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Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

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Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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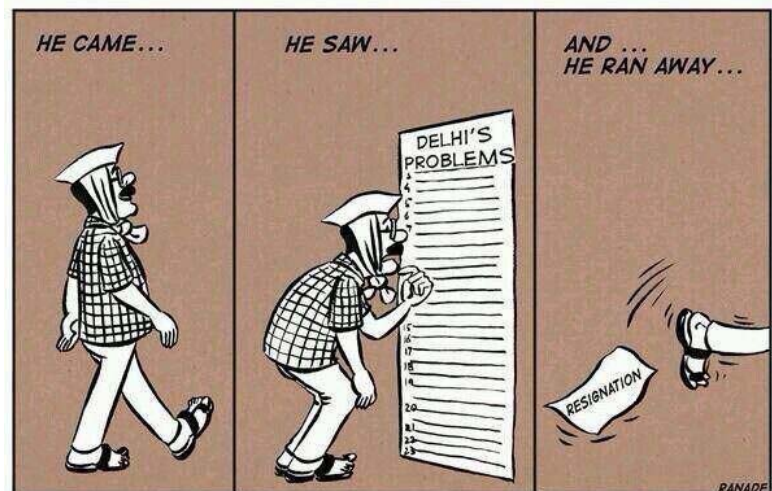
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All that is served in a well water is better served by a vast lake; similarly all the purpose in all Vedic scriptures are realized to he who knows the Ultimate Truth.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 46)

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“UPA's budget is an attempt to gloss over its economic failures.”

-Rajnath Singh

“2014 is not about victory or defeat. It is about ensuring a bright future for our nation & sowing the seeds of a 'Bhavya' & 'Divya' Bharat!”

-Narendra Modi

“They(Congress) say that the black out of Lok Sabha was due to a 'technical glitch'. No. It was a tactical glitch.”

-Sushma Swaraj

Holi : March 17, 2014

Holi is an ancient Hindu festival with its cultural rituals. It is celebrated at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar month Phalguna (February/March), (Phalgun Purnima), which usually falls in March, sometimes in late February. It is mentioned in the Puranas, Dasakumara Charita, and by the poet Kâlidâsa during the 4th century reign of Chandragupta II. The celebration of Holi is also mentioned in the 7th-century Sanskrit drama, Ratnavali. The festival of Holi caught the fascination of European traders and British colonial staff by the 17th century. Days before the festival people start gathering wood and combustible materials



for the bonfire in parks, community centers, near temples and other open spaces. On top of the pyre is an effigy to signify Holika (Holika dahan) who tricked Prahalad into the fire. Inside homes, people stock up on colour pigments, food, party drinks and festive seasonal foods such as gujiya, mathri, malpuas and other regional delicacies. Children and youth spray coloured powder solutions (Gulal) at each other, laugh and celebrate, while elders tend to smear dry coloured powder (Abir) on each other's face.

The festival has many purposes. First and foremost, it celebrates the beginning of the new season, spring. In 17th century literature, it was identified as a festival that celebrated agriculture, commemorated good spring harvests and the fertile land. Hindus believe it is a time of enjoying spring's abundant colours and saying farewell to winter.

Holi festivities mark the beginning of new year to many Hindus, as well as a justification to reset and renew ruptured relationships, end conflicts and accumulated emotional impurities from past. Like Holika Dahan, Kama Dahanam is celebrated in some parts of India. The festival of colours in these parts is called Rangapanchami, and occurs on fifth day after Panchami (full moon). Holi frolic and celebrations begin the morning after Holika bonfire. There is no tradition of holding puja (prayer), and the day is for partying and pure enjoyment. Children and youth groups form armed with dry colours, coloured solution, means to fill and spray others with coloured solution (pichkaris), balloons that can hold coloured water, and other creative means to colour their targets.



Kejriwal exposed!

Editorial...

Arvind Kejriwal has resigned as Delhi chief minister. As he chose to abdicate his responsibilities as chief minister of Delhi with his eyes fixed on coming Lok Sabha polls, people of Delhi are feeling cheated and befooled. Speculations about his resignation were rife in the political circles as he was unable to manage the affairs of government for which people were made to pay heavily. While he failed to cope up with the expectations created by his false promises he had no options but to find an escape route which he sought to create through his drama over Janlokpal Bill. While he made to pay people heavily in his short stint as chief minister, there is no doubt that people of Delhi will now settle their scores in the coming polls.

Arvind Kejriwal's resignation was not only an act of betrayal but also a step to camouflage the failure of his government. By running away from governance he has reinforced the doubt over his ability to govern and maturity to handle issues to their logical conclusions. He could have tried to build consensus over Janlokpal but the kind of haste he showed in pushing the bill knowing full well that this would not stand the legal scrutiny proves that he wanted to get rid of the responsibilities he had accepted and do politics over the issue. Such approach is not only irresponsible but speaks volumes about rank opportunism and his style of self seeking politics. In place of delivering to the people on his tall promises, he chose to run away seeking to blame others for his inefficiency and incompetence.

Known for his penchant for enacting drama and sensationalism, serious business of governance did not go down well with Kejriwal. First he tried to save the skin of his ministers who violated law in full public view by resorting to tactics which further lowered Kejriwal's public image. Who could have thought of defending Somnath Bharti, his law minister who took law in his hands and picked two Ugandan women for drug test? But everything was possible for Kejriwal. To save his ministers he sat on a dharna but retired as soon he saw that his unacceptable demands were not going to be accepted. While he claimed to wage a movement against corruption of Delhi Police, he called off his dharna with face saving decision to send two officials on leave pending inquiry. What did he gain from disrupting the normal life of Delhi by his dharna? It was sheer hypocrisy.

Kejriwal government failed completely to measure upto the expectations of the people. In the name of fulfilling the tall promises he made, half baked steps were initiated with the aim of befooling the people. Arvind Kejriwal was himself never sincere in addressing the problems of the people, he mainly tried to mislead the gullible people treating them as mere voters. He was completely exposed when contrary to his claim he prayed to the Delhi LG to allot him two Duplex of five rooms each (Ten rooms in total) for his residence. In fact he got those duplex allotted in Delhi's posh locality and was prepared to shift in but the public outcry forced his hands. He was never sincere about what he said and always sought to manipulate things when the situation went out of control. In fact the AAP government had neither vision nor policy or programme for a better Delhi. They also lacked competence and efficient delivery system which is so important in democracy. In the name of 'participatory democracy' Aam Aadmi Party government sought to promote hooliganism and mob-mentality showing no respect to either constitution, democratic institutions or democratic ethics and principles.

The resignation of Arvind Kejriwal is a well thought design to serve many purposes at a single stroke. While it has freed AAP from the responsibilities of governance, it can now aim at stopping the victory march of Shri Narendra Modi and BJP. AAP is actually hand in glove with Congress. Right from its formation it has been dancing to the tunes of Congress so that the anti-Congress mood in the country gets divided and diverted. But the people have now seen through that design and are in no mood to get befooled again and again. AAP and Congress both now stand exposed. But the people will have to stand in guard against their design. Every Karyakarta will have to remain alert and take people in confidence while strengthening the support base of the party.

The nation now cannot afford to be misled again by such unholy nexus. People are looking at Shri Narendra Modi and BJP with high hopes and enthusiasm. Every karyakarta will have to work tirelessly so that this enthusiasm can pave the way for the future of great India! ■

NaMo's *Chai Pe Charcha* a revolutionary step towards participatory democracy

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi participated in the first round of 'Chai Pe Charcha' on February 12, 2014 to connect with

the common man from 1000 tea stalls in 300 cities. The theme of the first round of *Chai pe Charcha* was 'Good Governance'. Agence France Press wrote on the *Chai per charcha* "On

Wednesday night, Mr Modi began Chai pe Charcha (Discussion over Tea), which saw him slurp a glass in his home state and take questions about governance. The event was broadcast to tea stands and their working class clients across the country in 300 cities."

The Washington Post wrote, "Modi, the son of a train station tea vendor, is vying for power with Rahul Gandhi, 43-year-old scion of the powerful political dynasty that has dominated the Congress party. To emphasize Modi's



humble beginnings, the BJP launched a nationwide "chat-over-tea" program with the candidate Wednesday. He sat in a roadside tea stall in Gujarat and took questions, via satellite link, from ordinary citizens at hundreds of similar stalls around the country." *Chai pe Charcha* with Namo was launched at a press conference by Ms. Sushma Swaraj at the BJP Headquarters in New Delhi on February 5, 2014. This initiative is being organized by Citizens for Accountable Governance and is unprecedented both in concept and scale. A unique mix of satellite, DTH, internet and mobile technology is enabling Shri Narendra Modi to have a live, constructive dialogue with the people of India across 1000 tea stalls in 300 cities. A unique platform devised to discuss and highlight local issues with senior leaders from BJP and Narendra Modi over a cup of tea, this indeed is a revolutionary step towards direct and participative democracy. ■



NDA is forming the next government and our agenda is National Development Alliance : Narendra Modi

Addressing a massive crowd of supporters at the BJP's Parivartan rally at Sujanpur Tira in Himachal Pradesh, on 16th February, BJP Prime Ministerial Candidate Shri Narendra Modi spoke about issues plaguing the State and the sky-high arrogance of the Congress that had ruined the Nation.

