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Fortnightly Magazine

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O Arjuna, the Vedic scriptures deal with subjects in the three modes of the material nature. Become self-realized, transcendent to the three modes in pure spiritual consciousness, free from duality and free from conceptions of acquisition and preservation.
— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 45)

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"It is unfortunate and highly condemnable that in spite of getting clean chit from the court and SIT, Shri Narendra Modi has been targeted by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh."

-Rajnath Singh

"The Prime Minister admitted his Government's failure in containing inflation, unemployment and corruption. A combination of these three factors makes a perfect recipe for an electoral doom."

-Arun Jaitley

"People are fed up with ten years of UPA rule. Now there is no need to express regret (on corruption issues)."

-Raman Singh

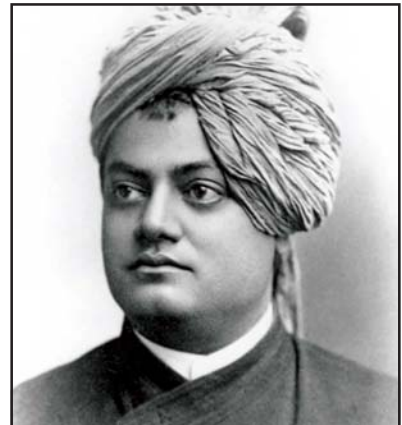
Birthday of Swami Vivekananda : January 12

Narendra Nath Datta (alias Swami Vivekananda) was the firebrand Indian Hindu monk and chief disciple of saint Ramakrishna. He was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the status of a major world religion during the late 19th century. He was a major force in the revival of Hinduism in India, and contributed to the concept of nationalism in colonial India.

Born into an aristocratic Bengali family of Calcutta, in 12th of January 1863 Vivekananda was inclined towards spirituality from the early age. He was influenced by his guru, Ramakrishna, from whom he learnt that all living beings were an embodiment of the divine self; therefore, service to God could be rendered by service to mankind. Swami Ramakrishna endowed Narendra Nath with all his spiritual powers and made him his heir. With this Narendra Nath assumed the name of Swami Vivekananda and a Sanyasi in true sense. After the demise of Swami Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda started a mutt named after his Guru, at Belur, Kolkotta and toured the Indian subcontinent extensively and acquired first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing in British India.

He later travelled to the United States, representing India at the 1893 Parliament of the World Religions in Chicago. His address began with the words "My dear Sisters and Brothers of America". This thrilled the audience, as this greeting contained the spirit of universal brotherhood. On return, he addressed meetings at London. One young lady by name Margaret became his disciple and later became Sister Nivedita to carry on his mission. Vivekananda conducted hundreds of public and private lectures and classes, disseminating tenets of Hindu philosophy in the United States, England and Europe. In India, Vivekananda is regarded as a patriotic saint and his birthday is celebrated as National Youth Day in India.

Swami Vivekananda said that the youth of the day were moving without any aim. There was no correct spiritual guidance. He felt that religion can lead a man on the moral and righteous path. He believed and propagated that all men of the world are one. Color, caste and creed had no meaning. He felt that there is a lot to be achieved. He advised the youth to move forward. His words were: "arise, Awake and stop not till the goal is reached". Swami Vivekananda started many institutions under the Ramakrishna Mission to carry on his message of service. He passed away that at an early age on 4th of July, 1902. ■





Editorial...

Falsehood cannot reign for ever, Mr. Prime Minister!

Faced with imminent ouster from the power Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh addressed a press conference declaring his retirement. He should be given credit for at least for being able to read the writings on the wall. The anger of people is rising against Congress led UPA government with every passing day. The recently held assembly elections have shown Congress the reality, it has been routed everywhere. Unprecedented inflation, corruption on massive scale, economic mismanagement, law and order problem, deteriorating international relations – almost in every sector Congress has let down the people. People now want to get rid of the Congress and its corrupt rule. The anger is visible, Congress will have to pay the price for its anti-people policies.

In a very outrageous and condemnable statement Dr. Manmohan Singh sought to hide failures of his government by deflecting the attention of the Press Conference towards BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi. His statement has rightly received all round criticism and condemnation. It was not only in contravention to the democratic ethics, it was not as per the dignity of the office of Prime Minister which Dr. Manmohan Singh holds. The statement was a direct insult to the judiciary which had given clean chit to Shri Narendra Modi from all fabricated and concocted charges. It is clear that Dr. Manmohan Singh and his party is failing to come in term with the verdict of the court which has given clean chit to Shri Narendra Modi. Earlier Supreme Court monitored SIT had given clean chit to Shri Modi and exposed the nefarious designs of the advocates of falsehood and fake theories. Should Dr. Manmohan Singh make statements as Prime Minister which goes against the court and judicial system in the country? If the Prime Minister himself is bent upon denigrating the courts for political gains then only God can save our democratic system. The desperation of Dr. Manmohan Singh government in denigrating the court may be well understood from the fact that even the Supreme Court of the country has passed severe strictures against his government many a time. In making such an outrageous statement Dr. Manmohan Singh has at least accepted the fact that Shri Narendra Modi is going to be the next Prime Minister of the country. It is implicit in his statement. But the other part is not true. It is not that Shri Narendra Modi becoming Prime Minister will be disastrous but the entire tenure of Dr. Manmohan Singh has been a disaster for the country. A poll conducted by *Times of India* substantiates this fact wherein 67% of the respondents have rated the tenure of Dr. Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister as disastrous.

In his frustration to hide the failures of his own tenure, Dr. Manmohan Singh sought to blame media and opposition for the negative public image of his government. Can media and opposition be blamed for the negative image of Manmohan Singh government? It is ridiculous. In place of giving answers satisfactorily to the questions of the day he chose to resign himself to historians of future to judge him. It was at best escapism from the hard realities and at worst surrender to his fate of being tagged with the stigma of “Weak Prime Minister” for never having the guts to face the questions posed by the nation. In fact he never acted in his capacity as Prime Minister as his position remained under the shadow of the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi who never allowed him a free hand in deciding the matters of his government. A Prime Minister with tied hands and without having political leadership of the party, he was doomed to meet the same fate. The real leadership even today rests in the hands of Sonia-Rahul duo who continue to enjoy power without responsibility.

Dr. Manmohan Singh's press conference was aimed at announcing his retirement. While it appeared to be an exercise in paving way for Rahul Gandhi, it was also a well thought plan to make him a scape goat for the failures of Congress led UPA. It was a subtle ploy to make him responsible for all the misdeeds of the Congress while distancing from him at the same time. Had it not been so the Congressmen would have come forward to highlight his achievements but none of the senior leaders have taken pain to make any such claims. An incumbent PM announcing his retirement should have stirred a public debate and discussion on his achievements and failures. But Alas! There was none. He was allowed to proceed to his chosen path path of retirement unceremoniously and unsung.

