

**BJP National Convention
Mumbai**

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Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Editorial Team

Amba Charan Vashishth
Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi
Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand

Design & Layout

Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini

Contact

Tel: +91(11) 23381428

Fax: +91(11) 23387887

For Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail address

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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कर्मजं बुद्धियुक्ता हि फलं त्यक्त्वा मनीषिणः ।

जन्मबन्धाविनिर्मुक्ताः पदं गच्छन्त्यनामयम् ॥

For wise men possessing an equipoised mind, renouncing the fruit of actions and freed from the shackles of birth, attain the blissful supreme state.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 2, Text 51

Editorial

**Do something for party before
expecting anything from it**

Working style, thinking style and lifestyle are significant in public life. These constitute something like the sacred triveni sangam. When one gets a chance to work and do something one should consider it an opportunity bestowed by divine will. A deft karyakarta should possess the qualities like capability, usefulness and acceptability. If one cannot make oneself useful to the organisation, he cannot continue in it.

The pertinent question remains: why are we in politics? What we intend to do in politics? The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that people now display more faith in padnishitha (love for office) than to the party's pancnishitha (five commandments). Padnishitha has become so dominant that politics today appears weak and vulnerable under its 'awesome' presence. This explains why Indian politics is getting so much weakened. One who is not otherwise capable is trying to acquire 'capability' simply by indulging in the technique of buttering. One who is not useful is projected as 'useful' to promote self interest. It has become fashionable to make the unacceptable to enjoy 'acceptability'. It is emerging as the inner (inherent) reality of a weak politician. The obsession is persevering "to look what I am not". This makes one lose even what is original in his self. People don't want to live in their original ways. The artificiality leads even to the loss of originality.

BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari has commenced the efforts to rescue party from this malaise. He believes in the philosophy of right choice, right place for right person. Initiative has been taken from the BJP ruled states. Chief ministers of six BJP ruled states, Deputy-chief ministers of two state governments in which BJP is an alliance partner, 67 ministers, 20 central and state level office-bearers were present in the two-day workshop on Good Governance organized in the Rambahu Mhalgi Prabodhini campus, Mumbai. Shri Nitin Gadkari presented his views in his inaugural speech. His views reflected the concerns of everyone. He dwelt on the pitiable condition that prevails today in an unethical political and social environment. He felt pained at the emergence of a phenomenon wherein the tendency is to get something out of politics instead of the will to contribute

Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.

--- US President John F. Kennedy

something for the politics and the people. He said that we never indulge in the politics of pressure and influence. We work putting our mind and heart in it. If I am not a *karyakartya* then what type of a president, a chief minister or a minister can I be. *Karyakartas* have huge responsibilities on their shoulders as they become the face of the party among the people. Even if they do not hold any post yet the responsibility of such *karyakartas* always remains enormous. I salute all such *karyakartas* who win the heart of the people through their good behaviour and conduct. In them lies the possibility of the expansion of party.

In his key note address in the workshop, Gujarat chief minister Shri Narendra Modi said that if our lives are spotless no one can stop us from achieving our goals. We become effective or ineffective because of our qualities. He said that our goal is to bring a smile on the face of the last man in the ladder of the society by working hard with indomitable spirit and courage. A good government always wishes to see its people smiling. People will smile only when the plans get implemented on the surface. It will happen only when the people responsible for implementation work with their blood and sweat. We have come in politics to serve the society. The rays of development should reach every home. Citing many examples he said that corruption is on its last breath in Gujarat. He said the people are always ready to welcome the cow yielding milk even if it kicks but the precondition is that the cow should give milk. Today's cows are only eating fodder but not yielding milk. He put the question: what kind of India do we want to build and how the dream for

such an India will be realized. He said building India of our dream will be realized by us. He said India has so far witnessed four types of rule viz. Nehruite Congress rule, Communist rule, Coalition rule and BJP rule. If we compare all the four, we come to the conclusion that BJP has given the best governance which remained sensitive to people's causes. Even NDTV surveys have declared BJP chief ministers at number one and two in performance. Shri Modi emphasized the need for governments to desist from the temptation of indulging in frequent transfer of officers. Can the same officers perform better if he were transferred somewhere else, he asked. If one doesn't know horse-riding, one should not blame the horse. He said that by having full faith in the party ideology we should continuously serve our motherland.

All the chief ministers gave details of the different projects being implemented in their states. A fruitful discussion took place on the coordination between organization and government. Everyone accepted that organization is the mother of the government. Therefore organization is supreme. The BJP national general secretary (organization) Shri Ram Lal narrated his experience of the last three years with regard to the organization and government.

In the concluding session, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj gave useful hints of the practical knowledge for chief ministers and ministers while being in public life. While touching upon some known and unknown facts she said that we cannot remain in politics ignoring human sensitivity. Others should like our activism. BJP national general

secretary Shri Ananth Kumar made a presentation of the expectations of *karyakartas* and the people from the party and our governments. He threw light on many issues including how to govern while being in government and how to become popular among the people.

The former Goa chief minister and convenor of the Party's Governance Cell Shri Manohar Parrikar took care of the delegates and made excellent arrangements for the workshop. A person who got his education in IIT and pursued his studies abroad was seen as a great example of a *karyakarta*. The workshop on Governance was a very successful experiment and experience. The environment was very good and it was praised by one and all everywhere. All the queries were answered to the satisfaction in the session earmarked for free discussion. The workshop will surely encourage the *karyakartas* towards more study and experience. The experiment to share experience between the organization and government will surely yield better results in future. There may be some shortcomings but continuity of such workshop will certainly lead to perfection. The aim is to move from good governance to better governance and finally to achieve the goals of excellent governance. BJP national general secretaries, Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, Shri Ravishankar Prasad, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and Shri JP Nadda were present in the workshop. Senior BJP leader Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhhe, national spokesperson Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman and national secretary Shri Bhupendra Yadav played important role in making this workshop a success. ■

Parliamentary Democracy alone can't ensure Good Governance : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

The Bharatiya Janata Party Chief Ministers and Ministers got together to discuss good governance in a two day 'Suraj Sankalp' National Convention on *Good Governance*, first of its kind exercise by any political party in India since independence began on June 05 2010 at the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Knowledge-Excellence Centre at Bhander near Mumbai. The event was attended by the BJP Chief Ministers in the presence of BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari.

As the best available system we need to strengthen it. This we can by taking a resolve to redefine the meaning of politics, refine our engagement with it, individually and collectively and, as a national political party.

He said it extends a platform where we will discuss strategies for better governance at different plenary sessions in the next two days & examine good governance from various angles such as bureaucracy, police, responsive administration, central & provincial security forces, corruption,



Inaugurating the two day convention Shri Nitin Gadkari said, "I would like to draw your kind attention to one of the most important tasks outlined in my presidential address to the BJP National Council meeting at Indore on February 18, 2010. I had promised to the party functionaries that based on our experience of government at the centre and in the states, we would conceptualise, propagate & implement an alternative model of development & governance. I am glad that we are meeting here today in less than four months for this purpose. Over the next two days we shall discuss the subject in detail and prepare a road map aimed at achieving our cherished goal of "SURAAJ" in a definite time frame."

He said it is apparent that parliamentary democracy alone does not ensure good governance.

health, agriculture & food, rural development, infrastructure, environment & forests, water management, energy & non-conventional energy sources, democracy, terrorism, human rights, public participation, legislature, decentralization, social justice, tribal welfare, women & child welfare, education & employment, universities & NGOs, etc. We should also examine the concerns for good governance at the Panchayat level & at the level of other civic bodies such as Zila Parishads, municipalities & municipal corporations. Consensus building, an important defining feature of good governance, should be considered as an effective lubricant in the process of decision making.

Shri Gadkari said in our Indian philosophy, Dharma (righteousness) is the foundation of good

governance, which immediately distinguishes it from the present materialistic repository of values. The test of Good Governance is to promote physical, social and spiritual development of the people. Governance is the manner to exercise authority, control and power of government in mobilising the society's economic and social resources to address the issues of public interest. Greek philosophers discussed the process through which societies could be organized to obtain the elusive 'good life.'

He said according to ancient Indian scholars, good governance is a comprehensive and ultimate solution to achieve the ideal state of bliss and overcome any crisis in administration. In south India, the UttaraMerur model of democracy which prevailed well before 900 AD is well documented. Regulations as administered by the village assembly on public works or judicial matters were inscribed on the walls of the gram sabha. Criteria for election/selection and disqualification of peoples representatives were clearly laid down - accepting bribes, misappropriating others' property were serious disqualifying clauses.

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari added that the Millennium Development Goals which guides the comity of nations today on attaining a universally accepted good quality of life are targets which most countries hope to attain within a time frame. Good governance is the process through which such targets can be achieved.

Importantly, good governance is enabled by the prevalence of the rule of law. Transparency marks the entire process of decision making and the process of implementing those decisions made. Both the process and the end result should be clearly inclusive in every sense of the word.

Some experts have described governance as the exercise of power or authority - political, economic, administrative or otherwise - to manage a country's resources and affairs. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences. Good governance means competent management of a country's resources and affairs in a manner that is transparent, accountable, equitable, participatory and responsive to people's needs, he said.

He further said it is worth recalling here that

we firmly believe that change can be brought about at a national level only when all sections of our society are awakened. In this process of building a well awakened society, the government has a big role to play.

*"Kaalo Vaa Kaaranam rajnah, Rajah Vaa
Kaalakaaranam,*

*Iti te samsayo maa aboot, raja kaalasya
kaaranam!! - Mahabharata*

In short, the ruler shapes his time. As the ruling party in states where we are elected to power the BJP has come up with innovative initiatives which are fulfilling the MDGs and standing out as replicable models in good governance.

The important elements of good governance such as predictability and foresight require visionary leadership. Governments should anticipate future needs and based on current data and trends must develop policies that take into account future costs. Governments must also effectively enforce all laws, regulations and codes without fear, favour or discrimination.