Seeking support from the people of Himachal for the BJP, Shri Modi said, "NDA is forming

issues of inflation, corruption and unemployment, Shri Modi said, "Congress leaders are going across the nation talking about greats of the past but what about price rise. They are not willing to tell the people that we were unable to bring down prices despite promising to."

Condemning the approach of the Congress which considered politics as a career and a business, Shri Modi spoke of how the BJP was only

hatred of the Congress government towards the BJP, and the tactics they adopt to pull the BJP down. "One day a Kerala leader praised me, he was removed, a minister from Kerala met me he was taken to task. This politics of hatred and untouchability is not good for a democracy. Congress is a dynastic party and this is the opposite of being a democratic party," said Shri Modi, while stressing on how Sonia Gandhi



the next government and our agenda is National Development Alliance." He urged the people to vote for the BJP and show their support for 'Development Politics' instead of 'Divisive Politics'.

Expressing his disapproval of the sky-high arrogance of the Congress party, and their unwillingness to answer the people of India over the plaguing

concerned with Rashtrabhakti and service. "There is nothing like membership in the BJP. We have a relationship of blood and a relation for generations," said Shri Modi.

Speaking about the preference of the Congress to do 'zeher ki kheti' Shri Modi said, "The Nation knows very well who is doing the Zeher Ki Kheti," while adding about the

questioned the essence of Shri Modi's initiative of the Statue of Unity, but was ready to fight the next election on the aspect of 'Unity'.

Stressing on the need to tackle the vice of corruption, Shri Modi said that to free the Nation from corruption, we needed to free the Nation from the corrupt. He retorted to the Prime Minister's statement of 'money

not growing on trees' by citing the example of the Himachal CM, who belonged to the Congress party. "Leader of Congress and HP CM, his assets have risen 14 times and this was written in his affidavit. The PM says money does not grow on trees but your own CM became 14 times richer after growing money from trees," said Shri Modi.

He further went on to add how each of the Telecom ministers under the Congress government were embroiled in some scam or charge of corruption. "Till when will the Congress keep saving itself? The root cause of corruption in this nation is the Congress party. If Congressmen are not corrupt then what is their worry in getting black money back," asked Shri Modi, while stating that how the black money stashed abroad actually belonged to the people of India and how they had been looted by the corrupt Congress government.

He said that he himself strongly opposed corruption. "And for whom should I be corrupt. I have nothing. This mind and body is totally devoted to the nation," he added.

He asked the people of Himachal if they had any faith in the ruling Congress government, and if not, why were they still tolerating them. "Governments need the trust of the people to function. This is perhaps the first government which is not trusted by the people," said Shri Modi.

Citing the grievances of the farmers of Himachal, Shri Modi spoke of how they were paid the full value of their apple produce during the rule of Shri Atal Bihari

"Solutions in one place cannot be used in other places. We need to understand issues and then solve them. By calling CM meet and asking CMs to speak for 10 minutes will not help. The Prime Minister must come to the Himayalan states and sit with the CMs".

Vajpayee, and how under the Congress government, they were being exploited by not being given their due. Shri Modi spoke of how a paradigm shift was needed in the Nation's development journey, and how the decision-makers need to change their perspective of looking at things. "Solutions in one place cannot be used in other places. We need to understand issues and then solve them. By calling CM meet and asking CMs to speak for 10 minutes will not help. The Prime Minister must come to the Himayalan states and sit with the CMs," he said.

Highlighting the immense scope of tourism in a country like India, Shri Modi spoke of how rail connectivity was an important contributor to the growth of tourism. Stating that Himachal had sadly been left out on this front, especially due to the lack of visionary leaders in the Delhi government, Shri Modi called for the need to lay due emphasis on this aspect. Speaking about environment concerns Shri Modi said that

under Shri Dhumal ji's rule Himachal had got many awards for being environment-friendly but that was a thing of the past.

Addressing the rally, Shri Modi spoke of his special association with Himachal Pradesh during the years he did organizational work in the State. He said how he got an opportunity to visit the State each time Shri Vajpayee ji came here, and how he had gone to serve Gujarat as the Chief Minister after serving the people of Himachal as a BJP karyakarta.

Shri Modi duly acknowledged the contribution of the youth from Himachal in serving the Nation by saying that it was only because they were awake on the borders of India that India could sleep peacefully. He added that the BJP party leaders were witness to the dedication of the soldiers to serve the Nation, especially during the Kargil war, but also shared his displeasure to the fact that in spite of such devotion and fearlessness of the Indian soldier, India was being bullied by other nations.

Shri Modi put forth the BJP's emphasis on ensuring the growth and progress of everyone who had been left out of the development journey, and assured the people of bringing change in a span of merely 60 months.

Among others BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, Former Himachal Pradesh CMs Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal and Shri Shanta Kumar, BJP National General Secretary Shri JP Nadda and BJYM National President Shri Anurag thakur were present. ■

Odisha needs right leadership for faster development

BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi addressed Vijay Sankalp Samabesh in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, on 11 February and encapsulated issues of local prominence and national importance.

Addressing the massive crowd, which reverberated to his prayers of Jai Jagannath, Shri Modi began his speech in Odiya and said that this move of his should not be taken as his rebuke for Odisha's CM Naveen Patnaik (who is not known to be well versed in the local language), but rather as his love and respect for all languages.

He said there is no district or block in Odisha whose residents don't stay in Gujarat. I meet a lot of people belonging to Ganjam district. When I ask them where is Ganjam district, they say it is their Chief Minister's district. 'I am surprised that people from even the CM's district have to move to Gujarat for work' Shri Modi said. There is not a district in Odisha from where people haven't come to work in Surat. Odiya is almost the second language there.

Shri Modi said even the Silk saree weavers from Odisha do labouring jobs in Gujarat. Why can't they work in Odisha. Who created this mess? he asked.

Shri Modi spoke of the presence of the Third Front, and

the accompanying bad governance that had ruined the State. He mentioned the huge gap in the development of the western and eastern states of India, while highlighting the progress witnessed in the BJP-ruled western states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Goa. Speaking about the remarkable improvement in the economies

remarkable improvement under Shri Shivraj Singh.

Citing the pro-people governance of the BJP in Gujarat, which has been serving the state for nearly 14 years, Shri Modi said that while Gujarat has reached a stage where it attracts people from other states, in Odisha the youth still have to venture to other states for work



of BJP-ruled states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, Shri Modi said that inspite of the presence of Maoists in Chhattisgarh, the state has grown tremendously under Dr Raman Singh, so much so that while earlier it was dependent on rice imports, today its produce is sufficient even for the neighboring states. In Madhya Pradesh, which was earlier considered 'bimaru', the agricultural sector has shown

opportunities. "Even people from the Chief Minister's district are having to leave homes," said Shri Modi.

Speaking about how Odisha has been lacking the vision for development, he urged the audience to show their support for BJP in the 2014 elections and affirmed that the BJP would transform Odisha in such a manner that those who have left the state would also want to come back.

Highlighting the pitiable condition of the karigars of silk saris in Odisha, who have to leave Odisha and get settled in Surat for better work prospects, Shri Modi said that this apathy of the State and its people would certainly cause pain to Biju Babu

attitude of the Central government, Shri Modi spoke of how the Congress leaders were never keen on the aspect of development, and how they have never bothered to address the national concerns of inflation, corruption and bad governance.

ensure that the 2014 elections were not just about who will form the government, but about purifying the political system, Shri Modi said, "The Nation and Odisha need the right leadership.

If I want to do good for the state I need MPs of BJP from here. We need a direct line from Odisha to Delhi. I want to serve you, so send us 21 Lotuses from here," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi also offered his condolences to families of those who had lost their lives in the Sambalpur boat tragedy.

Among others BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha BJP President Shri Kanak Verdhhan Singhdeo and all other senior leaders of the party were present on the occasion. ■

If I want to do good for the state I need MPs of BJP from here. We need a direct line from Odisha to Delhi. I want to serve you, so send us 21 Lotuses from here.

- referring to the former MC of Odisha and the stalwart of Odisha and National politics Shri Biju Patnaik. "Should we not create an Odisha that makes Biju Babu happy? Yes we have to make such an Odisha. Uttam Odisha is the best tribute to him," said Shri Modi. By raising the issue of acute drinking water problem in Berhampur city in particular and Ganjam district in general Shri Modi also highlighted the bad governance in Odisha and stressing on the fact he said that the State was yet to take concrete steps to solve water crisis although there is abundance water available in Odisha, however, Gujarat had taken revolutionary initiatives for the same, he said.

He urged the people to realize that the Third Front was a group of 11 parties, out of which 9 supported the Congress, only to wear the mask of the Third Front during elections. "The Third Front has one thing to do- save the Congress when they are in trouble," said Shri Modi.

Putting forth the lousy

"What has the Congress given to the nation? It has been 60 years and one family ruled. These big canons come from Delhi but why are their lips sealed when there is talk of corruption," asked Shri Modi.

Calling for the need to

Ashok Parnami appointed as Rajasthan BJP President

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh appointed Ashok Parnami as Rajasthan Party President. A second time legislator from Adarsh Nagar, Jaipur has been a grassroots worker and actively involved in state party affairs. Shri Parnami was the mayor of Jaipur in 2008. He won assembly election in 2008. He won again recently in the 2013 polls.



