



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Subscription

Annual Rs. 100/-
For 3 years Rs. 250/-

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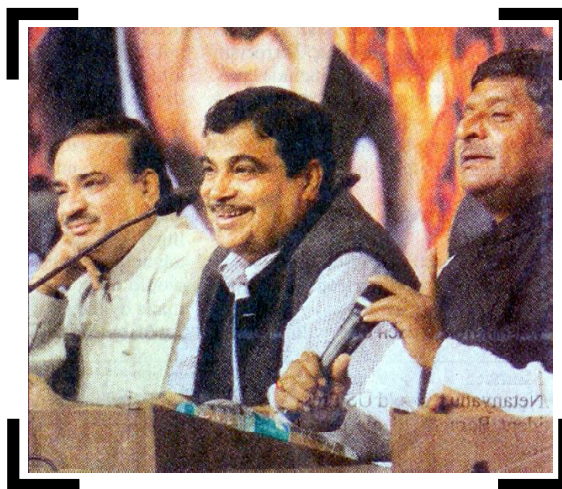
Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

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Publisher and Printer : Printed by
Dr. Nandkishore Garg for Dr. Mookerjee
Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36, F.F.
Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and
Published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas,
PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New
Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

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गुरुनहत्वा हि महानुभावान् श्रेयो भक्तुं भैक्ष्यमपीह लोके ।

हत्वार्थकामांस्तु गुरुहिनहैव, भुंजीय भेगान् रुधिरप्रदिग्धान् ॥५॥

It is better to live on alms in this world without slaying these noble elders, because even after killing them we shall after all enjoy only bloodstained pleasures in the form of wealth and sense-enjoyments.

—(Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 5)

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“The results of the Assembly elections were a clear mandate against the Congress. People were so fed up with the Congress that they not only created history by allowing a second term to Akali Dal-BJP regime in Punjab but also routed the Congress in their stronghold Amethi and Rae Bareilly”.

- Nitin Gadkari

“The election outcome in five States was a clear rejection of the “corruption, price rise and communal politics” of Congress”.

-Sushma Swaraj

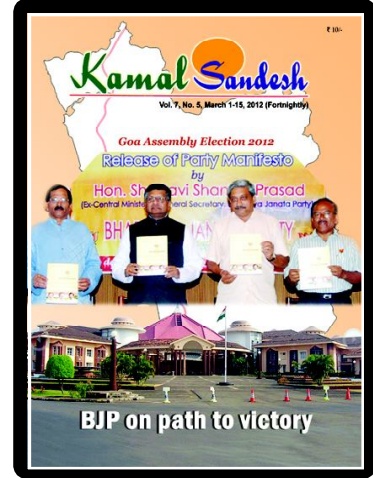
Letter to the Editor

Congress exposed in UP

Dear Editor Sir,

The Assembly election for the Uttar Pradesh this time has been fought with dirty weapons by political parties like SP, BSP and Congress. The dirtiest weapon was used by the Congress and the party thus deserves to be written off. It encouraged two of its Union Ministers, Salman Khurshid and Beni Prasad Verma, to go against even the Election Commission of India. Another Minister spoke of President's Rule even when campaigning was on. Rahul Gandhi behaved like some sort of an evangelist who will bring peace and prosperity to the downtrodden masses of the State. The Uttar Pradesh election thoroughly exposed the communal face of the Congress party and the drubbing was expected.

MV Kapur, New Delhi



“Relevance of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and his ideas in present context”

Articles invited

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

-Prabhat Jha, Editor

Write to us

The Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

**We welcome
Your views & Suggestions**

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Now gear up for the final assault in 2014 elections

Editorial...

The much awaited results of the five state assemblies have finally come. The results are in tune with what the people were discussing among themselves. But political parties were not ready to give an ear to what the people were saying. It was being said that SP will dethrone BSP which will be the number two in the election and the third and fourth slots will be occupied by BJP and Congress. But political parties took time to grasp this reality of what the people felt.

BSP was in power and SP was in opposition. SP waged a relentless struggle against BSP since the very beginning. The struggle should continue till the objective was achieved. But generally political parties relent in between. There is a feeling that it has increasingly become difficult to sustain the tempo of the struggle for long and take it to its logical conclusion. BJP from the very beginning had launched its electoral fight to win seats in the neighbourhood of 80-100 and its strategy had been devised accordingly. BJP thought that the benefit of people's frustration out of BSP misrule will be shared by BJP and SP. Ultimately, SP ended up encashing the disenchantment with BSP into its vote account and romped home successful at the hustings. Somehow BJP could not emerge as the sole alternative to BSP government. It was a repeat of the 2007 when UP people first decided to dethrone SP, this time too they decided to sweep off BSP government. Who should take its place the electorate decided later on. The Muslim community and the OBC voters joined the SP camp. This led to the BSP's undoing. In the peculiar situation prevailing in Uttar Pradesh, if any political party wishes to bring in change in the power equation in the State, it has to engage itself in the task in the right earnest from day one itself. Treating elections as a fair that has to be celebrated after every five years and to expect results on the ground in that short period is a misnomer.

I recall that during the Bihar elections and the latest in UP the Congress led by the so-called mother-son Gandhi family tried to anoint both of them as god incarnate and that is the reason for the humiliation it suffered first in Bihar and now in UP. Had there been any leader other than Smt. Sonia Gandhi under whose stewardship the Congress would have suffered the humiliation it did today, would it have allowed him/her to continue in office a moment further? That is the moot point to ponder. They would certainly not have put up with him any longer. Not to speak of doing so in private, no leader worth his salt has the guts to ask Smt. Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi to quit. Had there been somebody other than Mrs. Gandhi and Rahul in command of the Congress, he would never have been spared even for a moment. In the absence of internal democracy it is futile to expect from Congress the freedom to call a spade a spade, to call day as day and night as night. Can people expect from such an organization a sense of accountability and moral courage to accept responsibility for whatever is going wrong? That is the reason why people are getting disillusioned with Congress and getting away from it. Congress today is a party of convenience. Undergoing sufferings for struggling for the cause of the people is today something alien to its ideology. Congress has failed to read the people's mindset.

The masses are not slaves and nobody can cheat them any longer. With just four seats in Bihar assembly and 28 in UP, how does the Congress think of capturing the

seat of power at the Centre in 2014 Lok Sabha elections? With both Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Baba having received severe drubbing at the hands of the electorate, under whose command the Congress will face the challenge of 2014 battle of the ballot? Will Congress draft the same old generals who have been humbled and mauled a number of times in successive electoral battles or will there be change of guards? The top leaders on whose shoulders lies the responsibility of steering the Congress ship in the sea of elections today stand severely shaken by the defeat they received in their own parliamentary constituencies of Rae Bareilly and Amethi. In Soniaji's Rae Bareilly Congress stood totally routed and in Rahul's Amethi it got just two out of five. Those who cannot gauge the mood of their own parliamentary constituencies, how can they do so for the whole country? The Congress and its top leadership today stands rejected at the hands of the masses in the country.

Congress and BJP stand as apart as the land and the sky. In UP the BJP has to put the responsibility for rejuvenating the organizations on the strong shoulders of those who have the will and capacity to wage a relentless struggle for people's causes unitedly, with one voice and taking the people along. The organization in UP needs a thorough overhauling and young people will have to be drafted in for the job. Otherwise BJP will not be able to touch the number it has in its mind from UP during the 2014 elections.

BJP did receive a setback in

UP. But at the same time its good showing in Punjab, Goa and Uttarakhand, to a great extent, gave it a great sense of achievement and satisfaction. BJP has snatched power from Congress in Goa. It has created history by succeeding in repeating its alliance government in Punjab. At the same time it has to go into the reasons that led to winning lesser seats than in 2007 elections. So does BJP have to have heart-searching in Uttarakhand.

BJP has to wage its struggle on the field with active

participation of the people. Struggles cannot be waged on paper. There are people who have the zeal and will to work in the field and there are others who are best in the office. Therefore, everybody has to be assigned duty and responsibility as per his zeal and wont. If the party works out its strategy well in advance keeping in view the ground realities there is no reason why BJP should not be able to challenge SP and other political parties in its electoral battle for Lok Sabha from UP and all over the country and come out with flying colours. ■



Certificate of Registration

Title of the Newspaper	:	KAMAL SANDESH
Registration Number of the Newspaper	:	DELENG/2006/16838
Language/Languages in which it is published	:	English
Periodicity of its publication and the day/days/dates on which it is published	:	Fortnightly
Retail selling price of the Newspaper	:	Rs.10
Publisher's Name	:	Dr. Nandkishore Garg
Nationality	:	Indian
Address	:	11, Ashok Road, New Delhi-1
Printer's Name	:	Dr. Nandkishore Garg
Nationality	:	Indian
Address	:	11, Ashok Road, New Delhi-1
Editor's Name	:	Prabhat Jha
Nationality	:	Indian
Address	:	11, Ashok Road, New Delhi-1
True and precise account of the premises where printing is conducted	:	Excel Print C-36, F.F. Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55
Place of publication	:	Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New Delhi-03

Results augur countdown for Congress in 2014

By Amba Charan Vashishth

Anti-Congress message is loud and clear : Gadkari

After the historic BJP victory in Punjab and in Goa and its rebound in Uttarakhand, the BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the results of the Assembly elections in these States and Uttar Pradesh were a clear mandate against the Congress.