The entire nation is hoping to see Shri Narendra Modi as the next Prime Minister of the country. He is getting enormous support wherever he is going. The hopes of people now rest with Shri Modi and BJP. Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress are now feeling frustrated and demoralised by the growing support to BJP. The court verdict giving clean chit to Shri Modi is like adding insult to their injury. It seems that they have no idea that falsehood cannot reign for ever, truth alone triumphs. The people can see through the designs of the Congress and its cohorts. The statement which Dr. Manmohan Singh made only makes Shri Modi more credible in the eyes of the people. A Prime Minister who has completely lost his credibility cannot harm the credibility of Shri Modi by his hollow attacks. People cannot be fooled for long. Such false charges will only increase credibility of BJP in the eyes of the people. The only requirement now is to keep winning the confidence of the people and get their blessings so that the bigger national goals before us are realised. ■

BJP will get 'clear majority' in 2014 election: Rajnath Singh

Inaugurating a meeting organized by the Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) on 06 December, 2014 in New Delhi, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said the Bharatiya Janata Party will get a clear majority in this year's Lok Sabha election. He gave credit to overseas Indians for providing economic stability



after India's 1998 nuclear tests and said NRIs should be given the right to vote in Indian embassies.

"The UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government has hurt the country's credibility in its 10 year rule... If any party has a firm commitment and strong leadership, it is the BJP," he told the NRIs.

"The country believes that a government is going to be formed with a clear majority of the BJP," he said, adding that Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi deserved to be the prime minister. The BJP National President said NRIs should be given the right to vote in Indian embassies. "The only party that has succeeded in having a stature bigger than that of the Congress is the BJP," he said.

Informing that the BJP had a target of winning 272-plus seats in the Lok Sabha, Shri Singh told the delegates, "The BJP will succeed in making the country a superpower with your cooperation." Leaders of the party urged overseas Indians to make telephone calls and send out 10 e-mails to their relatives and friends in India every day soliciting support for the BJP. The meeting called upon overseas Indians to make extensive use of modern day communication and mobilize funds in favor of the BJP. Attending the meeting were delegates from several countries including Australia, USA, Britain, Canada, China, Nepal, Norway, the UAE, Israel, Qatar, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Italy, Vietnam and Mauritius. ■(FOC)

“Vijay Sankalp” Rally in Ranchi, Jharkhand

‘For 50 years those in Delhi never heard your voice, it was Atal ji who heard your voice and created a separate state’: Narendra Modi

BJP’s Prime Ministerial candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive “Vijay Sankalp” rally at Ranchi, Jharkhand on 29 December, 2013. Shri Modi launched a scathing attack on the Congress government at the Centre and asked why Jharkhand state is still so under-developed. He explained it through the example of GSFC in Gujarat, which was in a pitiable state when he took over the reins in 2001 and now it is one of the biggest profit making state PSUs in the state. He wondered how

hain, unhone aapki Jharkhand ki maang ko sada thukraaya tha, kya unke chalte aapka bhala ho sakta hai?.” The audience replied with a strong NO.

Shri Modi also spoke about how the Congress led central government has totally refused to take over the responsibility to reduce the inflation. He told about how he had submitted his research findings to the Prime Minister about three years back to reduce inflation and he also got praises from the Prime Minister for that but still, no action has yet been taken on that report.

Referring Rahul Gandhi’s recent meeting with CM’s of Congress-ruled states on price rise and corruption, he said that Congress was a party that believed only in announcing ‘Aakashwani’ (celestial voices) as its leaders are incapable of hearing people’s voices. “..In ancient times, people heard akashwani (celestial voices) that came as if they



Jharkhand, which is so rich in natural resources, is still lagging behind states like Chhattisgarh which was created in the same year Jharkhand was created.

He stated that any political analyst across the globe will be surprised if he or she is told about the resources of Jharkhand and also told that it is one of the most under-developed states.

Shri Modi also touched on the fact that how Congress had constantly refused to create Jharkhand and it was Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who took the initiative of creating the state. He asked the crowd, “Lekin aaj jo dilli mei baithe

(voices) were not concerned about the happenings around....Today, there is akashwani that CMs will do this, CMs will do that.... they can’t hear people’s voices,” he said.

Further slamming the Congress, Shri Modi said that the Congress led central government was paralysed and cut off from the public. “What is needed is not just promises, but intentions. Nor does Congress have good intentions, neither morality in their intentions.”

In a scathing critique of Congress government’s misrule, he questioned why was the state of Jharkhand lagging way behind Chhattisgarh

(which has a BJP government) even when both of them were created simultaneously. Ensuring a brighter future for the state, Shri Modi urged the people to vote for the BJP in 2014 LS polls. "In 2014, let all the 14 seats of Jharkhand come to the BJP," he said.

Reacting quickly to the applause and frequent claps showered on him by people in the crowd, he interspersed his speech with "Thanks" again and again.

Shri Modi also hit back on those people who keep on asking about his vision. He asked that bringing coal into the coal abundant state of Jharkhand is what vision? He explained his vision about the coalmines and said that it is easier to have a power plant near coal generating units and then distributing it everywhere rather than transporting the coal all across the country.

Shri Narendra Modi also touched upon the pathetic state of coal mines. "Aaj dekhiye Koyle ki khadaan par taale hain. Aaj 20000 se jyada coal mines band hain aur log berozgaar hain. Bijli nhi banti aur dilli ki sarkar ko iski chinta nahi hai", said Shri Modi.

He expressed concerns over poverty in Jharkhand and told that once BJP comes to power in 2014 at the Centre, Jharkhand's development will be taken care of. He urged the people to vote for BJP in 2014 and see the change for themselves.

Towards the end of his speech, BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate spoke rhetorically explaining what the real aspirations of the people were. He said, "The country need development, and not division. People of the country need opportunities, not opportunistic politics. The youth need employment and not political chaos. People need skills, not free sops. People need security, not the poison of communalism. The elders need support and not struggle."

Hailing it as a historic rally, BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate said that it was an indication of the imminent change that was to come. He said

that the huge rally with a sea of humanity made it clear that the 2014 polls would be a "people's revolution against misgovernance".

Earlier BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh also spoke on the occasion and explained how instability has ruined the state of Jharkhand. He also touched upon the fact that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had inaugurated an NTPC plant in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand but no one knows what happened to that plant. He also told how congress has always manipulated the government in



Jharkhand due to which, people have never seen any type of progress in the state. He urged people to vote for BJP in 2014 so that Jharkhand can be put on the roads of unprecedented development.

Jharkhand BJP President Shri Ravindra Rai also spoke on the occasion and told how people are coming in huge numbers to attend this rally.

Addressing the gathering former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda said, "It's a Modi wave and the benefit of the wave will be seen in the 2014 elections in Jharkhand".

Among others Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha Shri Karia Munda, former Union Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha, Shri Ramapati Ram Tripathi, Shri Abhaykant Prasad and many more were present on the occasion.

