School Uniform which had benefitted all sections of the society. He took the Congress party to task for opposing such schemes. He said that every section of the society got benefitted by the welfare programmes and policies being implemented by the State Government.

Prof. Dhumal said that the BJP Government had made efforts to emotionally integrate the State. He said that balanced development had been ensured by the Government. He said that the BJP Government had provided support price to mango along with the apple at the rate of six rupees per kilo. Support price was provided to the apple and mango producers this year without making any discrimination. He appealed the people to make 'Mission Repeat' a success and bring BJP Government back to power in the State and Centre.

BJP National Vice-President and former Chief Minister Shri Shanta Kumar said that the huge gathering at the venue indicated that BJP was coming to power in the State. He said that the present Government had protected the interests of the common man and made efforts to realize the dreams of Gandhiji and Swami Vivekananda. He said that BJP Government always protected the interests of rural population and poor.

Shri Shanta Kumar said that

September 1-15, 2012 ● 20

the State witnessed immense development in these five years. He said that the Congress Government failed to provide the 7.19 percent partnership dues in power projects to the State despite the law passed in the parliament whereas the BJP Government had succeeded in getting justice for the State.

He said that despite the Congress Governments in the Centre and State, the State could not get royalty on water however the BJP Government succeeded in it and got Rs. 4000 crore dues from power projects.

Addressing the rally BJP National General Secretary Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said that BJP was ready for Vidhan Sabha Election in the State whereas Congress was facing leadership crisis. He said that rising prices could be checked only by defeating the Congress led UPA Government at the Centre. He said that most of the scams have surfaced during the tenure of UPA Government and added that the UPA Government had curtailed the quota of recruitment of Himachali youth in the army and it was gross injustice towards the youth of the State.

He further said that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his tenure as Prime Minister had announced special industrial

package to the State whereas the UPA Government had withdrawn it before its timeframe and there were many more such examples which spoke volumes of discriminatory attitude of the Centre towards the State. He appealed the people to bring BJP Government headed by Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal back to power for speedy development.

State BJP President Shri Satpal Singh Satti said that the present BJP Government had implemented policies and programmes for the welfare of every section of the society which have been lauded at National Level. He criticized the Centre Government for failing to check corruption and terrorism and added that the country witnessed spectacular progress during the tenure of NDA Government.

He said that the Congress Party in the State was directionless and added that some of the senior leaders of the party were themselves involved in corruption which itself speaks of the plight of the party at the State level.

Ministers, BJP MPs, MLAs, former MPs and MLAs, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of various Boards and Corporations, senior BJP leaders and people in large numbers attended the rally. ■

Gadkari constitutes *Ganga Abhiyan* Committee

The BJP National President constituted Ganga Campaign Committee. The members of the committee are following:

Sushri Umabharti , Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari ,Shri Vijay Goel ,Shri Murlidhar Rao, Shri Shanawaj Hussain, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni, Shri Saryu Rai, Shri Shidharth Nath Singh, Shri Amitav Sinha, Shri Vijay Jolly, Shriram Vedra. ■

Hindus in Pakistan facing threats of existence

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

Things have just gone from bad to worse for the marginalized Hindu community of Pakistan living under the shadow of fear and which has compelled many of them to abandon their homeland and migrate to India. There are reports borne out by the privately-run Human Rights Commission of Pakistan that Hindus are feeling threatened in the country and there are reports of never-

ending abductions from the Hindu community. Hundreds of minority Hindu families unable to survive the religious persecution, plunder and violence are fleeing Pakistan leading to a humanitarian crisis. According to media reports in 2011, a total of 7,000 Pakistanis visited India and between 1,100 -1,200 did not return and chose to stay in India. In the last month alone, more than two hundred

Pakistani Hindus have reached India after facing severe harassment in Pakistan and thousands have been waiting across the border to cross over to India.

The biggest question that arises is what has forced these minority Hindus to flee from their homeland? Some are tight-lipped over the situation in Pakistan, while many have spoken openly about the horror

Living on the edge

The Pakistani government denies it but the fact is that life for the Hindu minority in Pakistan is not exactly a bed of roses.



- Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has reported that at least 25 Hindu girls are abducted every month
- A 14-year-old Hindu girl was abducted on August 7 in Sindh and allegedly married forcibly after conversion to Islam
- Some 60 Hindu families have come to India to visit religious places, but it is reported that they left Pakistan in view of unbearable living conditions
- Earlier this year, three girls from a Hindu family in Sindh were abducted, converted and forcibly married to Muslim men
- 11 Hindu traders were abducted and held to ransom earlier this year

Interlinked

- Some Indians with roots in Pakistan: actors Dev Anand, Raj Kapoor and Sunil Dutt, cricketer Lala Amarnath, and politicians Manmohan Singh, L.K. Advani and I.K. Gujral
- Some famous Pakistani Hindus: cricketer Danish Kaneria, fashion designer Deepak Perwani, former Supreme Court chief justice Rana Bhagwandas and founder member of Pakistan People's Party, Rana Chandra Singh

Fact file

- The Hindu population in Pakistan is estimated to be 1.96 million, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees report
- In 1951, Hindus constituted 22 per cent of Pakistan's (including Bangladesh) population. Now it is 1.2 per cent in Pakistan and 9.2 per cent in Bangladesh
- 93 per cent of the Pakistani Hindus live in Sindh province, and the rest in Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces
- A majority of the Hindus work as farm labourers and small-time businessmen



Passage to India: Sanjay Kumar (centre), a Pakistani Hindu, with his father and cousin

RESEARCH: SARATH RAMESH; GRAPHICS: SUJESH K.; PHOTO: SANJAY AHLAWAT

of torture, killings, abductions, rapes and forced conversions back home. Kidnapping and forced conversion of minority Hindu girls and marriage against their will have become a routine affair in various provinces like Sindh and Baluchistan. The constant media reports on abduction of Hindu traders from Baluchistan, incidents of persecution and intimidation of Hindus and the televised conversion of a Hindu have highlighted the atrocities committed against Hindu minorities under the nose of police and administration. Even the Pakistani media has not discarded these reports. An editorial in the *News International* recently said, "We cannot deny that minorities, and particularly Hindus, have faced persecution over the past few decades". The daily went on to add that "...Hindus have faced more abductions, more harassment and more threats in recent years than at any time in the past in both Sindh and Baluchistan. As a result, many have indeed fled. What we need to do is create an environment more conducive to all minorities and make sure they are made to feel equal citizens of the state".

The anti-Hindu sentiments and hatred in Pakistan are not new. There is a general stereotype against Hindus in Pakistan. They are regarded as miserly as 'Kaffirs' (unbelievers) and blamed for 'causing all the problems in Pakistan'. Islamic fundamentalist groups operating within Pakistan have freely broadcasted and disseminated anti-Hindu propaganda, referring to Hindus as 'Hanood' and blaming them

for 'collaborating with the foreigners' against the people of the region. The organisations like Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA), a coalition of Islamist political parties in Pakistan called for the increased Islamization of the government and society, specifically taking an anti-Hindu stance. To further intensify the anti-Hindu sentiment the public school curriculum in Pakistan was Islamized. Though, this process started long back during the 1970s-80s, Islamic fundamentalism has received state support in spreading hatred in recent years like never before.

Though the anti-Hindu mindset existed in every sphere in Pakistan since its inception but in the recent years it has taken a horrible turn. In 2010 even the *Dawn* reported that about 25 percent of Sikhs in Orakzai Agency were forced to leave their homes. The report said that about 25 percent of the 102 Sikh families in Orakzai Agency had to leave after Taliban asked them to pay *Jaziya* or leave the area. It also said that at least 27 Hindu families had sought asylum in India due to security threats.

In another incident in July 2010, around 60 members of the minority Hindu community were attacked and ethnically cleansed in Karachi following an incident when a Hindu youth drank from a water tap near an Islamic mosque. The **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan** came out with a report in 2010 stating that "At least 25 Hindu girls are abducted in Pakistan every month".