Shri Gadkari said people were so fed up with the Congress that they not only created history by allowing a second term to Akali Dal-BJP regime in Punjab but also routed the Congress in their stronghold Amethi and Rae Bareilly. "The performance of the Congress shows that the people in the State have voted against the party and it serves as an alarm for them," Shri Gadkari said.

On Uttar Pradesh, Shri Gadkari said BJP did not get the support as it expected, he said, adding that the people of Uttar Pradesh wanted to change the BSP Government and therefore supported the Samajwadi Party. "But, we have created history in Punjab where for the first time the Government has been retained," he said while lauding Badal for the performance of the SAD-BJP combine.



The results of assembly elections in the five States of Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, UP and Manipur declared on March 6 have sent out many messages loud and clear. For the Congress the countdown for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections has begun.

The myth of Congress heir apparent Rahul Gandhi having a charisma too stands shattered more convincingly than ever. Although he made his electoral presence felt in all the States, except Manipur, yet he concentrated himself in UP which he made his launching pad for the greater electoral battles, particularly the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. His political ambitions seem to have failed to take off, going by the drubbing



his party Congress received in UP at the hands of the electorate.

He was the only visible face in the election campaign; others

were just marking their presence lest they were marked absent from the campaign. Even his mother Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi made a customary presence in the campaign. The campaign was so much Rahul centric that he never cared to introduce his party's candidates when he went to address election meetings in particular assembly constituencies. This, perhaps, he did in the mistaken view that all the votes that were going to be cast were not for the candidate, not for the Congress but for Rahul and Rahul alone.

Rahul tumbled down

Congress tally in UP struggled to touch a figure of 28. Congress has 22 Lok Sabha MPs, the number for which credit was given only to Rahul in 2009. But going by that performance,

Congress should have got not less than 100 seats in the latest Vidhan Sabha elections. But Congress under Rahul was hoping to aspire for a much higher number. Therefore, if the Congress kitty is poorer than before, the credit and discredit too should go to Rahul. But Rahul apologists claimed that he had vowed to dethrone the anti-people Mayawati government and this is where he has succeeded. The ignoramuses fail to distinguish that it is not Rahul but Samajwadi Party led by Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh Yadav who have dethroned her. A queer case of Rahul sycophants trying to grab other's achievement as their own!

Unexpectedly, Rahul did exhibit the sportsmanship to

accept responsibility for defeat, but added that it was because of poor organisation and weak fundamentals in the State unit. Smt. Sonia Gandhi too spoke of poor organization. But this excuse is no tribute to their organizational capacity because after all he was galvanizing force for the party for over two-and-a-half years and why did he fail to discern this weakness before the results were out. And who was to do it – either he or his mother Mrs. Sonia Gandhi? If they did not, that is the failure of both.

Family affair

The Gandhi family have rightly been described as 'electoral tourists' because after the tourist season of elections they disappear to the comforts of their Delhi mansions visiting their parliamentary

Nitin Gadkari nominates observers for electing BJP Legislature Party leaders in Punjab, Goa & Uttrakhand

The BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has nominated former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh and National General Secretary Shri Ananth kumar as observers for electing the BJP Legislature Party leader in Uttrakhand. The Parliamentary Board of the Party which met in New Delhi on March 06 has resolved to make all efforts for a BJP Government in the State of Uttrakhand.

Shri Gadkari has further nominated the former National President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and National General Secretary Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad as the observers for election of the BJP Legislature Party leader in Goa, where the BJP has got absolute majority. BJP National Secretary and in-charge of Goa Smt. Aarti Mehra will also be available for the purpose.

Shri Gadkari has also nominated Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley and BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal as the observers for electing the BJP Legislature Party leader in Punjab. National Vice- President and in-charge Punjab BJP Shri Shanta Kumar and National General Secretary and election in-charge, Punjab Shri J.P. Nadda will also be available for this purpose.



constituencies occasionally not even for two days a month on an average. Sister Priyanka Vadara too appears on the scene to help her brother and mother. This time she glamourised on the election campaign with her husband and two children on the stage to enjoy the election season. Her husband projected her as the man after Rahul and even expressed his ambition to jump the electoral arena. A year back, he had even boasted of winning from any constituency in the country. The electorate saw through their game and packed the Gandhi family with bag and baggage. Smt. Sonia Gandhi faced the ignominy of Congress being completely routed out from her Rae Bareilly parliamentary constituency while in Rahul's Amethi Congress could win only 2 seats out of 5 segments.

Cold shoulder in Bhatta-Parsaul

Even Bhatta-Parsaul where Rahul shed a hundred crocodile tears on the plight of farmers gave him a cold shoulder.

The problem of the people, particularly the Dalits, was the *roti, kapda aur makan*. He thought he would hoodwink them with a visit to a dalit home. He hurt the native psyche when he pined that UP boys "had to beg" in Punjab, Maharashtra and elsewhere. At the Centre and in Congress-ruled States his party was promoting corruption and protecting the corrupt and in UP he tried to project himself as a great warrior against corruption. He failed to touch and speak of the solution to the burning problems of rising prices and inflation, rising unemployment, shortages of essential commodities, black-marketing,

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Election outcome was a clear rejection of "corruption, price rise & communal politics" of Congress : Sushma Swaraj

Welcoming the election results in Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand,



Punjab and Goa, leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that it was a clear-cut anti-Congress mood throughout the country. She said BJP has attained full majority in Punjab and Goa. In Uttrakhand, still there are possibilities in attaining majority and BJP will make the government there, she said.

Terming the dismal performance of Congress in the Assembly polls as the "second consecutive defeat" of Rahul Gandhi,

leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said Congress had made the elections a prestige issue. She said the election outcome was a clear rejection of the "corruption, price rise and communal politics" of Congress. She said the Congress' lukewarm performance in Uttar Pradesh has shaken up the party by proving that Rahul Gandhi was not able to win over voters who were desperately seeking change.

They ignored the Congress and opted instead for the Samajwadi Party. The change of guard in Lucknow is being felt already in Delhi.

She said the Congress lost heavy bids for power in UP and Punjab, where it had assumed a long tradition of anti-incumbency would bring it to office. Instead, the state has, for the first time, re-elected, the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP, alliance in power. The electoral failures come at a time when the Congress has been enervated by a series of corruption scandals. A good performance could have helped revive its credibility as well as its authority in an increasingly fragile coalition.

About BJP's performance in the elections, she said the results were "not unexpected for us in Punjab, Goa and Uttrakhand, but we could not do well in UP. So it has been a mixed bag for us. We could have done better in UP."

Pointing out that there was a multi-cornered contest in UP, Smt. Swaraj said there is a need for serious introspection about why the BJP could not do well in UP. "It will be discussed within the party," she said. ■

2007

UTTAR PRADESH

NO OF CONSTITUENCIES: GEN- 314, SC-89. TOTAL: 403

PARTY	CONTESTED	WON	VOTE %	VOTE % IN SEATS CONTESTED
BJP	350	51	16.97%	19.62%
BSP	403	206	30.43%	30.43%
INC	393	22	8.61%	8.84%
RLD	254	10	3.70%	5.76%
SP	393	97	25.43%	26.07%

PUNJAB

NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES: GEN-87, SC- 29. TOTAL: 116

PARTY	CONTESTED	WON	VOTE %	VOTE % IN SEATS CONTESTED
BJP	23	19	8.28%	46.75%
INC	116	44	40.90%	40.90%
SAD	93	48	37.09%	45.07%

UTTARAKHAND

NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES: GEN- 54, SC-12, and ST- 3. TOTAL: 69

PARTY	CONTESTED	WON	VOTE %	VOTE % IN SEATS CONTESTED
BJP	69	34	31.90%	31.90%
BSP	69	8	11.76%	11.76%
INC	69	21	29.59%	29.59%
UKKD	61	3	5.49%	6.38%

GOA

NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES: GEN-39, SC-1. TOTAL: 40

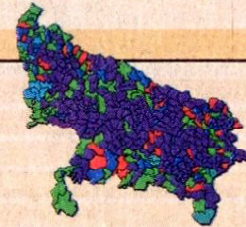
PARTY	CONTESTED	WON	VOTE %	VOTE % IN SEATS CONTESTED
BJP	33	14	30.32%	36.88%
INC	32	16	32.25%	40.14%
NCP	6	3	5.02%	33.60%
MGP	26	2	8.65%	13.01%

2012

UTTAR PRADESH

NO OF CONSTITUENCIES: 403

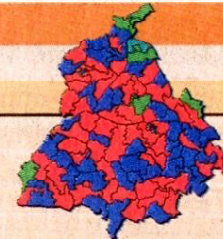
PARTY	WON
SP	226
BSP	80
BJP	47
CONG	28
RLD	09
OTHERS	13



PUNJAB

NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES: 117

PARTY	WON
SAD	56
BJP	12
CONG	46
OTHERS	03



UTTARAKHAND

NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES: 70

PARTY	WON
BJP	31
CONG	32
UKD	01
BSP	03
OTHERS	03



GOA

NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES: 40

PARTY	WON
BJP+	24
CONG	9
GVP	2
OTHERS	5



terrorism and providing security of life and property - issues that hurt the common citizen the most.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made just a token presence in the election campaign. He appeared not a much sought-after leader, not to speak of being a star campaigner for Congress - a pride of place that was reserved only for Gandhi dynasty.

