



Kamal Sandesh
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Cover : A dastardly ambush by Pak Army martyred five Indian soldiers



*Kamal Sandesh Parivar wishes happy
Rakshabandhan and
Shri Krishna Janmashtami
to its esteemed readers*



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Nay, people will also pour undying infamy on you; and infamy brought on a man enjoying popular esteem is worse than death. — (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 33)

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"The decision to create Telangana is a welcome move. The BJP has always been in favour of Telangana State."

-Rajnath Singh

"Every time Pakistan puts pressure on India, we succumb. The NDA government was firm against Pakistan. NDA government always took a strong stand on such incidents."

-Yashwant Sinha

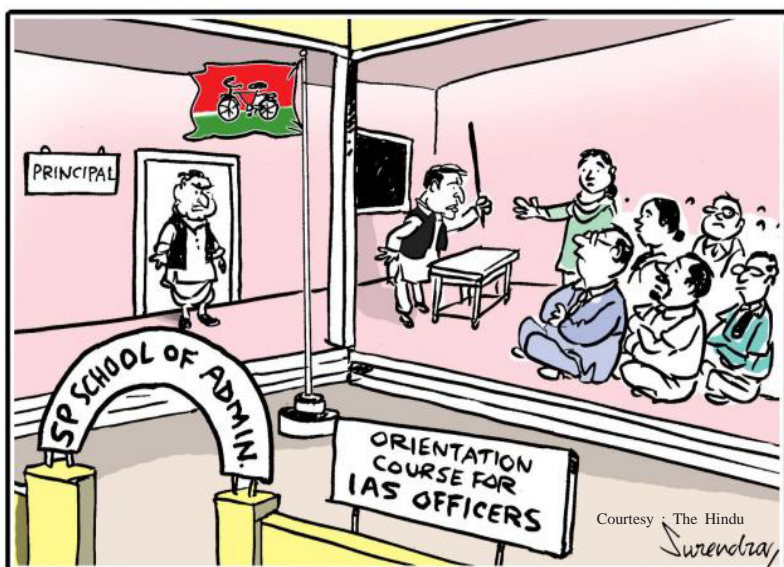
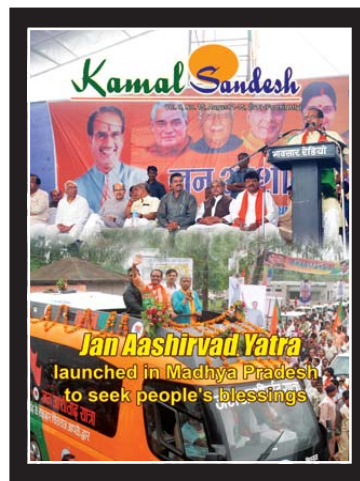
Letter to the Editor

High time to look for nation building

Dear Editor,

Five Indian soldiers lost their lives at Poonch; they were for the safeguards of nation but after being martyred for their motherland the shameless government at center is in the hurry of passing bills to influence their vote bank. Shahadat(martyrdom) is meaningless before multiplication of votes in their favour. It is high time to look for the nation building.

Vivek Tripathi
Gorakhpur



Courtesy : The Hindu

Write to us

The Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

We welcome

Your views & Suggestions

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“Kadam mila kar chalna hoga”

Independence Day is entering its 66th year. The problems that existed on 14 August 2014 exist as before and in addition to them hundreds of new problems have cropped up which are asking for solutions at the national plane. The strong yearning for liberation from slavery which existed in India at that time, it seems that we have forgotten all those things. The era of Nehruism started. The villages of India gradually started being hijacked by the cities. The system dependent on foreign countries slowly started making India economically handicapped. The situation came to such a passé that we had to eat imported red wheat. For whom is the independence – is it for the country or for the party, for citizens or for the rulers? Without understanding the nature of the Indian culture the then ruling class started running the country. The problem was something else then the prescribed solutions.

The situation has become so dangerous that in 66 years rupee has been devalued for 6600 times. There was a time when we were equal to dollar. It is not that fate of rupee stands affected, it is the fate of India which has been affected. The devaluation of India has taken place. It is unbearable pain for any self-respecting nation. We have become so shameless that we are not sensitive to either borders or army or constitution or parliament. India is a sensitive nation. There is no space for insensitivity in Indian tradition. There is a difference between toughness and callousness. We are tough but we are not callous. No other nation should take our moderate and liberal approach as our weakness. But the thing is that if we act like dead while being alive then even smaller countries will have an eye on us. The prestige of soldiers is being compromised. The throat of not the soldiers but of *Ma Bharati* is being slit. The martyrdom of five soldiers on the LoC will definitely demoralize the forces of any country. The security of the forces is our priority. There should not be any compromise on that. We are nation of democratic system. We have raised the flag of democracy in the world. We have become old. Our independence has matured. But our backbone has not weakened. No one has the right to weaken the backbone of the nation. When parliament becomes a House in chaos and Congress led UPA concedes no role for opposition in the House, it represents the Hitler type mindset. Country runs with the understanding of everyone. Country does not run only on the understating of power. We never doubt nationalism of any kind but what hue of nationalism is it to support the slogan of “Pakistan Zindabad” only for votes.

Nation belongs to all. The government may belong to one party but nation belongs to all. Power cannot encroach upon rights of the country and character of the people. Congress has seen the results of emergency. Powerful politician like Indira Gandhi was engulfed in the *yajna* of democracy. The citizen of India and its democracy has matured in last 66 years. Everyone’s opinion should be taken on the issues facing the country and the public opinion thus generated should be implemented. In the last 10 years independent India has moved towards a situation worse than what was prevailing under slavery. People are saying that whites were better than us blacks. We will have to understand this pain of the society. This pain may turn into curse, independence was a boon for us. We got it from the blood of the martyrs. We cannot forget the non-violence of Bapu. Congress was a movement but deterioration that has taken place as soon it became a political party, we pray to God so that other parties do not face the same fate. For one everything is there but nothing for the country. What an irony is this?

» »

BJP organizes 'Kargil Diwas Samaroh'

Kargil Diwas Samaroh was organized at BJP National Headquarters, 11 Ashok Road, New Delhi. It was attended by a large number of Ex-servicemen and Karyakartas. Former BJP National President Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi in his speech recounted the events of Kargil Operations. He also explained about the programmes and policies of NDA Government to strengthen the Defence of this nation. He paid rich tributes to those who planned and successfully executed the Kargil operations and threw away the enemy forces from the entire Kargil region. He emphasized that the Government of that time showed very strong political will power to handle the issue and a big lesson was taught to the enemy.



The programme commenced with traditional Vande Mataram, floral tributes and laying of wreath. National Co-Convenor welcomed the guest and ex-servicemen. National Convener Brigadier B.D Mishra gave his address and highlighted the most memorable aspects of Kargil Operation. He also reiterated that it was NDA government which implemented Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme which has made it possible for the veterans to obtain medical aid easily at an age when they needed most.

On this occasion Maj. Gen. S.P Sinha, Commodore A.R Vardhan, Captain Mohan Singh and Ms Monika Sharma, Supreme Court Advocate (Military background) joined the BJP.

Shri Prabodh Kumar, Co-coordinator proposed the Vote of thanks and the function was concluded with National Anthem.

Narendra Modi pays tributes to brave soldiers of Kargil War

On 26th July 2013, as the Kargil Vijay Diwas completed its 14th year, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid tributes to the brave soldiers who fought their lives during Kargil War. He also dedicated the legendary song "Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon" by Kavi Pradeep and sung by Lata Mangeshkar in 1963 on occasion of Republic Day which marks its golden jubilee this year to the

sacrifices of the brave soldiers.

He said Vijay Diwas is the day India pays special homage to our brave soldiers who lost their lives in the Kargil war. It has been 14 years since the Kargil war where we saw our brave Jawans sacrifice their lives to protect the borders of the nation. Paying tributes he said, "Salute to valour & courage of our Armed Forces who gave their lives for the Nation in Kargil war. Tributes to their sacrifices on Vijay

Diwas."

Remembering the brave soldiers he said, "Today the song reminds us all the unforgettable sacrifice of our brave soldiers and what they did for our country. It reminds the citizens that they should do everything to strengthen our armed forces.

It is their sacrifice which makes us safer and secure. On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, salute to them." Jai Hind!

» »

Independence Day is a national festival. It is not of any party, ruling or opposition, neither of high buildings nor of slums, neither of rich nor of poor but it is a festival of everyone who says "Bharat Mata ki Jai". Why India which is full of so many possibilities is not happy today? We all will have to think. We are optimist. And with this optimism, whether we fight elections from different parties but when a national issue comes to the fore then by leaving behind the partisan differences we will have to keep in mind the lines of Atalji -

"Kadam mila kar chalna hoga, kadam mila kar chalna hoga." ■

Pakistan is back to its old ways-

A dastardly ambush by Pak Army martyred five Indian soldiers

In an unprovoked attack on the Indian Army, a heavily-armed Border Action Team (BAT) of the Pakistani army gunned down five Indian soldiers and injured another near the Line of Control in the Poonch area of Jammu and Kashmir at 2 am on 6th August. The ambush was carried out by approximately 20 heavily armed Pakistani soldiers. The soldier who survived the attack is in a military hospital. His testimony reveals that the Pakistanis were 400 metres inside the Indian territory when Indian patrol party was ambushed about 200 km south of Srinagar and just 40 km away from where two Indian soldiers were killed and beheaded by the Pakistani army in January forcing Indo-Pak bilateral relations to a grave low.