Gurgaon MP Rao Inderjit Singh joins BJP

Congress MP from Gurgaon Rao Inderjit Singh on February 13 joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with retired Director General of Police (CRPF) Shri R.K Singh in the presence of BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. Shri R.K Singh served in Indian police force for 39 years decided to serve the country as a member of Bharatiya Janata party.



Country wants freedom from the Congress' thoughts

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi addressed on February 18th, 2014 the Bharatha Gellisi rallies at Davangere and Mangalore in Karnataka. Addressing the rally Shri Narendra Modi spoke on the key aspects of ensuring a Congress-Mukt Bharat, getting rid of corruption, ensuring prosperity of farmers and focusing on the development of coastal regions.

Addressing a large rally in Mangalore, Shri Modi highlighted a comprehensive vision for the development of India. He talked about the rich potential of coastal areas to emerge as development hubs. Shri Modi affirmed that in addition to port development, what is required is port led development. He also called for creating fishing harbours and called for integrating latest technology for the betterment of the fishermen community.

In Mangalore Shri Modi took on the Congress Party for their anti-people policies and their lies. He said, "Congress has ruined the nation and cannot tolerate if anyone asks them any questions. When someone asks them questions they are jailed. Congress also misuses institutions." He further attacked the Congress for their corruption and false promises.

Expressing disdain and shock at the Congress' strength to mislead the people, Shri Modi spoke of how for the Congress

democracy was only about power, and nothing else. He mentioned the recent statement made by a Congress leader during his visit to Karnataka, wherein he had said that the Congress did not have a high command. "Do you believe this? Can the party run without high command," asked Shri Modi, while stating that the Nation has known it for years that the

when the people there need the support. Congress put salt on their wounds," said Shri Modi. He further urged the people to vote out Congress in 2014 elections, by saying, "A small punishment will not do for the Congress. If we want to save India then the only Mantra is Congress Mukt Bharat."

Shri Modi also expressed his displeasure at the Congress'



Congress did not believe in democracy.

Attacking the sky-high arrogance of the Congress government, Shri Modi stated that they were least bothered about replying to the people on the rising concerns of inflation and corruption, while adding that even though they found the time to visit the rest of the country, they did not care to visit the people of Seemandhara and Telangana, where they had sowed the seeds of poison. "Andhra Pradesh put them to power in Delhi but see what have they done. They do not have the time to visit Andhra Pradesh

politics which was ruining the democratic system of the Nation. "Democracy has 4 enemies- dynasty, casteism, communalism and opportunism. Congress has all 4 in them," said Shri Modi.

Attacking the form of politics followed by the Congress, Shri Modi said, "A Congress leader says Congress is a thought. It was surely a thought when Gandhi ji was alive, but after the Nakli Gandhis came, things have changed."

Stressing on the difference in thoughts of both the parties, Shri Modi said that while the Congress focused on

considering India a beehive, for the BJP it was our Bharat Mata. The Congress had Vanshvaad as their agenda, while the BJP's focus was on Rashtravaad. The Congress' sole aim was Raajneeti, as opposed to the BJP's focus on Rashtraneeeti.

Shri Modi further said that while the Congress wanted to

to power in 2009, the situation had only worsened. Shri Modi also stated how many Congress leaders in states like Rajasthan and Haryana were lying in jails, with their corrupt deeds. "The Country wants freedom from you and your thoughts. It does not want to get ruined any further," said Shri Modi.

injustice done to the textile industry in Karnataka and how the sugarcane farmers and maize producers were being looted by not being given the due for their produce. He also congratulated Shri Yeddyurappa ji for introducing a different budget for agriculture, and spoke of adopting the 5-f strategy -



involving farm to fibre, fibre to fabric, fabric to fashion, and fashion to foreign - whereby the entire process could be done at the same location and the final produce sent for

export, thereby reducing on the time consumed and also saving costs. Acknowledging the presence of the massive audience, despite the afternoon heat, Shri Modi assured the people that their affection and sacrifice will not go in vain. He urged the crowd to show their support for the BJP, and said, "You have given me a lot of love but now you must send a Lotus from every seat."

divide the nation and rule it, the BJP wanted to unite the people and prosper it. "We have brought in values of nationalism, while you have been brought up in values of dynasty and nepotism," said Shri Modi, attacking the appalling Congress attitude.

Taking opposition to the Congress' thought of remembering the poor only for their benefit, Shri Modi said, "The Congress does not enjoy if they do not talk about the poor, but for us, when he hear about the poor, we do not get sleep."

Shri Modi also spoke on the disturbing issue of women safety, while mentioning that under the Congress rule the national capital of Delhi had now become the rape capital. He further questioned the high-end yet false claims of the Congress of ensuring development by saying that inspite of their promise to reduce inflation within 100 days of their coming

In retaliation to the Prime Minister's statement that money doesn't grow on trees, Shri Modi said that for the BJP money grew on the farmers' land, reaped by the farmers' hard work for growing good crop.

Shri Modi said that the Congress and corruption were twin sisters, with each going where the other goes. So if there is Congress there is bound to be corruption, and wherever there is corruption, the Congress would be present there.

He also asked the Congress party to stop spreading lies by saying, "They tell us we gave Bills but the BJP does not allow it to pass. Atleast speak the truth, people know your lies," and adding that, in fact, it were the Congress Ministers who did not allow the Parliament to function smoothly. "Pehle dhool dale the ab mirchi bhi daal rahe hain logon ki aankhon me," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi highlighted the

Senior BJP leaders present on the occasions included Shri Prahlad Joshi, Karnataka BJP president, Shri GM Siddeswara, Lok Sabha MP from Devangere, Shrimati Shobha Karandlaje, former Karnataka Minister, Shri Ananth Kumar, BJP General Secretary, Shri BS Yeddyurappa, former Karnataka Chief Minister, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Lok Sabha MP, former Deputy CM Shri Eswarappa, former CM Shri Jagdish Shettar, former minister R Ashok and Shri Arvind Limbavalli. ■

Narendra Modi blames Congress for lack of development in Northeast

Shri Narendra Modi addressed a large Maha Jagaran Rally in Guwahati in Assam on February 8. This is Shri Modi's first visit to Assam after he was declared the NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate. In an elaborate speech Shri Narendra Modi shared his vision for the overall development of the Northeast and called for uprooting the Congress Party from the Centre.



Shri Modi also questioned the Prime Minister of India on what he did for the state of Assam considering he has represented the state for 23 years.

Urging the people of the Northeast to vote for the BJP Shri Modi said that the 8 states of the Northeast are like the Ashtalakshmi and the relation between Lakshmi ji and the Lotus is very well known.

Shri Narendra Modi

expressed his pain at the lack of development in Assam. He pointed that Assam has great potential, as it is a land of tea and timber. He asked why is it that the same Assam, whose tea energizes the entire nation every morning is without energy and is facing power crisis. He further questioned why such a peace loving land was been full of violence and bloodshed? Shri Modi said that the Congress

leaders are always keen to talk about N R E G A wherever they do but asked the people if they got any jobs in Assam. He also commented on the poor law and order situation in the state which is evident due to t h e kidnappings, k i l l i n g s , extortions and

bombs. "Assam has the Brahmaputra but Guwahati does not have water to drink," avowed Shri Modi. Referring to the Assam Chief Minister, Shri Modi stated, "Naam Tarun hone se soch Tarun nahi ho jati."

On the Prime Minister's lack of concern for the state that has elected him for 23 years Shri Modi said, "The Prime Minister of the nation is elected from Assam and that too for 23 years.

You made such a big investment but what did you get? Even if our small Karyakarta was in the Rajya Sabha for 23 years he or she would have made efforts for Assam's development." Shri Modi accused the Congress leaders of considering the nation as their private property and this was seen in the manner in which the Congress decided to go ahead on the land swap deal without consulting the people of Assam.

Shri Narendra Modi assured the people that the BJP government at the Centre would bring back every penny of black money and spend the money for the purpose of development. He also spoke out against the illegal infiltration from Bangladesh and called for proper verification processes to ascertain who came from Bangladesh.

At the start of his speech Shri Narendra Modi paid tributes to all those who lost their lives in the creation of Assam. He paid tributes to Gopinath Bordoloi and said that so immersed was the Congress in the Bhakti of one family that they forgot the contribution of others in the freedom struggle. He also took on the Congress leaders who are attacking the Gujarat government's efforts to make a Statue of Unity, saying that Sardar Patel is not a leader of a party but the leader of an entire nation.

Several BJP leaders and Karyakartas were present on the occasion. ■

No real announcements have been made for the benefit of ailing agriculture sector : Rajnath Singh

The 'Vote on Account' presented by the finance minister Shri P Chidambaram on February 17 in Parliament was a failed attempt to gloss over the failures of the UPA Government. He juggled his numbers to come up with a fiscal deficit of 4.6 percent for the year 2013-14. He rolled over fuel subsidies worth Rs 35000 crore to next fiscal to arrive at a better looking fiscal numbers.