The stories behind these atrocities against the Hindus are

very cruel and frightening. On March 26, 2012 a 19-year-old girl Rinkle Kumari, from a village in Sindh, told Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry that she had been abducted by a man called Naveed Shah, and pleaded with the highest court to let her return to her mother. It was a brave plea and exposed the false claims of Pakistani government. Rinkle had dared to raise her voice, but not without paying a heavy price for that. Her parents in Ghotki village were threatened; her 70-year-old grandfather was shot at, gun-toting goons roamed outside her house in full day light. When she returned to the Pakistan Supreme Court on April 18, she meekly said, "**She had converted to Islam**". And this is not the only case of its kind. According to police records, each month, an average of 25 girls meet Rinkle's fate in Sindh alone, home to 90 per cent of the Hindus living in Pakistan. Young Hindu girls are 'marked', abducted, forcibly raped, and converted against their will and the minority community is helpless, as they have neither the numbers nor the political clout to protect themselves. The pathetic stories like Rinkle Kumari are in abundance.

In another incident Meher Chand, 55 arrived in Delhi on January 21, 2011, with a delegation of Pakistani Hindus. Chand did not return to Pakistan. His story was more pathetic back home in Karachi. "His wife died of cancer in 2009, leaving two daughters behind. Interacting with media he said, 'One morning, I found my younger daughter, 16 at that time, missing. When I made

inquiries, I was told that she had eloped with a much older man, known to be a goon. She had converted to Islam overnight. I was allowed to meet her after intervention by some elders. **She cried and hugged me without saying a word.** I never believed she eloped. I wish to fight for my daughter. The kidnappers had private armies and threatened me. Even the local police did not pay heed. They mocked me on the streets". There are many more like Chand, waiting to flee Pakistan for the safety of their daughters.

In August 1947, at the end of British *Raj*, the population percentage of Hindus in what is today Pakistan was around 15% or higher, but in the post independent era the percentage dropped drastically to its current total of 3 percent. According to the 1998 Pakistan Census, caste Hindus constitute about 1.6 percent of the total population of Pakistan and about 6.6% in province of Sindh. It is also important to note that Pakistan Census separates Hindu Schedule Castes from the main body of Hindus who make up a further 0.25% of national population.

The total number of Hindus in Pakistan, including Scheduled Castes, however, is often believed to be much higher than what was reported in the 1998 Census. According to unofficial reports, experts, and politicians, the real number of Dalits in Pakistan are more than 2-3 million as opposed to 500,000 while the number of other caste Hindus is far higher than the 1.6% reported in the last census. The anti Hindu mindset is so strong that the

administration is even hesitating to bring the correct number of Hindus living in Pakistan to the fore. The Pakistan Hindu Council, however, puts this number at 5.5 percent of all Pakistanis, which would now be 9.9 million people in 2012. It reveals that many have migrated, others have been killed, and yet others forcefully converted. In some cases, the dead have even been denied a proper cremation in Pakistan. Discrimination, extortion threats, killings and religious persecution are driving the remaining Hindus and Sikhs out of Pakistan.

The increasing Islamisation of Pakistan and antagonism against India has been an influential factor in the persecution of religious minorities. Such Islamisation include the blasphemy laws, which make it dangerous for religious minorities to express themselves freely and engage freely in religious and cultural activities.

The promulgation of Sharia, Quranic law has also increased the marginalization of Hindus and other minorities. All indications suggest that there are even worse times ahead. Extremist views grew more vociferous as voices for basic human rights and tolerance became more isolated in face of violence and intimidation in Pakistan.

When BJP raised questions in Parliament about the plight of Hindus in Pakistan, the minister of State (MoS) in Ministry of External Affairs E. Ahamed said on March 22: "The Government has taken up the matter with the government of Pakistan. It has stated that it looked after the

welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community." A Congress led UPA government's MEA accepts Pakistan's claims at face value. He claimed that since India does not endorse any religion, it cannot be seen as speaking for Hindus in Pakistan and claimed it was an "internal matter" of Pakistan.