This is the second major provocation from Pakistan after the January 8, 2013 beheading incidence in Mendhar sector of Poonch. According to ground reports from Poonch, a Border Action Team (BAT) team comprising soldiers of the

Pakistan Army and suspected terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), dressed in

in Poonch between 1.30 and 2 am. The strike came when 21 Bihar Regiment, guarding Poonch sector, was moving out



Pakistan Army uniform, breached the Line of Control (LoC) in Gulpur area and came at least 400 metres inside Indian territory before ambushing an Indian patrol heading towards Sarla post near Chakan-da-bagh (transit point for cross LoC trade)

and a new unit of 14 Maratha Light Infantry was coming in. They were fired upon from three different directions in a meticulously planned strike as the area is seldom used for infiltrating armed militants inside the Indian territory.

According to reports the BAT team also took advantage of the poor weather conditions in the thickly-forested area along the LoC before mounting an attack on the Indian patrol party. According to official sources four Jawans of the 21 Bihar Regiment and one Jawan of the Maratha Light Infantry were

Soldiers who were martyred in Pak ambush

Sepoy Raghunandan Prasad (21 Bihar Regiment)
 Sepoy Vijay Kumar Ray (21 Bihar Regiment)
 Naik Prem Nath Singh (21 Bihar Regiment)
 Lance Naik Sambhu Sharan Ray (21 Bihar Regiment)
 Naik Mane Kundlik Kerba (14 Maratha Light Infantry)

martyred in the attack. The deceased Jawans have been identified as Subedar Raghunandan Prasad, Lance Naik Shambhu Saran Ray, Naik Vijay Kumar Ray, Naik Premnath Singh from Bihar and Naik Mane Kundlik Kerba of Maratha Light Infantry hailing from Maharashtra. The seriousness of the incident can be gauged from the fact that Army chief General Bikram Singh visited the Poonch and Rajouri sectors on the next day of the incident to take stock of the situation. Noteworthy, the LoC has been tense ever since a Pakistani BAT team beheaded an Indian soldier and mutilated the body of another on January 8, leading to the two armies frequently exchanging heavy fire.

The incident came only hours after a BSF Jawan was injured in firing from across

Indo-Pak border in Samba district of J-K. Infact the incident of 6th August was not an isolated incursion as several such serious incidents have been carried out near the LoC by the Pak army in recent weeks.

- On July 27, a BSF jawan was injured when Pakistani troops violated ceasefire twice in the space of 10 hours by targeting Indian posts along the Indo-Pak border in Poonch and Kathua districts. The Pakistani troops had used mortars, RPGs and heavy machine guns leading to heavy firing exchanges.
- Pakistani troops opened small arms firing on Indian posts in forward area along LoC in Poonch district on the night of July 22.
- On July 12, Pakistani Rangers fired on Indian forward posts in Pindi belt

along International Border (IB) in Jammu district.

- On July 3, Pakistan violated ceasefire when it fired on cops, who had gone to LoC in Sabzian, Poonch to collect the body of a Pakistani intruder killed in an IED blast on July 1. Pakistani troops fired on troops trying to evacuate injured porters after two were killed in IED attack by Pakistani militants along LoC in Poonch on July 8.

These repeated and unprovoked attacks from across the border have agitated the Indian masses even as the UPA government remained in deep slumber. With BJP tearing into the UPA government for pursuing a soft foreign policy against Pakistan, the ghastly attack rocked both Houses of Parliament with opposition

parties led by BJP demanding firm action against Pakistan. Listing Chinese incursions in the Ladakh sector and Pakistani aggression along the Line of Control (LoC), the BJP dubbed the UPA's foreign policy as inept. It asked the government to respond swiftly and strongly, extending its full support.

However, insensitivity and

Recent attacks by Pakistan on Indian Army

Jan 08: Pak Army kills two Indian soldiers, one soldier beheaded in the attack.

July 03: Opens firing on Indian cops in Sabzian, who had gone to collect the body of a Pak intruder killed in IED blast on July 1.

July 8: Pak troops fire on soldiers evacuating injured porters in IED attack by Pak militants in Poonch.

July 12: Pakistani Rangers fire on Indian forward posts in Pindi belt along international border in Jammu.

July 22: Pak troops fire at Indian posts in forward area along LoC in Poonch.

July 27-28: Pak troops fire at Indian positions in Hiranagar sector in Kathua district of Jammu, a BSF trooper injured.

Pak troops target Indian posts by firing RPGs, heavy machine guns along LoC in Doda Battalion forward area in Poonch. No casualties reported.

August 05: Pak troops fire at Indian troop at Chakan Da Baug area of Poonch sector and killed five jawans.

The history of ceasefire violations

2012: 71 incidents of cross-border firing and ceasefire violations along Indo-Pak border. At least 7 persons including 4 security personnel killed and 15 injured.

2011: 51 cases of cross-border firing and ceasefire violations.

2010: 44 cases of ceasefire violations along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

2009: 28 cases of ceasefire violations.

stupidity crossed its limit when the defence minister made a bizarre statement in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha saying that the attack was carried out by "terrorists along with persons 'dressed in Pakistan Army uniform'".

The Defence Minister was contradicted by his own ministry, whose statement directly attributed the attack to the Pakistani Army. That 'Defence Ministry press release was later withdrawn', and the Defence Ministry and Army said that the minister's account was correct.

Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley described Antony's statement as "ambiguous" and hoped it was a "typographical error." Shri Jaitley said, "You are almost providing in this statement an opportunity to Pakistan to say that they were non-state actors." He said the incident has serious defence, security and foreign policy implications and demanded a "befitting reply", he said there is a "need to modulate our foreign policy to send a message to Pakistan that these kinds of attacks will not be tolerated."

Criticizing the UPA govt. Deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad said Government should come out with a clear-cut and firm response to the latest Pakistani attack which has become a regular affair.

Like BJP most of the political parties and members cutting across party lines expressed their anger in Parliament over this incident and demanded a befitting reply to Pakistan over

LINE OF NO CONTROL	
JAN 8: 2 Indian soldiers killed in Mendhar sector by Pak troops, who take away the head of one	
57	ceasefire violations by Pak army this year (till Aug 5)
44	incidents in the same period in 2012
100	terrorists have tried to sneak into India this year, so far
17	infiltration bids foiled so far this year
19	terrorists killed in July and August

the provocative act in Poonch sector in J&K.

The BJP and especially the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said Antony should apologise to the country for having given incorrect information and New Delhi should not hold talks with Islamabad. After being attacked by the Opposition led by BJP for letting Pakistan off the hook for the deadly ambush on five Indian soldiers, Defence Minister AK Antony finally day after issued a new statement on the attack in Parliament, and indicted the Pakistani Army. The minister said that "specialist troops" of the Pakistani Army were responsible for the killings. "We all know nothing happens along the Line of Control without the support...direct involvement of the Pak Army," he said. Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj welcomed his new statement and demanded firm and immediate action against Pakistan.

Notwithstanding the grief

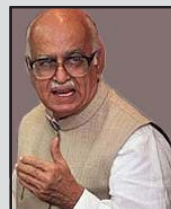
and anguish which swept the nation over the unprovoked killing of our brave soldiers by the Pakistani army, the inaction of the UPA government has shocked the nation. The regular flip-flops on dealing with a recalcitrant Pakistan and an aggressive China have thoroughly exposed the UPA government and its lack of resolve to safeguard the territorial sovereignty of India. Infact, the Prime Minister of India has not even made an official statement condemning the latest act of aggression by Pakistan.

The killings, much like the beheading of an Indian soldier by another Pakistani BAT in the Mendhar sector on January 8, would indicate that there are sections in Pakistan, especially in its army, who are determined to derail the bilateral talks. It also indicates the limitations of Nawaz Sharif's writ in Pakistan. Now the ghastly incident will cast a shadow on the resumption of the Indo-Pak dialogue process. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif are slated to meet in New York next month on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

The Congress led Union government needs to understand that the hand of friendship cannot be extended from one side only. The dialogue process will have no meaning if such repeated incidents of killing of Indian soldiers are carried out by Pakistan with impunity. India can no longer remain silent on an issue concerning national security as reposing trust with a terrorist state like Pakistan is fraught with grave danger. (FOC)

Talks under present situation would outrage the nation : Advani

Criticizing the Defence Minister Mr. Antony for exonerating Pakistan for the sake of continuing the Indo-Pak dialogue process, the former deputy Prime Minister warned that talks under present situation would outrage the nation. "I hold that what the Raksha Mantri has said in the House, it is intended only to exonerate Pakistan Government and absolve it of the responsibility for killing five Indian soldiers," Shri Advani said adding, "I have a feeling that the Government wants to continue talks with Pakistan." He said the incident was a "formal invasion" by the Pakistani Army, who entered "our borders and killed Indian soldiers".



Defence Minister must apologies to the country : Sushma Swaraj



Leading the charge after the brutal incident of killing five Indian soldiers by Pakistan army, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj slammed the Defence Minister and said he owes an apology to the country for the contradictory remark. "Antony has given needless clean chit to Pakistani army," she said. She also demanded a statement from the Prime Minister on the issue.

Jaitley asks Union govt. to give befitting message to Pakistan

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley severely condemned the killing of five Indian soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch area, and asked the Union govt. to give a befitting message to Islamabad. "Today's incident is condemnable. We join the Defence Minister (AK Antony) in saluting the families of the deceased. We can't make a spectacle of ourselves in front of the world, we must give a befitting message to Pakistan," he said. Shri Jaitley said the dastardly ambush by Pakistani troops last night in the Chakan da Bagh area of Poonch leading to death of five Indian soldiers is unacceptable. "My heartfelt condolences to the families of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in Poonch," he said.