Even his fiscal deficit target number of 4.1 percent for 2014-15 is not credible as he has kept the total subsidy bill at Rs 2.46 lakh crore which is the same as this year without even accounting for the Rs 35000 crore as rolled over fuel subsidy. Revenue deficit of 3.3 percent clearly indicate that the government has not made any effort to contain its fiscal profligacy. The UPA government has been able to match its fiscal targets only by drastically cutting its planned expenditure. It means the government has reduced its investments in the economy. The announcement of 'One Rank One Pension' to the ex-servicemen is a welcome decision. The government dragged its feet for years on the issue but when it realised later that the BJP was committed to give the ex-servicemen the benefits of 'One Rank One Pension' it finally gave its consent today. Although Shri Chidambaram rightly identified the miserable state of Indian manufacturing sector but he

could not come up with any concrete measures to boost investments in the sector. The UPA Government spelled out its National Manufacturing Policy in 2011 but there has been little follow up action in subsequent years. The Interim Budget says that eight national manufacturing zones have been approved along the Delhi-Mumbai corridor but we all know that the entire project is moving at a snail's pace due to delay in clearances and decision making.

Manufacturing and the agriculture sector are the two important sectors which provide employment to millions of people in the country and it should be revived on a priority basis. Unfortunately there is no clarity and direction on both these sectors in the Interim Budget.

No real announcements have been made for the benefit of ailing agriculture sector. The farmers of the country today need

an assured income from farming, institutional support and cheaper credit. The Interim



Budget provides only for increased amount of nearly 8 lakh crores to agriculture lending but the interest rates have been kept unchanged.

Since the BJP believes that it will form the next government after the Lok Sabha polls we assure the people of the country that we will address all the key issues facing the economy and put the country on a higher growth trajectory. ■

Narendra Modi calls Interim Budget, a glorified exercise in self

Shri Narendra Modi shared his displeasure at the Interim Budget by calling it a glorified exercise in self-congratulation. He retorted to the FM's statement of there being no policy paralysis by saying that in reality policy paralysis was the only constant policy of the UPA government. Sharing his preference for certain positive aspects of the Budget Shri Modi said that he welcomed the decision for 'One Rank, One Pension' for the servicemen. The only solace from the vote-on-account, according to Shri Modi, was that this was the UPA government's final act of misery after a decade of decay and policy paralysis. ■



UPA inherited an 8.5 percent GDP growth rate and exiting on a 4.5% : Arun Jaitley

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley while issuing a statement termed the Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram's vote on Account speech as an electoral imperative to attempt to repackage the 10 years of the UPA.

The Finance Minister presented Vote on Account estimates before the Parliament on February 17, 2014. It was an electoral imperative for him to attempt to repackage the 10 years of the UPA. He is faced with a harsh reality. He inherited an 8.5 percent GDP growth rate. He exits on a 4.5 percent GDP growth. The last three years of the UPA witnessed a sharp fall in the growth rate from a near 9 percent to less than 5 percent. He, therefore, had to lean back on larger slogans such as his 'Idea of India'. Obviously, in an ideologically pluralistic society, there can be more than one 'Idea of India'. None can usurp the title of a book and claim it only belongs to him.

The Finance Minister had set a laxman-rekha for himself last year. The fiscal deficit had to be brought down to 4.8 percent. He now claims to have brought it down to 4.6 percent. He achieves this spectacular feat not by bringing in revenue buoyancy or by reviving the investment cycle but by cutting down expenditure, particularly the capital expenditure. The grants for creation of Capital Assets and Capital Expenditure has been cut down by as high as Rs. 91,000 crores. This alone would

This slowdown in the manufacturing sector is a huge concerns. This directly reflects on job creation. The excise duties in the current year, which were estimated to be Rs.1,97,554 Crores has now been revised to Rs.1,79,538 - a reduction of 9.1 percent.

have impacted the GDP to the extent of 0.8 percent. Similarly, allocations to various Ministries in the current year shows wide difference between the Budget estimates 2013-14 and the Revised Estimates of 2013-14. The grant to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation are cut down by 21.3 percent. The grant to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is cut down by 20.6 percent. The grant to the Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is cut down by 41.97 percent, MHA by 31.3 percent, Ministry of HRD by Six percent, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways by 18.72 percent and Ministry of Rural Development by 22.92 percent. These are all departments and ministries which relate to social sector and infrastructure. Only

the Ministry of Finance grants have been increased by 18.3 percent.

Then the grants to the States have been cut down from the Budget Estimates of Rs. 1,36,254 Crores to Rs. 1,19,039 Crores- a reduction of 12.6 percent.

This slowdown in the manufacturing sector is a huge concerns. This directly reflects on job creation. The excise duties in the current year, which were estimated to be Rs.1,97,554 Crores has now been revised to Rs.1,79,538 - a reduction of 9.1 percent.

The FM has taken credit for the stellar performance of the Agriculture sector but the real credit goes to the States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh which have consistently given double digit growth rates in Agriculture.

The subsidy outgo on Food, Fertilizer and Fuel has been projected at Rs. 2,46,397 Crores for 2014-15. Out of this, fuel subsidy is at 65,000 crores, Fertilizer at 36,970 crores and Food subsidy is at 1,15,000 crores. The combined expenditures on all Food schemes has been reduced from 1,24,844 Crores in 2013-14 to 1,15,000 crores in 2014-15 representing a fall. This is much below the expectations under

the food security scheme which requires a much larger outlay. The subsidies in fuel has been underestimated year after year. The FM has once again rolled over fuel subsidies worth Rs.35,000 Crores to the next fiscal. This move is a mere statistical illusion to keep the fiscal deficit look optically correct while its inflationary impact on the economy remains real.

The FM has again harped on the OROP viz. the one rank one pension scheme and transferred Rs.500 Crores to the Defence Pension Account. The UPA Government has been paying lip service to the cause of defence personnel. In the earlier Budget in 2009-10, a committee was set up and its recommendations were promised to be implemented. But the grievances remained as the approach was half-baked. Again the FM has promised that this cause has been completely addressed in this Budget. There should be no attempt to play with the aspirations of our Armed Forces.

Even though the Vote-on-Account is only for a period of four months, there are serious concerns on the growth rate, real Fiscal deficit, inflation, investment and the slow down in manufacturing sector. The stability of the Rupee is a matter of concern particularly because the Rupee itself has reached unacceptable levels.

Will the Finance Minister seriously introspect on the legacy he would leave behind for the next Finance Minister? The Finance Minister will be a relieved man today. His successor will be in trouble. ■

Government should come out with concrete measures to address the concerns of Seemandhra : Rajnath

The bill to create Telangana by dividing Andhra Pradesh was passed in the Lok Sabha on February 18 amid protests, but live telecast was cut off in an unprecedented blackout. The bill will now be taken up in the Rajya Sabha. BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh expressed happiness over the bill to grant statehood to Telangana.

He said "I am happy that the Bill to grant statehood to Telangana has finally been passed on February 18 by the Lok Sabha. Had the Congress led UPA government brought this bill much earlier, the prevailing situation of chaos and outrage among the people in other parts of the state could have been easily averted. The Congress should be squarely blamed for this confusion and chaos in Andhra Pradesh."

"Although the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Bill has made Telangana a reality but it has not adequately addressed the concerns of people living in Seemandhra and other areas of the state."

He added "The manner in which the bill was pushed through by the government was not transparent and utterly undemocratic. The government should come out with certain concrete measures to address the concerns of Seemandhra and other regions of Andhra Pradesh." ■



BJP united on Telangana, Congress a divided house : Sushma Swaraj

Leaders of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, said on February 18 that the UPA had not done anything in its second tenure for the formation of Telangana and had brought the bill in the House only in Parliament's last session. She said the in 2004 Congress had fought elections with TRS and had promised that they would work for Telangana. "However they finished the tenure without acting on it," she said, adding, "UPA in its second tenure also didn't do anything for formation of Telangana. They brought the bill in Parliament's last session." She also said that the Congress had wanted the BJP to reject the Telangana Bill amidst uproar, so that they could blame them for non-passage of the bill. "Their game-plan was spoiled when we supported the bill," she said. "Congress ignored my point on constitutional flaw in the bill," she added.

Smt. Swaraj also slammed Congress leader Kamal Nath of accusing the BJP of playing a double-game and said that it was the Parliamentary Affairs Minister of playing double-games. "

"Their motive was just to introduce bill, put it for consideration and passing, not to pass it," said the BJP leader, adding, "Congress is a divided house. It is clearly visible." She maintained that the BJP was united on the formation of Telangana. ■

Interim Railway Budget is not more than an election gimmick and stunt : Anant kumar

The Interim Railway Budget presented by Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is not more than an election gimmick and stunt. The proposals in this 'Election Budget' are so short-lived that their implementation itself is question mark because in the next 15 days the model code of conduct is likely to come into force.

We can term this Interim Rail Budget as a 'Farewell Budget' of the UPA-Congress Government. The entire country is looking forward to the real Rail Budget under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi's Government in the coming months which is going to revolutionize the Indian Railways.

The 10 years of UPA will be considered as the worst for the State of Karnataka as far as the Railways are concerned. It is said that the quality of Governance is always showcased by the services that it provides for its citizens and in India this is true in the case of Railways. The people of Karnataka and whole of India are waiting for the Lok Sabha elections when they can remove the triumvirate of Smt. Sonia, Dr. Singh and Sh. Rahul who have amply demonstrated their ineptness and lack of vision.