Earlier in the day, BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi reached the venue in a chopper after landing at Ranchi's Birsu Munda Airport. Senior BJP leaders such as former Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda, former Union Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha and Jharkhand BJP President Shri Ravindra Rai, welcomed Shri Modi amid a gathering of around four lakhs people from across the nook and corner of Jharkhand.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECH

- Shri Modi started his speech invoking Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said it was Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji who had a vision for Jharkhand, that vision needs to be realized.
- Three states were formed at the same time - Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Uttarakhand. Why is it that Chhattisgarh is on a development trajectory but other two are lagging way behind?
- Jharkhand people would have not been poor if there was a BJP government in the state. People are poor here despite abundant resources.
- What are needed are not just promises, but intentions. Nor does Congress have good intentions, neither morality in their intentions.
- Delhi government has been paralyzed. The Centre has done nothing for Jharkhand since Independence.
- People ask me, what's your vision. Jharkhand has coal but no electricity stations. Where is the vision? If there were power stations here, then Jharkhand could create so much electricity so as to illuminate not only Jharkhand, but the entire nation. But today the state is in darkness. The Centre doesn't care.
- Jharkhand's electorate must support the BJP and we ensure it a bright future. Otherwise, its young can never be 'Bharat ke Bhagya Vidhata'.
- The Congress is a burden for the nation. The party is cut off from the people. Their leaders can't hear the public's voice.
- The country needs development, and not division. People of the country need opportunities, not opportunistic politics. The youth need employment and not political chaos. People need skills, not free sops. People need security, not the poison of communalism. The elders need support and not struggle.
- Shri Narendra Modi concluded his rally by ensuring that the BJP will usher in a better and brighter future for Jharkhand. And the people (Congress) who just believe in doing 'Aakashwani' will be of no use.

Maha Garjana rally in Mumbai

In 2014, let us not vote for any party or person
but let us VOTE FOR INDIA

BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi addressed the biggest rally ever in Mumbai on 22 December, 2013. As per the estimate around nine lakhs people attended the *Maha Garjana* rally at the MMRDA grounds. Referring this record turnout in the biggest rally ever BJP PM Candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi termed the moment as a historic one. "This is a historic moment. I can see only people's heads till the horizon," he said.

From the early morning on that day people started pouring into the ground and the ground was thrilled with various chants. As Shri Modi's chopper was spotted, a 'Modi Modi' chant went up in the air.

Noteworthy, cable networks in the city were blacking out his speech at the behest of the administration, so Shri Modi in his speech retorted, "You may not allow people to see Modi but



remember Modi has made space in the hearts of the people.”

Addressing the massive Rally Shri Narendra Modi gave the clarion call of ‘VOTE INDIA’ to the people of the nation. Shri Modi affirmed that so far we have voted for parties but now the time has come when we have to vote for the nation. He said that “Dal Se Bada Desh Hota Hai” (the nation is bigger than any party) and that in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections the nation must not vote for any party but must vote for India! Shri Modi reaffirmed the commitment of the BJP to serving the poor of the nation and stated that for him, every poor person of India is a VIP. Reiterating that bad governance and votebank politics is the root cause of all problems, Shri Modi affirmed that nothing will change till we do not take the nation away from votebank politics and embrace the development agenda. He further noted, “BJP is committed

to the Mantra of development and to the politics of development. Without development the welfare of the people is not possible.” Further elaborating, he pointed that before Independence Lokmanya Tilak said “Swaraj is my birthright” but not the people of India must say, “Surajya is my birthright.”

Launching a scathing attack against the anti-people policies of the Congress, Shri Narendra Modi said that till we do not understand the Congress Party we will not understand the problems the people face and the solution to these problems. “The root cause of our problems is Congress ruled governments. Solution to our problems is making India free from Congress,” avowed Shri Modi. He added, “This is the same land, the same Mumbai from where the call of Quit India was made and the British had to finally leave India. From the same land, let the call of a Congress Mukht Bharat (Congress Free India) come. Let the land that said Quit India say Congress Free India.”

He accused the Congress of being immersed in votebank politics and a party that has learnt the art of divides and rule very well from the British. He shared that while Sardar Patel unified India, the Congress divided India and made brother fight with brother, villages fight with cities and even

made the states fight over water. He pointed to the lack of good governance in Maharashtra, describing the Local Body Tax (LBT) as ‘Loot Baatne Ki Technique’ (a technique to share the loot). He questioned why there is so much corruption in the irrigation projects in Maharashtra. Similarly, he took on the Maharashtra Government for their refusal to act on the Adarsh scam report. Shri Modi also asked why are so many farmers committing



suicide. He even took on the recent statements by the Congress Vice President on corruption, commenting that on one hand the Congress protects those in the Adarsh scam but on the other hand its leaders talk about corruption. “Congress says something, does something else,” he opined. Shri Modi recalled that with great fanfare the Centre announced separate budget for 90 districts with significant Muslim population but 3 years in Parliament the Centre admitted that not a penny had been spent on the districts.

He taunted the Congress on their silence over black money and their refusal to act in bringing back black money, saying, “Under the guidance and leadership of Shri Advani ji, all the BJP MPs signed letters that they do not have any money in Swiss Banks. Congress does not want to do that because they know that acting on black money in Swiss banks means the problems reach their doorstep.” Contrasting this lackluster attitude and performance of the Congress, Shri Modi praised the development work done by BJP Chief Ministers Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Dr. Raman Singh.

Shri Modi said that a youthful nation can achieve everything provided the focus is on the right areas. He took on the Central government for their lack of focus on skill development and added

that the Congress party is not bothered about the youth of the nation. Shri Modi urged the Centre to allow the installation of gates on the Sardar Sarovar Dam as it can benefit Maharashtra, which would get free electricity worth crores. He took up the issue of INS Vikrant, saying that on one hand the Congress wants to break it while the Gujarat Government is collecting iron from all over India to build Statue of Unity. Shri Modi also gave an idea of a Film University to cater to the Human Resource Development potential associated with the film industry.

Responding to a statement by a BJP leader prior to his speech that the Congress was ensuring cable network shutting down, Shri Modi stated that he has seen this problem in the non-BJP states, adding that the Congress may remove Shri Modi from the cable network but he has made a place in the hearts of the people.

Shri Modi spoke about the strong bond between Gujarat and Maharashtra. He said that for the people of Gujarat, Mumbai is a second home and that Maharashtra is the elder brother of Gujarat.

Earlier BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh spoke on the occasion. He highlighted the issues of corruption and price rise and urged the people to create a Congress *Mukt* Maharashtra and a Congress *Mukt* Bharat Rashtra. Former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Shri Gopinath Munde, BJP National General secretary Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, BJP National Treasurer Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Vinod Tawde, Shri Eknath Khadse, Shri Ashish Shelar also spoke on the occasion.

Former Minister Smt. Jaywantiben Meta, Smt. Kirron Kher were among those present on the occasion.