UPA fails in securing Indian borders : Modi



Describing the killing of Indian soldiers by Pakistani troops as "dastardly", Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi accused the Centre of being lax in securing the borders. "Dastardly ambush by Pakistan last night at the Chakan da Bagh area of Poonch leading to death of five Indian soldiers is unacceptable," Shri Modi said. "From China's intrusions to Pakistan's ambushes- UPA government has been absolutely lax in securing the Indian borders. When will Centre wake up?" Shri Modi said. "My heartfelt condolences to the families of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in Poonch," he said.

Don't hold talks with Pakistan : Yashwant Sinha

Demanding that there should be no talks with Pakistan, former Union Foreign Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha expressed satisfaction over defence minister A.K. Antony's fresh statement on the killing of five Indian soldiers on the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir two days ago. While stating that the minister covered all points raised by the opposition, he added that the BJP still maintains that there should be no talks with Pakistan. "Our demand to end talks with Pakistan still holds. We also want a debate on the broader issue of terror and intrusions," Shri Sinha said. Asked if the government has been soft on Pakistan, he said: "There is no government in India, soft or hard."



Congress fails to build 'greater harmony' on Telangana

The manner in which Congress has tried to create new Telangana state appears to have backfired on it. In an attempt to take political mileage Congress proceeded hurriedly without caring to create a suitable political atmosphere. There was no attempt to build a consensus on the issue across different political parties and social groups which has resulted in clashes and protests in other

formation of Telangana state. But can Congress be still trusted as it has a track record of going back on its promises on Telangana? Neither can it be forgotten nor denied that Justice Krishna committee was formed only to delay the process of formation of Telangana.

Contrast the move by Congress to approve formation of Telangana with that of the formation of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

There was a consensus across political spectrum

and among the social groups and unanimous resolutions were passed by the state assemblies from

which these states were carved out. This was possible only due to the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who believed in building consensus on the issues which were extremely divisive. He was successful in creating three states without allowing the situation to deteriorate and by building harmony among the people. It is to be noted that Congress never supported the demand for the creation of smaller states while BJP has always supported the demand for smaller states as it helps in

expediting development and all round progress.

Slamming Congress on Telangana issue which rocked Parliament on the opening day, BJP said the Congress hurried through the announcement on forming the new state for electoral gains and maintained the issue could have been handled with "greater harmony". "The movement for Telangana has been one of the biggest mass movements in India in recent history. This movement has sustained itself for a long time. Government should have responded to it well in advance," Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley said.

The Telangana issue led to frequent disruptions in both Houses of Parliament on the first day of the monsoon session. While the anti-Telangana MPs, including from Congress, protested, there were demands for separate statehood to Bodoland and other regions. Shri Jaitley charged the government has created a situation where two regions (Telangana and Seemandhra) are crossing swords with each other. "Why could you not do it with much greater harmony?" he said, adding the NDA government had formed three states-Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand-by first building a consensus on the issue. BJP maintained NDA had held discussions with all



parts of Andhra Pradesh. The Congress Party which has been blocking the move to create Telangana state for last nine years but on seeing its bleak electoral prospects in the state it rushed ahead to approve the

Telangana : Some Facts

- The origin of the word "Telangana" is said to be uncertain but the word may be derived from Trilinga, as in TrilingaDesa, "the country of the three lingas".
- According to a Hindu legend, Shiva descended as a lingam on three mountains: Kaleshwaram, Srisailem and Draksharama, which marked the boundaries of the Telangana and the language spoken by Telangana people is known as Telugu.
- Telangana means "land of Telugus" and it was part of the erstwhile princely state of Hyderabad.
- Hyderabad State became part of India in 1948 after an operation by the Indian Army as Nizam wanted to keep the state independent. Telangana became a state of Telugu-speaking people and was known as Hyderabad State till 1956 when it was merged with Andhra State, carved out of Madras province, to form Andhra Pradesh.
- Number of districts in Telangana: 10 – Greater Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad and Khammam.
- Geography: Has contiguous area bordering coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema (parts of the existing Andhra Pradesh), Karnataka, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- Area: 114,800 sq. km
- Population: About 35.28 million
- Languages spoken: Telugu and Urdu
- The region situated at a high altitude in an up-land area. Two major rivers Godavari and Krishna flow through the region but most of the land is arid.
- The region sends 119 members to the 294-member Andhra Pradesh assembly and also accounts for 17 of 42 Lok Sabha seats from Andhra Pradesh

Five questions posed by Shri Narendra Modi on Telangana

- Q. 1. Where is your homework in terms of creating consensus in your own party, within the Government and within all political parties on the issue of Telangana when you have been speaking in so many divergent voices ?
- Q. 2. Unlike capital cities that became shared capitals by virtue of being on the border between two states, Hyderabad becomes a shared capital despite being located well within Telangana. Thus, this does not justify the logic of sharing a capital albeit for a short duration. This leaves scope for operational difficulties. Thus, how practical is it for a state to have a capital that does not lie either within its boundaries or along its borders?
- Q. 3. What constructive measures have you taken to prepare the minds of the people of Andhra Pradesh and Rayalseema to welcome this decision on Telangana? What assurances have you provided to them so as to assuage their anxieties and to take them on board? Where is your "political roadmap" to creating this consensus among the people? All we have been hearing is that the issue is a "technical process."
- Q. 4. What commitments are you prepared to make to the people of Telangana, who have already suffered severe trauma over your many betrayals that you will not take them for a ride one more time?
- Q. 5. Many youngsters of Telangana have committed suicide. Hyderabad as an investment destination has suffered; the state of Andhra Pradesh has slipped. The state once considered the rice bowl of India has seen agricultural slides making it a state with high farmer suicides. It is indeed ironical that the Congress Party has sought to hide itself behind committees, reports and futile deliberations instead of courageously facing the people of Andhra Pradesh. Neither the Congress President nor the Congress Vice President have set foot into Andhra Pradesh in recent years, despite the fact that Andhra Pradesh sent the highest MPs for the Congress both in 2004 and 2009. Will the Congress leadership not apologize to the people of Andhra Pradesh for treating them like doormats to suit the Congress' political opportunism?

stakeholders. The three states concerned- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh- were asked to pass unanimous resolutions in their assemblies. After the states were formed, revenues were shared and river waters were divided in no time. Even the High Courts in the new states were created in a week's notice, Jaitley said.

"It was part of our honest commitment. We had no political motivation.... Congress has no commitment and announced Telangana for electoral reasons. I suspect this strategy will not work. They will end up as losers in both regions (Telangana and Seemandhra)," Jaitley said.

One may recall the earlier event when Chidambaram almost conceded Telangana in Parliament on December 9, 2009 and then backtracked within 12 days on December 21, 2009. At that time the government then formed the Sri Krishna Commission to further delay the issue. The Congress has since then applied dilly-dallying tactics resulting to large number of suicides by young people of Telangana movement and continuous agitations and protests sending the entire region into chaos. Now the situation is such that with the announcement of Congress intention to support Talangana state, agitation is taking place in rest of Andhra Pradesh where governance has become standstill. Congress is responsible for this chaos and absence of the consensus building process. Actually, such an approach is inherent in Congress nature which relies on reaping votes through its divisive agenda in the country. In such circumstances it cannot be doubted that Congress can still play spoilsport in Telangana given its track record of backtracking.(FOC) ■

RSS view against non-discrimination on basis of caste helped political growth of BJP : L K Advani

Bharatiya Janata Party Scheduled Caste Morcha National Executive Meeting was inaugurated by BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L. K. Advani on 27-28 July 2013 at New Delhi.

BJP SC Morcha National President Dr. Sanjay Paswan criticised Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his earlier remarks that minorities



have the first right over the resources of the country. "The first right to these resources is that of the poor. The biggest section of the poor belongs to the SC and ST category. I condemn

the Prime Minister's remarks," he said. In the inaugural speech BJP senior leader Shri L.K. Advani praised the Sangh and said its policy of not discriminating on the basis of caste had helped them win the support of Dalit voters. He further said that "RSS never accepted caste and believed that all sections of society are equal".

"The RSS view of not discriminating against people on the basis of caste has played an immense role in the political growth of our party," Advani said, adding that this attitude of non-discrimination had brought Dalits closer to BJP.

The National Executive passed several resolutions like Congress discriminatory policy against Dalits has led to deprivation of their (dalits) rights, the socio-political status of Dalits in last 65 years etc. On the last day of the National Executive Meet, Morcha President Dr. Sanjay Paswan announced the beginning of his four tours to mobilise the SC population throughout the country.

In the valedictory address given by BJP National President, Shri Rajnath Singh said that we need to carry forward the ideology of the dalit leaders by our own initiative rather than only associating them with a particular party or community.

This two day National Executive Meeting was attended by around 250 participants from all over India including all National Executive members of SC Morcha, Morcha, State Presidents and General Secretaries, all BJP SC MPs, Ministers in States and Mayor and Deputy Mayors from the States. Meeting was also addressed by BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal, BJP General Secretaries Shri Thavar Chand Gehlot and Shri Murlidhar Rao, former BJP National President Shri Bangaru Laxman, BJP Spokespersons Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Shri Sonkar Shastri, BJP Morcha & Cell Coordinator Shri Mahendra Pandey and SC Morcha incharge & former Central Minister Shri Satyanarayan Jatia. ■

India and Afghanistan share a millennia-old strong civilizational bond : Rajnath

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh was on his 5-day visit to United States of America. During the visit he delivered speech on 'Afghanistan' at Rayburn Building in US Congress on July 24, 2013. Full text of speech is being published here:

Honourable Chairman and a very distinguished friend of India, Mr. Ed Royce, my fellow-panelists, ladies and gentlemen!

We in BJP are the believers of the ancient Indian dictum –

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – the entire world is one family. I address all of you, our American hosts, participants from various important think tanks and institutions, embassy and government representatives, as well as members of Afghan, Pakistan and Indian communities, in that spirit.