He said in the present Indian context, good governance is essential for sustainable development and for improving the welfare of the people. Wherever possible we should emphasise on e-governance as this will remove manipulations and improve efficiency.

He said, we are the largest democracy in the world. Our democratic institutions have functioned fairly well in the last sixty-three years, barring of course, the year long State of Emergency. There is rule of law and we have a vibrant media. The Indian Constitution, in its letter and spirit, provides for all the essential elements of good governance. Our priority, rightly, has been to introduce and boost welfare schemes. However, the absence of good delivery and the prevalence of petty and serious corruption have resulted in dissatisfaction in certain sections/regions of the country. Unlike some countries where development has suffered seriously due to excessive military influence, abuses of human rights and lack of accountability, the Indian track record on governance has not been dismal, but has wide scope for improvement. Even today, several of our elected representatives need to have greater sensitivity and appreciation of the norms of good governance. As a result, there is a long way to go to achieve our "Su-raj," Shri Gadkari said.

Good governance is good politics : Modi

Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat delivered the Keynote address on the opening day of the National Convention on *Good Governance*. During his hour-long speech he not only discussed the philosophy and the need for good governance but also spelt out action plan for achieving the same. Shri Narendra Modi said a good Government should function with the welfare of future generations in mind rather than the outcome of the next election.

Contrary to the prevailing notion that good governance is bad politics, in reality good governance is good politics, Shri Modi said at the Suraj Sankalp convention.

He added that mere governance was not enough as it had to be pro-active and pro-people. Good governance was putting people at the centre of development process, Shri Modi emphasized.

Dwelling on the issue of accountability, he said it should not be based merely on procedural audits but also on performance audits. One should not merely look at commission of errors but also at omission of duties, Shri Modi said about his concept of accountability.

The Gujarat Chief Minister further stated that Good governance actually goes beyond transparency in achieving openness. Openness means involving the stakeholders in decision-making process.

Citing the importance of transparency and public participation in governance, he pointed out that transparency is the right to information while openness is the right to participation.

Citing Gujarat's example of e-gram network connecting 18,000 villages online and the effective use of SMS during disasters as a way to exploit technology for the public good, he said such innovative steps could be emulated in other states too. "Technology has been put to effective use for good governance", he remarked.

Shri Modi also acknowledged the efforts of good governance by BJP governments, and mentioned the 'Ladli Laxmi' scheme in Madhya Pradesh, computerization of land records in Karnataka, pollution control steps in Himachal Pradesh and PDS reform in Chhattisgarh, as instances of good governance.

He further added that Government should concentrate on providing quality service rather than free service. People should be provided with options and should be informed of consequences of their choice to enable them to take informed decisions.

He also wondered what good had Children's Day done for kids. "Jawaharlal Nehru was said to be very fond of kids and his birthday has been christened as Children's Day. Kids called him 'Nehru Chacha' and it brings images of a benevolent Nehru flooding our minds. But what good has it done to the kids?"

Shri Modi asked on the occasion. He went on to compare Nehru with another former Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur

Resolution on good governance

At the conclusion of the two-day national convention in Mumbai on June 06 the Bharatiya Janata Party adopted a resolution emphasising "pro-active and pro-people good governance" in states under its rule.

The resolution was passed at the concluding day of the convention on good governance - "Su-raj Sankalp".

The resolution in detail dwells on rule of law, participatory democracy, consensus - not conflict, institutional reforms, accountability and transparency.

According to the resolution:

- The BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure governance with a difference, governance that is sensitive to the aspirations of all sections and strata of society, including minorities. Governance that would socially, politically and economically empower women, SCs and STS (the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes).
- The resolution added: "The BJP would strive for Saksham, Samridhdishali and Shaktishali (capable, prosperous and powerful) Bharat, a nation which can truly aspire to emerge as a superpower, a country with happy, contented people. In keeping with the philosophy of integral humanism, this Su-raj Sankalp (good governance resolve) reflects our determination to guarantee excellence in governance. ■"

Shastri. "Shastriji, unlike Nehru, was not a charismatic leader, yet his tenure saw India producing record food grains," he said.

Making her concluding remarks, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj urged the assembled delegates, including chief ministers of five of the six BJP-ruled states, to give attention to minor details, accord recognition and respect to the opposition in their respective states.

Illustrating her point, Smt. Swaraj explained how, when she was the health minister at the centre, she made it a habit to check out whenever any member of parliament was admitted to hospital and also send flowers.

Wherever the party is in power, it must also behave on similar lines as an example of good governance, she said.

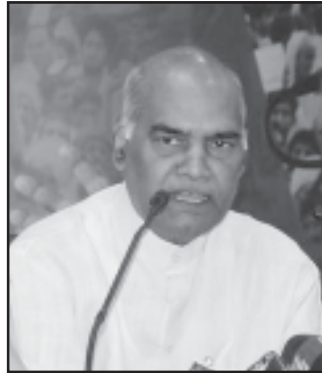
As many as 67 ministers, ministers of state from eight states six BJP ruled states and two where the party is an alliance partner took part in the convention.

Karnataka Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri P K Dhumal, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, BJP National Convener of Governance Cell Shri Manohar Parikar and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Modi were among those taking part in the event.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh could not make it as his father passed away on June 05. Besides the chief ministers of BJP ruled states, 20 office bearers and 40 central leaders attended the convention. ■

Atrocities on Balmiki Samaj expose Congress govt. in Haryana

*Press statement issued by BJP National Spokesman,
Shri Ramnath Kovind on June 01*



The Supreme Court's admonition to Haryana Government on the atrocities of Balmiki Samaj in Mirchpur Village of Distt. Hissar exposes administrative and constitutional failure of the state government. Mere expressing sympathy on the spot by Shri Rahul Gandhi and the Chief Minister and not doing anything to give them security and to arrange their rehabilitation shows gross failure of the Congress Government and

exposes its love for Dalits.

The Supreme Court taking cognizance of this serious incident on May 31, 2010 in which two people of Balmiki Community were burnt alive in an inhuman occurrence in Mirchpur village of Distt. Hissar of Haryana State and about 35 houses looted and burnt, directing the state government to present their case in the court on June 02, 2010. After the lapse of six weeks about 150 families, which have fled from their village, are still forced to live in Balmiki Mandir on Mandir Marg, New Delhi worried about their security.

Suffering families demand that in order to rehabilitate them, the government should immediately provide built up houses in Hissar city. But the state government has taken no decision on this issue so far.

After 10 days of this tragic event, Shri Rahul Gandhi and the Chief Minister went to the village on April 30 and announced the compensation for repairing their houses and employment for the families of diseased. But the victim families asked for the security of their life and property instead of accepting compensation. But the state government has not given guarantee of security to these families so far.

Shri Rahul Gandhi posed as the well-wisher of Dalits after meeting victim families and Smt. Sonia Gandhi discharged her responsibility after conveying sympathies towards victim families. Eventually, this all drama proved to be a sham. These suffering families are still finding themselves insecure. The state govt. has not taken any stringent action against the culprits. The BJP demands that Shri Rahul Gandhi should immediately stop the hypocrisy of love for Dalits and instead get adequate relief and rehabilitation for the victim families from the state government headed by Congress Party. ■

Congress 'Rajneeti', cut & paste

By Arun Jaitley

It is uncertain how well Prakash Jha's film Rajneeti will be received by the audience. However, the Congress Party doesn't seem to be pleased with the film in its original form. Besides the censor board and the appellate tribunal, a pre-censor viewing was undertaken by three representatives of the Congress party – Tom Vadakkan, Pankaj Sharma and Sanjeev Bhargava. The film was threatened with an "Adult" certification which would obviously have significantly reduced the commercial prospects of the film. It is only after the film-maker accepted the deletions suggested by the Congress party representatives that the film has been cleared with a "U/A" certification.

Moral policing has been rapped repeatedly by many in the electronic and print media. Curiously, crusaders against moral policing have mostly maintained an eloquent silence on political policing by the ruling party. This is not the first time that political policing has been undertaken when the interests of the first family of the Congress party is at stake. The White Paper on the Misuse of the Mass Media during the Internal Emergency



Moral policing has been rapped repeatedly by many in the electronic and print media. Curiously, crusaders against moral policing have mostly maintained an eloquent silence on political policing by the ruling party. This is not the first time that political policing has been undertaken when the interests of the first family of the Congress party is at stake. The White Paper on the Misuse of the Mass Media during the Internal Emergency published in 1977 by the Government of India, provides a list of such political censorship.

published in 1977 by the Government of India, provides a list of such political censorship. The film Aandhi was cleared in January, 1975. The Congress party believed that the leading

actress had a character similar to the then prime minister. Immediately, after the imposition of the Emergency, it was banned in July 1975. It was only when the producer agreed to cut out certain scenes from the film and restructure the story, that it was again cleared in March 1976. The film on Watergate titled All the President's Men was blocked by the government during the Emergency, and released only after the Congress Party was voted out of power in the Lok Sabha elections of 1977.

A film titled Kissa Kursi Ka, which was submitted for clearance to the censors during the Emergency, was destroyed by burning reels of the film – for which criminal prosecution was separately initiated.

The celebrity playback singer Kishore Kumar refused to sing at a Youth Congress Rally. All his songs were banned on All India Radio and Doordarshan. The White Paper states that "it was also decided that gramophone companies like HMV and Columbia were

asked to freeze all records of Kishore Kumar and no records of his songs should be sold. It was to be found that how BBC was playing Kishore Kumar's songs and under what contract

and what should be done to stop this. A list of films were also required to be obtained from the chairman, CBFC and steps taken to not release any of those films etc. It was required to be examined whether such films could be refused censor certificates”.

Kishore Kumar was not the only film celebrity to have faced censorship of this kind. Two of the tallest actors of that period, Dilip Kumar and Dev Anand, were asked to appear on television to carry out propaganda in favour of the Emergency. Dev Anand, in his recently published autobiography titled *Romancing with Life* recalls the episode: “When Dilip also hesitated to go to the TV centre to participate in any propaganda in favour of the Emergency, I vehemently and vociferously opposed the suggestion, with the result that not only were all my pictures banned from being screened on television, but also any mention of, or reference to, my name on any official media was forbidden, along with Kishore Kumar’s, who had also refused to go and sing in one of the programmes.