The Statement issued by Shri Ananth Kumar, MP, General Secretary, BJP, on the Interim Railway Budget for the year 2014-15 presented by Railway Minister Shri Mallikarjun Kharge

The Suburban Rail Service for Bangalore for which the Karnataka Government has committed 50% of the project cost and the Bangalore-Mysore & Bangalore-Tumkur rail corridors with doubling, electrification & automatic signalling being totally ignored.

The BJP Government of Karnataka was the only State Government in India which extended the maximum support to Railway projects by giving budgetary allocations out of the

State Budget, commitment of free land for railway projects and also set up a Special Joint Legislature Committee for this purpose. Despite this Karnataka and the South-Western Railway Zone always got the least share in new trains, doubling, electrification, gauge conversion, new lines or passenger amenities.

Karnataka and the SW Railway Zone have given the maximum returns against investment ratio for the Railways for many years now. But every Rail Budget of the UPA has given the least allocation to this Zone.

This attitude of successive UPA Governments at the centre has resulted in the failure of the UPA Governments to undertake projects in the PPP mode. For example even though the Government of Karnataka has come forward with unique Joint-Development projects by allocating land & funds from the State Budget, the Railways has not contributed its share resulting in these projects pending from a long time.

The Suburban Rail Service for Bangalore for which the Karnataka Government has committed 50% of the project cost and the Bangalore-Mysore & Bangalore-Tumkur rail corridors with doubling, electrification &

automatic signalling being totally ignored.

Karnataka is the 8th largest state in area but has the fourth lowest rail density excluding the North-east & Jammu & Kashmir.

Except for the one weekly train service to Katra announced in this budget there is still no direct connectivity from any destination in Karnataka to destinations such as Amritsar, Jammu Tawi, Dehradun & Varanasi. This is despite Bangalore being one of the fastest growing cities whose IT and Services Industry attracts people from all over India.

Railway stations and passenger amenities in all the cities of Karnataka are in a neglected state and there is no improvement over the last ten years.

For the common man to get a confirmed reservation even months in advance is a harrowing experience and is always sold out. There has been no political will to be able to ensure fair opportunity to people with no access to the internet.

The conditions and facilities of the trains have also remained as they were 10 years ago. While other Zones and States have got new design coaches, we, in Karnataka have to still travel in old coaches which are in poor condition.

The total disregard to the safety factor saw the occurrence of major train accidents in the region which resulted loss of many lives in the following instances in just the last two years to name a few:

- ◆ Fire in the Bangalore City - Nanded express in Anantapur district on 28.12.2013
- ◆ Derailment of the Muzaffarpur-Yeswantpur Express near Arakkonam on 10.04.2013.
- ◆ The Indore Yeswantpur Express met with an Accident at Medak District on 19.12.2012
- ◆ The Hubli - Bangalore Hampi Express collided with a goods train near Penukonda on 22.05.2012. ■

Power to farmers : Gujarat scientists float novel concept

A time may soon come when farmers who feed the people of India will also produce electricity to feed the national power grid. That is the conclusion of an innovative study by Tirumalachetty Harinarayana, Director of the Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute (GERMI) Research Centre in Gandhinagar, and Vasavi



Kamili, a student of the Medha Engineering College in Hyderabad. Their research published on Feb 11 in the online version of the international journal "Smart Grid and Renewable Energy" suggests that farmers can use their land for dual purpose rather than growing only food crops. While continuing to grow foodgrains, farmers may simultaneously produce power by laying a roof of appropriately configured photovoltaic (PV) solar panels over the same land to generate electricity from sunlight. The power so produced can be used to pump water for irrigating their crops and any excess electricity generated may be sold to the power grid. In other words, farmers can augment their income by renting out their land to the government or to the solar developer who will erect the solar panels while they grow food crops as usual in the same land. The scientists have found this novel concept feasible after ensuring – through computer modelling studies – that the reduction in sunlight caused by the solar roof has no adverse impact on the growth of crops below.

Harinarayana said his scientists systematically examined different solar panel design configurations to identify the one that caused the least reduction in sunlight. ■

Under Dr. Manmohan – Sonia duo, parliament hits an all time low

By L.K Advani



The U.P.A. Government has been in office now for ten years, from 2004 to 2014. UPA I lasted from 2004 to 2009; and UPA II from 2009 to 2014.

Dr. Manmohan Singh began his tenure with a clean personal reputation. But as his decade long tenure is coming to a close, he would leave behind him a record of having presided over the most corrupt government in Independent India.

Starting with the scandals that surfaced during the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, then proceeding to the 2 G Spectrum scams, most of the scams that came to light under Congress governments were exposures made by the C.A.G. or the judiciary and related to bribes allegedly received by ministers/officials in government for illegal favours extended to the bribe givers.

But I hold that the most disgraceful scam that came to light during UPA I was the Cash-for-Votes Scam. It was an episode following the Left Front's withdrawal of support to the U.P.A. Government in protest against the UPA striking a deal with Washington on the nuclear issue.

With this development, Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government came face to face with a grave crisis and had to face a confidence vote in which it could have well been ousted.

It was at this point that a set of India-related diplomatic cables on the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal were released by the Whistle-blowing website WIKILEAKS, and reproduced by India's own Chennai based reputed Daily, THE HINDU.

The Reuters reported about this episode thus :

The secret U.S. state department cable obtained by WikiLeaks and published by The Hindu newspaper on Thursday details a conversation between a senior Congress party member and a U.S. Embassy official surrounding the payment of almost \$9 million by a government facing a crucial confidence vote to members of a regional political party to secure their support..

Leader of the Opposition Sushma Swaraj, who has in recent months led a scathing attack on the Congress party-led coalition government for failing to tackle corruption in India, posted on Twitter: "The

wikileaks details in today's Hindu about payoffs to MPs are shocking. I will raise this issue in Parliament today."

Both houses of parliament were adjourned after uproar over the cable's contents.

The cable details a conversation between an aide of Satish Sharma, Congress party MP and close associate of party chief Sonia Gandhi, and, U.S. Charge d'affaires Steven White in which the aide states that four MPs belonging to the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) party had been paid 100 million rupees (\$2.2 million) each in order to secure their support for the government in a tight confidence vote over the Congress party's support of a nuclear deal between India and the U.S.

White, who authored the secret cable, described how Embassy staff were shown two chests containing 500-600 million rupees (\$ 11-13 million) that had been earmarked for "use as pay-offs."

Three BJP MPs along with my aide Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni , were involved in an operation to expose the Scam. They had contacted a TV channel to prepare Videos of the bribery

episode. The Government's response was to put all of them behind bars. When later Shri Narottam Kaushal pronounced judgement in their case acquitting them, his opening paragraph read :

July 22, 2008 was a black letter day in the history of Indian Parliament. Three members of Parliament namely Ashok Argal, Faggan Singh Kulaste and Mahabir Singh Bhagora placed on the table of Parliament currency notes for the amount of Rs. One Crore, when the House was debating on Motion of Confidence.

It was claimed that the money had been offered to them in connection with the voting. Speaker of the House after discussions with senior Parliamentarian asked the aforesaid three MPs to put-in a written complaint. Before a formal complaint could be submitted by the aforesaid three MPs, a communication dated 23.07.2008 was received by the Speaker, from Rajdeep Sardesai, Editor in Chief of CNN-IBN Network. He enclosed five video tapes along with his communication. Formal complaint dated 25.07.2008 addressed to Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was submitted by the three MPs, alleging that they were sought to be bribed by the leaders of Congress and Samajvadi Party to help the Government, by refraining from voting against confidence motion.

When I came to know of the arrest of the three MPs of my party as also of associates like Shri Kulkarni, I sought permission from the Hon'ble

Speaker of the Lok Sabha to make a brief submission before any other business was taken up. Somewhat angrily I said that a horrible crime was sought to be committed, and MPs given crores of rupees to bribe them to support the Government.

These BJP MPs did not take the bribe home and instead, acting as whistle blowers came straight to Parliament and placed the money on the Table of the House. World over, in democracies, Whistle-blowers are hailed, and here they have been jailed! I as their leader would like to tell Government if they think these colleagues of mine have done anything illegal I wish to tell those in authority they have done so with my permission to expose the dirty scam. I dare the Government to put me also into prison I along with these MPs.

No less shameful for the prestige and reputation of the Indian Parliament than this Cash-for-Episode Scam that occurred in UPA I's time is the ugly scenes witnessed under UPA II. Under Vajpayee ji the N.D.A. divided three major States - Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and created three new States - Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand without even a ripple of disturbance. With the present Government, session after session has had to be adjourned due to chaos created over Telangana between the supporters and opponents of division.

In fact, the session presently on has on this issue of Telangana precipitated scenes last week which made the Prime

Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh declare "My heart bleeds when I watch such scenes on the floor of Parliament."

Most members were shocked one day to see as many as half a dozen Ministers of the present Government totally disregarding the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress Party Chairperson Smt. Soniaji in the House, rush into the well of the House and join the ugly ruckus that was taking place, when amidst shouting of slogans for and against division of Andhra Pradesh, parliamentary papers were being torn and thrown all around. This happened on Wednesday February 12.