There are norms of India granting long-term visas to Pakistani Hindus who have come to the country for the last over a decade. While successive Congress governments in India have allowed and encouraged illegal migration from Bangladesh and in fact have gone to the extent of granting them citizenship for vote bank considerations, they have turned a blind eye towards the plight of Hindus in Pakistan who are pleading for citizenship after being forced to migrate from Pakistan under threats, distress and have been left with no option.

According to Delhi's Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), there has been a rapid increase in the number of Hindus coming from Pakistan. Till mid-2011, it used to be around 8-10 families a month. But in the past 10 months, an estimated 400 families have come.

They are settling down all over India, in Rajasthan, Punjab and Gujarat. As they continue to be targeted in Pakistan more and more Pakistani Hindus and Sikhs are coming to India to save themselves from the atrocities back home. While the chorus grows for rehabilitating them, will the Indian Government hear their desperate appeal? ■

UPA's misgovernance, corruption makes life of people miserable

By Vikash Anand

In 2002, the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had proposed candidature of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam for the post of President, not because, he was an underperformer as a scientist, but because he performed well as a scientist. He made India an atomic power. His ascendency to the post of President marks the story of a successful man. Recently the man who could not do well in taming inflation and unable to control skyrocketing prices of goods was elevated to the post of President. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has left the people of India facing the unprecedented price rise. Mr. Mukherjee's economic policies have driven away investors and revived memories of the license raj. Infact the mess of the Indian economy tells the story of the present leadership crisis.

The man who is really to be blamed for this is Dr. Manmohan Singh. When Pranab Mukherjee left the Finance Ministry to contest the presidential election, PM Manmohan Singh vowed to revive 'animal spirit' in Indian economy. His exhortation was not different from his barefaced assurance which is being given at every quarter (while quarterly report of economy of India is released) to the

people of India, to tame inflation and skyrocketing prices in near future. Union Minister for Steel Shri, Beni Prasad Verma recently, said, "Dal,atta, rice and vegetables have become expensive. The more the prices,the better it is for farmers. I am happy with this inflation." Are increasing prices of fuel, fertilizer and other commodities not affecting farmers? The worst affected is the farmers than any other section of the society. Farmers have committed suicide due to burden of debt and rise in inputs cost. Price rise only helps middle man with whom the

Congress party is in hobnob. The farmers are selling their grains at very cheap cost, as they have to repay the loans to the money lenders. For most of the crops, farmers are bereft of the actual prices for their produce.

If we go through government data on wholesale price index from April 2004 (a month before UPA took the charge) to April 2012, we will find that the food prices have become more than double from 98 to 206.4. *Crisil* (A global analytical company providing ratings, research, and risk and policy advisory services) analyzed 60-odd items. They

found, there is just one case – ginger – where the price has decreased. In all other cases, there has been an increase. Within these commodities, there are only eight products – guava, coconut, garlic, papaya, onions, turmeric, tea and chicken – where the rise in prices is less than 63%. While protein-rich items such as milk, egg, meat and fish have seen prices more than double. It is vegetables that have caused the maximum dent to the monthly budget. This segment has seen a 171% jump. According to *Crisil* Research, if Indians spent Rs.3, 000 on monthly vegetable budget seven years ago; they would be now spending over Rs

| Year | Inflation Rate (annual) |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1998
(BJP led NDA assumed power) | 13.24 |
| 1999 | 4.658 |
| 2000 | 3.906 |
| 2001 | 3.671 |
| 2002 | 4.469 |
| 2003 | 3.713 |
| 2004
(Congress led UPA assumed power) | 3.891 |
| 2005 | 3.97 |
| 2006 | 6.268 |
| 2007 | 6.373 |
| 2008 | 8.349 |
| 2009 | 10.882 |
| 2010 | 11.989 |
| 2011 | 8.9 |

(Source: International Monetary Fund)

5,000.

The rise in prices of essential commodities is increasing day by day and spiraling prices have made the life of common man a curse. They find difficult to meet both ends need.