My conscience revolted at the dictatorial act, and I called the information and broadcasting minister in Delhi and sought an appointment with him. He received me very politely, and guessing the nature of business, brought up the subject of my non-cooperation with the government on his own.

‘What’s your problem?’ he asked.

‘I am seeking an answer in my disturbed mind,’ I said,

‘To what?’

‘To the state of affairs in our country?’

‘What do you mean?’

‘Are we living in a democracy or in a police state?’

‘A democracy’

‘Then why are these calls being sent to us? To appear on TV to propagate the Emergency?’

‘Isn’t it a good thing to speak for the government in power?’

‘Under compulsion?’

‘No, by your own sweet will.’

‘How can the government pressurise one’s ‘will’ into ‘sweetening’, if the ‘will’ thinks to the contrary?’

‘Don’t do it, if you don’t want to,’ he said after a pause.

‘That’s exactly why I sought this meeting, to tell the authorities that nothing should be forced on our conscience.’

‘I repeat – don’t do it.’

“Thank you, minister,” I said, and we parted ways cordially.

Back in Bombay, I met Nargis, who was very close to the Gandhi family, casually at a party. She started cajoling me into not going against the government circular of appearing on television whenever asked. ‘I don’t agree with your convictions!’ I told her. ‘You are being unnecessarily stubborn!’ she said, and we left that matter at that. But I knew I had become a marked man for the Sanjay Gandhi coterie” (P.255).

In the last few years, we have seen an effort to politicise the Election Commission through partisan appointments. The CBI has become a political tool. Parliament has recently expressed concern over both authorised and unauthorised telephone tapping. The Congress party now has become a national censor of what entertainment we will watch. I hope the list of aberrations does not continue to increase. ■

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



Fixed Tenure for Lok Sabha & Assemblies essential for political stability : Advani

Barack Obama was elected President of United States in November 2008. The Presidential Elections in the USA take place every four years. The next election is thus due in November 2012. The law lays down even the exact date of polls, when it says that the election shall be held "on the Tuesday after the first Monday of November". With this phraseology of the law, the earliest possible date is November 2, and the latest November 08. In November 2012, the first Monday falls on the 5th.

had an informal chat that day with Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I found both of them receptive to a proposal I have been advocating for quite some time: fixed term legislatures and simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls. The upshot would be: no uncertainty about the date of the five-yearly Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

In my brief chat with the two senior leaders of Government that day, I mentioned, that most European democracies have such an arrangement. Our

bit by bit."

Significantly, the media are viewing Clegg and the Liberal Democrats as revolutionaries.

In his proposals to reform Parliament, Clegg has advocated an elected House of Lords in which members will be elected by a proportional voting system. What is more relevant to the discussion I initiated with the Indian Prime Minister and the Leader of the Lok Sabha is a fixed term Lok Sabha and State legislatures and the elimination of uncertainty in so far as election dates are concerned. It would be worthwhile quoting Nick Clegg's speech of 19th May. This is what he said while advocating 'fixed-term parliaments'. He observed: "It's just wrong that governments can play politics with something as important as a general election; cynically picking the date to maximize their own advantage."

Clegg added emphatically: "So this Government has already set the date we think the next election should be : May 7, 2015. No matter who is where in the polls."

The Liberal leader drew attention to the criticism this proposal had invited from the Labour Party, some of whose leaders had described the fixed term parliament suggestion as outrageous. Clegg commented: "These critics are completely missing the point; this is a new right for Parliament, additional to the existing unchanged powers of no confidence. We're

...Continued on page 25



What is more relevant to the discussion I initiated with the Indian Prime Minister and the Leader of the Lok Sabha is a fixed term Lok Sabha and State legislatures and the elimination of uncertainty in so far as election dates are concerned.

So the election date in USA shall be November 6, 2012.

Can anything be said in the same way about the British elections? Ordinarily, No! But if the new coalition that has just assumed office has its way, YES! The next General Election in UK will take place on May 7, 2015. The new Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has already made this declaration.

Some months back, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had hosted a luncheon in honour of the Japanese Prime Minister. I remember that on the sidelines, I

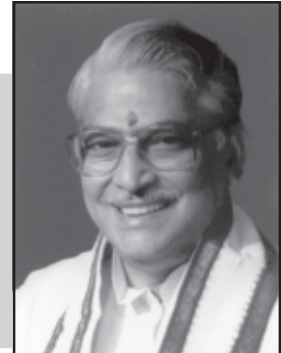
constitution makers adopted the British pattern and invested the Executive with the authority to cut short the term of the elected legislature and hold an early election. It is gratifying that Britain itself is now considering a change.

The new coalition government that has assumed office in U.K. this month has pledged itself to changing the earlier arrangement. Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's "New Politics" speech promises to undertake "big, sweeping changes", and "not incremental,

Globalisation deconstructed

By Murli Manohar Joshi

The world cannot be called truly globalised if it is global in terms of trade and commerce and science and technology while cultures and civilisations are in perpetual conflict. For a truly global world, trade and commerce, science and technology, cultures and civilisations and the environment should be in harmony.



Globalisation is an attractive word. It evokes in us a noble sentiment of one world and of humankind as one race born of one common Mother Earth. It raises in us a dream of the ideal of human unity and universal fraternity. But when we closely examine the current phenomenon of globalisation we find that the globality is the globality of market forces with cut throat competition, increasing disparities both among nations and within the nations and the hegemony of dominant and rich nations. There is no manifestation of global consciousness in which unity and oneness predominate.

Widespread terrorism and religious fundamentalism pose serious challenges to the very existence of the cultural diversities. The market forces, instead of harmonising the conflicts, further deepen the schisms and propagate the cult of violence as opposed to the culture of dialogue, reason and thought.

I have often argued that the world cannot be called as truly globalised if it is global in terms of trade and commerce and

science and technology while cultures and civilisations are in perpetual conflict. For a truly global world, trade and commerce, science and technology, cultures and civilisations and the environment should remain in harmony. I reiterate this point once again. If humankind has to survive then the idea that there is an inherent and perpetual clash of civilisations, which is central to the responses of nations and communities in dealing with each other, must be rejected.

A world order based on a clash of civilisations will never allow for resolution of conflicts. For enduring world peace and harmony we need a new paradigm and a new world order based on a free and frank dialogue among civilisations conducive for the making of a global culture.

Globalisation, as we all know, has economic roots and socio-political consequences, but it also affects culture. While globalisation tends to bind economies, people and communities generally tend to maintain their distinct cultural identities. Thus there arises a

conflict between economic integration and cultural separatism. For creating a global culture, we must discuss the interaction between globalisation and culture and its consequences. Also whether or not under the present state and direction of globalisation it is possible to have a global culture in its real sense.

First, about globalisation. In the early-1990s, globalisation was greeted by many countries – both developed and developing. It was widely circulated and also expected that globalisation will very soon bring prosperity to all. But by December 1999, a major protest took place in Seattle. This was a surprise and shock to the advocates of free and open markets. Then followed protests in Europe, the United States and also in several developing countries. These protesting groups rejected the argument that, ultimately globalisation would make everybody economically better off. Joseph Stiglitz, in his seminal work *Globalisation And Its Discontents*, has given a detailed account of what globalisation has done to the developing

countries. He writes, "Globalisation today is not working. It is not working for many of the world's poor. It is not working for much of the environment. It is not working for the stability of the global economy."

The World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalisation (2001) established by the International Labour Organisation says, "The current process of globalisation in generating unbalanced outcomes, both between and among countries.

In Africa the percentage of the population living in abject poverty has gone up from 42 per cent to 47 per cent. Recently, the Latin America and Russia have also voiced their disappointment about globalisation. Markets were opened but globalisation did not deliver especially to the poor."

Mr James D Wolfensohn, as president of the World Bank, in his speech to the Board of Governors in September 2003, lamented that the world was out of balance.

For this the fundamental forces shaping the world and causing this imbalance must be addressed. Mr Wolfensohn further argued that in this world of six billion people, one billion own 80 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product while another billion struggle to survive on less than a dollar a day. This is a world out of balance.

What are the implications of this imbalance? There may be growth but a very large number of people are denied any benefit

of growth. They may be worse off. Trickle-down economics, which promises that with growth, benefits will percolate down, has been shown to be wrong.

According to the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, 59 per cent of the world's people were living in countries with growing inequality. Even in most of the developed countries, the rich were getting richer while the

Culture is a dynamic entity. It evolves and continuously interacts with all aspects of life. Culture has been and is even now used to maintain cohesion and ensure an orderly march of civilisation to seek even higher goals. Goals material, intellectual and spiritual.

poor were often not even holding their own.

The one billion richest of the world's population live in several countries. Some of them live in the developing world as well. This one billion shares similar attitudes, visions and life values. In a sense, globalisation tends to produce two cultures, one of haves and the other of have-nots. The impact of globalisation on culture gives rise to several other issues.

Some of them are:

- ◆ Increasing poverty of billions of people denies them the opportunities for making any meaningful contribution to the march of civilisation and cultural advancement.
- ◆ Globalisation has serious political consequences. Market forces are inimical to

democracy. The huge expenses required for funding the elections, rising influence of a criminal economy, compromise by political leaders with corruption are all indications of market dominating the democratic process. This will ultimately lead to the establishment of market dictatorship. As Jacques Attali has discussed, a lumpen market without any institutional deterrent will replace democracy.

- ◆ The economic system pressed upon the developing countries in the process of globalisation has in many cases resulted in grave injuries to their economy and even culture. It, in many cases, has largely been responsible for the Americanisation of their culture, economy, life values and other socio-political institutions. Globalisation thus threatens cultural pluralism and tends to impose value systems purely determined by market forces.
- ◆ Globalisation leads to migration and in many cases has resulted in producing cultural faultlines between the host country and the migrants.