My warm greetings to all of you

I convey special greetings to my friends in and from Afghanistan.

India and Afghanistan share a millennia-old strong civilizational bond. The linkages go back to the Harappan civilization, the spread of Buddhism, followed by the spread of Islam under the Turks and later the Moghuls.

We in the BJP attach key importance to these age-old bonds as the foundation for a lasting friendship with our north-western neighbour.

I would like to recall that I was the Chief Minister of India's most populous State, Uttar Pradesh, when one of Afghanistan's most prestigious and adorable historic sites at Bamiyan, which was also the world's biggest statue of

Bhagwan Buddha, was vandalized by the fundamentalist regime of Taliban in 2001. At that time, as a symbol of the common commitment of India and Afghanistan to global peace and harmony, I pledged to build the replica of Bamiyan Buddha at Kushi Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, a town where Bhagwan Buddha had attained Heavenly Abode. I am sure this Conference would be a forum to reiterate that commitment by all the distinguished people here.

Afghanistan has passed through very difficult times in the last three decades. Conflict with the Soviet Union, followed by the repressive Taliban regime brought innumerable sufferings to the people of Afghanistan. They now deserve peace and stability.

We applaud their determined efforts to establish a democratic and progressive Afghanistan. As the world's largest democracy, India would always be there to help Afghan people in their endeavour to democratize, modernize and stabilize their country. US, the world's oldest democratic nation, will, I am sure, stand with Afghanistan in the long run in its democratic nation-building enterprise.

In fact it was the intervention of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), mostly

consisting of the NATO countries' troops, actively assisted by the Northern Alliance Forces in the end of 2001 that had paved the way for



the decline and eventual overthrow of the Taliban regime. India supported this US-led intervention in Afghanistan to overthrow the obscurantist Taliban regime that sheltered Al-Qaeda on Afghan soil. The regime also allowed terror groups targeting India to be trained on its territory. We commend the success of US/NATO forces in

neutralizing the Al Qaeda and eliminating its leader found hiding in a military garrison town in Pakistan.

We don't make a distinction between the Al Qaeda and the Taliban on the premise that one primarily targets the West and the other does not. For us, the menace of religious extremism and terrorism is seamless as the roots of the ideology of intolerance are the same and can be directed against any perceived enemy as the situation demands.

Despite the success in decimating the Al Qaeda, the menace of terrorism emanating from the region persists. The attack on the twin towers in New York showed the great geographic reach of terrorists. The recent terrorist attack in Boston, despite all the international and homeland security steps that the US has taken, demonstrates the continuing vulnerability of democracies to this menace.

India has been a target on the radar of terrorists in the last three decades. The Indian Parliament was attacked in 2001. The commercial capital and pride of India, the city of Mumbai, has been repeatedly attacked. The latest attack was in 2008 in which 266 people, including six US nationals and several other foreigners, were brutally killed.

Indian Government has enough evidence to prove that the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity found shelter and safe haven in our neighboring country, Pakistan. Incidentally Osama bin Laden, the Al Qaeda chief too was found hiding in Abbottabad in Pakistan.

The extremists thrive less on popular support and more on the clandestine support they get from

certain political, military and intelligence outfits in pursuit of their stated or unstated strategic and ideological objectives. This is at the root of the growth and survival of the terrorist groups in the region. I am pained to state that we the Indians and the Afghans have been exposed to threats from the terrorists who have their safe havens in our shared neighborhood.

The US has made Pakistan a partner in its war on terror in Afghanistan in the last ten years. The results have been a mixed bag. While the Taliban and Al Qaeda have lost many key leaders and thousands of fighters they continue to hold on to their strongholds in the South and East of Afghanistan and also inside Pakistan territory. This happened primarily because along the way sometime in 2003/4 the US had lost focus due to its campaigns elsewhere and the terror outfits had gained the breathing space to regroup and resurrect. The result was further fleecing of American dollars by Pakistan, further dependence of America on that country and further rise in the activities of terror networks. Pakistan needs to do a lot to tackle this menace. Unless the fundamental problem of safe havens of these groups and their leadership in Pakistan is addressed, the Taliban menace cannot be eradicated. The BJP expresses cautious optimism keeping in view the track record of successive regimes in Pakistan.

The US has to make its own decisions regarding the final scope and time-table of withdrawal from Afghanistan. But its decision has implications for the region in terms of the combat against extremism. As a major power in the region, India needs to be properly informed

about any US' initiatives in the region besides other countries. It is important to ensure that the country doesn't relapse into the pre-2001 anarchic mode once the NATO troops withdraw.

It must be ensured that we do not leave behind a 'Black Hole' of global security while leaving that country.

India has supported reconciliation in Afghanistan that is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. The sincere efforts in the first couple of years after 9/11 had led to the Loya Jirgah meeting in 2003-2004 and emergence of a democratic Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with a new Constitution. The Government of Hamid Karzai was a product of that exercise. India extended full support to the initiative and has been actively involved in supporting the democratic regime through development aid. India's development aid stands at \$2 Billion today. Almost the entire amount is spent on development related activity like the construction of the new Parliament building, dams, roads, electricity to Kabul, hospitals, schools etc.

We are committed to continuing this development aid to Afghanistan as long as they need it. We are also committed to making Afghan government, the nodal agency for implementation of these projects. India doesn't want to interfere or control the affairs of that country either directly or through proxies. We are in favor of a democratic, sovereign and progressive Afghanistan capable of managing its own affairs without any foreign intervention. For the land-locked Afghanistan to have greater decisional autonomy and boost its economy, improved

connectivity with the outside world can be a major game changer. Any efforts to replace the present democratic arrangement with a totalitarian and sectarian Taliban regime would be detrimental not only to the people of Afghanistan or its immediate neighborhood, but also to countries like India, Russia, China and even the US. It is the experience of the whole world that terrorism knows no boundaries.

It is in this context that the situation in Afghanistan must be weighed. The ideology of totalitarianism, religious bigotry, violence and terror, oppression of women and minorities, aggressive anti-democracy and anti-modernity, that sections of Taliban propagate, raises its head in various different forms including the ones like Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Regional and global peace can be ensured only if we complete the process that had begun in 2001 and rein in and democratise the remnants of Taliban and Al Qaeda completely. We in India have shown to the world that democracy is the best healer and answer to terrorism and totalitarianism.

The eagerness to engage with elements that want to return Afghanistan to the status of 'Islamic Emirates' in the hope that they would deliver, and in the process humiliating and weakening the democratic leadership, doesn't behave well for the region. If this accommodation with the Taliban is pursued with cooperation of the Pakistani military, as seems to be the case, the situation will become even more fraught, as many would say that it is the strategic ambition of the Pakistan Army to control Afghanistan that is at the root of the conflict there.

Pakistan must act responsibly

to ensure a smooth transition in Afghanistan. We expect the new Pakistan leadership to show courage and determination to rein in radical elements within the ISI and the Pakistan Army from interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan after the NATO Forces' withdraw. Pakistan must realize that the radical Taliban have caused enormous damage to not only the NATO Forces and the democratic leadership in Afghanistan, but also the Baluchs and many others in Pakistan too. The plight of the Baluch people at the hands of these extremist and terrorist elements calls for serious attention by the international community.

It is regrettable that once again an attempt is being made to make-believe that the real cause of the Afghan conflict is India-Pakistan rivalry there. This is a travesty of facts; the creation of Taliban, its takeover of Afghanistan, the Taliban-Al Qaeda links, the presence of Osama bin Laden there, the attack on the Twin Towers traced to the Al Qaeda in Afghanistan, the subsequent US military intervention there, the presence of the Taliban leadership in Pakistan, the killing of NATO soldiers by the Haqqani group and others and the drone attacks against terrorist targets in Pakistan; none of them have anything to do with India.

Afghanistan is a mineral rich country. To keep it backward and poverty-stricken is a crime against its people. India is willing to invest in its economic development in a big way.

Our strategic partnership with Afghanistan embodies our long term commitment to the political and economic stability of that country

within the larger vision of closer ties between Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent built around trade, energy and investment flows. The best instrument to control the rise of extremist forces in this larger region is economic development and interdependence.

A democratic, sovereign and progressive Afghanistan will usher in peace and progress in the region that includes Iran, Pakistan, India, Central Asian Republics, Russia and China. All these countries, along with the US, should have stakes in ensuring a stable and peaceful Afghanistan.

India and Afghanistan have traditionally been tied together by the Silk Route. If India does not share a land border of 106 kms with Afghanistan today, it is because of Pakistan's illegal occupation of this historical part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir since 1948. The Northern Regions of Gilgit and Baltistan, whose people are subjected to massive oppression and human rights violations today, are a gateway for India to Central Asia with which we have had millennia-old relations. India should get rightful access to Central Asia through the Gilgit-Baltistan region, with connectivity being established between Kargil in India and Skardu in Gilgit.

India is committed to supporting the democratic forces in Afghanistan. The nascent Afghan security forces – the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police – the combined strength of which has reached nearly 350,000, have shown encouraging combat spirit in countering the challenges on the ground. While keeping the overall political and security balances in view, India is willing to provide its

...Continued on page 30

BJP is determined to win coming elections : Jaitley



Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley, has behind him an illustrious career both as an ABVP leader and as a leading national figure of BJP. He was also the Law Minister in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's NDA government. He had also been BJP's general secretary and party spokesperson. His sharp and apt comments and intellectual prowess leaves his political opponents dumbfounded. National Convener of BJP's Literature & Publication Cell Amba Charan Vashishth interviewed him last week at his residence in New Delhi. The recent Pak intrusion into Indian side of Line of Control killing five of our brave soldiers has given Shri Jaitley's comment that "the UPA government has failed the country" more substance and credence. Shri Jaitley freely answered wide-range of questions on various issues. Excerpts:

How does the political scenario in the country look to you at the moment?