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The common refrain and complaint of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyank Vadara and Prime Minister in every State was that the Congress government at the Centre had sent funds worth hundreds of crores for development but these were misappropriated or remained unspent causing misery to the people. The masses were intelligent enough to dissect the truth from the

allegations. They were wise enough to appreciate that any money sent by them was not the Congress fund but money from the public exchequer which belonged to the people and not the Congress.

Salman 'sacrifice' in vain

Union Law Minister Salman Khurshid who was ready to gladly go to the gallows for the cause of Muslim reservation got humiliated at the hands of

In all, although results in UP and Uttarakhand have not been, in the words of BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, entirely according to our expectations, yet gaining Goa and retaining Punjab are the two new feathers in Shri Gadkari's cap soon after the stunning victories in municipal elections in Maharashtra. Shri Gadkari and his team has proved its mettle in the elections.

electorate when he failed to make his wife win the assembly seat.

Congress, in fact, had no programme of action but only gimmicks to dupe the voter. For winning the election it could go to any length; it could stoop to any low at whatever cost to the country in the long run. To appease the Muslim minority Congress launched a rat race between different political parties to promise the moon of reservation on religious basis. In the process, it annoyed the OBCs whose reservation quota would have stood curtailed by that much to Muslims. In the process their communal and caste card failed to convert it into votes.

The only solace to Congress is the victory in Manipur where it had no challenge. In other four States, it ended up losing power to BJP in Goa and registering no

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gains either in UP, Punjab and Uttarakhand. It failed to cash in on any anti-incumbency of BJP-SAD in Punjab, of BJP in Uttarakhand where the ruling parties were able to overcome this factor through sheer power of development and good governance. It had nothing to present anything that could catch the electorate's fancy.

Congress loses Goa

BJP dethroned Congress by winning a clear majority with 21 seats and a total of 24 with its ally the MGP. BJP gave a lie to its detractors who dubbed it as a Hindu party against minorities. This time BJP fielded six Catholic Christian candidates who all won. Corruption and mining scams contributed to Congress undoing.

In Punjab BJP-SAD re-wrote history by bouncing back to power with a thumping majority of 68 (BJP 12, SAD 56) in a house of 117. BJP had contested 23 seats only. It is the first time since 1967 that a ruling party has been returned to power for the second successive term.

Manpreet hype punctured

The much media hyped SAD rebel Manpreet Singh Badal, who formed the Punjab Peoples' Party (PPP), had to lick dust of defeat in both the constituencies he contested and was relegated to third position. Earlier, he had won the Gidderbaha seat consecutively for three times as a SAD candidate. His father, Gurdas Singh Badal who challenged his elder brother and CM Prakash Singh Badal lost his security deposit even. PPP could not get even a single seat in assembly.

Congress under the

leadership of Capt. Amrinder Singh had to feel content with a poor second with 46 seats. Though the Capt. won his traditional Patiala constituency, his son Raninder Singh lost in a neighbouring constituency by a margin of 6,930 votes.

Punjab BJP President Shri Ashwani Sharma won his Pathankot seat by a margin of about 18,000 votes.

Uttar Pradesh was a setback for BJP's calculations. With 47 seats (4 less than last election) it scored the third position with Congress getting relegated to the fourth position. Congress got 29 (7 more from last time) while its ally RLD got 8.

Mulayam Singh's Samajwadi Party bounced back to power it lost in 2007 by winning a landslide victory with 224 seats. The ruling BSP of Sushri Mayawati was swept out of power retaining only 79 seats.

Another setback for BJP was in Uttarakhand where it could not score clear majority with Congress winning 32 and BJP 31. But BJP is hoping to form a government with the help of one BJP rebel and one Uttarakhand Kranti Dal MLA.

BJP retains much to smile

In all, although results in UP and Uttarakhand have not been, in the words of BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, entirely according to our expectations, yet gaining Goa and retaining Punjab are the two new feathers in Shri Gadkari's cap soon after the stunning victories in municipal elections in Maharashtra. Shri Gadkari and his team has proved its mettle in the elections. ■

(The write is National Convener of BJP Literature and Publication Cell)

Good administration is priority of BJP : Parrikar

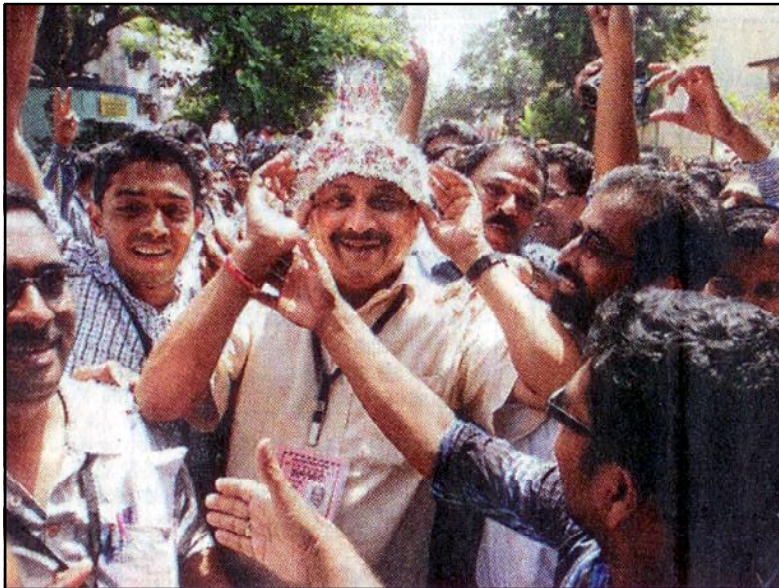
Former Goa Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar basking in the glory of the massive mandate received by BJP at the assembly polls said that his immediate challenge would be to put the state back on track from its 'derailed' condition due to

Laxmikant Parsekar and the state election campaign in-charge, Shri Shripad Naik informed that most of the 21 BJP MLAs won by massive margins, which indicated decision of the voters to bring the BJP to power. "Our Mapusa candidate, Shri Francis D'Souza won by a

acrobatics," Shri Parrikar observed, mentioning that BJP would now be able to run the government comfortably. "And we will ensure that all Goans will get the government they wished for, with all promises made to the voters executed in the given timeframe, including construction of the Calvim-Carona bridge," he stated, informing that once the BJP government is sworn in, it will finalise the details of the bridge with the help of the concerned people.

Replying to a question as regards priority of the BJP government, he said that budget will be the priority of the BJP government. "And we have to ensure that at least 50 per cent of our assurances are fulfilled through the budget, as we need to make financial provisions for the related schemes," he stated, noting that issues like Regional Plan, Medium of Instruction and illegal mining would be sorted out simultaneously by the cabinet, even though these issues cannot be solved in a day.

Answering another question as to whether the BJP would undertake vindictive politics and put the Congress leaders behind bars, Shri Parrikar said that the BJP would not undertake any such exercise. "However, if the Shah Commission report indicts any Congress leader in illegal mining then legal action needs to be undertaken against the accused," he added,



bad administration.

"I want to gear up the entire state administration," Shri Parrikar said, observing that many concerned people had developed 'bad habits' over the period of time during the Congress regime. "I expect help from the bureaucracy in this exercise and hope that it would extend a helping hand to me," he added.

Shri Parrikar, addressing a press conference in the presence of the state BJP president Shri

margin of over 10,000 votes, while party's Curcholem MLA, Shri Nilesh Cabral won by a margin of over 8,500 votes," he pointed out, maintaining that there are at least five to six BJP candidates whose victory margin is between 5,000 and 6000.

"The clear and decisive mandate, on one hand has decimated Congress party in Goa, while on the other hand, allowed the BJP to run the government smoothly without going for any political

pointing out that the BJP government would however, put up all the cases related to illegal mining before the state Lokayukta, thus giving adequate opportunity to the accused to present his side.

He said that during this election money amounting to Rs 200 crore was spent by the Congress candidates in various constituencies. "However, we will rule the state in such a way that after five years, the Goans would find no need to accept money for giving votes," he observed.

Shri Parrikar also said that although review would be taken of the jobs given by the Digambar Kamat government, those candidates who were given employment by following all necessary procedures need not have any worries. "However, those candidates who got employed with inadequate procedures like absence of administrative or financial approval will be tackled on case-to-case basis," he stated, pointing out that many call letters distributed just before the election code of conduct coming into force, were bogus.

Shri Parrikar applauded the election campaign as managed by Shri Shripad Naik. "Shripadbhau did an excellent job," he observed, maintaining that the North Goa MP has solved at least 10 to 12 major internal differences, involving party workers, during the campaign. ■

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Nitin Gadkari compares RLD with a taxi any party can hire

Taking a dig at Congress-RLD alliance in Uttar Pradesh, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that the Ajit Singh-led RLD was a "taxi" which any one can hire.

RLD president Ajit Singh is only concerned for his son Jayant and not for the Jats of UP, Shri Gadkari said.