Now, about culture. What is culture? Culture can be defined as the total pattern of behaviour of a society reflected in speech, action, value systems, practices, and the way it defines its relationship among its members, the environment and other societies. Culture and the world view of a society are deeply interrelated and constantly interact.

In defining the world view, religion and philosophy plays a prominent role. And civilisation ordinarily means the state of civic society: How it is organised,

governed, educated and how it infuses knowledge in all aspects of life. It is an evolved state of society engaged in continuous improvement of the quality of human life. It is culture which provides the value system to the society and thus shapes the intersocietal relationships. Culture and religion thus play a major role in shaping the human behaviour and progress of a society.

Culture is a dynamic entity. It evolves and continuously interacts with all aspects of life. Culture has been and is even now used to maintain cohesion and ensure an orderly march of civilisation to seek even higher goals. Goals material, intellectual and spiritual. But sadly enough, history is replete with incidents where politicians, religious leaders and intellectuals on various occasions have used culture and religion to justify barbarism and warfare. Cultural conflicts sometimes erupt in prolonged wars. There are many examples where ethnic animosities alongwith religious differences have created war-like situations. In such cases, democracy and development both receive serious setbacks.

Cultures evolve and their impact on contemporary societies play an important role in shaping their politics and economy. For example, Islamic culture explains why democracy could not take root in several Islamic countries while in India democratic politics has been enshrined in its Constitution and is working successfully. ...■

(The writer is chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and a senior leader of the BJP.)

Sharad Pawar should step down : BJP

The main Opposition party, BJP, on June 04 demanded the resignation of Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar and his daughter and NCP MP Supriya Sule after their fresh revelations about their shareholding in a Pune-based construction company that made an bid for an IPL team.

The BJP asked the Prime

Surprisingly Pawar denied the allegations, re-iterating that his family was not involved in the bidding and the Citi Corporation's managing director Aniruddha Deshpande had done so in his individual capacity. BJP on the other hand refused to buy Pawar's argument.

The tender document was



INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE Controversy

purchased a n d bidding was done in the name of C i t i Corporation. To say that Deshpande did it in h i s individual capacity

Minister to take stern action against Sarad Pawar if he doesn't step down on his own.

The BJP said Pawar 'misled' the nation about 'his involvement in the IPL and 'misrepresented' facts by claiming earlier that his family was not involved in the bidding. "This is rank misrepresentation of facts by a senior minister of the Government of India. He must resign forthwith.

If Sharad Pawar does not resign, we demand that the Prime Minister take stern action against him," said BJP chief spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad.

doesn't hold water. According to company law, either you are a corporation or an individual shareholder. All these are lame excuses and bogus arguments, Shri Prasad said. He also reiterated the BJP's demand for a JPC probe into the entire IPL controversy.

Pawar is a senior minister. He is expected to maintain transparency in his public declarations," Shri Prasad said referring to the Union minister's earlier assertion that his family was not involved in any IPL venture. His conscience is not that clear. So he must stepdown, Shri Prasad said. ■(FOC)

Stop commodities trading : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

BJP National president Shri Nitin Gadkari has demanded the Congress led UPA Government at the centre must immediately take essential commodities out of commodities exchange and futures trading as it has become a source of manipulation by speculators and profiteers at a huge cost to the common man and the poor.

Shri Gadkari, who arrived in Hyderabad on his first visit after taking over the reigns of the party, told a Press conference on June 06, "The least this Government can do is to take essential commodities out of the commodities exchange. I have been demanding this for the past four months. The Prime Minister also agreed but nothing has been done so far."

Criticising the UPA regime, he said, "Wrong economic policies and bad governance by the UPA Government is responsible for this economic mess and high inflation."

Shri Gadkari focussed on the economic situation and the price rise and he gave the example of potato farmers to illustrate how the commodities exchange had become an instrument for manipulation and speculation. In 2009, total turnover of the potato at commodity exchange was 40 lakh tonne but the actual delivery was only 7000 tonne. That means 99.82 per cent of the trade was mere speculation on paper," he said. Total turnover of the exchange was Rs 10,88,224 crore while actual delivery was merely of Rs 3,591 crore. The balance Rs 10,84,633 crore was in speculation, Shri Gadkari added. While potato farmers were paid Rs 2 to Rs 4 per kg and the retail price of potato in October-November last year was Rs 20 to Rs 24 in metro cities, he added, the question the UPA Government should answer is who benefited from this? The corporates and MNCs?

Shri Gadkari held the Congress-led Government responsible for the situation, pointing that essential commodities were shifted to future/forward markets in 2004. The artificial turnover pushed up prices of food items, he added.

Referring to the admission of the Central

Government about rotting of foodgrain worth Rs 58,000 crore, Shri Nitin Gadkari demanded an inquiry into the scam. He alleged that rotten wheat was being sold to the liquor lobby at a throwaway price of Rs 3 per kg when the poor were dying of hunger.

Shri Gadkari said the first year of the Congress-led UPA Government's second term in office has been a total failure. It has been a period of dismal performance on all fronts. It's singular achievement



has been unabated price rise, enhanced inflation, unending hardships to the common man, more farmers' suicides & mounting urban & rural unemployment.

He said the ruling Congress party had promised to resolve the Price Rise issue in 100 days but the prices of several commodities have gone up by 100%. The inflation is once again in double digit & the food Inflation is hovering between 17-20%. There is a negative agricultural growth.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, on the eve of completion of first year of his second term, admitted on 24th May 2010, that:

- 'Prices continue to be a matter of deep concern. The government attaches highest priority to containing inflation so that there is no distress to the common man'.
- He, however, did not talk about the Increasing poverty, widening disparities

and farmers' suicides.

Congress President & UPA Chairperson, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi & Dr Manmohan Singh released the UPA's Report card on 29th May, which admitted that:

- "One of the major problems that we face at present is the pressure on prices". We will continue to monitor the situation very carefully, and take whatever corrective steps are necessary to rein in inflation," Singh said. He hinted at a selective ban on exports and future trading in food grains.

Unveiling the reality Shri Gadkari said the Union Government has claimed 7.4% GDP growth for the year 2009-10. Ironically, agriculture growth has remained just 0.2% during the same period. Electricity, Fertilizer, Seeds & Diesel etc. prices have shot up drastically.

- Water is a major issue facing the country today. The highly potential and much needed River Linking Project of BJP-NDA Govt. has been shelved by the Congress Govt.
- In Southern India, the issue of water and rivers has remained unresolved.
- Hardly any attention has been paid to the formation of South India River Grid, interlinking southern Indian rivers- Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Cauveri & Penar.
- The demands for

construction of major/minor dams & other irrigation schemes are still pending.

- The agriculture growth in India is 0.2% while in Gujarat it is 14%. Andhra Pradesh Govt. should learn the lesson from Gujarat.
- Top priority should be given to agro-infrastructure & benefit of growth should percolate down to the poorest of poor people.

The BJP Demands:

- Top priority to agro-economy.
- Proper Fund allocation for Agriculture Development & Agriculture Infrastructure.
- Water & River projects should be taken up on war footings.
- Proper management of food grains & horticulture storage
- Full-fledged Storage Plan for next 25 years

- Storage ownership to the Kisan with:-
- 50% Government subsidy.
- 45% finance at 4% rate of interest per annum.
- 5% contribution from the farmers.

Failure of Andhra Govt:

BJP national President Shri Nitin Gadkari said the Congress Govt. has also completed its first year of the second term in Andhra Pradesh. It is a picture of chaos on all fronts. Naxalism is spreading. The political leadership of the ruling Congress party is sharply divided on all major issues.

He said the State Government is trying to withdraw welfare schemes like Fee reimbursement, scholarships to BC, EBC, SC, ST & minorities, PHC 2009-10 - 20 lakh students Rs. 1,800 Crores pending due. Withdrawal of 50% seats in IIT for ruralbased students. No Funds for Arogyashree , Indiramma Houses, Rajeev Gruha Kalpa & Pensions, Pavala Vaddi to women SHG. ■

R PRASAD



The Backbencher

By Pratap Bhanu Mehta

The UPA's report card reveals its listlessness and shrunken ambitions

UPA-II is giving the distinct impression of being listless. It is more a government that is riding on past achievements, some good luck and insipid opposition, than on creativity, sense of purpose and administrative authority. While the Indian economy is showing signs of a good recovery, that ought to introduce a sense of urgency rather than of complacency. To put it bluntly: if we cannot put in place measures to fix some of our most fundamental challenges, while the economic and demographic circumstances are propitious, we will be in deep trouble a decade or so from now. But the UPA is giving every indication that it is

postponing tackling major challenges, on the Narasimha Rao theory of Indian governance: that if you sit on a problem long enough it will eventually go away. Worse still, it is presiding over a manifest deterioration in institutional capacity in some respects.

One of the abiding curiosities of the UPA's own narrative is that the single most important item that the prime minister promised in its first term,

administrative reform, has completely dropped off the radar. We cannot live off the laurels of the RTI Act as a measure of administrative reform for ever. While some areas of government have improved, the administrative rot is now eating away at the sovereign functions of the state. We may be able to make the writ of the state run by deploying the army and

The premises that frame the UPA's report card reveal its shrunken horizons. It has no sense of how its action and performance fit into a larger vision. For a government entering the second year of a second term, the benchmark of performance cannot be a scheme here and a scheme there. The country is marching on. But the biggest failure of the UPA is that we still have the sneaking suspicion that it is doing so despite the government, not because of it.

paramilitary forces in the short run; we may even be able to do some development projects. But it is wishful thinking to suppose that a state can function without a well-functioning police force. Even though it is a state subject, it is no exaggeration to say that the UPA must bear some responsibility for the rapid deterioration in our effective policing capacities, one that is going to haunt us in the near future.