The limits of unsavory behavior were crossed the next day when apart from a repeat performance of the previous day a Congress Party MP pulled out a black pepper spray and started spraying it all around so that several MPs including Smt. Sushma Swaraj had tears in her eyes, and many others were seen coughing in acute discomfort.

TAIL PIECE

Some of the Headlines in the Capital's dailies on February 14.

The Statesman
P A R L I A M E N T
DISGRACED

The Times of India
Pepper Spray in House
leaves Indian democracy in tears
Hindustan Times

Parliament Attacked, This
time by MPs

The Pioneer
THE DARKEST DAY
THE HINDU

MPs make it a day of shame
for Parliament

India should become a digital India, knowledge-based society and economy : Narendra Modi

Speaking on the theme of transforming India through technology at the NASSCOM India Leadership Forum (NILF) 2014, Shri Narendra Modi on February 14, addressing the session via video-conference, spoke about the need to bring about the IT revolution in India

Shri Modi said "I see the role of IT as a change agent. It empowers, connects and can bind isolated parts of India and create harmony. IT can join people with governments, bridge the gap between demand and supply, and can bring us closer to knowledge."

Signifying the current day relevance of IT in the corporate world, Shri Modi said that it is a known fact that those corporate houses where information goes freely from bottom to top and where effective guidance comes from top to bottom succeed. He spoke of his confidence in the impact and effectiveness of IT by stating, "I keep saying IT+IT=IT (Indian Talent+ Information Technology = India Tomorrow). The IT sector can be the shining light of Brand India."

Shri Modi underscored the significance of IT in the domain of e-governance, while also stating the tremendous impact it could have in grievance redressal. "E governance can bring minimum government and maximum governance. It is easy, effective and economic governance. It brings empowerment, equity and efficiency of the economy. It is a

very useful field that can be the greatest problem solver of people," said Shri Modi, while sharing his concern that most leaders in power today were further confusing the issues rather than bringing solutions.

Shri Narendra Modi's

and potential of this talent pool. We need to empower our youth with skills for their development and the growth of India. This way we will succeed in putting India on the road to fast and inclusive development," said Shri Modi.



address to the IT professionals at the NASSCOM India Leadership Forum (NILF) 2014

While speaking on the vast potential of IT in converting challenges into golden opportunities, Shri Modi emphasized on the need to empower the youth with necessary skills. "We are among the most youthful nations of the world. Just imagine the energy

Stressing on the imminent need to focus on ICT training, Shri Modi highlighted Gujarat's efforts towards this by citing the eMPOWER (electronic manpower) programme. He spoke of how ICT training was the need-of-the-hour, and could enable India emerge as a big service sector and business hub. "What we need is the skills. NASSCOM should focus on this

on its silver jubilee,” said Shri Modi.

Highlighting his vision of creating a Digital India, Shri Modi said, “India should become a digital India, which is a knowledge-based society and economy. We are a very diverse nation, with every district having its specialities. We need networks to integrate this and the IT industry can do this. By 2022, when we celebrate 75 years of freedom, we must be a different

software since, according to Shri Modi, real strength lies in software utility.

He encouraged NASSCOM and its representing companies to focus on Corporate Social Responsibility, enabled by IT. “Through CSR can you take up any one problem that India faces. You can take up a problem, form task forces and focus on resolving the issue,” said Shri Modi, while giving an example of tackling the drop-out ratio in schools via IT-

experienced in India does not percolate further. “Digital Divide means that what a person can get through IT in a city is not available to a person in remote villages. We cannot let the digital divide spread. We cannot have 2 Indias like this, where one is running fast but the other is on the reverse gear,” said Shri Modi.

Putting forth his views of the immense scope of IT in varying domains, Shri Modi mentioned how the application of IT in infrastructure could change the face of the country. “Information Highway Network can play a very big role in transforming the nation. It can be a matter of great strength. The sooner we adopt IT the better, the sooner we deploy it, the better it and the sooner we master it the better,” stated Shri Modi, while also speaking about the need for the government and the IT industry to join hands for the creation of harmony in the society, to reduce the gap between demand and supply and thereby get the people closer to knowledge.

He spoke of his belief in the power of IT, by saying, “I am personally a great advocate of technology. IT can and will transform our lives...it is an inevitable force in the modern world.”

He further spoke of his fondness to stay connected with the people of the country through social media network, and how their feedback and suggestions had been a source of inspiration for him.

Aspects of cyber security and the role of Information Technology in the security concerns of the Nation were also shared by Shri Modi. ■

Stressing on the need to adapt IT into governance, Shri Modi spoke of how we need to focus on bringing features of like and share in governance, and how effective this could prove in the One Day Governance model adapted in Gujarat. “We have to bring features of like and share in governance. Through social media we must ensure every citizen is involved in governance,” said Shri Modi.

nation. And IT can be the growth engine of New India.” He said that by then our market should become a knowledge market where every seller and buyer knows everything, and the workers in every sector are knowledge workers. “Use of technology can further enhance grassroot services,” added Shri Modi.

Shri Modi also cited the need to focus on promoting software as much as hardware, while stating that such an approach would only ensure inclusive growth. He put forth that it was the collective responsibility of software engineers, IT professionals and hardware manufacturers to promote

enabled tools.

Stressing on the need to adapt IT into governance, Shri Modi spoke of how we need to focus on bringing features of like and share in governance, and how effective this could prove in the One Day Governance model adapted in Gujarat. “We have to bring features of like and share in governance. Through social media we must ensure every citizen is involved in governance,” said Shri Modi.

India should become a digital India, which is a knowledge-based society and economy.

He also urged the decision makers of the IT world to ensure that the digital divide being

Is Congress responsible for stalling of legislation in Parliament?

By Arun Jaitley

As we enter the last week of the Parliament session a legitimate question which arises for consideration is –who is responsible for the non-passage of several pending legislations? The Congress Vice President, Rahul Gandhi yesterday made a statement that the BJP has blocked the Anti-graft legislations in the

organizations of disabled persons have been pressing for early consideration and passage of laws which deal with the issues of concern to them. Just as Rahul Gandhi blamed the BJP yesterday for the non-passage of the Anti graft laws, stake holders in relation to other legislations are being fed with similar arguments.

of the Houses regularly adjourn the Houses since proceedings cannot be conducted in this environment. A large number of members of the Congress Party disturb the Houses every day. I don't think Rahul Gandhi has had time to either come to the House or acquaint himself with the disturbance being created by his own Party members. Not having spoken even once on major scams such as the 2G spectrum allocation, the Coal Block allocation, the Commonwealth Games organization etc., he has only belatedly realized that corruption is a major issue in Indian politics. Instead of patting himself on the back for this rather belated realization and taking undue credit for introducing these legislations towards the fag end of the tenure, Rahul Gandhi needs to look inwards and find out the honest answer to the question why these legislations are held up. Because it is the Congress Members who repeatedly disturb the House. They are held up because the Government is not able to restore order in the House. The moment Rahul Gandhi realizes the truth and his party takes corrective actions, the BJP will have no difficulty in supporting most of these legislations. ■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha)

Not a single BJP Member has disturbed the proceedings of either of the two Houses of Parliament. No BJP member has gone into the well of the House. We assemble every morning in Parliament. The Houses are disturbed on account of the issues relating to bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh which is pending consideration. The Speaker and the Chairman of the Houses regularly adjourn the Houses since proceedings cannot be conducted in this environment.

Parliament.

The truth is that the Congress conceived of some legislations towards the end of UPA's 10 year rule. By this time the party had lost majority in both Houses of parliament. Most of these legislations and several other laws such as legislation relating to protection to be provided to street vendors or setting up of a central university in Bundelkhand are not subject matters of any controversy. These are laws which can be passed after some discussion. Several

The facts in this regard need to be clearly stated. The BJP has no reservation against most of these legislations. We are willing to support them. Not a single BJP Member has disturbed the proceedings of either of the two Houses of Parliament. No BJP member has gone into the well of the House. We assemble every morning in Parliament. The Houses are disturbed on account of the issues relating to bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh which is pending consideration. The Speaker and the Chairman

Unable to govern, they threw in the towel

By Balbir Punj

Arvind Kejriwal's confrontationist conduct was a trick by him to avoid the serious business of delivering. He tried to spread the canard that rivals were blocking people-friendly plans. But he never had the solutions

The ignominious exit of the Aam Aadmi Party Government, within weeks of its formation, was in-built. The AAP did not have a majority on its own and had assumed office on the props provided by the Congress, suspect even at the best of times. There was a contradiction which was impossible to reconcile. A self-proclaimed 'anarchist' and a system drawing its strength from the Constitution, obviously could not co-exist.

An anarchist, by definition holds the state to be undesirable, unnecessary, or harmful. Arvind Kejriwal, in his avatar as Delhi Chief Minister, has lived up to this definition. His Law Minister leading a mob in a midnight raid against foreigners smacked of racial prejudice. Mr Kejriwal created history by sitting on a dharna when he should have been dealing with public issues in the Secretariat as a Chief Minister.

Reducing power tariffs and giving free water supply may get him some applause. But that will not get for Delhi a distribution system for more power as summer comes and when demand for power will peak. Similarly, giving free water supply will not tell us from

where and how extra water for the people of the capital will be obtained.