There is an atmosphere of cynicism, anger, disgust in the country. People are extremely upset and angry. Their anguish is on account of deteriorating economic scenario in the country. The state of governance is extremely poor. Investment has almost stopped. Rupee has been devalued. Indian economy is becoming non-competitive. The whole era of showcasing the Indian economy to rest of the world is over. There is indecisiveness in the leadership. People are feeling vacuum of leadership. The UPA has failed the country. The outgoing leadership of UPA is non-

inspirational. Those whom they are projecting as incoming leadership has not been able to establish his credentials. Corruption has further disillusioned people. Linking national security issues to vote bank politics rather than security has further caused concern in the country. The result of all these factors is that people are looking for change. People are looking for a hope. In this situation people look towards BJP. They look at us with a huge sense of hope. They have one grievance with the BJP. The people of this country are willing to bring about a change. They want BJP to be ready to lead the change. And I only hope we are able to

qualify for that aspiration of the people.

How far has the UPA decision to carve out Telangana changed the political and electoral scene in Andhra Pradesh?

See, the two political parties genuinely committed to Telangana are TRS and BJP. The UPA never wanted to create Telangana. In fact the Justice Shrikrishna report was a half-hearted effort merely intended to delay the process of Telangana. Today their allies are marginalized in both coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and also in Telangana. The UPA has created Telangana not out of ideological conviction but merely because of political convenience. I only hope that they are able to walk the talk. But at the end of the day I don't see UPA will be benefitted out of creation of Telangana because people in Telangana know that UPA commitment to Telangana was not real. They will face a wrath in coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema without much of gain in Telangana. It is a lose-lose situation for the UPA.

Congress seems determined to push through its political and electoral agenda during the monsoon session of Parliament this month. What is your assessment?

Monsoon session of parliament is for only sixteen days. Out of these sixteen days four or five days are Fridays when private member's business is transacted. How much business they will be able to transact in all 12 days? I think Congress has consciously shortened the session because it is uncomfortable during parliament session. Therefore, there is external and internal barbedos.

What do you think about the Food Security Ordinance recently promulgated?

I personally am in support of the idea of right to food. The right to livelihood can't be in the abstract. It must inherently feed every stomach. I am one of those who genuinely feel committed to the fact of state subsidising food at least to the weaker sections. Now this extent of reach of the food, the quantum and quantity of the food to be given must be nutritious. It must reach the largest number of the people and the distribution network government is able to create must be effective. The earlier PDS has shown a lot of leakages

and food going back into the system through the black market. And I only hope that does not happen because of the infrastructure for distribution has not been effectively created.

Do you think that Ordinance is going to have any impact in the coming State assembly and 2014 Lok Sabha elections?

I think it is for political purposes. But how much political advantage they will get, they will try and do that best. But I have my serious doubts. Ultimately it is the state governments which already have effective food programmes. Some BJP ruled States already have effective PDS programme which is much better than Food Security Ordinance.

According to media reports, the Food Security programme is likely to be named after late Rajiv Gandhi. Initially it is being launched only in 5 Congress ruled States on Rajiv's birthday on August 20. It is a national programme and not a Congress party one. Why not in non-Congress ruled States too?

You see, the business of naming programme after members of a family is becoming sycophantic. I think the Congress has non-performance to back up with. They rely on charisma of one family. Unfortunately, the family charisma used to get them three to four hundred seats in parliament. Today the charisma has hit the rock bottom. They will be lucky if they get into three figures.

Elections to State assemblies in four important States of Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are going to be held in the last quarter of this year. What are your expectations for BJP?

The main political advantage is that the political environment in this country is in our favour. In battle for leadership, we are way ahead of them. The electoral agenda of issues is loaded against them. I, therefore, think we have a good chance for winning all the four States. If we miss out any one State, it will not be their politics, probably will be our internal problems.

It is BJP's prerogative to announce its prime ministerial candidate at what time. But media and certain opposition groups have raised a controversy on some probable names. But the same media is silent on

demanding Congress to announce its prime ministerial candidate. How do you see the situation?

See I tell you, we have so far appointed Shri Narinder Modi as Chairman of Election Campaign Committee. Obviously, Narendra Bhai's name creates a lot of buzz and news as far as media is concerned and, therefore, there is a lot of excitement. There are groups and opinion against him. There is a very large and overwhelming opinion in his favour. In fact, he has, to a great extent, captured the imagination and support of the BJP cadres and of the political constituency that supports the BJP. It is, however, upto the national party through its Parliamentary Board to announce the name and finalise it at the appropriate time. But I am convinced that in the battle for leadership we are way ahead. The Congress has nobody to match the personality of some of our leaders. That is why they are trying to duck the leadership fight. Hence, you have statements coming from Congress leaders saying they may not even declare their leader.

UPA government and PMO recently refused to divulge information under RTI about Robert Vadra on the excuse of confidentiality. Earlier, it refused information about Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's treatment abroad at public expense. Now PMO has refused to share with people the information about the utilization of funds collected from people in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. On the one hand, Congress claims credit for having given people the RTI and on the other, it is denying information to people. What does it mean?

You see, they want to claim the credit for bringing the Right to Information Act but they also want to effectively deprive by using the exception. On matter of corruption and on matters of use and misuse of public funds, there cannot be ground of confidentiality.

How satisfied are you with the pace of investigation into the 2G spectrum, Coalgate, Railgate and other scams?

I am not satisfied as far as 2G case is concerned. The matter is pending in the court but the

JPC which was to come out with its findings is being prevented by UPA members from coming to an effective findings. In Coalgate, UPA government was caught red-handed when its minister was trying to interfere with the preparation of CBI status report which was to be submitted to the Supreme Court. They tried to doctor that report. The Railgate comes to me as the bolt from the blue where minister and his family members are involved in the matter of auctioning important positions in the Railways and, at the same time, you find those who took the decision instead of being an accused have been made prime witnesses.

In the Ishrat Jahan case, Congress government has put CBI and IB at daggers against each other. How do you see the situation?

Well, the Ishrat Jahan case was an IB operation. Now the facts are in public domain. It is clear now. You can't uncover the functioning of the security agencies of India. Security agencies always function under a cover. Now when you uncover them and ask police investigation to investigate their functioning, you are hurting national security. That is what the UPA government is doing.

Recently, a group of MPs petitioned the US President not to grant visa to Shri Narendra Modi. How do you see the development?

It is highly improper that MPs decided to petition the US President. My personal advice to Shri Narinder Modi would be that he should not apply for US visa. Since 2005 he has actually not applied for it. The refusal of US to give him a visa is not the failure of the BJP or of Narinder Modi; it is failure of India's foreign policy where this UPA government is mute spectator to the fact that the top elected leader in Indian democracy can be denied a visa and Government of India becomes a mute spectator.

How strong and united is BJP to face the challenge of ensuing State assembly and Lok Sabha elections next year?

We are united and determined. We lost two elections. We can't afford to lose a third and I am sure there is great enthusiasm in our cadres also. ■

With right decisions we can turnaround this lack of optimism and give hope to Economy of our Nation : Modi

From Our Correspondent

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the Zee Business India's Best Market Analysts Award event on 24th July in Ahmedabad. He handed out the awards to the winners in different categories. He expressed thanks to Shri Subhash Chandra for selecting Ahmedabad as the destination for the awards event.

is unusual that the leadership of India seems to have lost the confidence to take decisions. He quipped that while there is frequent talk of early elections it is highly unlikely that those who had failed take any decisions for nine years can be expected to take any decisions now.

Shri Modi said that when we got independence, 1 rupee was equal to 1 dollar. When Atalji

the loan. Firstly, the money from the loan were to be spent on educating Indian scholars in USA. Secondly, the Indian rupee had to be depreciated.

He said that the trend of increasing imports is worrying. With increasing imports, our exports are decreasing, leading to increasing Current Account Deficit. Shri Modi elaborated on the Policy Paralysis affecting the Nation by observing that the absence of a single window of clearance means foreign Investors will continue to be shy of India. Shri Modi also pointed out that even Small Investors were moving away from the markets as price rise was eating into their savings and they have turned shy of investing. He pointed out that Black Money has created a parallel economy making it difficult for the common man to invest in real estate. He said that while Chidambaram ji advises not to invest in Gold, people are forced to invest in Gold because they have lost confidence in stocks. Shri Modi said that while today the nation is in darkness and under a huge economic crisis, looking at economic figures during Atalji's tenure makes one proud.

Gujarat Chief Minister observed that while India had become a large consumer market for Global Corporations it has now become a less attractive Investment destination as foreign investors have lost faith. Pointing out how India imports



Shri Narendra Modi said that the market analysts and the common man must be thinking that we need to come out of the economic mess and added that the country's economic situation is worrisome. He said that there seems to be a competition between the Central Government and the Rupee as to who will fall further. Shri Modi observed that every nation sees good times and bad times but it

became PM, 1 dollar was equal to 42 rupees and when he left, 1 dollar was equal to 44 rupees. He reminded that when we got independence after 1200 years, we had an outstanding amount worth millions to be taken from Britain. He said that it was in the tenure of Pandit Nehru that India took loan for the first time and that started the fall of the rupee. At that time two conditions were laid down for

heavily electronic goods, Shri Modi called for Indian manufacturing to be competitive. Recalling the good work done by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee NDA Government Shri Modi criticized the UPA for undoing the good work done by Shri Vajpayee. Shri Modi reminded that during Atalji's tenure inspite on the economic sanctions due to the nuclear testing, we managed to curb price rise.