Second, even in subjects over which the UPA is claiming sanctimonious monopoly, the social sector, its record is — with the exception of the NREGA — selling stale goods. The right to education bill was a normative landmark. But the bill was yesterday's battle. Ironically, the bill was enacted in a year where enrolment has crossed 100 per cent. Our future challenges are

retention and quality, two issues the bill explicitly militates against. Higher education is an area central to future job growth and wealth creation. But despite high-profile promises and a raft of bills, there is no evidence of any will to tackle the fundamental problems of this sector. The bills introduced in

Parliament are a combination of wishful thinking, symbolic gestures and punitive measures. They do not address real problems. On food security, the government has been pusillanimous. States like Tamil Nadu, which universalised the PDS, or Chhattisgarh, which has introduced novel tracking systems are far ahead of what the government is promising. And there is something odd about claiming to be concerned

about food security, but letting the ministry of agriculture work the way it does. Its management of inflation has probably neutralised welfare gains. What the UPA is frittering away is an opportunity to think of a new welfare architecture.

Third, in infrastructure and energy the government's performance has been tepid. The JNNURM has certainly put more money into projects in cities; our buses are better looking than they were. But in terms of its two fundamental objectives it has largely failed. First, it has not brought about serious reform in urban governance. Second, it is not even remotely close to catalysing a form of urbanisation that is sustainable, inclusive and with access to the kinds of services cities need. Again, states are responsible for much of what happens to water. But the Central government cannot escape complicity in the fact that our strategy for water use and preservation is fundamentally flawed.

On the energy front, arguably the single most important element in India's growth story going ahead, there has been relatively little movement. The commitment to create different climate and energy missions has been just that: a commitment to create missions. Our failure on a robust energy strategy gives the lie to two of the government's core commitments. How can we even dream of inclusive economic growth, if states like Bihar have barely a few hours of electricity a day? Second, it gives a lie to the government's commitment to position India as a leading edge technology power.

On most economic issues, it is taking the easy way out. If we have a fiscal deficit, don't worry. We can always sell PSU stakes and spectrum to balance books. Subsidy reform was promised, then disappeared from the agenda, ostensibly till every Indian has a unique ID.

But perhaps most importantly, the UPA is generating immense political unease. To be fair, the UPA's big success has been that minorities are less anxious. But its management of political conflict again nails the hollowness of its claims on inclusive growth. Will the Northeast have development if Manipur is blockaded for weeks? Will Jharkhand have development if trains cannot run at night? Is Andhra threatening to slide back on its recent economic gains, because the Congress has managed to generate colossal uncertainty? The government's ability to manage avoidable conflict is turning out to be shockingly low and speaks of a lack of political judgment and commitment.

But there is a deeper bad taste being left by its performance that consistently reminds its supporters why they

had come to fear the Congress. Its commitment to the health of institutions remains questionable. While the first family may conduct themselves with dignity, the culture of second-guessing, inarticulacy, and lack of forthrightness in the culture of the party is enervating. Also, the UPA may have a modernist and forward-looking veneer, but it is too easily tempted to casually flirt with identity politics. It is being too complacent in its belief that the state can continue to frame policy in terms of caste and religion, without it generating a reactionary backlash.

The premises that frame the UPA's report card reveal its shrunken horizons. It has no sense of how its action and performance fit into a larger vision. For a government entering the second year of a second term, the benchmark of performance cannot be a scheme here and a scheme there. The country is marching on. But the biggest failure of the UPA is that we still have the sneaking suspicion that it is doing so despite the government, not because of it. ■

*The writer is president, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi
(Courtesy: The Indian Express)*

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## BJP did well in West Bengal Municipal elections

The BJP pocketed three seats in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation election and put up a decent show in the civic polls. "While Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharje appealed for BJP votes Mamata Banerjee claimed our party was helping the CPM. Under this twin attack, BJP has done well," said BJP west Bengal state General Secretary Shri Shamik Bhattacharya, adding that the vote share of the BJP has also increased. (FOC)



# Horrors of Emergency still haunt us

By Amba Charan Vashishth

Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. That is true of the dark days of the Emergency that was clamped on the Indian democracy by the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975. More than half the population of India today was born after the mature electorate of India had through the exercise of its right to franchise voted out of office the tyrannical regime of

Mrs. Gandhi and mighty Congress to usher in a new dawn of freedom out of the dark night of the emergency. This generation has not gone through the horror and pain of those 19 months and, therefore, does not know how tyrannical and horrifying the emergency was. To some, a reminder of the days of Emergency looks an unnecessary chant. Yet, it is necessary to recall and be

vigilant to see that the sun of democracy never gets eclipsed once again under any circumstances.

The imposition of emergency was the culmination of the arrogance that crept into the minds of the rulers who seemed to have been intoxicated by the massive mandate the people in 1977 had given to the Congress party then led by Smt. Indira Gandhi. Her drum-beaters had gone to the extent of declaring: India is Indira and Indira is India. This went to the head of the leader who with a bloated ego could brook no dissent and exercise the right to freedom of expression. She took her word as the final dictate of law.

Faced with the economic crisis of 1973 when prices went skyrocketing beyond control at an abnormal speed every week and shortage of essential commodities mounting, discontentment rising among masses who were fed and misled by the empty slogan of "gharibi hatao", the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi tried to rule the country not in a democratic manner as per the mandate and will of the people, but with an iron hand using the rod of fear and terror. She brooked no opposition to her and could not relish any dissent. For her opposition became not a vital organ of democracy but enemy of the nation. In fact, the ruling party equated the interests of the nation with those of the Congress Party and Mrs. Gandhi and

## Dictatorial tendencies surfacing even now

The dictatorial tendencies reminiscent of the notorious and dreaded Emergency and even of the period before independence under the alien rule under British are raising their head even now.

A widely circulated Urdu daily *Alsafa*, published from Srinagar, according to a *Hindustan Times* report on June 02, was sealed and banned by the authorities after the newspaper lampooned Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee President Sai-ud-Din Soz and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi in a photo caption in its Sunday edition.

This is perhaps, for the first time, since the British left, with the exception of 1975 Emergency reign, that such a dictatorial and undemocratic action has been taken against a newspaper.

The Congress has taken exception to the just released film *Rajneeti* forcing the producer to undertake some cuts in the film.

Earlier, a film on late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was forced to be shelved because the story did not satisfy to the ruling dynasty's whims.

In a similar trouble is Javier Moro's biography of Smt. Sonia Gandhi titled *El Saro Rojo* originally written in Spanish language and already translated and published in Italian, French and Dutch languages, now that it is being published in English.

Interestingly, it is the same Congress leaders who had been beating their chests red in support of the freedom of expression of painter M. F. Hussain who painted Bharatmata and Hindu goddesses in the nude. It looks, for our Congress brothers, their leader Smt. Gandhi is holier than Bharatmata and Indian goddesses. (ACV)

anybody opposing both of them was branded as agents of foreign elements inimical to the country.

It was during those years that Smt. Indira Gandhi started calling for the need for a 'committed' bureaucracy and judiciary.

Many patriots, democrats and journalists dared to oppose the dictatorial tendencies surfacing in the ruling party and the family. Loknayak Jaiprakash Narain gave the call for "total revolution" which attracted the youth and intelligentsia of the country. Two Congress governments, one in Gujarat and Bihar, crumbled under the weight of people's wrath.

But the lightning point erupted when the Allahabad High Court set aside Smt. Indira Gandhi's election to the Lok Sabha on charges of corrupt practices as per the law then prevailing. It was a prick into her ego and she could not put up with a judge displaying the audacity to challenge her and find fault with what she had done. Despite an outward show of strength and defiance, Smt. Gandhi stood rattled and shaken from within. She could find no safe escape from her predicament.

Dictators have faith in none, not even in their staunchest supporters. That proved true of Smt. Gandhi too. There were suggestions that she should step down as prime minister and put in place a chosen confidante who should keep the seat warm for her to return after she manages to get the Allahabad High Court

judgement set aside. But she could confide and have confidence in none. It was perhaps at that time that, for the first time, she regretted not having groomed a successor from within her own family.

Loknayak Jaiprakash Narain organized an unprecedented rally in Delhi drawn from people all over the country demanding Mrs. Indira

***On the night of June 25, 1975 Mrs. Indira Gandhi proclaimed a state of Emergency in the country, suspended fundamental rights and some other provisions of the Constitution. She put behind bars thousands of leaders, political workers and journalists under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). Loknayak Jaiprakash Narain, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L. K. Advani, Shri George Fernandes, Shri Ram Dhan, even dissident Congress leaders like Shri Chandrashekar, and many others were put in jails on that very night.***

Gandhi's resignation as prime minister in view of the Allahabad High Court judgement. To counter it, she organized another rally of her supporters to present a façade of her clout among the people. This proved to be a prelude to her designs to impose Emergency in the country.

On the night of June 25, 1975

Mrs. Indira Gandhi proclaimed a state of Emergency in the country, suspended fundamental rights and some other provisions of the Constitution. She put behind bars thousands of leaders, political workers and journalists under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA). Loknayak Jaiprakash Narain, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L. K. Advani, Shri George Fernandes, Shri Ram Dhan, even dissident Congress leaders like Shri Chandrashekar, and many others were put in jails on that very night. Such was the scare of Emergency that people would refuse to admit that they were blood relations of the detained leaders, because whoever claimed to be so, was too sent behind bars.

Censorship was imposed on the Press and radio. People could read only what was said in praise of emergency, Mrs. Gandhi and Congress by various people. The people were fed on false propaganda of people supporting the Emergency. A comment by Bhoodan leader late Shri Vinoba Bhave was quoted out of context claiming that he had hailed emergency as "a festival of discipline" and hoardings displaying Vinobaji's words were displayed at prominent places all over the country.

The only source of authentic information to the people about goings-on in the country was the foreign radio stations like the BBC and Voice of America. BBC gained greater credibility. If a

news was heard on the BBC, the people took it as authentic.