Narendra Modi in Raigad, Maharashtra

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj lived the Mantra of Sarva Pantha Sambhava, he sowed dreams for the nation

On Sunday 5th January 2014 BJP PM candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the historic land of Raigad in Maharashtra. Shri Modi paid rich tributes to one of the greatest sons of India, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and visited his



Samadhi. He addressed a programme organized by Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan. Shri Modi affirmed that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj would always be remembered as a person who integrated everyone, took everyone along and worked

towards the goal of a Bhavya and Divya Bharat. He pointed that Chhatrapati Shivaji lived the Mantra of Sarva Pantha Sambhava. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was fighting for the pride of India. His was not a fight to grab power but it was a fight to save India from slavery," avowed Shri Modi.

Shri Modi said that he is extremely delighted to come to Raigad and added that in every part of this historic land there are dreams that were sown by none other than Shivaji Maharaj. He stated, "In every part of this land, dreams of a Bhavya and Divya Bharat have been sown. These dreams are calling us. Shivaji Maharaj sowed dreams for our nation. Bowing to this land, it should be our dream to create a Bhavya and Divya Bharat." Shri Modi went on to say, "There should be an India where there is no poverty, where our youth have jobs and where an Indian can walk with his or her head held high in every part of the world."

Shri Modi rightly pointed that only remembering Chhatrapati Shivaji of the battle field was one thing but it is equally true that he leaves

behind a strong contribution in the fields of good governance and human management. He added that Chhatrapati Shivaji realized the importance of the seas and this was not only for war but also for maritime trade. Shri Modi recalled the importance Shivaji Maharaj gave to building a navy. Shri Modi also recalled Shivaji Maharaj's vision for good governance be it in irrigation or several other fields.

He stated that foreigners may have described Chhatrapati Shivaji as anything but in every Indian language Shivaji Maharaj is remembered. Shri Modi shared that from Rabindranath Tagore to Lala Lajpat Rai and Veer Savarkar, every great has remembered Chhatrapati Shivaji. He also congratulated all the efforts that have been made to share the greatness of Shivaji Maharaj with the future generations.

Shri Modi concluded his speech with a hope that India be blessed with good governance, skill

and an India that can contribute a lot to the world. He also sought the blessings of Jija Mata and Chhatrapati Shivaji for that.



President of the Maharashtra BJP and MLA in the Maharashtra Assembly Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council Shri Vinod Tawde and Shiv Sena MP Shri Anant Geete were present on the occasion.

Foundation day celebrations of Bharat Swabhiman Trust

Go by track record, not tape record... go by track record not mere promises : Modi

Go by track record, not tape record...go by track record not mere promises! This was the resounding message of hope, vision and aspiration emerging from BJP's PM candidate Shri Narendra Modi's speech at the foundation day celebrations of Bharat Swabhiman Trust,

which works under the guidance of the respected Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev ji. Shri Modi spoke on a variety of issues and said that it is possible to bring change for the betterment of the people. Shri Modi affirmed that India is a skilled nation and that for the nation's development we do not need



men and women from other planets, we need to empower our people and our youth with the right skills and opportunity. He gave the example of the successful launch of the GSLV D5, to illustrate the skill and talent India is blessed with. Shri Modi reiterated his belief

that the nation's demographic dividend is an asset and that unfortunately, the Congress led UPA considers it a disaster.

Shri Narendra Modi shared his invaluable insight and experience in governance one by one and shared light on how change can be possible in the nation. He called for increasing productivity in order to increase agriculture. On agriculture, Shri Modi said that it is a very important aspect of the nation's growth and added that the focus must be on farming, farming of trees and on animal husbandry. He spoke on Gujarat's success in animal husbandry including the rise in milk production. He affirmed that on one hand efforts must be made to enhance the white and green revolution but unfortunately the Centre is more concerned about the pink revolution that encourages export of mutton. Will animals or their meat help our farmers, Shri Modi asked. Shri Modi talked about the success of the *Wadi* project that was conceived during the NDA time and how it helped the farmers.

He called for making India's presence felt in the

manufacturing sector and substantiated his point by talking about the importance of value addition. He opined that the way to end corruption is to have a progressive and policy driven state with proper implementation. He agreed that the taxation system has become a burden for the common man and that reform is needed, on which the BJP is also working. He stressed on the fact that systems must make things simpler and further observed that it is very much possible to bring change. Shri Modi commented that it is not that change is not possible, what happens is government start focusing on elections from day 1 itself.

BJP PM Candidate also agreed with the eminent dignitaries on the dais that we need to be proud of our languages and at the same time we need to embrace modern science and technology so that we can answer the world in any and every language possible. He reaffirmed his commitment against black money as well.

On a personal note, Shri Modi assured Swami Ramdev

and all those who had gathered that both the BJP and he would try their level best to live upto the expectations of the people and try to fulfill the expectations. He profusely lauded the efforts of Baba Ramdev, that are devoted towards bringing change in the nation, saying that when Saints do such Manthan, the outcome is Amrut (nectar). Shri Modi shared that he himself is not a pessimist because he has lived life without any pessimism. He added that when he thinks about all the negativity against him, he looks back and sees how the people of India have given so much love to him, a person who used to sell tea as a child. Shri Modi opined that those who experience pain in their life do not have to go on Yatras to see pain and suffering. He expressed his happiness that now elections are about development politics as opposed to only caste and 'jod tod' as it was earlier.

Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley share stage at the foundation day celebrations of Bharat Swabhiman Trust. ■

Modi flags off around 1,000 trucks for 'iron tool collection'

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad flagged off around 1,000 trucks, which will go to various parts of the country for 'iron tool collection' from seven-lakh villages for the construction of the gigantic statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. "These trucks carrying about three-lakh empty kit boxes would visit the villages to collect soil and scrap-iron farm implements." On an island called 'Sadhu Pet' in the middle of the Narmada river, near Bharuch in Gujarat, 182 metres tall 'Statue of Unity' will be. The total height from the base will be 240 metre, which includes base level of 58 metre. The statue work will be completed in four years. To build this statue, the iron will be collected from the farmers from all parts of India. From each and every village, a part of iron will be collected, whose weight will not be more than 1 kg, so that it won't be burden on farmers as well as it will also symbolise their unity and will be a collective tribute to Patel. Some of the agricultural iron will be utilized to build a boundary and other structures around the statue, in an artistic manner. The statue will face the Sardar Sarovar Dam at Kevadia. As part of the Sardar Sarovar Nigam project, a 400 feet long observation deck will be constructed, where 200 people would be able to view the spectacular statue. On 31st Oct this year, which is also the 138th birth anniversary of the "Iron Man of India".

BJP agrees to consider Baba Ramdev's proposal for radical tax reform

From Our Correspondent

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev's demand for the abolition of Income Tax and Service Tax in lieu of his support to the BJP received a positive response from the party leadership, which on January 5 promised to bring about radical reforms in existing taxation structure to ease the 'enormous burden' on the common man.

Baba Ramdev's demand for a future Government to make efforts to bring back black money and making provision for assured income for farmers also received approval from the BJP. At a function organised by Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Yogpeeth, BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi said the country needed 'determination and not promises' to change the taxation regime.