He said that today power stations worth more than 20,000 MWs are not functioning due to Government apathy.

Shri Modi said that our Prime Minister says money doesn't grow on trees. But Shri Modi said he felt that money can grow in farms and factories if correct leadership is provided. He said that when he took over as CM of Gujarat, it had a revenue deficit of Rs 6700 crore, but today it is revenue surplus. He lamented at the fact that a country like India which was revenue surplus inspite of 1200 years of dominance, became revenue deficit now.

Gujarat Chief Minister concluded his speech with a note of optimism that with the right decisions we can turnaround our economy. He opined that the lack of optimism will give way to hope and our economy will be bounce back once we start taking the right decisions. ■

HP State BJP Executive Training Camp, Palampur

Congress has pushed the country to brink of bankruptcy : Rajnath Singh

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh charged the Congress led UPA government with misgovernance and adopting ruinous policies, pushing the country to brink of bankruptcy and asked the BJP workers to ensure the return of BJP to power after 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Shri Singh, who inaugurated a three-day training camp of Himachal



Pradesh BJP workers at Palampur on 02 August, 2013 expressed grave concern over "crisis of credibility" of politicians and said the reason for this was failure of political parties to deliver and implement the promises made to the people. He charged the Congress led UPA government at the Centre with misgovernance and adopting ruinous policies, pushing the country to brink of bankruptcy and asked the party workers to ensure the return of BJP to power after 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP National President said, "The country is passing through a grave crisis and due to weak and inept leadership of Congress led UPA, not only a big country like China is making intrusions into the country at will but even small countries are trying to bully us", he said.

Accusing Congress of making baseless claims that 2002 Gujrat riots gave birth to Indian Mujahedeen, Shri Rajnath Singh said, "it's all a gimmick to blame our leader and when anyone asks me to comment on it, I usually say that Congress has the bio-data of Indian Mujahedeen and we don't have it".

Among others former HP BJP Chief Minister Prof. PK Dhumal, Former Chief Minister of HP and Punjab BJP Prabhari Shri Shanta Kumar, BJP National Vice President and in-charge of Himachal Pradesh Shri Balbir Punj, State BJP President Shri Sat Pal Satti, several senior State BJP leaders and office bearers were present on the occasion. ■

Moderates' moment to reclaim Islam

By Balbir Punj

Across the world from Turkey to Egypt to Pakistan, Islamists are on the rise. But as the Arab Spring at its peak proved, they can be pushed back if liberals and civil society leaders stand up to them.

A world troubled by extremist Islam is watching Egypt's streets and squares with bated breath. If the Army-backed liberals in that country win the confrontation with the Islamists, there may be a reversal in the steady march of fundamentalists in the region stretching from Tunisia in the west to Pakistan in the east.

Across the Mediterranean, Turkey too had caught the wind and it is the popular opposition to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Islamist policies that somewhat broke the country's slide into religious fundamentalism. Turkey is still under the shadow of that conflict – liberals backed by the Army are demanding a return to the 1920s era when Turkey was established as a Western-style modern state with a secular Constitution.

But recently the liberal traditions of Turkey have suffered a setback. For instance, on July 5, local Muslim fundamentalists in Trabzon offered their Ramzan prayers at an ancient Byzantine church in the north-eastern coastal city. This 13th century church was converted into a mosque around the 16th century and eventually

became a museum in 1964. However, through a court verdict, the Islamists have reclaimed the building and converted it into a functioning mosque.

This incident only underlines the hard reality that extremist Islam does not tolerate either other faiths or even a small departure from the orthodox interpretation that it prescribes for the faithful. The Taliban-type zealots will not let girls study or work, they will not allow elections or representative forms of Government to function. They only wish to implement what they say are divine laws.

And so it comes as no surprise that both in Iran and Saudi Arabia – rival nations

that represent Islam's two main warring sects, the Shias and the Sunnis respectively – brutal medieval practices such as stoning criminals to death is legal and public participation statutorily defined, including the size of stones to be used.

There are, of course, moderate Islamic countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Morocco, where some secular laws prevail, democratic norms and elected leaders are accepted, and extremists put down through a carrot-and-stick approach. But the Islamist threat looms large over these countries too, and there are no guarantees on when the situation will take a turn for the worse.

For instance, in Sunni-majority Iraq where a Shia Government has now come to power, the two sects are at each other's throats. Similarly, in the 70s, when Islamists overthrew the secular Shah of Iran, they imposed a strict religious code. Since then, a council of clerics has governed Iran, handpicking, as was seen recently, even presidential candidates.

Take Bangladesh as another example. While Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League Government rescued the country from religious extremism, religious parties are waiting to tie up with the main Opposition party in that country to dethrone the secular ruling party and bring back the country's Islamist Constitution.

Recently the liberal traditions of Turkey have suffered a setback. For instance, on July 5, local Muslim fundamentalists in Trabzon offered their Ramzan prayers at an ancient Byzantine church in the north-eastern coastal city. This 13th century church was converted into a mosque around the 16th century and eventually became a museum in 1964. However, through a court verdict, the Islamists have reclaimed the building and converted it into a functioning mosque.

The problems of religious fundamentalism today are best demonstrated in Pakistan. This is the month of Ramzan — a time of penance, piety and rededication to the divine path. Yet, in several places in Pakistan (a country that was carved out of united India to supposedly allow Muslims a safe haven), Muslim blood lies splattered on the lawns of mosques because different

fundamentalist leaders who had sided with the Pakistani Army in 1971 and massacred millions of Bengalis.

Against this backdrop, what is happening in Egypt is reflective of things to come. Egyptian civil society had risen in revolt against the dictatorship of former President Hosni Mubarak and had succeeded in ousting him from power. In this,

liberals on the streets.

At this stage, there is no telling how the confrontation will end. In December 2011, when the Tunisian people took to the streets to oust a three-decades-old autocracy, there was hope that there would be a new awakening in North Africa in favour of democracy and liberal values. That hope gained ground as the spirit of revolution spread from Tunisia to Libya and Egypt and Yemen and Bahrain.

And even though the Arab Spring has since threatened to turn into an Islamist winter, there is still a possibility that, in the Islamic crescent stretching from North Africa to Pakistan, there will be a determined confrontation between the forces of liberalism or moderate Islam and extremist Islam. Events in Egypt will indicate which way the wind will blow. The next few months will reveal if civil society leaders in the region have the power to contain jihadi terror, and promote the rule of law based on modern principles of jurisprudence, economic growth and gender equality.

The year 2014 will also be crucial as US troops withdraw from Afghanistan and expose the moderate but fragile Government of Hamid Karzai to the powerful Taliban's attacks. If the Taliban returns to Kabul in any form, with the Pakistani establishment still holding on to the 'defence in depth' strategy against India, and if the confrontation in Egypt brings the ousted Islamist President Mohamed Morsi back to power, the world would have moved backwards and jihadi terror will be the gainer. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

A few months back there was apprehension worldwide that Islamic extremism would swallow Pakistan as the Taliban and other Muslim clerics joined the call to boycott the general election. The civil society that liberated the nation from military dictatorship finally prevailed and a Government with an effective majority in the National Assembly was installed in office. However, the current level of bloodletting displays how the forces of fundamentalism can make the functioning of even moderate Islamism tenuous.

Islamic sects cannot agree on who is the true believer, and thus, they seek to force a decision by competitive bloodletting.

A few months back there was apprehension worldwide that Islamic extremism would swallow Pakistan as the Taliban and other Muslim clerics joined the call to boycott the general election. The civil society that liberated the nation from military dictatorship finally prevailed and a Government with an effective majority in the National Assembly was installed in office. However, the current level of bloodletting displays how the forces of fundamentalism can make the functioning of even moderate Islamism tenuous. In Bangladesh too, civil society has rallied in favour of a secular Constitution and has demanded harsh punishment for

it was also joined by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood that was long suppressed by the autocratic leader.

However, once successful, civil society and its liberal leaders let down their guard. The Brotherhood, on the other hand, seized power thanks to its well-knit socio-political organisation, and even got an illiberal Constitution approved through a widely-criticised referendum. Continuing economic distress and the increasing clout of Islamists, however, has now provoked the liberals to pour back into the streets and challenge the fundamentalists. The Army's intervention in favour of the liberals has sealed the fate of the Islamists within the power corridors, but the Brothers are now challenging the

Government insensitive to agonies of gulf migrants

By P Muralidhar Rao

India gets benefitted every year through remittances from a large section of its people working beyond its frontiers, all over the world – from highly proficient software specialists to illiterate, low skilled construction labour. In the last few years India has emerged as the leading country, surpassing China, in attracting remittances currently to the tune of 55 billion US dollars, which in effect works immensely to the advantage of our budget planners. This has reduced our dependence on foreign capital or investments. Despite of being benefitted largely from this, our government pays the least attention to the difficulties faced by this large workforce outside India. Most particularly, the illiterate or semi-literate workers in Middle East (Gulf) countries have been completely neglected.

North Telangana, in the last few years has become the epicenter of many problems which have now escalated into a huge crisis. Hundreds of villages in the districts of Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Medak wear a deserted look due to the large scale migration of its young population in search of employment opportunities. Agriculture has become non-profitable and therefore people dependent on it and allied activities are forced to look for alternatives in order to meet the

daily needs of their families. Migration to gulf for labour and other semi-skilled works has emerged as an opportunity for them. But this has added another category to the people who are committing suicides after farmers and weavers – the gulf migration victims.

There are around 6 million Indians working in the Middle East of which majority are semi and unskilled workers. South India sends majority of labour to Gulf Region Countries. Majority of migrant labourers come from Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The issues faced by those from various parts of India like Bihar, Kerala, Tamil nadu etc. are not different from that of migrants from North Telangana.