The most sickening part was the judiciary and the media. The judiciary failed to stand up to play its constitutional role. The media, as Shri Lal Krishna Advani once said, during the Emergency crawled when they were expected to bend.

The Parliament became just a body of persons too impatient to raise their hands in support of whatever measure the ruling party brought in the house. The Opposition benches were then almost empty with their leaders behind bars. The parliamentarians then failed to serve the people who had elected them. Instead, they became subservient to put a stamp of approval for the tyrannies that were perpetrated during emergency.

The worst was the bureaucracy which crawled into submission reminiscent of the pre-independence days, too willing to do anything at their masters' bidding just to satiate the latter's whims. The then President of India, Shri Fakhurdin Ali Ahmad, was too willing to sign anything on the dotted line ignoring the spirit of the Constitution of which he was the custodian and protector. That was why a cartoonist painted him signing an ordinance sitting in a bathing tub and asking his secretary to ask Mrs. Gandhi to wait for a few minutes more if she has any more proclamations to get signed by him.

The world over Indian people who refused to stand up to the dictatorial regime were derided. Indians were compared to moving corpses.

The Emergency was a reign

of terror. People were put in jails, persecuted without any warrant of arrest. Innumerable atrocities were perpetrated on innocent citizens who uttered anything against the Congress party or its rulers. Many young men did wage a crusade against the draconian rule underground. They were physically and inhumanly tortured if caught hold of any time.

Then commenced another

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series of tortures of innocent people in the name of compulsory sterilisation. Elder people above sixty, young men below twenty, some of them not having been married even, were subjected to forced sterilization.

Many political leaders put behind were subjected to inhuman torture and persecution. Medical aid was denied to many who needed it badly. Some leaders died in the four walls of jail without proper medical treatment.

Loknayak Jaiprakash Narain was denied proper medical facilities and treatment. As a result he lost both his kidneys.

Smt. Gandhi did try to prevail upon many leaders, like

Jaiprakash Narain, to come to terms with her. With the exception of a very few, no leader struck a compromise with the dictatorial regime of Smt. Gandhi.

Ultimately, fed with false reports by intelligence agencies that Congress under Smt. Indira Gandhi would sweep the polls, in January 1977 Smt. Gandhi ordered elections to Parliament while censorship on media was

lifted and political leaders released. Under the inspiration of the Loknayak, Janata Party was formed with the merger of the Socialist Party, Swatantra Party, Congress (O), Bharatiya Jana Sangh and others. Unitedly the Janata Party fought elections to Lok Sabha and won a convincing victory with the dirty men of Emergency including Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Sanjay Gandhi, Bansi Lal, and others defeated by the people.

A first-ever non-Congress government led by Shri Morarjee Desai was formed in March 1977. The Janata Party victory was hailed the world over as a Second Revolution and a proof of the maturity of the Indian electorate. ■

# Prime Minister is conspicuously silent on critical issues

By Ravi Shankar Prasad

We cannot ignore the fact that now Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has entered the seventh year as the Prime Minister of India. Proper growth of infrastructure sector is critical for development and it is indeed surprising that the Prime Minister in his press conference was conspicuously silent or, evasive on critical issues relating to this sector. The country expected the Prime Minister to outline his strategies for accelerating growth in this sector, how he proposes to remove the bottlenecks and bring about clarity on issues so that the country is made aware of the roadmap. Nothing like this happened and it was an utter disappointment to see the Prime Minister not touching these issues at all. The BJP wishes to highlight the critical gaps in some of the crucial areas pertaining to infrastructure and other relevant sectors.

Power Sector

The entire power sector is in a real mess. The generation is going down and in adjoining Gurgaon in and around the millennium city which houses the office of so many MNCs there is power cut for 10-12 hours every day and that too hardly 10-15 km away from Delhi. In fact, the PMO itself is aware of the highly unsatisfactory performance of the Power Ministry. The copy of the internal



note dated 30.6.09 prepared by the Director in the PMO and approved at the level of the Principal Secretary (copy whereof was procured under the RTI) clearly shows that the PMO took a very grim view of the performance of the Power Ministry. Some of the comments made in the note are as follows:

- a. The five year period 1998-2003 (during NDA regime) saw Ministry of Power play a pivotal role in the reforms process culminating in the bipartisan support for the Electricity Act 2003. The subsequent five years (UPA regime) can only be called "a half decade of missed opportunities" the reforms impetus was virtually abandoned.
- b. Having conspicuously failed to add even 50% of the target capacity of 44,000 mw in the Tenth Plan, the leaders of the sectors, pitched for an absurdly high target of 78,000 mw in the Eleventh.
- c. Put together the power sector under performed. In

fact persistent shortfalls on account of electricity generation held back our GDP growth.

The country expected the Prime Minister to come out with his roadmap about improving and clearing the mess in the power sector but there was complete silence.

## The National Highway Projects (The Road Sector)

It is too well known that the National Highway Projects, one of the greatest success stories of the NDA Government came to a halt during the entire tenure of UPA I when the Minister Mr. T.R. Balu ran the department in a whimsical manner. There were allegation of corruption and nepotism and five Chairman of NHAI (national Highway Authority of India) were changed in two years leading to adverse comments also from Courts. During the NDA regime 11 km of road was being constructed everyday. The new Minister in UPA II Mr. Kamal Nath boastfully declared that now under his leadership 20 km of road would be constructed per day but the target was rarely completed and the old style of interference, ad-hoc decisions, not always on transparent considerations came to the fore.

Now, the Planning Commission has revised the target from 20 km per day to mere 6 km per day which was decided some time last week. Mr. Kamal

Nath said that the Planning Commission was indulging into jugglery of statistics. However, it is evident that two authorities of the same Government were speaking in different voices. It was expected from the Prime Minister to clarify things to remove the uncertainty into such a critical area of infrastructure but he chose to remain silent again. Agriculture Sector

The agriculture sector constitutes nearly 17% of the GDP but nearly 70% of the population is covered and dependent upon this sector. The inflationary impact is already being felt very seriously on this sector. Agriculture income is going down seriously and the projection for the year 2009-10 to be released shortly in all likelihood is going to project a minus rate of 0.2%. It was expected from the Prime Minister to speak about the glaring problems of this sector and unveil his own plan for this sector because agriculture growth is essential for real growth with equity. This was all the more necessary for the seer mess and gross mismanagement of the food economy which we have seen and the resultant price rise has made the life miserable for the common man.

Confusion about the exact no. of BPL families

This is another area where confusion and uncertainty looms large. The knowledge of the exact no. of BPL families is crucial to a whole range of social development programmes including Food Security. As per the Planning Commission 27.3% of the rural household are below the poverty line. The expert group headed by N C Saxena was

appointed by the Government to conduct a survey and come with exact no. of BPL house holds eligible for the Ministry of Rural Development Scheme. Based up on calorie intake this committee estimated that 50% of rural household are living below the poverty line. Another expert group, The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector headed

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by Arjun Sen Gupta found that 77% of the population lived on less than Rs.20/- a day therefore this should be the basis for the BPL. The Suresh Tendulkar Committee concluded that 37.2% of the countries population is below the poverty line. It is to be recalled that United Nations Development Index has placed India at a rank of 132 even below Bhutan. The Global hunger Index of the International Food

Policy Research has placed at the 65th position from amongst 88 developing countries.

It was very important for the Prime Minister to clarify as to by which report the Government are going because apart from the above uncertainties many State Governments themselves have come with their own version of BPL and extreme BPL for the Antyodaya Ann Yojna. Obviously, any notion of food security would be meaningless unless there is clarity about the exact no. of BPL families.

The mess of Air India

The Air transport constitutes a very important area of infrastructure. It is now evidently clear that under the UPA we have seen the demise of the Air India. In the Year 2007 the merger of Indian Airlines and Air India was done and based up on the reports of the consultant we were told that the new merged entity would make a saving of 500 crores every year. Leave aside any turn around after merger the accumulated loss of Air India to stands at Rs. 7200/- crores and is likely to become Rs. 10,000/- crores by the next year. Should not some one take responsibility for this mess more particularly when the entire Airlines sector is showing signs of recovery?

The above are critical areas of infrastructure and growth. It was expected from the Prime Minister to explain the critical gaps in these areas but he chose to remain either silent or evasive. The second press conference of Dr. Manmohan Singh during the last six years of the UPA Government was indeed an utter disappointment. ■

*(The writer is a BJP National General Secretary)*

# Punish Afzal, hang him

By Joginder Singh

When I was in service, I once required some advice on an important file, or one that at least appeared important to me. I had a very convivial relationship with my supervisor, a pleasant fellow who believed more in gossiping, tossing papers back and forth and socialising than getting his hands dirty. After sending him a number of reminders on the matter, I at last sought an appointment with him to discuss the file. He received me with great cordiality and offered me excellent hospitality, all on Government expense as was the practice in those times.

In the course of our conversation, I tried to broach the subject which required his attention. But whenever I did so, he would digress or completely change the topic of the discussion. I finally spoke up and asked him I wanted his decision on the specific matter. He smiled, patted me on the back, and said: "You are young and enthusiastic." Then he ceased altogether to speak on the subject.

I was adamant. There was no reason why he would not help me in a work-related concern, or so I surmised. Hence I coaxed him to throw some light on my problem. This is what he said in reply: There are two categories of files at work – those that helped you pass office time in framing and making aimless queries and others that merited more serious attention.

The particular file I was referring to – "woh man laganiwali file hai (it needs serious work)".

I had been under the impression that only some bureaucrats play the game of passing files up and down the corridor. I have been proved wrong since on this count for even the best of politicians play this game. They play it, of course, with more skill and deftness of manoeuvre, under the impression that public memory is short and with passage of time, instead of taking a decision, sweeping everything under the carpet would be the best course of action.

The Government of India has behaved in exactly the same manner as far as the clemency petition filed by Mohammad

Afzal, also known as Afzal Guru, convicted of conspiracy and sentenced to death in the December 13, 2001 terrorist attack case on Parliament House is concerned. It had sent the representation of the convict to Delhi Government for its views four years ago and followed it up with 16 reminders.