"The existing taxation regime is a huge burden on people. Reform is certainly needed to rationalise it. Leaders of the BJP are working on it. If there is a will there is a way. We are sure of finding a way out," Shri Modi said. BJP President Rajnath Singh too seconded the yoga guru's demand. "The alternative of (banking) transaction tax is very good. We will consider it and do the best we can," he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley expressed support for the proposals saying the party would examine them in all seriousness. "The expectation

Baba Ramdev claimed the common man was made to pay 32 different direct and indirect taxes which were leading to the problem of black money generation.

He claimed prices of essential commodities and inflation rate would come down by over 30 per cent if a future Government abolishes this tax.

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and hope, which Baba Ramdev has put in the BJP and me personally, we will try our best to live up to that...My party leaders and experts have recently met and considered the issue for over three hours. Some problems may appear in the first sight but we will have a look at it and find new solutions," he said.

These remarks assume significance as the BJP leaders are discussing amongst themselves to promise in its vision document a taxation structure which would do away with Income Tax and Service Tax.

Baba Ramdev claimed the common man was made to pay 32 different direct and indirect taxes which were leading to the problem of black money generation. He claimed prices of essential commodities and inflation rate would come down by over 30 per cent if a future Government abolishes this tax.

"A gas cylinder which should actually cost Rs 300 is being given at Rs 1,200. Similarly, the original price of petrol and diesel is about Rs 30-40, but after imposing several taxes they were being sold at over Rs 70 per litre. This should change," he demanded. He claimed that an exemption of Rs 31 lakh crore have been given in different taxes in the last decade.

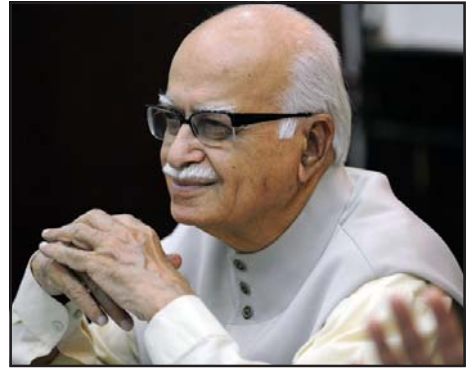
Shri Modi asked Baba Ramdev to look at the track record of the person instead of "promises" before lending his support. Shri Modi blamed Shri Manmohan Singh's economic policies for the woes of the people and said it had resulted in the decline of manufacturing industry, which required an immediate boost if economy was to recover.

He said a "policy paralysis" had resulted in lack of coal for power industry despite India having vast reserves of it. Power projects have stalled, forcing us to import steel as industrialists cannot manufacture it here in the absence of electricity even though we have plenty of iron ore, he said.

He also spoke about recent cases of gold smuggling, invoking decades of 60s and 70s when it was rampant and caused the rise of underworld. "Even sand is being smuggled these days. We are talking about corruption. State needs progressive policy drive and its execution with transparency. It will remove corruption," he said. ■

# Rafiq Zakaria demolishes myth that Sardar was anti-Muslim

By L.K Advani



I am happy to find that my blogs relating to recent political history are, generally speaking provoking a worthwhile discussion in the media also. It happens that of the blogs I have written this year quite a few relate to integration of princely states, and so centre round Sardar Patel and V.P. Menon. Some of these draw pointed attention to the Sardar's differences with Pandit Nehru.

Out of the leading English dailies in the country I have generally regarded The Hindu Group of Chennai as reasonable and balanced, both in its news presentation as well as in its editorials and choice of articles. That these may be in sharp variance with my party's stand or even with my own views does not affect the esteem in which I hold this Group. So I have been surprised to see this month an issue of FRONTLINE (December 13, 2013) which has photographs of Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel on its cover along with this comment: "Historical record reveals Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as a man rabidly communal in outlook and Jawaharlal Nehru as symbol of secular nationalism. That explains why the Sangh Parivar worships one and hates

the other."

I, for one, would never expect any journal of The Hindu Group to describe Sardar Patel as "a man rabidly communal in outlook." It is only when I looked inside the journal that I saw that it was an article written by A.G. Noorani. The surprise therefore need not be about its authorship but simply about the fact that such a perverse article should have been made the cover page feature.

When Sardar Patel passed away in December 1950 he was not only Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister in the Cabinet, he was also in charge of the Information and Broadcasting portfolio. Doordarshan was not born as yet. All India Radio was at that point of time the only official mass medium in existence. AIR decided to institute the Sardar Patel Lectures, to be held annually.

In 1956, when Rafiq Zakaria was approached to deliver the Lectures, the subject he chose was "Sardar Patel and Indian Muslims." In his preface to the book based on these Lectures Zakaria writes:

"The subject I chose was rather controversial; at first I was somewhat apprehensive about it.

I had, both as a student of and a participant in Indian politics, enough knowledge about the life and times of Sardar Patel and his monumental achievements in different spheres. But like many of my co-religionists, I too was under the impression that he did not like Muslims; in fact, I thought he was unabashedly anti-Muslim. Should I, therefore, I wondered, venture on a theme in lectures organised in his memory, which may be critical of him. I consulted my friend S. Ramakrishnan, who knew the Sardar intimately; he also worked as his Personal Secretary after the Sardar's release on June 15, 1945, from the Ahmednagar Fort prison, during the historic Cabinet Mission parleys leading to the Transfer of Power and for a few months after the Sardar assumed the office of Deputy Prime Minister and settled down in Delhi. He was a valued colleague of K.M. Munshi and has been mainly responsible, after the founder's death, for consolidating and expanding Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan not only in India but also in many important places in different parts of the world. A poem in self-effacement, his life has been a saga of quiet and dedicated service to the cause of national

integration. He prevailed upon me to take up this subject, because he felt that the truth must be told, whatever the consequences. He was confident that Patel would come out of it unscathed.

The more I researched, the more I was convinced that the iron man had been misunderstood in many respects and there were cobwebs about his attitude towards Indian Muslims, which needed to be removed. I am glad I was able to do so to my satisfaction.

Fali Nariman, former Solicitor General of India, wrote to me that he enjoyed listening to the lectures; so did the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chapalgaonkar of the Mumbai High Court. Many others also felt that I was able to present an objective analysis of Patel's attitude to Indian Muslims, which was sorely needed in the present situation which is so vitiated by communal poison.

Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan has published the book by Rafiq Zakaria based on his two Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures. The book published in 1996 is titled "Sardar Patel and Indian Muslims."

The book contains an Introduction by Nani Palkhivala. In this Palkhivala comments:

"I congratulate Dr. Rafiq Zakaria on his most timely decision to revive the memory of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in this well-researched and well-written book based on his Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures, 1996, sponsored by the Government of India. He authentically demolishes the myth built up by vested interests that the Sardar

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In this book Zakaria uses K.M. Munshi's book *End of An Era* to describe at some length how Qasim Razvi whetted the Nizam's ambitions and created a situation in which Sardar Patel finally used the Army to bring about Hyderabad's integration with India.