The Congress led UPA at Center raised petroleum prices 20 times during its 8-year tenure. Food prices are directly tied to fuel prices. If one compares the percentage change during NDA tenure and UPA tenure, the result will be astonishing. While there was just 48% rise in petrol prices during the NDA regime, UPA has earned the distinction of increasing petrol prices by about 120% since its inception. Petrol in Delhi is priced at Rs 68.48 Rs a litre, while the same in USA is priced at Rs 42.82 per litre. The price in India is more than any of its neighbours – Pakistan (Rs 41.81 a litre), Sri Lanka (Rs 50.30 per litre), Bangladesh (Rs 44.80 a litre) and Nepal (Rs 63.24 per litre). Other factors which have been responsible for price rise are: corruption scandal, misgovernance, indecisiveness of the political leadership, deficit financing, mismanaged of the food stocks, hoardings, sheer negligence on increasing speculation in commodity markets, rising taxes etc.

Corruption and scandals have become rampant in the UPA era. We find a peculiar situation that each scandal surpasses the other in size and brazenness. Recently the coal-gate scandal of Rs 1.84 crore came to the surface. It has left behind the 2G scandal of Rs.1.74 lakhs crore. These scandals increase the deficit financing (deficit financing means the expenditure excesses of current revenue and public

borrowing). It results in more supply of money in the economy but when increase in supply of money correspondence with less increase in the supply of goods and services (national output) there is rise in price of goods and services.

Last year, surplus production in rice and wheat was highlighted by the government as being a manifestation of successful agricultural production. In spite

of this, poor people have fallen prey to starvation as food grains are rotting in FCI godowns due to lack of proper storage facilities. The Congress led UPA's convenient excuse to explain price rise and economic crisis is external factors. But the truth is that its corruption and misgovernance that are the real factors of this debacle, under which common people have been suffered like they have never before. ■

Pakistan behind exodus of North-East



Fear-struck people of the North-East continued to flee Bangalore for the second day on 17 August 22, 2012 even as the Karnataka Government assured them of safety and launched confidence-building measures, including police patrolling in areas largely inhabited by them. Nearly 6,000 students of the N-E have fled Karnataka during the last two days. Similar exodus took place in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra. Threatening messages sent to North-East people that caused panic have been traced to Pakistan. This is the first time that such a trend has been observed. Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who held a high level meeting of Ministers and officials for taking all possible measures to protect the people of North-East. "We are committed to protect the people of North-East. We will provide all possible security to them. They need not fear. Bangalore is safe," he said while talking to media persons. Shettar announced a helpline and appointment of nodal officer to address issues concerning people from North-East. BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari termed it a war between India and the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants and not a war between minority classes. "The problem in Assam is not that of a religious or communal clash. It is the clash between India and anti-nationals. This is a war against anti-nationals, Pakistani terrorists and separatist groups who threatened the north-eastern community," he said. ■

Prime Minister is directly responsible in coal scam : Jaitley

From Our Correspondent

BJYM set out its Statewide *Yuva Sankalp Bike Rallies* from Indore at SuperCorridor to mark 150 years of Swami Vivekanand's birth. The beginning of rally was addressed by Leader of Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, National General Secretary & the State Prabhari Shri Anant Kumar, BJP Madhya Pradesh President Shri Prabhat Jha and other senior BJP leaders.

Addressing the rally Shri Jaitley said usually a party comes to power in any State because of the failures of the ruling party, but if a party is returned to power for a second term or a third term, it is because of the accomplishments of the party during its tenure. It is because the love and affection of the people it has gained and the good work it has done. The way Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP have won the hearts of the people of Madhya

Pradesh, a third consecutive term is a certainty, he added. He said, from 1993 to 2003 Congress ruled the State and after 2003 BJP got the opportunity to serve the State. When BJP took the reins from Congress, it was a *Bimaru* State.

ministry was under the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. So, PM can't escape to this moral responsibility. When 2G scam that cost the exchequer Rs 1,76,000 crore happened, it was said that then telecom minister A Raja