"RLD is an opportunist party, it is like a taxi in which any one can sit and put the meter down," he said while addressing a public rally in Sivalkhas constituency of the district. From Sonia Gandhi of Congress to Samajwadi Party chief in UP, all are busy projecting their sons as future leaders, Gadkari said, adding that no one was interested in the welfare of the country.

"Sonia Gandhi is concerned about making her son Rahul as Prime Minister while Mulayam keeps thinking on how his son Akhilesh becomes the UP Chief Minister," said the BJP chief.

Talking about separate reservation issue he said, "While Congress has promised nine per cent reservation to Muslims, SP was talking about 18 per cent, both parties are playing a game of reservation on the basis of religion," he regretted. (FOC) ■

Court quashes corruption case against Yeddyurappa

Karnataka High Court on March 7, 2012 quashed a case against B.S yeddyurappa in the alleged illegal mining scam. Justices K Bhaktavatsala and K Govindaraju set aside the First Information Report (FIR) that marks the formal beginning of the police probe registered against him. In July last year, Governor HR Bhardwaj had sanctioned permission to file a case against Shri Yeddyurappa in the scam after the Lokayukta indicted him in its illegal mining report. Mr Yeddyurappa was forced to quit CM post on July 31 last year following the Lokayukta indictment. The former Karnataka chief minister had challenged the filing of the FIR and Shri Bhardwaj's decision on the ground that the Lokayukta had recommended action against him without giving an opportunity to present his case. ■

Bugging of Antony's office "unfortunate": Nitin Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

Bharatiya Janata Party has on March 2 described the reports of alleged bugging of Defence Minister A K Antony's office as a "serious" matter which should be thoroughly probed. He wondered what the reasons were for spying on the cabinet minister.

BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari has described the alleged bugging of Antony's office as "unfortunate".

"After such an incident was reported earlier the Prime Minister had intervened, but this is happening again and again. It is up to the Prime Minister, he should take serious note of it and stop such happenings. Things like tapping opposition leaders' phones is not good for our democracy," Shri Gadkari said.

In a separate statement BJP spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar expressed surprise that the Defence Minister "who is responsible for defending our borders, his own office borders are not secure. The reports of the bugging of his office are a matter of serious concern," he added.

It is not for the first time that bugging of the office of a Cabinet minister has taken place, he pointed out. Earlier there were reports that Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's office was also bugged.

"Then it was maintained that chewing gums were stuck at 12 places in the Finance

Minister's office. We hope this time too, the same excuse is not made. This matter cannot be taken lightly and the truth should be told to the country," Shri Javadekar demanded.

He dubbed the reports of alleged bugging of Defence Minister A K Antony's office as a "serious" matter which should be thoroughly probed and wondered what the reasons were for spying on the cabinet minister.

BJP has decided to raise this issue in Parliament in the forthcoming budget session, he said. The party maintained there could be deeper reasons for bugging the Defence Minister's office. "Who is putting these devices? Is this due to the tensions and rift between the party (Congress) and the government or between ministers? Or, is it due to the huge defence deals being finalised? Or, is there a dispute within the defence establishment? Or, are foreign agencies involved?" Shri Javadekar asked.

Shri Javadekar maintained it is hard to believe that somebody would put chewing gum in so many places in the Finance Minister's office. He



alleged that nobody was held responsible in the case.

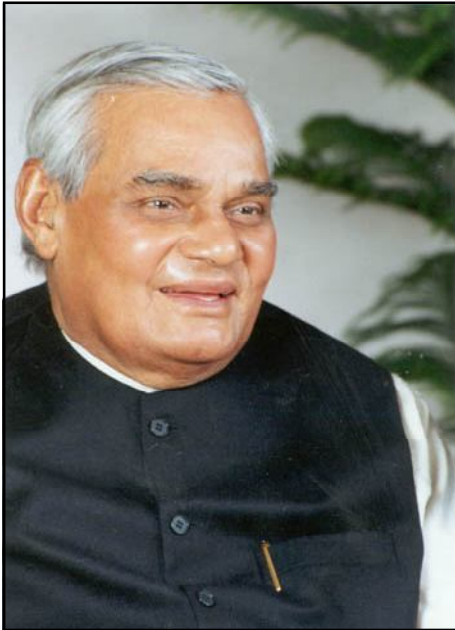
"This cannot be an act of mischief. Whatever it is, it is a matter of concern and should be investigated," Shri Javadekar said.

BJP chief spokesperson Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad demanded that the Prime Minister should clarify on the matter.

"If the country's defence minister's chamber is not safe, what will be the security of the nation? This is a very serious matter. If bugging is taking place there...earlier there was bugging in Pranab (Mukherjee's) room. This is a serious issue. The Prime Minister should let the nation know about it," he told reporters in New Delhi. ■

Vajpayee's dream may now be realised

SC forms panel for river-linking



Kalam, which was followed up by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who constituted a Task Force on December 13, 2002 to prepare a feasibility report.

The apex bench of Chief Justice SH Kapadia, Justices AK Patnaik and Swatantar Kumar admitted that implementing the project was not a judicial function but a legislative one. However, the bench constituted a high-powered committee under the Ministry of Water Resources to study the status, monitor progress of every single link under the project and recommend to the Centre for its timely execution.

Justice Swatanter Kumar, who wrote the detailed judgement outlining the composition and functions of the said committee, said, "At the initial stage, the programme may not involve those States which have sufficient water and are not substantially involved in any interlinking of river programme and the projects can

be completed without their effective participation." At the same time, the court added, "However, the committee may involve any State for effective completion of the programme at any subsequent stage."

The committee constituted for this purpose will be called Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers having as members Water Resources Minister, Secretaries of Water Resources Ministry and Environment & Forests Ministry (MoEF), Chairman of Central Water Commission and Member-Secretary of National Water Development Authority. Four experts drawn from Ministry of Water Resources, MoEF, Finance Ministry and Planning Commission would also be present as members along with Water or Irrigation Ministers of every concurring State.

The ambitious project to link major rivers of the country got a major push on 27 February after the Supreme Court, according to the *Pioneer*, directed the Centre to set a timeframe for completion of the scheme and set up a high-powered committee to go into all its ramifications. The Centre had been dragging its feet on the proposal first mooted by the NDA Government in 2002. The decision will come as a major boon for States that reel under periodical drought. Under the scheme, these States would be linked to flood-prone regions. This would ensure all-season water in all rivers across the country and minimise pollution levels. The idea was mooted by former President APJ Abdul



The Chief Secretary of the respective concurring States would remain present in the

Progressive bills passed by BJP ruled States pending with either President or governor

More than 25 progressive Bills are hanging fire in states where the BJP is in power, some for more than two years now. These have been kept pending either by the governor, who actually cannot withhold consent, or by the President, whose approval is necessary for the Bill to become law. The following report tells how UPA creates obstacle in bringing good governance in BJP ruled State.

Gujarat

Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Pending with Governor.

Passed by the Assembly in March 2009, it seeks to make voting mandatory and reserve 50% seats in all local bodies for women. The Assembly passed the bill a second time in March 2010 and it has been pending since then with the governor.



Kutch (Bombay)

Inami Area Bill 2011: Pending with Governor. Seeks to abolish a 1958 Act that allows giving away land to landless labourers as 'gifts' in Kutch region.

Gujarat Unauthorised Development Regulation Bill, Gujarat Lokayukta Amendment Bill. Governor kept both pending, clearing them only after the government pushed them for a second time.

Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2003. Pending with President. Rejected once by the Governor The government then got the bill cleared in the Assembly by a majority vote, but the Governor rejected it again.

Gujarat Tenancy and Agricultural Land Laws(Amendment) Bill 2011. Pending with President. The Bill is aimed at giving automatic land clearance, without the state government's permission, to public trusts for starting academic and health services.

Gujarat Land Fragmentation and

Consolidation (Amendment) Bill 2011. Pending with President. The bill is aimed at relaxing restrictions related to sale of fragmented agriculture land areas.

Gujarat Education Institute Services Bill 2006. Pending with President. The Bill is aimed at starting a common educational institute tribunal for all education-related issues.

Bihar

Bihar State University Service Commission Bill, 2011. Pending with Governor. Bill proposes to set up a university service commission to recruit and promote university teachers. The state government had dissolved such a commission in 2007, vesting appointment and promotion powers



of teachers with a panel including the governor in his capacity as chancellor. A return to the old system will undermine the governor's ex-

officio position as chancellor. Passed in the budget session last March, before being sent to the governor.

Bihar University Tribunal Bill, 2011. Pending with Governor. It proposes to curtail the number of court cases relating to university matters by setting up a university tribunal to look into such cases. Bill, sent to governor after budget session, was returned to HRD for modification, then sent

back to him.

Bihar State School Teachers and Employees Dispute Redressal Tribunal Bill, 2011. Pending with Governor since March 2011.

Bihar State University (Amendment) Bill, 2010. Pending with Governor. It dilutes chancellor's powers in appointment of vice chancellors and university teachers. Budget session passed it in 2010, it was returned to HRD on account of being a money bill, Speaker ruled otherwise, bill was again sent to the governor last August. Now pending on "technical grounds".

Patna University (Amendment) Bill 2010. Pending with Governor. Provides for appointment of VC and teachers, passed in 2010 Budget session. Returned on count of being money bill. Sent back to him.