Zakaria writes:

Hyderabad, which was the biggest state, with His Exalted Highness the Nizam as its head, and consisting of about 80 per cent Hindus, presented the knottiest problem to the Sardar; the procrastination of its ruler further vitiated Hindu-Muslim relations, especially because of the inflammatory and even abusive utterances of Qasim

Razvi, an upstart firebrand, who took upon himself to save the kingdom from the clutches of "the Hindu brigands". He, with his passionate oratory, had created such a hold on the Muslims that they looked upon him almost as a messiah. He strutted about throughout the state with such arrogance and bluster, that even the Nizam was scared of him. K.M. Munshi, who was sent by the Sardar as the Agent-General to Hyderabad on behalf of the Government of India, has given a picturesque account of Razvi's frolics, larks and mischief. In his book *The End of an Era*, Munshi describes Razvi as "a tireless worker;" though a fanatic, he was cunning. He could persuade and overawe; when necessary, he could smile, be humorous, or exercise charm".

"The Nizam continued to be duped by Razvi who moved in the corridors of power with fiery eyes and his peculiar gait. He assured the ruler that he had been sent by God to rescue him and his state. He averred, "The day is not far off when the waves of the Bay of Bengal will be washing the feet of our sovereign." Further, that the green flag with the crescent would fly once again on the Red Fort of Delhi. Walter Monckton, one of the ablest British lawyers, who had almost succeeded with the help of Mountbatten to reach an amicable settlement with the Government of India on behalf of the Nizam, was so fed up with the tactics of Razvi and the council of ministers, who were terrorized by him, that he gave up the brief in sheer disgust and returned to London. The Nizam

was caught between contradictory pulls. He had neither the understanding nor the will to decide. He kept shifting his stand. One day he was for confrontation, the other for conciliation. Chhatari had already warned him that neither Pakistan nor Britain was prepared to come to his rescue. He then leaned towards a settlement with India. On hearing of it, Razvi whipped up such mob frenzy that the Nizam hurriedly backed out of his commitment. Once, the Nizam lost his cool, weary of Razvi's harangues. He asked his councilors to stop "that blackguard, that hapenny-tuppenny man, who has gone mad". But it was a temporary outburst. He surrendered as soon as Razvi, who had grown into a Frankenstein, thundered and shrieked; he could not be subdued by anyone. His speeches contained nothing but tirades against Hindus and India. He was confident that the Indian Muslims would rise to a man to stand by the Nizam.'

His followers, known as Razakars harassed innocent Hindus; his organization, called Ittihadul Muslemeen, ruled the roost. On March 31, 1948, he celebrated a "Weapons Week", to procure arms and ammunition to fight India. His speech, as reported by The Times, London, was full of hate and venom. He declared war on India and urged Indian Muslims to work as his "fifth column." He asked them to take inspiration from the example of his followers, whose "unsurpassed heroism and courageous vision" should be their guiding star. He told them,

"I may be here today, and perhaps not tomorrow. But I can assure you, my brethren, if you want to see Qasim Razvi in the midst of our life and death struggle, look for him not in the palatial buildings of Banjara, or in pleasant tea parties, but in the battlefield." After the "police action", when the Indian forces marched into Hyderabad, they met with no resistance; his bravado had alas proved to be so much sound and fury, signifying nothing. He ran away to Pakistan and died unheard and unwept. His followers, who remained behind, had to bear the brunt of his short-term lunacy."

TAILPIECE

This book quotes the Sardar's clinching dialogue with Qasim Razvi thus:

'Why don't you let

Hyderabad remain independent' asked Razvi.

'I have gone beyond all possible limits. I have conceded to Hyderabad what I did not concede to any other state,' replied Sardar.

'But I want you to understand the difficulties of Hyderabad,' insisted Razvi.

'I don't see any difficulty, unless you have come to some understanding with Pakistan,' the Sardar answered.

'If you do not see our difficulties, we will not yield,' cried Razvi working himself up to a state of excitement. 'We shall fight and die to the last man for Hyderabad.' 'How can I stop you from committing suicide if you want to?' was the Sardar's cool and blunt response'. ■

(blog.lkadvani.in)

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor's address disappointing and lacking vision : BJP

The Lieutenant-Governor's address to the Delhi Legislative Assembly on 06 December drew criticism from the Opposition BJP which termed it 'disappointing' and 'lacking in vision'.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said the L-G's speech, which lists Government's plans and course of action had no mention of the measures to curb corruption, price rise and crime against women. Dr. Vardhan accused the AAP Government of being hand-in-glove with the Congress and alleged that it was trying to shield the Congress leaders who indulged in widespread loot of public exchequer.

"The Lieutenant Governor has neither mentioned the measures to tackle corruption nor has he fixed a time frame for the same. The AAP is betraying the trust of the people which they had shown in the party. The false promises made before the elections are falling flat," Dr. Vardhan alleged. "It is strange that the party that came to power on the anti-corruption and anti-Congress plank is now trying to shield the Congress leaders. The AAP had promises to put Congress leaders behind bars on coming to power but now the party has entered into an alliance with the Congress," he said.

The BJP leader also criticized the Government over the issues of price rise, women security and increasing fuel prices. ■

Satyameva Jayate : Truth Alone Triumphs

By Narendra Modi

The law of nature is that Truth alone triumphs – Satyameva Jayate. Our judiciary having spoken, I felt it important to share my inner thoughts and feelings with the nation at large.

The end brings back memories of the beginning. The devastating earthquake of 2001 had plunged Gujarat into the gloom of death, destruction and sheer helplessness. Hundreds of lives were lost. Lakhs were rendered homeless. Entire livelihoods were destroyed. In such traumatic times of unimaginable suffering, I was given the responsibility to soothe and rebuild. And we had wholeheartedly plunged ourselves into the challenge at hand.

Within a mere five months however, the mindless violence of 2002 had dealt us another unexpected blow. Innocents were killed. Families rendered helpless. Property built through years of toil destroyed. Still struggling to get back on its feet from the natural devastation, this was a crippling blow to an already shattered and hurting Gujarat.

I was shaken to the core. 'Grief', 'Sadness', 'Misery', 'Pain', 'Anguish', 'Agony' – mere words could not capture the absolute emptiness one felt on witnessing such inhumanity.

On one side was the pain of the victims of the earthquake, and on the other the pain of the victims of the riots. In decisively confronting this great turmoil, I



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**During those challenging times, I often recollected the wisdom in our scriptures; explaining how those sitting in positions of power did not have the right to share their own pain and anguish. They had to suffer it in solitude. I lived through the same, experiencing this anguish in searingly sharp intensity. In fact, whenever I remember those agonizing days, I have only one earnest prayer to God. That never again should such cruelly unfortunate days come in the lives of any other person, society, state or nation.**  
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had to single-mindedly focus all the strength given to me by the almighty, on the task of peace, justice and rehabilitation; burying the pain and agony I was personally wrecked with.

During those challenging times, I often recollected the wisdom in our scriptures; explaining how those sitting in positions of power did not have the right to share their own pain and anguish. They had to suffer it in solitude. I lived through the same, experiencing this anguish in searingly sharp intensity. In fact, whenever I remember those agonizing days, I have only one earnest prayer to God. That never again should such cruelly unfortunate days come in the lives of any other person, society, state or nation.