Its economy was worrisome. But BJP, during its nine years tenure, gave the State a new identity of development. Now, growth rate of Madhya Pradesh is 10 to 11%. Shri Jaitley claimed the 2G spectrum scandal was the biggest scandal of India. Now it was exceeded by new one Coalgate Scandal. When coal block had been allotted, then the

was responsible for it and Prime Minister might have had an indirect role in it. But in the Rs 1,86,000 crore coal scam, prime minister is directly responsible and therefore he has no right to remain in office even for a day. Today, youths of country want corruption-free-governance. In this situation people of country are looking with hopeful eyes

BJP set to replace CPI (M) as anti-Congress force in Kerala: Muralidhar Rao

From Our Correspondent

Bharatiya Janata Party National Secretary Shri P. Muralidhar Rao said that BJP is gearing up to replace the CPI(M) as the principal anti-Congress political force in Kerala. Speaking on the inaugural session of BJP's State Executive Committee meeting in Thiruvananthapuram on 12 August, 2012, he said, "The CPI(M) is no longer a sunrise

He said the State leadership of the Congress also enjoyed the patronage of the party command in promoting corruption.

Shri Rao, who is in charge of the BJP's Kerala affairs, said BJP was no longer a fringe player in the State. "The growing acceptability of the BJP is evident from our vote share in the recent Neyyatinkara by-election and the response to the membership

government was guilty of alienating tribal people by grabbing forest land.

Shri Muralidhar Rao said the failure of the Congress government to check infiltration by Muslim immigrants from Bangladesh and attempts to protect them as a vote bank had led to the recent violence in Assam.

Addressing the gathering BJP State President Shri V. Muraleedharan said that the Congress and the CPI(M) had covertly joined hands to perpetuate politics of violence and legitimize the encroachment of forest land in Kerala.

He said the weak charges filed against CPI(M) leader P. Jayarajan in the Shukkoor murder case indicated the covert understanding between the parties and the shadow war

intended to hoodwink the public. The understanding extended to the Nelliampathy issue, with both parties trying to shield the encroachments into forest land, he said.

BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal, former Union Minister Shri O. Rajagopal, BJP senior leaders Shri C.K. Padmanabhan, Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Shri P.K. Krishnadas and other office bearers were present on the occasion. ■



party. It is ageing and its frontiers are shifting from the national to the regional level."

Shri Rao said the Congress is communalizing the political situation and pandering to vote banks to capture power and cover up its failure to deliver good governance, both in Kerala and at the national level.

"It is misleading the minorities in Kerala and hobnobbing with bigoted elements working against national unity."

drive."

Accusing the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) of raising the unreasonable demand for an administrative secretariat in Malabar, he said the party was sowing the seeds of a two-nation theory. He said the attempt by organized minorities to extract disproportionate benefits was unacceptable and had ramifications for the unity of the country.

He alleged that the UDF

towards BJP. On the occasion Shri Jaitley appealed to the youths by following the ideals of Vivekananda they should become the flag bearers of good governance.

BJP General Secretary and incharge of State affairs Shri Ananth Kumar addressing the gathering said, "The Madhya Pradesh Government is moving on the path of development and the Chief Minister has emerged as *Jannayak*' (hero of the people). His energy serves as an inspiration for the youth." He advised the youth, Let you run fast and take oath at this Super Corridor to make the State super.

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on the occasion "The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government at the Centre is out to drown the country. We would not let that happen. To maintain the honesty in politics, more and more youth should join it."

State BJP President Shri Prabhat Jha said, "The BJYM is creating a new revolution in the history of Madhya Pradesh and the rally is a launching pad of this revolution." Through this *Yatra* message of Swami Vivekananda and Madhya Pradesh governments welfare programmes will be taken from village to village. He added 'Similar mega rallies would be held in Rewa (August 26), Ujjain (September 1), Jabalpur (September 2), Gwalior (September 9), Sagar (September 16) and Shahdol (September 30). The series of 'mega rallies' would conclude in Bhopal on the occasion of Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan's birth anniversary on October 11. ■

September 1-15, 2012 ○ 28

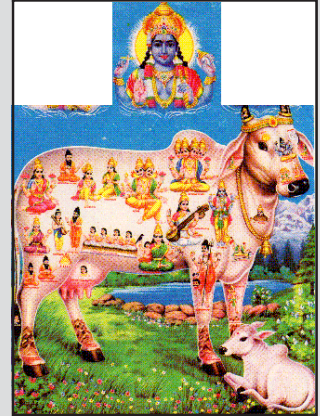
Govansh Cell Prashikshan Shivir held

BJP Govansh Cell organized its three-day (August 4, 5 and 6) Prashikshan Shivir in Vrindavan at Vatsalya Gram. The Shivir was inaugurated by BJP National General Secretary Shri J.P. Nada and Sadhvi Ritambhara.