Seven finance bills. Governor Devanand Konwar cleared these last July, seven months after they reached him. The governor responded only after Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi went to the press expressing serious reservations about the "inordinate delay from governor's office hampering important government decisions and plans".

Bihar Special Courts Act, 2009. Now cleared. Allows confiscation of property of public servants facing corruption charges during trial stage. It could come into effect retrospectively from March 2010, having got President's assent after 10 months.

Madhya Pradesh



MP Terrorism and Disruptive Activities and Control of Organised Crimes Bill, 2010. Passed by Assembly on March 25, 2010. Draft had actually been sent in 2007 but the Centre then returned it saying no approval was needed at that stage. The bill awards death for those found guilty of terror

attacks, disruptive activities and organised crimes. Contract killings, sale of explosives, kidnapping for ransom, money laundering and other organised crimes, too, are covered. It gives the investigating officer powers to intercept telephone calls and other electronic means of communication.

Madhya Pradesh Gau-Vansh Vadh Pratishedh (Sanshodhan) Bill, 2010. Finally cleared by President in December 2012. Proposes a seven-year jail term for cow-slaughter.

Madhya Pradesh Special Courts Bill, 2011. Passed in April 2011, got presidential nod in February 2012. Legislation provides for special courts for speedy trial of corruption cases and confiscation of properties. Ministers and government employees can be targeted and their tainted properties confiscated and put to public use. Presidential assent came after BJP government protested against the delay and chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan threatened a silent demonstration.

Karnataka



Karnataka Town and Country Planning and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill 2009.

Governor H R Bhardwaj returned it twice after it was passed on July 16, 2010. Popularly known as Akrama-Sakrama Bill, it allows regularisation of unauthorised construction

built before December 2, 2009, for a fee.

Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Bill, 2010: Passed twice by Assembly. Now with President. Legislation imposes a complete ban on slaughter of cattle in Karnataka, replacing the 1964 Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation of Animals Act that allowed the slaughter of cattle under conditions.

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh Excise Bill 2009. Withdrawn last year after observations made by President of India. State plans to introduce it again with amendments.

Himachal Pradesh Urban Rent Control (Amendment) Bill 2009. Aims to balance rights of tenants. Pending with



President.

Himachal Pradesh Maintenance of Parents and Dependants (Amendments) Bill 2010. Pending at Centre, as per data updated till January. Provides for a three-month jail term to those who fail to look after their aged parents.

Chhattisgarh

Dharm Swatantrya Sanshodhan Vidheyak 2006. Passed by Assembly on August 3, 2006, sent to Governor. Not returned since then. Law department says it's not clear whether the Governor sent it to the President or decided not to. Governors's

secretary Jawahar Shrivastava declined to comment if the Bill is with Raj Bhawan or has been sent to the President.

Chhattisgarh Cooperative Societies Bill 2006. Pased by Assembly on March 3, 2006. Governor sent it to President in 2007. Since then with the Centre, which suggested changes, the latest of these suggestions arriving in January 2012. Bill



seeks to supersede a Madhya Pradesh Act of 1960, which is still in force.

Chhattisgarh Rent Control Bill. Passed on March 29, 2011. Sent by law department to Centre on June 7, 2011. No reply yet. This too seeks to replace an earlier law. Guidelines had been sent by the Centre to ensure a uniform law in rent-related matters across the country.

Jharkhand

The Jharkhand University of Technology Bill 2011. For centres of excellence, conceived in 2010. Bill passed on March 24, 2011. Pending with President.



Uttarakhand

Indian Registration (Uttarakhand Amendment) Bill 2011; Indian Stamp (Uttarakhand amendment) Bill 2011; Revenue Recovery (Uttarakhand amendment) Bill 2011. Pending at Centre, as per data updated till January.



(Source: The Indian Express)

BJP demands thorough probe into visa recommendation to a terrorist by Hurriyat leader

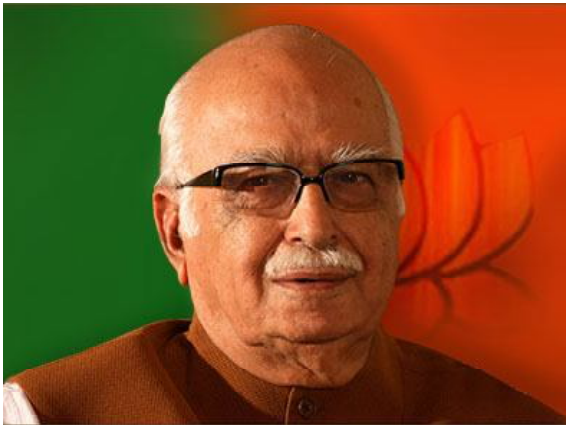
From Our Correspondent

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar MP has on March 2 described as "shocking" the incident of Hurriyat leader SAR Geelani recommending the visa applications of a LeT terrorist arrested for plotting an attack here and alleged that such incidents have taken place due to the weak policies of the UPA government.

In a statement Shri Javadekar said: "This incident of Geelani recommending the visa applications of none other than a terrorist plotting an attack in Delhi is absolutely shocking. It is a reflection of the weak policies of the UPA government."

He demanded a thorough probe into the matter and sought an explanation from the government on the issue. UPA government also "holds discussions with people like Geelani.... It should be tough on this matter. This is a case simply of abetment of terrorism," Shri Javadekar said.

"It should also be looked into as to how many cases involving Geelani have been investigated so far," Shri Javadekar said. ■



Depoliticise constitutional appointments

By L.K. Advani

blog.lkadvani.in

In the unenviable record of the UPA Government, more and more events are taking place which are totally unprecedented in these 65 years of independence. It started with the series of stinking scams and the consequential back-breaking inflation for the aam admi, issues that have dominated several parliament sessions in recent years.

Never in any earlier central regime were cabinet ministers first removed from Government on charges of corruption, and later, after being indicted by courts, actually incarcerated in the Tihar Jail, Delhi. In my last blog which had highlighted how the U.P. elections were being shamelessly communalised by the Congress Party, I had listed three unprecedented events in which a senior cabinet minister, Law Minister Salman Khurshid, had first contemptuously defied the Election Commission, next invited the Election Commission's sharp censure, and lastly, made the Election Commission seek the Rashtrapati's immediate intervention.

Ironically, the upshot of this [was a tentative move to curtail](#)
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the powers of the Election Commission in matters relating to any breach of the Model Code of Conduct.

Happily, the unseemly fracas between the Law Minister and the Election Commission came to an end when better sense prevailed in government circles, and the Minister wrote the Commission a letter of regrets.

The latest in this sequence of first-time occurrences has been another Central Minister's threat to the U.P. electorate: Either you elect the Congress to power in the State, or be prepared to see President's Rule inflicted on U.P.!

I do not recall any Central Minister ever before threatening President's Rule only because the electorate have not opted for the Congress Party!

In the Constituent Assembly, Art. 356 empowering the Union Government to impose President's Rule on a state if government in that state "cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution" had provoked several prominent members to warn the Assembly that the provision could be grossly misused by the Union

Government to undermine India's federal set-up. This had made the then Law Minister, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, hold out this reassuring promise to the Constituent Assembly: "..... such articles will never be called into operation and that they would remain a dead letter."

Dr. Ambedkar's assurance has been repeatedly violated by Congress Governments. In these last sixty years since the adoption of the Constitution, far from remaining 'a dead letter' as Dr. Ambedkar had contemplated, Article 356 has been invoked more than one hundred times, and for reasons having nothing to do with any failure of constitutional machinery. Union Minister Jaiswal's latest threat clearly falls in the same category - it is completely extraneous to the purpose of this provision.

Disregarding the serious objections of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, who is part of the three member Selection Committee headed by the Prime Minister, P.J. Thomas was appointed Chief Vigilance Commissioner last year.

The matter went to the

Supreme Court. The Court upheld the points that had been raised in the Committee by Smt. Swaraj. The Supreme Court then struck down the appointment.

In an article titled 'Credibility Crash', Bhavna Vij Aurora wrote in India Today about the Supreme Court order that the Supreme Court verdict was more an indictment of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Home Minister P. Chidambaram (who was the third member of the Selection Committee) than of P.J. Thomas himself.

In an article written on the same issue a fortnight back in the Business Standard, Shri Nripendra Misra, ex-Chairman, TRAI and presently Director, Public Interest Foundation, has strongly urged that politics should be taken out of statutory appointments.

I feel it would be appropriate to decide now that a law be enacted to de-politicise appointments to key constitutional and statutory bodies. I would specifically commend inclusion of the Election Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the UPSC and the Public Enterprises Selection Board in this list. All that needs to be done is to include the Leaders of Opposition (let these be of both Houses) in the Selection Committees that perform these functions till now.

TAILPIECE:

When news of India's nuclear test reached the American government, Washington reacted with shock and outrage. India had learned from its experience two-and-a-half years before, when it had been caught red-handed in its

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test preparations by Washington's satellites. This time it was Washington that was caught by surprise. The State Department heard the news on CNN, and the CIA heard it from the State Department.....

The United States need not have been surprised by Pokhran, as the signals were clear that India intended to test. First there was India's aborted nuclear test in late 1995. Second, the BJP's

1998 election manifesto inasmuch declared that a BJP government would make India a declared nuclear power. Though the manifesto did not specifically commit to a nuclear test, it did promise to 're-evaluate the country's nuclear policy and exercise the option to induct nuclear weapons'.