The Chief Minister seemed to be in confrontation with the Centre at one end and the constitutional system at the other. If the constitutional system has laid down certain restrictions on the functioning of the Delhi Government, either the Chief Minister works within the

The anarchist in Mr Kejriwal does not believe in seeking solutions to the myriad problems a Delhiite faces in his daily life. How shallow was the tactic of holding an Assembly session with several thousand people around who could be counted on to react on the spot as they watch the game being played before them!

Next is the Jan Lokpal Bill

The Chief Minister seemed to be in confrontation with the Centre at one end and the constitutional system at the other. If the constitutional system has laid down certain restrictions on the functioning of the Delhi Government, either the Chief Minister works within the system or seeks to change it through amendments in Parliament.

system or seeks to change it through amendments in Parliament.

More than the free water, Delhi wants proper and adequate supply. If Mr Kejriwal had been sincere about the water problem, he would have focussed on augmenting its supply by opening negotiations with the Chief Ministers of the neighbouring States of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, responsible for meeting a bulk of the capital's water requirement. Why can't Delhi's potable water quality be improved to the extent that bottled water becomes irrelevant?

that he threatened to introduce, ignoring the constitutional requirements of sanction for it from the Centre. If the Chief Minister is openly seen as deliberately flouting the constitutional restrictions, what example is he setting for his followers, let alone other people?

To cap it all, Mr Kejriwal awarded electricity bill waivers for those who refused to pay high charges. What if many others too consider the electricity bills, even after the drastic reduction in tariff that he has given, as excessive, and not pay?

Does he not realise that in many States, distribution losses

of power are as high as 50 per cent? Strangely, Mr Kejriwal, who was so eager to award non-payers of electricity bills from Government funds, never appealed to stop power theft at the consumer's end. The fact that the discoms have succeeded in getting convictions against power theft carries its own warning.

Of course, it is good publicity gimmick for the outgoing Chief Minister to sit on the road and block traffic. But the last month's

department has only 128 staff members while the Delhi-NCR area needs thousands to keep vigil. Besides, the auto-rickshaws will not be under any obligation to go by the shortest route. Delhi has over five lakh visitors from neighbouring States. The auto-drivers have often been found to be taking particularly these visitors for a ride.

Even local residents complain of such harassment. In ignoring the commuters' plight

All decency was thrown out of the window in the AAP's regime. The Chief Minister rolled out names of anyone in public eye and dubbed them as 'corrupt'. Then he asked his people and his officers to register FIRs against them. He condemned them first and then set the law against them.

What such anarchy from the high pedestal of constitutional power will generate, seemed to be of no concern to the party and the regime. The AAP seems to say out loud that whatever its people say is the law;; what the constitutional process says is bogus.

Or was it a ploy on his part to avoid the serious business of trying to solve the burning problems of the people, by showing up that it is others who are blocking his plans? But he never spelt out in black and white the solutions themselves before targeting anyone and everyone as the roadblocks to his heaven of bliss.

If he had been sincere, the very first job he should have done was to declare his budget and let the people know what he was going to do to tackle the problems and how he would find the resources, the expertise and the organisation to implement the schemes.

Perhaps we are forgetting that for a self-projected anarchist, no organisation is required – because all organisations are likely to be corrupt, create roadblocks, be reactionary etc. The demolition squad is at work. Only the reactionaries talk of constructive vision. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

Mr Kejriwal apologised later but he did not pull up those who were arrogant and had crossed the limits of decency in politics. Another example of his anarchy was his concessions to auto-rickshaw drivers. As Chief Minister, he should have disciplined them when the public complaint is that they over-charge and often refuse to go where commuters ask them to take.

event when he did that must have taught him a lesson. He had to be bailed out with a sleight of hand by the Lt Governor, whom Mr Kejriwal's partymen accused of being a "Congress agent".

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Instead, only the Transport Department staff will undertake the task of surveillance. That

against auto-drivers, Mr Kejriwal seems to imply that he has no responsibility to protect the public from harassment and exploitation by the auto drivers just because they have been a major instrument for his pre-election propaganda. Surely, that is another demonstration of what people could expect when they had a declared anarchist as their Chief Minister.

The woes of the public, so well demonstrated with the Chief Minister giving anarchic freedom to auto-drivers to harass and exploit their customers, was all set to multiply when the Government would have encouraged electricity users to tamper with their meters or not pay bills; would have removed all traffic discipline in public transport, and so on.

Narendra Modi : The man India awaits

By Kanchan Gupta

Or you could tweak the headline to 'The man India needs'. Nothing, absolutely nothing, must be allowed to come in the way of this nation's aspiration

Conversations at social gatherings should be neither recorded nor reported, not the least because a lot is said among friends in a congenial atmosphere and the banter is often no more than idle tittle-tattle. There is also that other reason which we tend to forget – many who confide in you at such gatherings do so firm in the belief that what they have said would not be shared with others. This is especially true for those who are given to a political persuasion different from yours. For example, a high-ranking office-bearer, Minister or MP, whose declared loyalty is to the first family of the Congress, would balk at the thought of his or her no-holds-barred rant against Sonia Gandhi and bitter bitching about how Rahul Gandhi has led the party into a dark and bleak wilderness being retold with appropriate attribution. This would be equally true for senior journalists and editors who are in competition with Mani Shankar Aiyar for the honour of being appointed chief khidmatgar at the Palace. People live up to the aphorism 'in goes the liquor, out comes the truth' – the wise stick to sipping insipid red wine – but an unwritten code of honour

prohibits retelling of the truth. If it is to be retold because the temptation to tattle is too strong to overcome, the truth would need to be carefully sanitised and attribution would be an absolute no-no. That's a good thumb rule to follow without burdening your conscience or falling foul of friends.

I happened to spend the evening (actually an evening that stretched well into the night) at

their cringe-worthy flattery of the claimants to the masnad of Delhi. Instead, I flitted from group to group of known – and unwavering – critics of the BJP and its prime ministerial candidate

Narendra Modi. There were three common points in what they told me. First, there's a massive Modi wave surging from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. A pollster whose polling skills are

The conversation was great, the food was even better. The who's who of Delhi, apart from India's movers and shakers, were present in full measure. As always, it was nice to see politicians drop their pretences and succumb to minor vices, the source of simple human pleasures.

last week's most important event on Delhi's social calendar – probably the biggest event this season. The conversation was great, the food was even better. The who's who of Delhi, apart from India's movers and shakers, were present in full measure. As always, it was nice to see politicians drop their pretences and succumb to minor vices, the source of simple human pleasures. With a general election round the corner, the conversation invariably revolved around the main contenders for power and possible outcomes. I tried to fob off the politically promiscuous usual suspects – there's no shortage of them in this city and they come in various shades of venality – since there was no purpose served in listening to

irreproachable used the adjective 'unprecedented' – in his words, "There's an unprecedented Modi wave sweeping the country." Second, the BJP could easily touch a tally of 220 and even go beyond that provided it selects its candidates carefully and deploys all its forces on the ground before and on polling day. Getting the voter out would be the clincher in this election – if the BJP fails on this front, the results could go any which way and the party would have only itself to blame. Third, the Congress is headed for its worst electoral defeat; the party faces decimation. Yes, the Aam Aadmi Party was mentioned but in passing reference. Curiously, or perhaps not, senior foreign diplomats, among them Ambassadors and High

Commissioners, were more eager to talk about AAP than others; most of them wanted to be reassured that the upstarts would not score more than a dozen seats. It's possible such un-cordial feelings of the expatriate community of Chanakyapuri towards the AAP are not shared by the Americans, but that's a story to be told another day.

Anecdotal evidence of how well (or otherwise) a party's election campaign is taking

opinion polls indicate a similar trend – the latest poll shows Narendra Modi's popularity rating is more than thrice that of a very distant Rahul Gandhi in the heartland. The counter argument to such assertions is that in 2004 the BJP lost the general election despite Atal Bihari Vajpayee remaining at the top, and way ahead of others, in the popularity charts. Certitude of victory can make politicians and political parties organisations complacent and,

person contesting on that symbol. Every election tends to disprove pundits and it is entirely possible 2014 could well turn out to be a 'lamp post election' with voters voting for Narendra Modi, but that is something we will get to know only after the results are declared. Let us not forget Indira Gandhi did not expect to lose the 1977 election; it's only after Amethi and Rae Bareilly spurned the Nehru Dynasty did realisation of the enormity of the defeat sink in. That the collapse of the Congress this time will be spectacular is a no-brainer, but the exact extent of that collapse will be known after the last of the results is in. Nevertheless, it would in order to ask: Is the BJP filling the political vacuum with the speed with which it is being created by the collapse of the Congress?