BJP National General Secretary (organization) Shri Ram Lal said, on occasion, that the cow is backbone of Indian economy. Since ancient period cow has been symbol of culture, unity and religion.

On the occasion, Shri J.P. Nada discussed at length the history and evolution of Jansangh & BJP and the party's contribution to the nation. He said, if, today, Jammu & Kashmir is integral part of India, then it was only possible due to sacrifices of Jansangh President Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, the man who propounded the philosophy of 'integral humanism', made the Jansangh people's party. He also mentioned the achievement of BJP and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Speaking in the *Prashikshan Shivir* Sadhvi Rithambhara said that she had learned parental affection from *Gou Mata*.

On the occasion Shri Hridaynath Singh, Morcha/Cell National Co-ordinator Shri Mahendra Pandey, Training Cell convener Shri Alok Kumar, *Akhil Bhartiya Gou Raksha Pramukh* (All India cow protection Chief) Shri Omprakash and Co-Convenor of the training Cell Shri Om Prakash Pandey attended the *Prashikshan Shivir*. ■



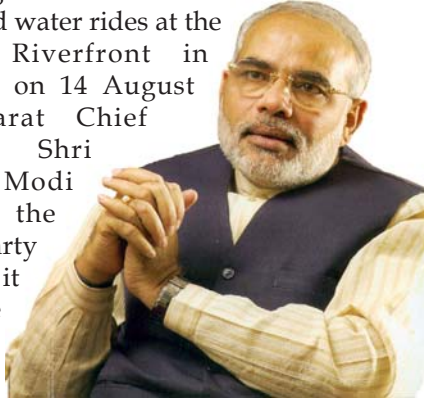
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determination and deportation of illegal foreigners. In IMDT, the State has to prove that the man concerned is a foreigner. When you have millions of people, how does the State prove that? The Supreme Court struck down this Act. So, go back to the Foreigners Act and start detection. I would urge the new Home Minister to please reject this approach. At times, I see the revival of Gopinath Bordoloi approach, and, at times I see the presence of that vote bank approach. Please have a clarity of thought process as to what is the approach. We expect from the minister how did the demographic character of Assam changed, is this social tension completely related to this demographic character which changed? Increase your relief in the camps. The border requires to be fenced. So, please fence the border and let us start this detection process. If you are willing to go back to the Congress Party's original stand, probably, India will be safer in your hands. ■

GUJARAT

If voted to power, Congress will take Gujarat back to 18th century: Narendra Modi

Speaking at the dedication of walkway and water rides at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad on 14 August 2012, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that if the Congress party had its way, it would take Gujarat back to the 18th



century. The Chief Minister reminded the people that even before the inauguration, the Sabarmati Riverfront has won several awards and accolades but that has not prevented those defaming Gujarat to go on and on with their sole agenda of defaming the state and its people.

Shri Modi shared that earlier the Sabarmati was full of slums and a den for all sorts of illegal activities. Thus, the Gujarat Government acted swiftly, along with plans for rehabilitation of the slum dwellers but that did not impress the Congress, which assumed the mantle of throwing bones during auspicious ‘Havans’ (religious ceremonies).

Shri Modi said that the Congress not only used the media but also went to the Courts over a dozen times and left no stone unturned to stall the Riverfront project. Even in the allocation of houses to the slum dwellers the Congress created all obstacles possible even arguing that the new houses being built were not fit to reside in, Shri Modi said. He further punctured the double standards of the Congress by saying that the Gujarat Congress may have opposed the project but HUDCO, which comes under the Centre, has awarded the initiatives of the project.