On August 4, 2005, the Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence of Afzal Guru. The sentence was scheduled to be carried out on October 20, 2006. The Delhi Government attempted to wash its hands of the matter, saying that the implications on law and order needed to be kept in mind in case Afzal Guru was hanged. Thus the game of passing the buck began and continued.

Law and order in Delhi is a Central subject, directly under the control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs which is in the best position to know what is happening in the country and in Delhi as all the intelligence agencies are answerable to it. Afzal Guru has been held guilty of assisting a strike that left seven members of the security forces and Parliament staff dead. He has committed a heinous crime against the nation. Hence his execution has a symbolic value.

It is essential to send forth a message that nobody can engage in acts of terrorism against the country and its institutions and expect to get away with them. Had the terrorist strike

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Those familiar with the British Parliament's history may recall that a Catholic rebel by the name of Guy Fawkes had tried to blow up the House of Lords in 1605. He was apprehended and executed. Till this day, November 5 is observed in England as Guy Fawkes Day to commemorate the failed Gunpowder Plot.

succeeded, many of our elected representatives would have died a gruesome death. In addition, throughout the world India would have been viewed as a nation unequipped and incapable of defending its own

hold a referendum to get the opinion of every Indian on the matter for the nature of the crime is such that no court in the world would award a lesser sentence for it. Yet every conceivable excuse has been used to avoid

in essence, a set of basic rights offering protection to victims of crime.

Under Article 161 of the Indian Constitution, the power of pardon is vested with the Governor of each State. On September 15, 2008, the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu ordered the premature release of 1,405 life convicts, including 22 women, to mark the birth centenary of DMK founder and former Chief Minister CN Annadurai.

Almost the same with slight variations in names and places is being repeated all over the country. What is the point of vacillating in the guise of procedure in the case of Afzal Guru that has been keeping 53 other prisoners on death row on tenterhooks regarding their fate?

Hence a prompt decision is in order. But the Government must remember that it cannot avoid the consequences of its decision. The results of deficient punishment can be serious at a time when Maoists and terrorists have a free run of the country. ■

(Courtesy: *The Pioneer*)

The separatists and so-called human rights supporters in Kashmir may have jumped onto the anti-capital punishment bandwagon, but the claim that his hanging might trigger riots in Delhi or elsewhere is a shabby excuse. At this rate, even Ajmal Amir Kasab, the 'Butcher of Mumbai', can dodge the gallows for decades.

Parliament House.

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On the one hand, the Prime Minister speaks of zero tolerance towards terrorism while, on the other, the Government keeps discovering fresh excuses to desist from doing what should have been done four years ago. Even the Quran, of which Kasab is ostensibly a believer, permits exact and equivalent retribution. The present case has gone through the entire legal process. The Government may like to

carrying out the sentence.

In our country, any crime right from the smallest like pick-pocketing and traffic offences are regarded to have been committed against the state. As the laws stand, the victim or his heirs have little or no involvement in the process of bringing the wrongdoer or law-breaker to justice. A number of legal experts and committees, including the Justice Malimath Committee, have, therefore, argued for recognition of the victim's rights. But as such, there has been no victims' Bill of rights which is,

Continued from page 11...

not taking away parliament's right to throw out government; we're taking away government's right to throw out parliament."

U.K's is a unitary constitution. Ours is federal. We have one federal legislature, the Union Parliament, and 28 State Legislatures, some of them bicameral. **The provisions that provide for midway dissolution either by the President or by the Governor has resulted in a situation wherein elections are not held every five years as contemplated by our constitution makers, and as were actually held in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 - that is for the first two decades after independence. After that, almost every alternate year we have been witnessing a General Election, or a mini General Election.**

This is not good for the health either of our Central and State governments, or of our polity. Let us seriously rethink about it.

(Courtesy: *Blog.lkadvani.in*)

We'll cut red tape, roll out red carpet for investors in Karnataka : Yeddyurappa

From Our Correspondent

More than 3,000 investors from India and overseas gathered at the inaugural event of the two-day Global Investors Meet, organised by the Karnataka government in Bangalore on June 03.

Addressing a galaxy of global investors, Karnataka Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa called on them to invest in Karnataka. "I invite you to share our vision for 2020 and join our mission to build a prosperous Karnataka. We have a dream to make the State a favourite investment destination in the country and become a model State globally," said Shri Yeddyurappa.

"We want to make Karnataka to be peaceful, progressive and prosperous. A State where every farmer or worker leads a life of dignity and respect and where every entrepreneur will have many ventures to start small, but grow big, with opportunities for everyone to dream and realise that dream," he added.

Addressing global investors, top industrialists, entrepreneurs, policy-makers and officials at the inaugural session of the second Global Investors Meet (GIM 2010), Shri Yeddyurappa said the objective was to achieve equitable development, covering all sections of people and regions. Shri Yeddyurappa said the government had offered more



than 100 infrastructure projects in the State to private companies, including 18 industrial estates spread over an area ranging from 30 acres to 2,500 acres. He said the government's decision-making process had been put on "the fast track." "We will cut the

K'taka attracts Rs 4 lakh cr investment proposals

The Karnataka Government has reason to cheer. The two-day Global Investors Meet (GIM) held in Bangalore has garnered investment proposals worth four lakh crore rupees, covering 353 Memoranda of Understanding signed between the state and various industrial houses. The proposals signed are set to generate employment to 8.6 lakh persons in the coming years. Announcing this in at a press conference in Bangalore on the concluding day of the event, Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa described the meet as "unprecedented" and a "trend setter" in the country. "We have signed a record number of 353 MoUs bringing in investment proposals worth four lakh crore rupees. The total employment potential is a record 8.65 lakh. This is simply beyond our expectations", Shri Yeddyurappa said.

Shri Yeddyurappa said the investors' meet had generated so much of interest that during the last one week the Government received 56 new projects with an envisaged investment of Rs 78,395 crore. "We are going to consider all these projects in the next high level committee meeting to be held in the month of June 2010 itself", he said. The Chief Minister also informed that the banks had shown interest in financing these proposals.

Terming the event as a "grand success", Shri Yeddyurappa said a cabinet sub-committee, headed by him had been constituted to sanction additional special incentives on a case-to-case basis depending on the quantum of investment.

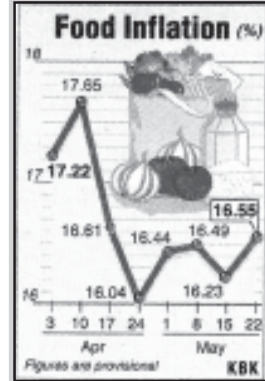
red tape and roll out the red carpet for investors," he said.

Addressing the elite gathering in the Global Investors meet, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley, who spoke about Karnataka's advantages in terms of a huge network of educational institutions, trained manpower and "reasonable infrastructure". He said now, the challenge is to convert the envisaged investment into reality, he added.

Shri Jaitley said "Investments will result in profits, but profits need not be looked down upon, as they used to be till a few years ago." Shri Jaitley said Karnataka is rapidly progressing during the rule of BJP and this huge global meet will provide enormous opportunity to the state government to expedite the process of development in the state. Shri Subodh Kant Sahai, Union Minister for Food Processing, urged other States to emulate Karnataka. Shri Veerappa Moily, Union Minister for Law and Justice, said the event "is a great opportunity for investors because it comes just as the world is embarking on a recovery." Shri Lakshmi N. Mittal, chairman and CEO of Arcelor Mittal, said, "Since the onset of the global recession, developing countries, especially in the BRIC nations, are on the fast track, while the industrialised countries have slowed down." Strong domestic demand has provided greater stability of these economies, he remarked. Shri Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, said the "progressive attitude" of the Karnataka government and its provision of concessions and incentives had helped industry.

Shri Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro Ltd, said the Karnataka government "should be more aggressive in drawing investments in manufacturing." ■

Pulses, milk push food inflation to 16.55%



Adding to the common man's worries further, the high prices of pulses, milk and fruits, inflated the Wholesale Price Index to 16.55 per cent for the week ended May 22.

Prices of pulses, shot up by 30.84 per cent, that of milk by 21.12 per cent, fruits 13.7 per cent and vegetables 1.34 per cent. Among other food items, rice and wheat turned costlier by 7.30 per cent and 3.07 per cent respectively.

The overall inflation for April, that includes food and manufactured goods, stood at 9.59 per cent, moderating slightly from 9.90 per cent in March. ■

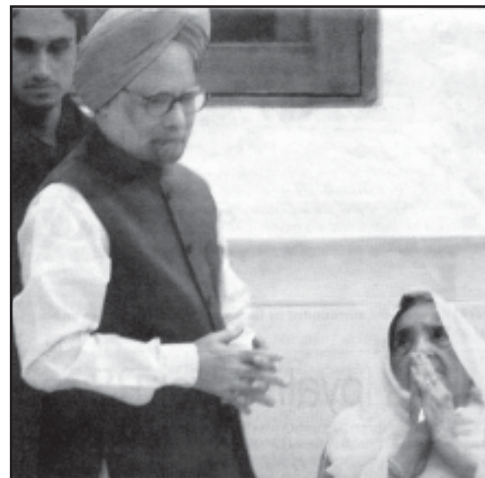
Glowing tributes paid to Bhairon Singh Shekhawatji

Vice-President Shri Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, VHP leader Giriraj Kishore and NDA convener Shri Sharad Yadav were among several leaders who paid floral tributes on June 02 to former Vice-President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who died in Jaipur on May 15.

Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar, Union Ministers Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Shri Farooq Abdullah and Shri CP Joshi were among others present at the condolence meeting.

Hon'ble President Smt. Pratibha Patil's husband Shri Devi Singh Shekhawat was also present.