Excerpt from recent book on Indo-US-China relations by William H. Avery. ■

SC slams Delhi police over Ramlila crackdown

The Supreme Court on February 23 castigated the Delhi Police and yoga guru Ramdev for the midnight violent incident at the Ramlila Maidan last year and said it was a "glaring example of trust deficit" between the people and the government. A bench of justice BS Chauhan and justice Swatanter Kumar said that incident showed might of the state which struck at the foundation of democracy.

The bench further observed that the police and the state could have avoided that tragic incident in which one person died and several others were injured. "It is a glaring example of trust deficit between the people governing and the people being governed," the bench said, adding that police action is meant to bring peace but they breached peace themselves.

There was abuse of power by the Delhi Police and fundamental rights of people were violated, the bench said. The court awarded a compensation of Rs five lakh for the family members of Raj Bala, who had died in the incident. The bench also awarded a compensation of Rs 50,000 for those who suffered grievous injuries in the incident and Rs 25,000 for those with simple injuries. The apex court had taken suo motu cognisance of media reports showing brutality of police action against the sleeping followers of Ramdev, including women and children at Ramlila Maidan on the midnight of June 4-5 last year during his anti-corruption agitation.

The bench had reserved the verdict on January 20. Ramdev had alleged that the police action was carried out on the instructions of their political masters and demanded action against all people who had directed the crackdown.

What Supreme Court had to say:

- ▶ Ramlila Ground lathicharge wrong.
- ▶ Some policemen acted responsibly, others were violent.
- ▶ Three months given to act against guilty cops.
- ▶ Ramdev guilty of gross negligence.
- ▶ Rs 5 lakh compensation to Rajbala's family; 25 per cent to be given by Ramdev.
- ▶ No indictment of Chidamabaram or Home Ministry. ■ (PTI)

In 10 years Gujarat has achieved peace, prosperity

By Arun Jaitley

Critics of Narendra Modi are caught in a time-warp while Gujaratis have moved on. Harmony and growth have healed the wounds of the post-Godhra violence.

Any riot, be it inspired by religious, caste or any other frenzy, leaves huge wounds behind. It causes death, injury, loss and suffering. It divides the society and polarises people on basis of their birth. Every civilised society has to free itself from the menace of such social tensions.

Gujarat for a long time had an unfortunate history of such riots, small or big. It was men and events which triggered such conflicts, the last of such major riots being in 2002. As a section of the media re-visits the Gujarat riots of 2002, it is equally important to look at Gujarat 10 years after the riots. Gujarat has finally had a riot-free decade. Hopefully, the unfortunate events of 2002 will never be repeated. Gujarat's agenda today is no longer a social divide. It is economic development, improvement in the life of every citizen and a desire to compete with the most successful societies in the world. The memories of 2002 are not revived by Gujaratis. They are revived by elements within the society whose relevance exists in reviving sad memories of the past.

The State embarked upon an unprecedented growth story, undeterred by hostilities. The State GDP grew by double-digit. The State used its potential to become India's manufacturing hub. The port infrastructure was strengthened with the advantage of a large hinterland available to Gujarat. Its road network now compares with the developed world. Agriculture, which was crippled due to water shortage, has multiplied at an impressive double-digit growth rate, thanks to the Sardar Sarovar project which the State managed to achieve despite political and judicial obstacles.

The burning of compartment S-6 of Sabarmati Express on February 27, 2002 was a barbaric act. It was planned by mischievous elements with the intention of generating communal trouble in the country. It stunned the society. Many were misled into a retaliatory action. The violence was so widespread that the security apparatus of the State was out-numbered. The Army

had to be called in to take positions. A very large number of innocent people lost their lives due to this violence. Hundreds were killed even in police firing. Contrast this with the anti-Sikh riots in New Delhi in 1984 where not one person died in police firing.

Thousands of charge-sheets have been filed, many have been convicted, some trials are pending. Many important cases have been subjected to judicial monitoring. Their investigations have been cross-checked and improved upon by court-appointed Special Investigative Teams comprising independent officials. Prosecutors have been appointed by an independent mechanism as directed by the courts. Judges conducting trials have been nominated by the High Court. There have been more charge-sheets and even convictions than in any other religious or caste riot in India. This should be seen in the context of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi, where charge-sheets and convictions were negligible. Even the PUCL publication giving the details of the Sikh killings was banned. The media response was muted and judicial attitude was passive.

The political leadership of Gujarat, particularly Chief Minister Narendra Modi, went through a serious test. Should

he have allowed the environment of the State to be dominated by the agenda set by Godhra and the post-Godhra riots? There were many who wanted that agenda to continue. The Chief Minister and the Government overcame various odds to change the agenda. The greater good of the largest number of people was the ultimate object. The State embarked upon an unprecedented growth story, undeterred by hostilities. The State GDP grew by double-digit. The State used its potential to become India's manufacturing hub. The port infrastructure was strengthened with the advantage of a large hinterland available to Gujarat. Its road network now compares with the developed world. Agriculture, which was crippled due to water shortage, has multiplied at an impressive double-digit growth rate, thanks to the Sardar Sarovar project which the State managed to achieve despite political and judicial obstacles. Electricity being provided 24 hours a day became a great achievement. Red-tape was eliminated in economic decision-making. This incentivised domestic and international investors to look at Gujarat as the prime investment destination in India. Corruption-free Government became the brand image of the State and its Chief Minister. Today, irrespective of religious or caste affiliations, Gujaratis are looked upon as entrepreneurs who, being free from the shackles of indecisiveness, are facilitated by a political leadership to be a part of peace and prosperity.

The world today knows Gujarat for the growth story and for its immense economic
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potential. The advantages of this growth have trickled down. Enriched revenues of the State have been used for various social and poverty alleviation schemes. The Hindus and the Muslims of Gujarat are both a part of this growth story. This has been acknowledged by most studies which have observed that the Muslims minority in Gujarat is economically much better than most other parts of the country.

Gujarat has changed its agenda in the last 10 years, much to the dislike of the Congress

and no fact could be proven. Gujarat Police found no evidence against Mr Modi in the riots. The courts were petitioned to appoint an SIT. The SIT of Gujarat Police officers found no evidence against him. It was replaced by an SIT comprising former CBI officials. Media reports indicate that there is no evidence against Mr Modi. They found no prosecutable evidence against Mr Modi. A further arrangement was made which went outside the Code of Criminal Procedure. The investigators' findings

Gujarat has changed its agenda in the last 10 years, much to the dislike of the Congress leadership and some NGOs which work as its front. The changed agenda does not suit their politics. It is, therefore, necessary for them to keep the riot-torn image of Gujarat alive. Politically they have been on the losing side. Mr Modi cannot be defeated by the Congress in the elections. The strategy, therefore, is to use other methods to fight him. The initial strategy was to use a section of the media which rejoiced in anti-Modi stories. Rumours, falsehood and propaganda were convenient instruments.

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would be reviewed by a lawyer – an amicus curiae. Is the process of hounding to continue till facts can be manufactured to suit the politics of some?

The Home Minister of the State, against whom no evidence was available in two prior investigations, was charge-sheeted and arrested by the CBI in an encounter case. A bare analysis of the charge-sheet and the accompanying evidence indicates the falsity of the evidence. Voluminous evidence is available of a disgruntled police officer communicating with the Gujarat Congress leadership on how to implicate Modi. The State Congress leadership even sent to him a

blue-print of the legal process required to be followed in order to implicate the Chief Minister.

Every encounter is not a fake encounter. India has suffered at the hands of Maoist violence, cross-border terrorism and various other forms of insurgency. Police and security forces have often clashed with these insurgents. In the last one decade the list of State-wise encounters would show that the number of encounters in Gujarat was amongst the lowest. Every other State can be trusted to presume that encounters are genuine or it can appoint its own mechanism to investigate these encounters. However, the judicial yardstick to investigate encounters in Gujarat is different. In an astonishing case where a woman activist of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba was killed along with some others, the Union Government withdrew its affidavit supporting the encounter as genuine and real. The LeT website had owned her up as a LeT operative. A court has now appointed an SIT which includes an officer nominated by the NGOs and the Union Government to investigate the case. Motivated investigators will hardly be fair. In all other States the Lokayukta would be appointed on the advice of the Council of Ministers but in the case of Gujarat, the Governor can ignore the recommendation of the Council of Ministers. A court has found this to be legally acceptable. Several legislations passed by the State Assembly are either waiting assent of the Governor or of the Union Government.

The NGOs which have been actively campaigning against

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Gujarat during these past 10 years have simultaneously pleaded for those who burnt the Sabarmati Express which started the sordid saga of 2002. The UPA Government chose to appoint a carefully chosen retired judge of the Supreme Court to opine in an inquiry that the fire in the Sabarmati Express was started from inside coach S-6.

The last one decade has been a challenging one for the State of Gujarat. There was a history of social tensions. Gujarat now has had a riot-free decade. It has tried to move away from the past. It has embarked upon a road to economic growth. The tragedy of Gujarat is that since Mr Modi's opponents can't

defeat him politically, they hide behind NGOs and a section of the media. One can only hope the judiciary keeps out of this political thicket and remains even-handed.