Shri Modi attributed such actions to the mentality of the Congress that always believed in throwing crumbs at the people for self-gains rather

than concrete development. He referred a Congress advertisement that says that we do not want roads, schools, industry merely half a ‘chapatti’ would suffice. He questioned this anti-development mindset of the Congress and exclaimed that the Congress has all the ingredients to take Gujarat back to the 18th century, as the audience applauded in endorsement.

Furthermore, the Chief Minister pointed out that what the Congress is saying in Gujarat is diametrically opposite to what the Prime Minister said on Independence Day questioning whether they are against the view of their own party leader and Prime Minister. He also asked the Prime Minister what happened to the Congress promises of bringing down prices in 100 days and generating more employment for the nation.

Lakhs of people were present on the occasion, who had come to enjoy the breathtaking landscape changes on the banks of the Sabarmati in Ahmedabad.

MADHYA PRADESH

Use of black money in polls root cause of corruption: Shivraj Singh Chouhan



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, “Use of black money in elections is the root cause of corruption.” Shri Chouhan also asked for a national debate on the issue.

Addressing a huge gathering at the Independence-Day functions at the Lal Parade Grounds in Bhopal, Shri Chouhan said, “The use of black money in contesting elections is the root cause of corruption in the country. And we go to the polls so frequently that precious time is lost and development processes are affected — whether

it is the Lok Sabha elections, Assembly polls, Panchayat polls or elections for Municipal bodies. Officers are always engaged in making arrangements for some polling or the other while *Netas* are busy in campaigning."

Shri Chouhan suggested that Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections should be held only once in five years. There should be a fixed tenure for elected governments in the state assembly.

"It is most important that state funding is done to meet election expenditures. The Election Commission should provide funds to political parties and take punitive action against those spending more than the allocated funds in elections," Shri Chouhan added.

The Chief Minister also announced that BJP would contest the next assembly elections in the state in November 2013 by funds collected from citizens and not with donations given by industrial houses. He said that BJP workers would go from door-to-door requesting citizens to contribute towards the BJP's election expenditure.

UTTAR PRADESH

BJP demands immediate arrest of miscreants behind violence in Lucknow : Lalji Tandon



Terming the violence in the State Capital Lucknow which witnessed the assault on media persons also, as a well hatched conspiracy to disturb the communal harmony, the state BJP has demanded the arrest of all the m i s c r e a n t s

immediately.

Addressing a press conference at the state party headquarter senior BJP leader and Lucknow MP Shri Lalji Tandon said that it came to the notice that large number of people having iron rods, swords, sticks and others weapons, have come out on roads and started targeting the innocent and passerby in the state capital and other cities in the

state on 17 August 2012.

Shri Tandon said, "The method of the attack shows that it was well thought of plan and basic aim of this evil design was to put Hindus and Muslims against each other ". Condemning the attack on media persons and common people, he said that those who have tried to create communal tension must be booked immediately.

Shri Tandon said it is the duty of the state government to ensure law and order and maintain communal harmony. He also called upon the intellectual to come forward to help in maintaining the culture of brotherhood which Lucknow has always manifested.

JHARKHAND

Women's employment need of hour : Arjun Munda



For the economic development of State the role of women is vital. With the help of Self Help Groups, they can be employed from their homes and can become self dependent, said Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda while addressing people online on the occasion of inauguration of Reeling and Spinning Centre and

Workshop for trained women in Ghatshila.

He said, "Under SJGSY, 525 women of 6 blocks from 21 SHGs are being benefited. Silk production from cocoon is a consumer based industry and is profitable like cash crops."

While emphasizing on the optimum contribution of local bodies in value addition, he said that all the local governing bodies should cooperate actively; only then organised development can be profitable.

He said, "The women benefited under the project earn Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 every month. JHARCRAFT is extending any help needed to provide proper market for them. Also every SHG has been provided required equipment free of cost. The remuneration will be directly deposited in their savings accounts by JHARCRAFT, he said". ■