This is the first time I am sharing the harrowing ordeal I had gone through in those days at a personal level.

However, it was from these very built up emotions that I had

appealed to the people of Gujarat on the day of the Godhra train burning itself; fervently urging for peace and restraint to ensure lives of innocents were not put at risk. I had repeatedly reiterated the same principles in my daily interactions with the media in those fateful days of February-March 2002 as well; publicly underlining the political will as well as moral responsibility of the government to ensure peace, deliver justice and punish all guilty of violence. You will also find these deep emotions in my recent words at my Sadbhavana fasts, where I had emphasized how such deplorable incidents did not behove a civilized society and had pained me deeply.

In fact, my emphasis has always been on developing and emphasizing a spirit of unity; with the now widely used concept of 'my 5 crore Gujarati brothers and sisters' having crystallised right at the beginning of my tenure as CM itself from this very space.

However, as if all the suffering was not enough, I was also accused of the death and misery of my own loved ones, my Gujarati brothers and sisters. Can you imagine the inner turmoil and shock of being blamed for the very events that have shattered you!

For so many years, they incessantly kept up their attack, leaving no stone unturned. What pained even more was that in their overzealousness to hit at me for their narrow personal and political ends, they ended up maligning my entire state and country. This heartlessly kept reopening the wounds that we were sincerely trying to heal. It

ironically also delayed the very justice that these people claimed to be fighting for. Maybe they did not realize how much suffering they were adding to an already pained people.

Gujarat however had decided its own path. We chose peace over violence. We chose unity over divisiveness. We chose goodwill over hatred. This was not easy, but we were determined to commit for the long

Those who derive satisfaction by perpetuating pain in others will probably not stop their tirade against me. I do not expect them to. But, I pray in all humility, that they at least now stop irresponsibly maligning the 6 crore people of Gujarat.

haul. From a life of daily uncertainty and fear; my Gujarat transformed into one of *Shanti*, *Ekta* and *Sadbhavana*. I stand a satisfied and reassured man today. And for this, I credit each and every Gujarati.

The Gujarat Government had responded to the violence more swiftly and decisively than ever done before in any previous riots in the country. Yesterday's judgement culminated a process of unprecedented scrutiny closely monitored by the highest court of the land, the Honourable Supreme Court of India. Gujarat's 12 years of trial by the

fire have finally drawn to an end. I feel liberated and at peace.

I am truly grateful to all those who stood by me in these trying times; seeing through the facade of lies and deceit. With this cloud of misinformation firmly dispelled, I will now also hope that the many others out there trying to understand and connect with the real Narendra Modi would feel more empowered to do so.

Those who derive satisfaction by perpetuating pain in others will probably not stop their tirade against me. I do not expect them to. But, I pray in all humility, that they at least now stop irresponsibly maligning the 6 crore people of Gujarat.

Emerging from this journey of pain and agony; I pray to God that no bitterness seeps into my heart. I sincerely do not see this judgement as a personal victory or defeat, and urge all – my friends and especially my opponents – to not do so as well. I was driven by this same principle at the time of the Honourable Supreme Court's 2011 judgement on this matter. I fasted 37 days for Sadbhavana, choosing to translate the positive judgement into constructive action, reinforcing Unity and *Sadbhavana* in society at large.

I am deeply convinced that the future of any society, state or country lies in harmony. This is the only foundation on which progress and prosperity can be built. Therefore, I urge one and all to join hands in working towards the same, ensuring smiles on each and every face.

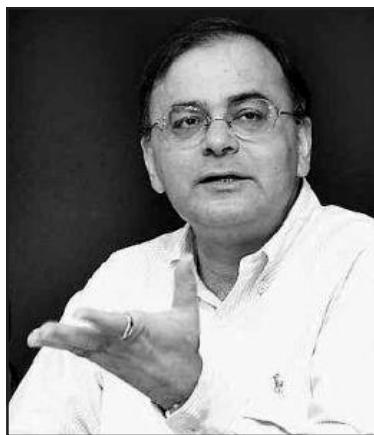
Once again, Satyameva Jayate!

Vande Mataram! ■

PM's Press Conference intended to be a formality & it ended as a farce : Arun Jaitley

Today's Press Conference by the Prime Minister was intended to announce the fact that he is no longer a contender for office after the General Elections. While announcing his own farewell one expected the Prime Minister to be candid. There was a historic opportunity for the Prime Minister for a reality check. I regret that he completely missed the opportunity.

The Congress Party has been routed in the recent Assembly elections. Its prospects in the coming General Elections appear to be 'disastrous'. This is entirely on account of performance of the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Prime Minister admitted his Government's failure in containing inflation, unemployment and corruption. A combination of these three factors makes a perfect recipe for an electoral doom. Instead of owning up to this reality, the Prime Minister would want only history to assess him. His most repeated statements in the Press Conference was "Time will tell". The Prime Minister is entirely wrong. In a democracy it is the voters who tell by judging your performance. He is willing to rest the corruption of UPA-I on the argument that an electoral sanction was granted to corruption in 2009. However, he is not willing to accept electoral verdict in 2013 as a judgement of his performance.



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## ***Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley issued statement as a response to Prime Minister's press conference. Excerpt of the statement***

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The Prime Minister is bitter with the media, bitter with the Opposition and even more bitter with Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister's office demands that a Prime Minister in his vocabulary and idioms must always maintain dignity and grace. Dr. Manmohan Singh failed that test today. No Indian politician has gone through the kind of scrutiny that Narendra Modi went through on the 2002 riots. The Supreme Court appointed SIT

and finally the courts have both vindicated him. The electorate gave him a thumbs up thrice. Opinion polls indicate that he is the most popular leader in race for becoming the Prime Minister and yet Dr. Manmohan Singh used phrases like 'disastrous' and 'mass murder'. A person against whom no evidence has been found by repeated inquiries deserves better. By using this phraseology the Prime Minister has demeaned his office. Is he willing to use the same phraseology for the Prime Minister as on 1st November, 1984 during whose tenure the worst ever genocide in the country took place against the Sikh community and for which nobody till date has been held responsible.

It was a Press Conference of a failed leader. He has lost his willingness to rule. His concern for probity is minimal. He has not yet cared to even look at the voluminous evidence against one of his party's Chief Ministers. His mindspace on issues of corruption has narrowed. His Press Conference found no mention on issues of national security. There was no concern for atrocities on women in the last few years. The concern for revival of investment cycle and economic activity was minimal. He played down corruption cases from Coal gate to 2G to VBS bribe gate.

The Press Conference was intended to be a formality. It ended as a farce. ■

“The Most Important Sentence in the Prime Minister’s Press Conference”

India cannot afford to squander all gains made on Kashmir

By Arun Jaitley

The Prime Minister’s interaction with the media on 3rd January, 2014 gave rise to several controversies.