The guilty must be punished but the attempt at media trials and manufacturing of evidence must end. Harmony and growth will be the best healers. The future road map of Gujarat will see a battle between those who want Gujarat to be caught in the time-frame of 2002 and those who believe that this century promises to be that of Gujarat's. Gujarat has now to overcome the challenge of this negative energy. ■

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

President's son involved in Rs 1 cr mystery BJP seeks probe

BJP on February 26 alleged that the money seized in Amravati was that of a Minister close to Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan had received from some Nagpur-based contractors.

Contesting the Congress' claim that the seized cash was a party fund, BJP's national president Shri Nitin Gadkari said, "A sum of Rs 1 crore in cash seized by the police from a car in Amravati was the money that a Minister close to Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan had received from some contractors in Nagpur. The Congress' claim that the seized cash was a party fund is totally false."

Talking to mediapersons briefly during a visit to Amravati, Shri Gadkari said, "If the Congress' claim that seized money was indeed a party fund, then the party should provide proof as to from which bank and when it withdrew the cash. Since the Congress' claim is false, it is necessary for the authorities to probe the origin of the money thoroughly."

Shri Gadkari charged that the Congress and its ruling ally NCP had made maximum use of money power during the recent local body poll in their attempt to "purchase" votes of the people. "That's why there is a need to go to the bottom of the incident and punish those found guilty," he said.

During a routine naka bandi, Amravati's Gudgenagar police had intercepted a Ford Endeavour car (MH-31 DC-4744) coming from Nagpur on the outskirts of the city and seized Rs 1 crore cash in the small hours of February 12, four days prior to the Amravati Municipal Corporation poll. ■

Public Distribution System in State receives appreciation from everywhere

The reform in Public Distribution System in Chhattisgarh, brought by BJP Government led By Dr. Raman Singh is getting appreciation from everywhere. Recently *The Economic & Political Weekly*, a reputed journal on public policy and social issue, has conducted interviews of the people of Chhattisgarh on PDS in the State. In its February issue II) the journal has published the findings of the interview in an article headlined "Reforming the Public Distribution System: Lessons from Chhattisgarh". Referring to the PDS Survey 2011 and *Economic and Political Weekly* team's findings, the Weekly says: "Reforms to the public distribution system in Chhattisgarh that focused on extending coverage, improving delivery and increasing transparency have led to its remarkable revival. An overwhelming majority of the beneficiaries are now satisfied with the way their ration shops function and are firmly against the proposal of cash transfers. This article presents the findings of a team that visited 12 randomly selected villages in Mahasamund and Sarguja districts of Chhattisgarh, as part of the PDS Survey 2011."

The team of the Weekly

interviewed 144 households of randomly selected villages of Mahasamud and Sarguja districts. 97% of the households had received their full entitlement of food grains in previous three months (March, April and May 2011). The survey

The BJP Government brought reforms in the PDS by passing the Chhattisgarh Public distribution System (Control), 2004 Act which shifted the management of ration shops from private dealers to community-based organizations



of the PDS in both districts revealed that a majority (88%) of the respondents were satisfied with the functioning of their ration shops and were getting their food grains regularly at the correct prices. Most of the people they (EPW) spoke to attributed the improved functioning of the PDS to Raman Sarkar, the BJP government led by Dr. Raman Singh that came to power in the state in late 2003. Some even felt that it was the turnaround of the PDS that had been responsible for the Bharatiya Janata Party being voted back to power in 2008.

- such as gram panchayats, self-help groups (SHGs) and cooperatives. *The Economic & Political Weekly* (EPW) writes "The impact of this reform was visible during the survey. Of the 12 ration shops we (EPW team) visited, eight were run by cooperatives, three by gram panchayats and one by a women's SHG. All 12 shops were either in a PDS building or the panchayat bhavan. Some respondents remembered how they had to go without food grains for weeks when the PDS was run by private dealers and said, that the new system had

led to better accountability, because those running the shops were from the villages.”

Appreciating the initiative of Raman Singh’s Government to reduce leakages, the journal mentions “addressing the problem of diversion of food grains while they were being transported from Government godowns to PDS outlets in private trucks. To reduce leakages, the Government decided to dispense with private players and directly deliver food grains to ration shops. To make this process transparent, the Government trucks painted in yellow colour engaged in “doorstep delivery” of PDS food grains. This, combined with a Government order that made it mandatory for food grains to reach ration shops by the seventh of every month, helped plug leaks as well as ensure the timely distribution of rations. In interviews conducted by the EPW team found, that a majority of the households had received their quota of food grains during the first week of the month, showing that the Government had not only mandated reforms, but was ensuring that they were actually implemented.

A significant reform initiated by the State Government, writes the Journal, was the launch of the Mukhyamantri Khadyann Sahayata Yojana (MKSY, or the Chief Minister’s Food Relief Scheme) in April 2007. Under the MKSY, the government provided ration cards to all households identified as living below the poverty line (BPL) in the 1991 and 1997 BPL surveys, that were excluded from the 2002

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BPL survey, because of the caps enforced by the Planning Commission on poverty figures. In addition to 1.33 million households in Chhattisgarh that were receiving subsidized food grains from the Central Government (those holding central BPL, Antyodaya or Annapurna ration cards), the MKSY added 1.9 million households who could purchase food grains at subsidised rate from the State Government.

The impact of this reform was evident during their (EPW) interviews, as approximately 63% of households were receiving subsidized food grains under the MKSY. EPW termed the State’s targeted PDS as “quasi-

universal” PDS, one that covers approximately 80% of the state’s rural population.

Reducing the leakages and corruption, the Government also increases the commission paid to ration shoppers from Rs 8 to Rs 30 per quintal of rice and procured more food grains from farmers in the State to encourage them to raise their outputs; making electronic weighing scales mandatory in all ration shops and conducting verification drives to identify and cancel bogus ration cards.

The reform has also increased the people participation in the system by giving ration shop to Panchyats and self-help Groups (SHGS) or community based organizations. ■

Rajnath Singh writes to PM on Brahmaputra

Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh MP has written a letter to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh warning of a ‘devastating’ effect on people living in Assam and the North East if China diverts water from the Brahmaputra.

“Brahmaputra is an international river. According to international law, its waters cannot be diverted in an arbitrary manner,” Rajnath Singh wrote. The controversy has flared up after satellite images showed Chinese

dams on the Chinese stretch of the Brahmaputra, one of the biggest rivers in India. The government of India has officially stated that the Chinese will not divert water, but only use the water pressure to generate electricity, but many in India are cynical of Chinese assurances to the government of India, he added. (FOC) ■



meetings or be represented by a nominee. In addition, two social activists nominated by each Ministry along with amicus curiae and senior advocate Ranjit Kumar who assisted the court in the matter would be in the committee.

With approval already granted for the Ken-Betwa river link connecting Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the court directed the committee to waste no further time and recommend the execution plan to the Union Cabinet for implementation. Under the project, 30 river links have been identified with 16 in the Peninsular region and 14 in the Himalayan belt.

As reported by Amicus Ranjit Kumar, the cost of the project as per Budget estimate of 2004 was Rs 15.30 crore, which could go up to Rs 4.44 lakh crore. A Committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other experts on interlinking of rivers had recommended in March 2010 the feasibility of completion of two other links in Himalayan region, namely Sarda-Yamuna link and Ghagra-Yamuna link. For Parbati-Kalasind-Chambal rivers' linkin, Rajasthan has objected until updation of its hydrology project is completed. Residents have objected to the links coming up over Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal links.

In the Peninsular region, projects relating to Bedti-Varada and Netravati-Hemwati-Tapi are awaiting nod from the Karnataka Government.

While Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh have largely supported the inter-linking concept, reservations regarding environmental and financial implications have been expressed by Karnataka, Bihar, Punjab and Sikkim. The only sign of protest came from Kerala out of the 10 States which responded to the Supreme Court's order seeking implementation of the scheme. ■

Policy paralysis hurting already sluggish growth story : Javadekar

From Our Correspondent

Interracting with Media Persons in New Delhi, BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar said, "Policy paralysis and complete failure of UPA in managing the economy are hurting the already sluggish growth story of India. People will wonder whether it is the same Manmohan Singh who was credited with opening up of economy in 1991. It is abject failure of the Prime Minister. The 3rd quarter GDP growth at 6.1% is a bad news. The growth rate is declining consistently over last one year and government's expectation for 7.5% growth in 2012-13 seems distant. The real worry is in continuous decline in Index of Industrial Production (IIP), decline in core sector growth, falling manufacturing output from 5.9% to 1.8% in December, 2011. This has definitely raised concerns about future growth perspective. The overall growth of manufacturing sector came down from 7.6% to 3.9% last year. Contraction in mining output is fraught with disastrous consequences. The growth in consumer durables and capital goods has been sluggish since the last two years."



He added, "The other parameters are also not encouraging. Trade gap is widening, fiscal deficit is increasing, and fixed capital formation has been lower since last year. Consumption growth has declined from 8.1% to 6.4% in 2011. Investment growth has also suffered as it has come down from 7.5% to 5.6%. The external debt has crossed forex reserves and overall debt ratio is also not satisfactory. The free fall of rupee is adding more worry for economy. Many companies are suffering losses. The NPAs is also growing more in the public sector banks."