Among the Gulf migrants, it is observed that 25% of people are illiterate, another quarter has got a 7th or 8th pass and the rest are 10th pass. They engage in labour work, carpentry, gardening, semi-professional works like electrician, plumbing etc. 65% of the population belongs to OBC, 20% to Scheduled Castes and 7-8% to Scheduled Tribes categories.

In order to obtain placements and visas in Middle East countries through agents, these people take loans from money lenders and thereby get into the vicious debt traps. Each of them pays between 1 to 2 lakhs

to the agents or middlemen.

The governments, both at Centre and state have never actively shown interest in their problems. This is a glaring example of a crisis caused due to the collapse of agriculture economy. People dependent on agriculture are forced to flee to foreign countries and subsequently to unending misery or death. Most of the migrants are cheated by the placement agencies, but the government has done nothing to monitor or regulate these agencies. The people reach Middle East on visiting visas, but their difficulties begin right from landing. They usually are unable to get suitable employment within the period of their visas and overstaying thereafter quite often lands them in jails. It is reported that thousands of such people with improper documents languish in Middle East jails. These helpless people do not get any legal assistance and therefore remain behind bars for many years. Since the Indian consulates have no proper information regarding such people, they are counted among the thousands of missing people from India. Their families are in extremely pathetic positions without knowing where to find and whom to approach.

Very recently Saudi Arabia has implemented the Nitaqat policy to put a check on

foreigners working on their land. They have warned people from many countries including Indians about their deportation. But the Ministry of Overseas Affairs is not bothered about these helpless migrants. The people who face the difficulty of language while interacting to officials in consulates and local authorities cannot even explain their problems properly.

These migrants have to work in difficult working conditions with no facilities like toilets, rest places etc. and subject to long working hours of 12-13 hours a day. Facing all these issues of employment instability, meagre wages, harsh working conditions and ultimately their inability to pay off debts, many of them resort to suicides. Their poor families who are already overburdened with debts are forced to take further loads to bring back their bodies spending huge amounts to the tune of Rs. 80000 to 1 lakh. Many a times it takes months or even years to get back the bodies to the families in India. A more pathetic situation is that many bodies of unidentified Indians are still in mortuaries of Middle east, with no one to claim.

If to see absolutely non-performing governments, one should look at the Congress led governments at centre and Andhra Pradesh - insensitive and irresponsible to the hardships of these families. After 5 years the UAE government has announced amnesty for illegal migrants to leave the country without penalty within 2 months and has asked the Indian government to do the needful for their return. Most of these are poor and low paid labourers and

cannot afford air tickets and other expenses. The Ministry of Overseas Affairs of Indian government has skillfully shifted the responsibility to the respective state governments to do the needful for their return including affording their air tickets. But it is quite evident that such state governments like the Andhra Pradesh government who are not even willing to help its people for bringing back dead bodies of suicide victims, would turn a blind eye towards thousands of these people.

Demands of Gulf migrant workers

- The State Govt. should entrust an important minister for addressing the issues of Migrant Labour to Middle East.
- After their return to their regions let them be incorporated with special Govt. Welfare programmes for their livelihood with dignity.
- Bring back Nitaqat effected Migrants from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without any discrimination providing free air tickets.
- A Telugu Officer should be appointed in every Indian Embassy where our Telugu people are in large number particularly in Gulf countries.
- District administration should open a cell in each North Telangana district where the people desired to migrate to Middle East can get assistance in handling various affairs.
- Proper and speedy compensation to families of Gulf migrants died abroad.

I have been associated with the issue of gulf migrants since last 5-6 years and have been fighting for their betterment. Under the leadership of Shri Narasimham Naidu and Shri Veeragopal, Migrants Rights and Welfare Forum (MRWF) had organized a mass awareness programme on 4th August 2013 in Jagatiyal, Karimnagar (A.P) to discuss the issues of Gulf migrants, which was attended by more than 4000 people including Gulf migrants and their families. Here, I interacted with hundreds of poor victims of Gulf migration and listen to their agonies. BJP has committed to fight for the miseries of migrants to Middle East. Earlier a mass interaction programme of poor and deprived people of North Telangana with the former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari was organized in Andhra Pradesh, in which a large number of gulf migrant victims were present.

Had the governments at the centre as well as in Andhra Pradesh paid even a minimum attention to the various problems faced by Gulf migrant workers, agonies of thousands of families would have been avoided. The Congress governments are solely responsible for thousands languishing in Middle East jails, hundreds committing suicides and their families being forced into deprivation and debt trap, millions still being forced to migrate to Gulf countries and the same stories of agony being continued. BJP will continue its struggle for Gulf migrant victims until the government takes concrete measures to ensure their welfare.■

(The writer is BJP National General Secretary)

Urgent reforms needed in the judiciary : Arun Jaitley

From Our Correspondent

Leadership of Opposition in Lok Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley called for urgent reforms in the judiciary on 27th July, 2013 in Cuttack saying the institution has failed to attract the best talent. Speaking at the BK Ray Memorial lecture in Cuttack, Odisha Shri Jaitley said fewer people in the judiciary are inclined to work as judges because of the increase in the income of lawyers who find commercial litigation in a post-liberalized India more lucrative.

Though Shri Jaitley called the system of collegiums effective, he felt it's time to review the system as it has become prone to favoritism when it comes to appointment of judges.

At present, the collegium is a system under which appointments and transfers of judges are decided by a forum of the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court. In his address, Shri Jaitley favoured the creation of a National Judicial Commission to handle issues of accountability of the judiciary.

The leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha said, "I am deeply concerned with the fact that in several high courts appointments have been made

where the best have been ignored and undeserving have been elevated. The National Judicial Commission will have to follow an objective criterion which is statutorily defined."

The National Judicial Commission should comprise of senior judges of the Supreme Court, the law minister as a representative of the executive and some eminent public



persons (people with legal background or otherwise) who could be appointed by a collegium comprising the Prime Minister, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. 'Judges appoint judges, judges judge judges'

Shri Arun Jaitley said, "We are currently following the process of in-house accountability of judges. Judges appoint judges, judges judge judges. The jurisdiction of accountability needs to be shifted to the National Judicial Commission. It is only extreme

cases which involve impeachment of an errant Judge the said proceedings will be required to go before the Legislature."

Shri Jaitley also said he was in favour of increasing the retirement age of judges at the level of the Supreme Court and the high courts. "I am however opposed to the present institution of post retirement jobs to the judges except in very rare cases.

The tendency to man all tribunals and vest certain executive functions to retired judges has created an impression that a large number of judges expect a post retirement assignment almost as a matter of entitlement."

Further he said, "If courts overstep the jurisdiction of supervision even during trials there can be a danger of either the courts doing the hat of supervising and nudging the investigation in a particular direction or alternatively prejudicing a free and fair trial. He said my intention is that aberrations if any need to be corrected and that must debate the above suggestions along with several others with the intention of ensuring a free, fair and fearless judiciary in this country. ■

Suspension of Durga Shakti sends a clear message that 'Honesty is to be punished and *Goondagardi* rewarded' : BJP

2009 batch, IAS Durga Shakti Nagpal was suspended by UP CM Akhilesh Yadav, for following orders of the District Magistrate. She was accused by the CM for exciting communal tensions by demolishing the walls of an illegal mosque. But, the reality is that Durga, an honest and hardworking officer, seized more than 24 dump trucks and arrested several leaders of illegal sand-mining gangs.

She also impounded 297 vehicles and collected a fine of over Rs 80 lakh said BJP.

Speaking to reporters BJP National Spokesperson Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi said the illegal dredging, by the sand mining gangs of Gautam Budh Nagar, on the banks of the rivers Yamuna and Hindon had affected the entire district adversely, and were causing ecological disasters like water pollution and contamination, apart from destruction of marine environment and organisms.

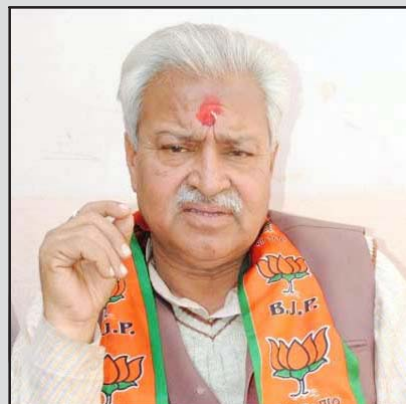
Following her suspension, Azam Khan, a senior minister from the ruling Samajwadi Party in a bid to defend the illegal mining gangs, said that everyone has a right on the natural resources and quoted "Ram naam ki loot hai loot sako to loot (You are allowed to loot in the name of lord Ram)".

But the shamelessness does not end here, Narendra Bhati, another party worker who is close to several sand mining mafia dons, has claimed to have gotten Durga Shakti suspended in 41 minutes, and is very proud of the same. He touts this act of flexing his political muscle as a "power of democracy" and various tapes of his speech are now doing rounds on media channels.

The suspension of Durga Shakti is a new low adding to the woes of the lawless state of UP, and a very clever ploy by the Samajwadi Party. ■

BJP protests SDM'S suspension in UP
Action against Durga Shakti a victory of
mining mafias & criminals : Laxmikant Bajpai

BJP leaders and Karyakartas staged a state-wide demonstration at district headquarters to protest the suspension of SDM of Gautambudhnagar (Noida), Durga Shakti Nagpal. They termed the action against the officer as victory of



mining mafias and criminal elements. In Lucknow, the BJP leaders and Karyakartas also took out candle march in support of the suspended IAS officer on August 03 evening.

Leading the protest at district headquarter in Meerut, BJP State President Shri Laxmikant Bajpai charged the State government for acting at behest of the criminals and sand mining mafias to suspend an honest and young IAS officer. He threatened Akhilesh Yadav led SP government that if the suspension of Nagpal has been not revoked immediately than they will be forced to fight her battle for justice on roads.