In 1998 I had interviewed Atal Bihari Vajpayee which was published under the evocative headline "The man India awaits." Sixteen years later, that same headline could be used as a slogan for Narendra Modi – he is the man India awaits. Indeed, it could be tweaked to "The man India needs" – to restore confidence in

Government, to resuscitate the economy, to reinstate faith in our entrepreneurial spirit, to return to the trajectory of India's dazzling rise during the NDA years, to remind the world that this great nation will contribute to the shaping of the 21st century. Nothing must come between the aspiration of the masses and the outcome of this election. The BJP alone can ensure this. ■

(The writer is BJP National Executive Member)

There is no gainsaying that candidate selection plays a key role in determining the outcome of any election, more so a Lok Sabha poll. If the candidate does not inspire confidence then a leader's popularity alone cannot ensure victory. The mass rejection of sitting MPs in 2004 and 2009 proves this point. The only exception to the rule was in 1977 which was a 'lamp post election' – the Janata Party's symbol mattered more than the person contesting on that symbol.

shape cannot be a substitute for empirical evidence culled from the ground. But if popular perception matters in politics and if the English-speaking chattering classes of urban India indeed wield disproportionate power to mould voter opinion, then anecdotal evidence gathered that evening indicates Narendra Modi is riding a popularity wave whose crest could be higher than that of the Vajpayee wave in 1998-1999. If the Vajpayee wave could propel the BJP to power in two subsequent general elections, it could be argued, then there's no reason to disbelieve that a Modi wave will sweep the BJP to power in 2014. The various

as we all know, complacency is the surest, shortest route to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Key takeaway: The BJP, as an organisation, cannot afford to rest easy between now and polling day.

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US Ambassador Nancy Powell calls on Modi

US Ambassador Nancy Powell held discussions with BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi on February 13, 2014. After nine year of long gap a high official of United States of America called on Shri Gujarat chief minister Shri Narendra Modi. Powell praised the good model of governance in the state and said that it could be replicated in other parts of the

Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said "The US ambassador Ms. Nancy Powell has met the Gujarat Chief Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. The decision by the US administration to resume contact with the Gujarat Chief Minister appears to be based on their suo moto assessment of the domestic situation in India. I regard it as an internal corrective of the US administration. The earlier decision not to keep contact with

The earlier decision of some countries not to deal with him was a failure of India's foreign policy. It is not for a political party or a State government, to react to another country's response of dealing or otherwise with elected representatives in India. It was for the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) to react to it. Did the MEA under the UPA fail in this regard? Unquestionably it did."

"The reaction of the External Affairs Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid to this meeting is self-evident. The Congress Party is today a demoralized lot. For it the writing on the wall is very clear. Its best case scenario is a defeat in the elections. The logical scenario appears to be indicating a complete rout. Its vote base has disappeared. The arrogance of its leaders still remains.

That arrogance is evident even in the reactions in the past few hours. The External Affairs Minister who should have protected the dignity of an elected representative in India appears distressed even as the US Ambassador met the Gujarat Chief Minister."

"The Indo-US relationship is an important pillar of India's foreign policy. The NDA Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had contributed to strengthening of this relationship. All sides must realize that restraint and statesmanship can enable us to overcome transient problems. Aberrations cannot be exaggerated to disturb the balance in the relationship." ■



world. It is worth mentioning here that Narendra Modi had rejected such requests three times in last three months, proving that he has no great desire to meet US representatives.

Earlier, Shri Narendra Modi greeted Powell with flowers and a hand shake when she arrived at Chief Minister's residence in Gandhi Nagar for the meeting. Shri Modi also welcomed other members of the US delegation.

Reacting on the meeting Leader of Opposition in Rajya

an elected representative in India did not appear to be based on any cogent evidence or court verdicts. It was based on excessive propaganda in the media and elsewhere created by certain NGOs."

He added "For us in the BJP, the meeting is a part of the diplomatic routine. The Gujarat Chief Minister is unquestionably the frontrunner in the 2014 general elections. He has convincingly won the State assembly elections three times.

BJP outlines economic priorities

Creation of over 200 million jobs over the next 10 years is going to be the priority of the Bharatiya Janata Party, according to its National Treasurer and member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha Shri Piyush Goyal who was addressing the National Council

be created every year, he said.

Linked to the question of jobs was the issue of skill development. Ruing the fact that the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) had not been able to get the funds that it had been promised after all these years, Shri Goyal said it was

Answering a question on the issue of goods and services tax (GST), Shri Goyal said BJP was not against it provided certain issues were addressed. These included issues such as the needs of states in situations of natural calamities. "If these contentious points are addressed then BJP stands committed to the approval of GST," said Shri Goyal.

On the issue of land acquisition he said the government should have increased compensation and simplified the procedures but "it had ended up making the law so draconian that had not Mr Arun Jaitley, leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, insisted on keeping four-five sectors out of its purview, the entire business would have come to a standstill."

Maintaining the party's opposition to multi-brand FDI in retail, Mr Goyal said that unless the country's manufacturing base was strengthened, it was not going to allow foreign brands to enter India as they were not going to work on strengthening the backend systems and supply chains.

He exhorted India Inc to empower BJP leader Mr Narendra Modi to come to power with absolute majority and ended his speech on a positive and promising note. ■



meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry here on February 17, 2014. Lamenting the fact that despite high growth in the past few years, the number of jobs created in the country was abysmally low – at a mere 2.5 million – Shri Goyal said affordable housing alone could provide the kind of spur to manufacturing which the country needed. If the country took up the agenda of creating 100 million affordable homes then 15 million jobs could easily

regrettable that only 3 lakh people had been imparted skills against a target of several millions. He suggested dovetailing of skill development of 200 million people with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) so that people could actually be provided with funds to gain skills. Four areas where skills could be built, he said, were tourism, manufacturing, housing and infrastructure.

10 Important Spiritual Instructions

By Sri Swami Sivananda

These instructions contain the very essence of all Yoga Sadhana, Karma, Bhakti, Jnana and Yoga will all come to one who follows them wholeheartedly. They are the unfailing keys to quick and effective development and culture of the physical, mental, moral and spiritual self of man.

1. BRAHMAMUHURTA

Get up at 4 a.m. daily. This is Brahmamuhurta which is extremely favourable for Sadhana. Do all your morning spiritual Sadhana during this period from 4 a.m. to 6:30 or 7 a.m. Such Sadhana gives quick and maximum progress.

2. ASANA

Sit on Padmasana (lotus pose), Siddhasana (adept's pose) or Sukhasana (any pose you like) for your Japa and meditation for half an hour, facing east or north. Increase the period gradually to three hours. Practice Sirshasana (headstand) and Sarvangasana (shoulderstand) for maintenance of health and Brahmacharya. Take light physical exercises as walking, etc., regularly. Do twenty rounds of easy, comfortable Pranayama (breathing exercises). Do not strain yourself while doing Pranayama.

3. JAPA

You can repeat any Mantra (sacred syllable), such as pure Om or Om Namō Narayanaya, Sri Ram, Sita Ram, Sri Ram Jaya Ram Jaya Jaya Ram, Om Namah Sivaya, Om Namō Bhagavate Vasudevaya, Om Saravanabhavaya Namah, Hari Om, or Gayatri (a sacred Vedic Mantra), according to your taste or inclination, from 108 times to 21,600 times daily. Devotees of Christ may

repeat the name Jesus or Hail Mary, Mother of Jesus. Parsis, Sikhs and Muslims may select a name or Mantra from the Zend Avesta, Granth Sahib or Koran respectively.

4. DIETETIC DISCIPLINE

Take Sattvic food. Give up chillies, tamarind, garlic, onion, sour articles, oil, mustard, asafoetida. Observe moderation in diet (Mitahara). Do not overload the stomach. Give up those things which the mind likes best for a fortnight once or twice in a year. Eat simple simple food. Milk and fruits help concentration. Take food as medicine to keep the life going. Eating for enjoyment is a sin. Give up salt and sugar for a week or a fortnight. You must be able to live on rice, dhal and bread without any pickle. Do not ask for extra salt for dhal, and sugar for tea, coffee and milk. People taking non-vegetarian diet should try their best to gradually give up flesh-eating as completely as possible. They will be immensely benefited.

5. MEDITATION

Have a separate meditation room under lock and key. If this is not possible then a corner of the room should be set apart with a small cloth screen or curtain drawn across. Keep the room spotlessly clean.

6. SVADHYAYA

Study systematically the Gita, Ramayana, Bhagavatam, Vishnu-Sahasranama, Lalita-Sahasranama, Adityahridaya, Upanishads, Yoga Vasishta, Bible, Imitation of Christ, Zend Avesta, Quran, the Tripitakas, the Granth Sahib and other religious books from half an hour to one hour daily, and have Suddha Vichara

(pure thoughts).

7. ELEVATE THE MIND

Get by heart some prayer - Slokas (prayer verses), Stotras (hymns) and repeat them as soon as you sit in the Asana before starting Japa or meditation. This will elevate the mind quickly.

8. BRAHMACHARYA

Preserve the vital force (Veerya (seminal energy)) very, very carefully. Veerya is God in motion or manifestation (Vibhuti). Veerya is all power. Veerya is all money. Veerya is the essence of life, thought and intelligence. This instruction is not for bachelors only. Householders also must follow it as far as possible. They must be extremely moderate in their marital connections with their spouse. This is very important.

9. CHARITY

Do charity regularly, every month, or even daily according to your means. Never fail in this item. If necessary forego some personal wants but keep up this charity regularly.

10. HAVE SATSANG

Give up bad company, smoking, meat and alcoholic liquors entirely. Have constant Satsang (association with holy people). Do not develop any evil habits. Deliberately exert to develop positive virtuous qualities.

This is the essence of all spiritual Sadhana. It will lead you to liberation. All these spiritual canons must be rigidly observed. You must not give any leniency to the mind.■

(Excerpts from 20 Important Spiritual Instructions by Sri Swami Sivananda)

Courtesy: Divine Life Society