"It is all the more worrisome that because of complete absence of decision making at the government level, there is no new initiative being taken. Policy paralysis is clearly witnessed. Major decisions are awaited in mining, textile, power and other major sectors. The government is dithering and losing every opportunity to regain. All this indecision has shattered investor confidence."

Shri Javadekar said that BJP would raise all these critical issues in the ensuing Budget session. But at this stage the government should come out with clear road map for robust recovery of economy. ■

Gujarat

Best State Award for Core Infrastructure facilities to Gujarat



In a glittering ceremony organized by IBN-7 & Network 18 Media Group in Delhi on February 23, Gujarat State was awarded the Diamond State

award for providing the best core infrastructure facilities in the country. The State was also awarded the best Diamond State Award along with Kerala and Tamil Nadu. On behalf of the State Government, Shri Bharat Lal, Resident Commissioner of Gujarat Government received both the awards from Vice-President of India Shri M. H. Ansari.

To select the best Diamond State, CNN-IBN had appointed an independent agency i.e. Nielsen to collect the primary as well secondary data, which was analysed by the knowledge partner KPMG to enable the independent jury having eminent experts like Shri Bimal Jalan, Chairperson of the Jury and former RBI Governor; Dr. Bakul H. Dholakia, former Director IIM-A Shri T. S. R. Subramaniam, Ex-Cabinet Secretary, GoI Shri M. Damodaran, former Chairman, SEBI; Shri Shaibal Gupta, Secretary, Asian Development Research Institute to decide the best States in the country. This committee has rated Gujarat as the best State in the country for providing core infrastructure facilities, which is key for socio-economic development and faster inclusive growth.

Gujarat is well-known for its double digit economic growth, which is much higher than the national growth rate besides providing excellent infrastructure and basic services to its citizen. The State has excellent road connectivity to all villages, large number of small and large ports well distributed along with 1700 km long coast, 24 hours power supply, State-wide water supply grid, excellent educational institutions, healthcare facilities, marketing yards, State-wide fibre optic

network connecting all villages, etc. With the best infrastructure in the country, coupled with Good Governance, Gujarat has become the hot destination for investors not only in the country but in this part of world. In the recently concluded Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit-2011, about 36,000 delegates from more than 100 countries participated. In the meet. MoUs for investment worth 450 billion US \$ were signed. Gujarat has also planned 12 new Special Investment Region (SIRs) in State.

To make Gujarat a globally preferred destination to live in and to do business through accelerated, balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth driven by robust social, industrial and physical infrastructure, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi had released the BIG Document – Blueprint for Infrastructure in Gujarat 2020 (BIG 2020). Driven by excellent infrastructure and services and peaceful environ, State has put its economy on faster growth trajectory to ensure best living standard and quality of life to its people. (Agencies)

Bihar

Sushil Modi presents revenue surplus budget

A revenue surplus budget of Rs 78,686.83 crore for 2012-13 for Bihar with thrust on agriculture and education, increasing taxes on Works contract, vehicle tax, VAT on



tobacco products and brick-kilns was presented by Deputy Chief Minister S.K. Modi, who is also the finance minister. Shri Modi presented the budget in both the houses of the state legislature in Patna on February 24, 2012.

Later talking to reporters, Shri Modi said for 2012-13 the revenue surplus is Rs 7088.59 crore and will be used for investment in physical infrastructure, generating productive capital assets like roads, buildings, power, schools, health centres

and irrigation schemes. The fiscal deficit for 2012-13 is Rs 7569.43 crore, which is 2.87 per cent of the GSDP. The fiscal deficit to GSDP has been limited to three per cent as per FRBM Act. The net borrowing for 2012-13 has been limited at Rs 7916 crore by the Government of India and the GSDP estimate arrived at for the year is in accordance with 13th Finance Commission recommendations.

The department-wise allocation for the state plan for 2012-13 is Rs 3670.26 crore for education, Rs 3613.63 crore for road construction, Rs 2192.47 crore for water resources, Rs 2118.40 crore for social welfare, Rs 2001.75 crore for energy, Rs 8663.37 crore for planning and development, Rs 1661.78 crore for rural works, Rs 1574.84 crore for rural development, Rs 1200 crore for agriculture, Rs 1186.00 crore for panchayati raj and Rs 6917.50 crore for others.

Madhya Pradesh

M. P. presents deficit budget for 2012-13



The Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister, Shri Raghavji on February 28 presented the 2012-13 budget with a deficit of Rs 107.19

crore in the Assembly. The Finance Minister said that during the next financial year, receipts would be Rs 80,000.24 crore, while expenditure would be Rs 80,030.98 crore.

“Despite this, the year would end with a deficit of Rs 107.19 crore,” Shri Raghavji said.

He said that revenue during the next financial year was expected to be Rs 69,913 crore, of which, Rs 28,311 crore would come from State taxes.

He added that it was the State Government's firm belief that the tax administration in Madhya Pradesh should be convenient for tax payers and its implementation should be done in an easy way.

Shri Raghavji said that the implementation of VAT in the State have been computerised because of which it had become more transparent and convenient for the businessmen. He said that in the budget for 2010-11, to make industries more

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competitive some of them were given exemption from entry tax and added that this will continue in the next financial year also.

Shri Raghavji said that for making engineering industries and manufacturing sectors, including those of metal casting, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, iron and steel will continue to be exempted from entry tax. He announced that the rate of VAT on petrol and ATF and multi-stage storage of petrol and diesel would be reduced and this would result in a revenue loss of Rs 50 crore.

Madhya Pradesh has presented separate budget for agriculture. This year 270 crore has been allotted for agriculture. The step is towards strengthen the agriculture-based economy.

Himachal Pradesh

State gets national tourism award

The first state to launch an electronic brochure

President Smt. Pratibha Patil on february 28,2011 gave away national tourism award to Himachal Pradesh. Director Tourism Shri Arun Sharma and Principal Secretary Tourism Smt. Manisha Nanda received the award at a function held in Vigyan Bhawan in



Delhi in the presence of Union Tourism Minister said that the hill state had been honoured with the top prize for excellent tourism publicity material.

Tourism is the mainstay of Himachal, contributing 10% of its GDP. Over 1.5 crore tourists, both foreign and from within the country, had visited the state in 2011, which is almost double the 80 lakh population of the state.

Shri Arun Sharma said that the state government had taken several steps under the guidance of chief minister Prem Kumar Dhumal to boost tourism in the state. State tourism department has brought out a coffee table book “*Har ghar kuchh kehta*”, which narrates historical anecdotes associated with the summer capital of the British empire, said Sharma, who has authored the book.

HP is the first state in the country to launch an electronic brochure, he added.

The Ways of Karma

Every object in the universe is endowed with four characteristics: dharma, karma, prema and gyana. Of these, karma is the most talked about; it is also the most misunderstood. The Gita says: "Gahna Karmanyō Gathi" - Unfathomable are the ways of karma.

There are three types of karma: Prarabha, sanchita and agami. The first is latent karma, an impression or seed of action. The second is karma as action, and the third is karma as result. Prarabha means 'begun'; the action that is already manifesting and that is yielding its effect right now. You cannot avoid it or change it, as it is already happening. Sanchita is accumulated karma. It is latent or manifested in the form of a tendency or impression in the mind.

Sanchita karma can be burned off by spiritual practices before it manifests. Agami karma is the future karma of action; that which has not yet come and which will take effect in the future. If you commit a crime, you may not get caught today, but will live with the possibility that one day you may get caught.

Karma is also always bound by time, because every action has a limited reaction. If you do something good to people they will come to thank you and be grateful to you as long as they

are experiencing the effect of your action. So, karma has only a limited sphere of its effect, be it good or bad.

It is often asked, "Why are good people made to suffer while those who commit injustice go unpunished?" Such questions arise when we see an event in its limited framework. No good action will yield a bad result and no bad action will bring a good



result. This is the law of karma. As you sow, so shall you reap. If you sow a mango tree, some thorny bushes may come up because of the seeds present in the manure brought from somewhere else. It is not the mango seed that brings up the thorny bush. Your mango seed will bring mango fruit, in due course.

Karma is that which propels reincarnation. The stronger the impression, the greater the possibility of the next life being according to that. So, often you reincarnate like the person you

hate or love. The mind which is full of different impressions leaves this body but the impressions await suitable situations to come back. So the last thought is very important. Whatever you do throughout your life, in the last moment your mind should be free and happy.

Our perception of suffering, of good and bad, is always relative. God is absolute reality; a witness of all. See God as a movie director, rather than as a judge. He has no ill feeling for the villain and no special favour for the hero. Each one is playing her role.

An awareness of dharma helps in comprehending the strange ways of karma. Whenever you see bad karma or someone suffering, you need to help. That is your dharma. If you do not do your dharma, then you incur bad karma for not having done your dharma.

Take recourse in your dharma to transcend the bondage of karma and avoid getting stuck with events or personalities. Live with karma; don't be attached to it. "See action in inaction and inaction in action," says the Gita. Awareness, alertness, knowledge and meditation will help erase past impressions. It has the strength to dissolve and destroy any karma and free you. ■

(Courtesy: www.speakingtree.in)