Handing over a memorandum in this regard to Chief Minister through district magistrate of Meerut, Shri Laxmikant Bajpai said that the honesty of the Durga Shakti Nagpal (IAS) is evident from the fact that government earned revenue of just Rs 1.90 lakh during last year but in this year till now this earning reached to Rs 21 crore which is also record in last few years.

Shri Bajpai said that what is more surprising that how the Akhilesh Yadav's government tried to give the entire issue a communal colour for raising down the wall at an on-going construction site of a mosque on government's land when no communal tension persists in Noida but still Samajwadi Party leaders and even Chief minister claimed that the action was taken as there were reports that Durga's move might spark communal tension. ■

Delhi BJP organizes Jhuggi-Jhopri Mahasammelan **BJP announces “Flat for every family in Jhuggi-Jhopri”**

From Our Correspondent

The Delhi Bhartiya Janata Party on August 4 announced that it will provide flats to every family that is living in Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters in the city. These flats will be developed in the Public Private Partnership Model at the places where these families are living at present.

The party also assured that in the JJ Clusters electricity supply will be provided through a single-point connection. Toilet blocks will be constructed in every cluster along with a police booth and regular uninterrupted supply of clean water, dispensary, and ration card to every adult living in these

clusters will be made available when BJP will come to power in Delhi.

The agenda for the welfare of JJ clusters was unveiled by the Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel amidst loud cheering by the full-house during the Jhuggi-Jhopri Sammelan held at the Talkatora Stadium on Sunday.

Former BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari was also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gadkari warned of the consequences which lay ahead in case the Congress returns to power again. “Since



her son Rajeev Gandhi and now his son Rahul Gandhi, Congress has been giving slogans to remove poverty. Despite voting for them and bringing them to power again and again, you remained poor because after coming to power, the Congress hand picks your pockets rather than helping you,” said Shri Gadkari adding that the amount of money which has been gobbled by corrupt Congress ministers in 2G Scam, Commonwealth Games, Coalgate etc would have been enough to eradicate poverty in Delhi.”

“When Delhi was ruled by BJP, you may remember the prices of various commodities at that time. If you vote us back to power, those days can return back. CM Sheila Dikshit says that she has developed Delhi in last 15 years but I don’t think people have really been benefitted by fruits of the so called development,” he added.

Several leaders including MLA Subhash Sachdeva, BJP general secretary, Ramesh Bidhuri, Mayor (South) Sarita Chaudhary, Former Mayor Meera Agarwal also addressed the people on this occasion. ■

Delhi BJP launches “Bijli Andolan”

Giving vent to the anger, disappointment and frustration of the common people over yet another hike in power tariffs and the complete sell out of people’s interests to DISCOMS by the Delhi government, the Delhi BJP on July 28 launched a massive agitation all across



the city with the Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel leading a protest Torch & Candle March from party’s nation office 11 Ashoka Road to Delhi CM’s residence. Despite holding a peaceful Torch & Candle march, the party cadres led by Shri Vijay Goel were lathi charged and water cannons were used against them by the police personnel. As the BJP leaders and party cadres tried to proceed further and reach near CM’s residence, Shri Goel and other party leaders with hundreds of party cadres were arrested and taken to Tughlaq Road Police Station. With the latest hike in power tariff, over the last two years, there has been a 72% increase in power tariff in Delhi. And it is likely to continue to increase unabated. The BJP’s stand is that instead of increasing the power tariff, it can be reduced by 30%. The party has promised to do this when it comes to power in Delhi.

CHHATTISGARH

Congress has no achievement in the name of development : Dr Raman Singh

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh said that in the name of achievements, the Congress has only 'zero' to tell the people in the general election of State Assembly to be held in the near



future, whereas, the Bharatiya Janata Party will go to people with an agenda of development schemes and achievements of village, poor, farmers and common man.

In an informal meeting with journalists at Raipur on August 04, Dr. Raman Singh said that the Congress has no achievement in the name of development schemes to tell the people, hence it was trying to spread misapprehension, but the people of Chhattisgarh know it well.

Reacting on the court's rejection of an appeal on the Balco land allotment case made by the Congress leader, Bhupesh Baghel against the chief Minister, he said that it was a welcome decision of the court. Replying to a question, Dr Singh said that the remaining three phases of the statewide Vikas Yatra would start from Arang in Raipur district on August 17, for which he had invited Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The last leg of the Vikas Yatra would be in Ambikapur of Sarguja district, where the BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh would attend in the concluding session on September 7 as chief guest, he added.

The Chief Minister said that the BJP, with massive mandate, is in power in Chhattisgarh for about last 10 years and it has given a new identity to the State at national level with its various development schemes and achievements.

Dr Raman Singh said that the BJP has given a number of respectful positions to tribal people in its different organizations in Chhattisgarh, more than four times in comparison to the Congress. The State Government was continuously working for the development of tribal areas, he added.

He further said that Atalji had created Chhattisgarh State and the Congress could not even imagine the works done by the BJP during the last ten years for the progress and prosperity of the State, after getting opportunity to come to power for serving people.

Dr. Singh also took a pot shot at the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre for adopting a Food Security Ordinance which needs 'a series of serious amendments'. He stated that Centre should emulate the Chhattisgarh model of Food Security if it was really serious to bring food security in the country.

MADHYA PRADESH

UPA misuses investigating agencies to defame the Opposition : Shivraj Singh

Addressing common people in various meetings during Jan Ashirvad Yatra Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Congress led UPA government should stop leveling false allegations against the Opposition parties and their ministers. Criticizing the Centre, he said, "in order to hide its inabilities and massive corruptions, the UPA government indulges in levelling false allegations at ministers of the Opposition party."



He further said, "The UPA government misuses the Central investigating agencies and conspires to defame the Opposition." Claiming that Madhya Pradesh is number one State in terms of agricultural production, Shri Chouhan highlighted the development-related work done by his government for the welfare of farmers and other sections of society. Shri Chouhan, who is the son of a farmer, credited himself for his sustained efforts, a strong will to turn agriculture into profitable venture and providing loans to farmers at zero per cent interest.

He also asserted that during his tenure, many employment opportunities were created for the youth and around 5 lakh people gained employment in his State. He also vowed to provide 24-hour electricity, the best education facilities, safety to women, etc.

He said he had reached the doors of the people with the achievements of the BJP government and required their blessings to return to power for the third consecutive term. The people of the State are happy with the nine-year rule of the BJP and are overwhelmed with the development work accomplished in the State during the last nine years of BJP rule, he added. He said that the good works done would yield results and the BJP would form government in the State for a record third time. ■

KERALA

BJP seeks probe into CM Office SI's mysterious death

The Kerala BJP has demanded a probe into the death of Vijayakumaran Thampi, Assistant Security Officer on Special Duty at the Chief Minister's office. Vijayakumaran Thampi had died mysteriously. Interacting with media persons BJP State Secretary Shri A N Radhakrishnan said that there's mystery shrouding the death of Thampi, who had information about what was going on at the Chief Minister's office, in connection with the solar scam.

He demanded, "The State government should order a probe into the mysterious death of Thampi. ADGP Hemachandran was about to collect evidence from him. Details about the phone calls made by Thampi, who all had contacted him during that time, whether he was threatened by someone and other related details should be verified. Being the security officer in the rank of an SI, he had information about people who visited the Chief Minister's office. He was an important link in getting evidence related to these matters," Shri Radhakrishnan said.

Shri Radhakrishnan said that the Chief Minister is afraid of the Home Minister. "The probe being carried out by ADGP Hemachandran is mere eyewash.

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share of training and non-lethal support in bolstering the defensive capabilities of the Afghan security forces. **A democratic, developed and progressive Afghanistan has the potential to act as a major springboard for economic progress and development of the entire region. This will bring smiles back on the faces of our cousins, lights in their households, dollars in their pockets and most importantly peace in their neighborhood.** Mutually beneficial and supportive India-Afghanistan ties do not stand in the way of Afghanistan's ties with its other neighbours. We would wish Afghanistan to have close, friendly ties with all its neighbours and exercise full freedom of choice in this regard. India and the US must continue to work together constructively and transparently in ensuring that the end game in Afghanistan is played out smoothly, in Afghanistan's best interest and without damaging the interests of its neighbours. All should emerge as winners!■

So far there was no probe carried out into the Chief Minister's office. The Chief Minister and his office staff should be interrogated. The moment the probe reaches the Chief Minister's office, it's being blocked," he said. There's intrigue surrounding the Chief Minister's office, Shri Radhakrishnan said.

NORTH EAST

BJP pulls up Congress over delayed military decision in North East

Reacting to the recent Cabinet Committee on Security's (CCS) decision to raise the military strength on the Indo-China border, Bharatiya Janata Party National Spokesperson Shri Bizay Sonkar Shastri pulled up the Congress-led UPA Government for struggling to take decisions in a timely manner.

Shri Shastri said, "The UPA Government has certainly delayed in taking this decision, like they have in the past. I will even go as far as to say that they have to struggle very hard to take decisions. There seems to be no consolidated organization within the UPA, with regard to decision-making. Sometimes, I even think they have a need to look elsewhere before making any decision".

He said India already has three Strike Corps-based out of Mathura, Ambala and Bhopal-but all of them are ranged against Pakistan, being specifically equipped for desert and plain-line warfare but there is no such plan for the hills. He said the Indo-China border has been tense in the recent past, after there have been multiple Chinese intrusions in the Ladakh region via land and air, so it is the need of the hour that immediately the UPA government should raise the military strength on the Indo-China border both on the side of Ladakh and North East regions. ■