Others who attended the prayer meeting included Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit, former Delhi CM Shri Madan Lal Khurana, BJP leader Shri SS Ahluwalia, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje, INLD chief Shri Om Prakash Chautala, Congress leader Shri Karan Singh. (FOC) ■



Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh offering condolences

UTTAR PRADESH

Income of BSP leaders has gone up manifold during Maya rule : HN Dixit

State BJP spokesperson Shri Hriday Narayan Dixit on May 28 said that the ruling BSP was making huge profits while the income of commoner was shrinking and the latter was also exposed to extortion by criminals patronized by the government and BSP leaders.

He said the situation in Uttar Pradesh during the BSP rule was running out of bounds as engineers of various government agencies were left with no other option but to stage dharna demanding safety and peaceful work atmosphere. During a high-level meeting of *Udyog Bandhu*, various entrepreneurs complained about the realization of goonda tax, he pointed out.

Shri Dixit further revealed that the three-year tenure of Sushri Mayawati led BSP government has been a testimony to illegitimate realization of money from government servants and traders.

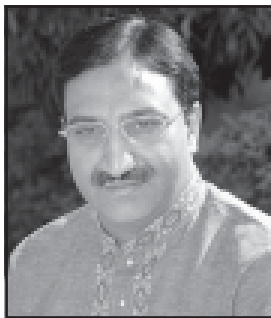
Shri Dixit said that an agitation by more than 14000 engineers was a clear pointer to the alarming situation prevalent in the state.

Similar was the case in other government service sectors. The per capita income of BSP leaders has gone up manifold while the common man has been struggling. In fact, the value of everything, except the life of a common man, has gone up, Shri Dixit said.

UTTARAKHAND

Nishank demands more power for the State

Facing a severe power crisis, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank urged the Centre to release more electricity to the State and also transfer 25 per cent power from the 1000-MW Tehri project, being given to Uttar Pradesh & Delhi



to meet its growing demand for electricity. Shri Nishank, who met Union Power Minister in New

Delhi said that besides industrial growth in the State, events like the Kumbh Mela and now *Char Dham Yatra* have added to the demand for electricity in the State, while Uttarakhand's own generation has declined due to lesser water in reservoirs in power plants.

He said, "It is a peculiar situation. On the one hand power demand in the State has been increasing as we have to meet aspirations of both industry and domestic households. Power is being generated in Uttarakhand but on the other hand it is being used by other States. For instance, the Tehri project is giving power to Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. We have asked the Centre to transfer Uttar Pradesh's share from the Tehri project to us. At the time of formation of Uttarakhand it was decided that all physical assets would also be transferred to the new State. Therefore, getting full share of power from the Tehri project is our right and I have raised this demand before the Centre," he explained.

He further said, "Similarly, the profit from the project was being given to Uttar Pradesh, which is unfair. We have asked the Union Power Minister to ensure that over Rs.71 crore that has been given to Uttar Pradesh so far should be transferred to us. We have also sought the remaining Rs.58 crore from the Centre for the rehabilitation of those displaced due to the Tehri project," he added.

BIHAR

Prosecution proceedings launched against 45,000 criminals is an achievement

Interacting with media persons during the fourth stage of 'Vishwas Yatra' in eastern Bihar, Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar on May 31 said the BJP-JD(U) coalition NDA government in Bihar has prosecuted 45,000 criminals in its four-and-a half year term. As a result of the speedy trial of criminal cases put in place by the government, the crime rate in Bihar has significantly abated over the years, he said. This was achieved by setting up additional trial courts for speedy prosecution of criminals to restore the law and order situation, the Chief Minister told.

Criticising the RJD for bringing disrepute to Bihar as a haven of criminals during its rule, he said: "The people were gripped with fear of criminals and anti-social elements. The NDA

government ensured that the law breakers fear the law and law enforcement agencies in the State.”

Shri Kumar, who was in the fourth stage of ‘Vishwas Yatra’, visited the ancestral house of eminent litterateur Phanishwar Nath Renu and met his kin. In a token tribute to the late writer, he announced to upgrade a middle school in the village as high school. He also reviewed implementation of various development works and welfare measures for the weaker sections.

ODISHA

Naveen Patnaik sitting on a heap of corruption : Jual Oram

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik’s image is no longer transparent; it has rather become most corrupt, said BJP State president Shri Jual Oram on May 23. Unleashing a scathing attack on the Chief Minister, Shri Oram said that Patnaik is sitting on a heap of corruption



but is continuing to enjoy power. The *maha durniti* (great scam) relating to mining has surpassed all previous scams with a huge amount to the tune of Rs 3 lakh crore being involved in it, he added.

Questioning the Chief Minister’s moral right to remain in power, Shri Oram said that Patnaik had in the past removed his Ministers on the charges of much lesser instances of corruption in which even chargesheets could not be filed in the later stage. Patnaik has been evading a CBI inquiry into the mining scam as his Government is afraid of it, he said.

Shri Oram once again reiterated his allegation that Patnaik has links with the Maoists and there is a secret deal between the ruling BJD and Opposition Congress in the state, for which the BJD government has been soft towards the ultras. This has resulted in Maoist menace spreading to as many as 19 districts of State from the earlier three.

He further said that the State Government has been adopting coercive methods to show favours to the MNCs. He cited the examples of eviction of tribals at Kalinga Nagar and the proposed POSCO

project area. The Government is unmoved about the issue of farmers’ suicide. About 100 distressed farmers have ended their lives, which had never occurred in the State, he said.

The Odisha BJP president said that the Naveen Patnaik Government could not utilise Central funds, as a result of which huge amounts of unutilised money have been surrendered.

ASSAM

BJP against talks with ULFA sans Barua

Assam unit of BJP opposed talks with the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) minus self-styled Commander-in-Chief of the outfit Padesh Barua. The party called for involving all top ULFA leaders, including Barua, in the talk process.

Assam BJP president Shri Ranjit Dutta told journalists on June 01 that BJP was opposed to the State Cabinet decision to start the talk process with the ULFA even without Barua. For finding a permanent and effective solution to the issue, it was important that all top leaders of the outfit participated in the dialogue.

Shri Dutta urged the government to expedite the talk process with all insurgent outfits, including the ULFA, in the manner in which the people of Assam wanted it.

He also clarified that the electoral tie-up between the AGP and the BJP would continue for the 2011 Assembly polls too. He said the BJP had drawn up plans to strengthen the party in 80 Assembly constituencies. It would launch a series of agitation programmes in June and July against alleged failure of the State government to curb price rise, increase in electricity tariff and various other issues.

KERALA

CPI(M) killer squad attacks BJP workers Two killed in Kannur

Murderous violence erupted again in Kannur district of Kerala, when two BJP workers were brutally murdered, allegedly by a Marxist killer squad, at Cherukallayi, New Mahe on May 28. Assailants first hurled bombs at the BJP workers, while they were traveling on a motorbike, and

then hacked them to death, the police said. The suspected CPI(M) killer squad attacked BJP workers Vijith (29) and Sinoj (29) at about 11.00 am, when they were returning to their home village, East Palloor.

According to the police, three men in masks had attacked the two young BJP workers while they were going to East Palloor. They tried to take shelter in a furniture shop nearby, it is said, but the gang followed them and hacked them to death. While one died on the spot, the other succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital. Police said the assailants were yet to be identified.

The BJP, which held the CPI(M) responsible for the killings, called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Kannur district and the adjacent Mahe enclave of Pudukkottai on the next day to protest against the incident.

State BJP president Shri V Muraleedharan said the killings were part of the CPI(M)'s efforts to divert public attention from internal problems in that party. "There is no other reason for such violence in New Mahe where no tension prevailed," he said.

DELHI

BJP demands CBI probe as Govt. favours hike in power tariffs

Accusing the Delhi Congress Government of being "hand-in-glove" with power distribution companies for favouring hike in power tariffs, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijendra Gupta on June 03 demanded a CBI probe into the issue and 20 per cent reduction in prevailing rates. The Delhi Government on May 4 had forced Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) not to announce the tariff order, apparently coming under pressure from the three private power distribution companies, which had complained that their demand for increasing power tariff have not been considered by the regulator while finalizing the new tariff structure. "It is a planned and concerted effort to loot the hard-earned money of Delhiites to ensure undue profit for the private electric partners," Shri Vijendra Gupta said at a Press conference.

The DERC, which was making last minute preparations to announce the new tariff for the

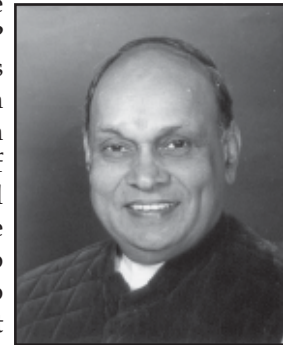
year 2010-11, had indicated that it had planned to cut down the tariff by 20 to 25 per cent as discoms would have a surplus of around Rs 4,000 crore if the existing tariff was not tinkered with. The Government had issued the directive to the DERC exercising a special power under the Delhi Electricity Act.

Demanding a CBI inquiry into the matter, Shri Gupta said, "The data available on the DERC website says BSES Yamuna and BSES Rajdhani made over Rs 157.32 crore and Rs 319 crore profits respectively. Where is the loss that they are demanding a hike."

HIMACHAL PRADESH

State to develop organic tea gardens, says Dhumal

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal on June 01 announced that BJP Government was developing organic tea gardens to revive tea industry for the benefit of common man in the hill State and said the Government was also making efforts to popularise and patent Kangra tea, known for its quality flavour, besides motivating the tea producers to expand their tea gardens to get maximum yield.



Prof. Dhumal said besides rejuvenating the abandoned tea gardens for the benefit of poor farmers of the state the Government in association with the Tea Board of India will also explore tea cultivation possibilities in Chamba and Mandi districts where climatic conditions are conducive for tea cultivation.

He said to revive the tea industry in Kangra, the central government has also decided to set up the regional office of the Tea Board of India in Palampur. Horticulture experts say tea production in Kangra has seen a massive fall in the past 15 years as only small producers with an average holding of around 0.6 acres are engaged in tea plantation. ■