His announcement that he was unavailable for leadership after the General Elections, his endorsement of Rahul Gandhi, his criticism of Narendra Modi, his admission of failure in tackling corruption and inflation were amongst the issues which caught popular attention. We on behalf of the BJP reacted on some of the issues.

The Kashmir comment in the Press Conference got missed out amidst these controversies. A media person asked the Prime Minister a question on his Pakistan initiatives. The Prime Minister revealed for the first time that secret envoys from India and Pakistan had almost arrived at a meeting to resolve the conflict on Kashmir. When a break through appeared ‘in sight’, General Pervez Musharraf had to make way for other leaders and the agreement got blocked. A few years ago when President Musharraf was living in exile in London he had given a similar indication.

What was this possible resolution on Kashmir? The people of India are entitled to know an answer to this question.

The stated position of India has been very clear. Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. In 1994 the Indian

Parliament had passed a unanimous resolution asserting that PoK was an integral part of India’s territory. India firmly believes that no third party intervention in Kashmir is permissible. Pakistan has an unfinished agenda on Kashmir. It has not reconciled to Kashmir being integral to India’s sovereignty. It has used warfare and terrorism to achieve this end. India firmly believes that the age and era of re-drawing boundaries is over. India’s negotiating space on territory in the context of Kashmir resolution is negligible.

I have always believed that the Nehruvian vision of giving a separate status to Jammu & Kashmir was a flawed one. The journey of the past 67 years has been from separate status towards separatism. The Congress stands for separate status, the National Conference advocates pre-1953 status, the PDP talks of self-rule, the separatists talk of ‘Azadi’. Each one of these is intended to dilute India’s sovereignty. Their intention is to weaken the constitutional and political link between Jammu & Kashmir and the rest of the country. It is in this

context that one needs to know the details of what this ‘almost arrived at’ agreed resolution between Dr. Manmohan Singh’s government and Pakistan was. Pakistan had been advocating an interim resolution on Kashmir which comprised of several unacceptable measures. These included maintenance of territorial status quo, demilitarization in Kashmir,

Pakistan has an unfinished agenda on Kashmir. It has not reconciled to Kashmir being integral to India’s sovereignty. It has used warfare and terrorism to achieve this end. India firmly believes that the age and era of re-drawing boundaries is over. India’s negotiating space on territory in the context of Kashmir resolution is negligible.

dilution of the Line of Control for allowing free movement of people and goods, a tripartite joint mechanism to take decisions about Jammu & Kashmir for a specified period pending which a final solution would be found. Some Pakistani observers and Kashmiri groups also spoke about the currency of the two countries to be a valid tender in Jammu & Kashmir. I do not know if any or all of these were a subject matter of the ‘almost arrived at’ resolution to

...Continued on page 25

10 Janpath losing grip on Congress, Country

By Balbir Punj

Its recent defeat in four major Assembly elections and the support of some of its leaders to the Run for Unity project shows that the ruling party at the Centre has lost popular and political support.

With the BJP's triumphant march in the recent Assembly elections, the erosion of the Congress's will to continue to govern at the Centre was obvious in the abandoning of the Winter Session of Parliament midway. Day after day, the proceedings could not be held, not because the main Opposition created any hurdles, but, because Congress MPs and their allies themselves continually disrupted Parliament.

For all the pep talk from the Congress president and the Prime Minister to party MPs telling them not to lose heart after the electoral rout, the insistence of many Congress MPs to move a no-confidence motion against their own Government shows how the so-called Congress high command is losing control over the rank and file.

As if to underline the dissonance in the Congress, the Government it leads in Hyderabad raised the flag of rebellion, with Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy vowing to fight the Union Government's decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh "till my last breath".

The revolt against Ms Sonia Gandhi's leadership is showing elsewhere too as her attempts to pin a communal tag on the Sardar Patel memorial has been

rejected. The open support given by the ruling UDF chief whip PC George in Kerala to the Run for Unity marathon speaks volumes. Mr George belongs to the Kerala Congress (Mani), an important partner in the State's Congress-led UDF Government. He inaugurated the marathon in the Christian-dominated Kottayam city in central Kerala and also distributed T-shirts that carried the image of the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi.

When criticised for his involvement in the marathon, he explained that honouring Sardar Patel was a national event and that re-invited, he would participate again. Even his party leader and Kerala Finance Minister KM Mani refused to condemn his participation. The Congress has not officially reacted.

As usual, the Congress leadership is seeking to counter growing disenchantment over its minority-placation programme by re-introducing a Bill (to prevent communal violence) that is heavily loaded against the country's majority Hindu community.

The Bill essentially claims that in any instance of communal violence, Hindus would be ipso

facto considered guilty. This blatant discrimination against the majority community has raised concerns countrywide. The Bill is considered a surrender to the conservative and divisive elements among the Muslim leadership.

The defeat of the Congress in the four major electoral battles held recently is so comprehensive and complete

As if to underline the dissonance in the Congress, the Government it leads in Hyderabad raised the flag of rebellion, with Chief Minister Kiran Kumar Reddy vowing to fight the Union Government's decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh "till my last breath".

that the party is now preparing to do something it had long been denying — project a prime ministerial candidate in the 2014 general election.

The All India Congress Committee session has been called in mid-January 2014 to crown party vice president Rahul Gandhi as the candidate for the top job. The political calculation is clear. Mr Gandhi's youth will be projected to a large

section of young voters who are now in the majority, in the hope that it will counter what has been described as the 'Modi wave'. This gamble too is destined to fail.

Old Congress ally DMK, whose Kanimozhi-Raja combination is allegedly behind the massive 2G scam, has decided to have no truck with the Congress for the general election. This shows in which direction the wind is blowing.

The national anger is being expressed in other ways also. There is a widespread feeling that even our smaller neighbours are finding us too weak and we are not asserting the power that ought to come from a large and ancient country like India. A realisation of this public perception is the reason why the External Affairs Ministry has showed some spine in retaliating against US diplomats in India for Washington, DC's shameful treatment of an Indian diplomat in New York.

With the AIADMK also having clarified its intentions on similar lines, the Congress is left with the support of the neither of the two major political forces in Tamil Nadu.

In Andhra Pradesh, coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema are dominated by YSR Congress. The Congress-led alliance in Kerala is facing a Hindu backlash and a loss of Christian

confidence over the Gadgil-Kasturirangan report on the Western Ghats issue. Karnataka is the only hope for the party in the south.

Electoral arithmetic, however, shows that the Congress's win in Karnataka in the last Assembly election was largely a product of votes that the BJP lost after former Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa moved out of the party and set up his own political outfit. With Mr Yeddyurappa now seeking to return to the BJP, the Congress will lose the advantage of split BJP support base. Therefore, it will not be a cakewalk for the party in Karnataka either.

The goodwill that Mr Modi has generated by commissioning Sardar Patel's Statue of Unity is telling. It shows the persistent and permeating popular anger against the Congress's 60-year-old dominance over national politics and its abject surrender to a single family.

There is not a single national monument dedicated to the Sardar anywhere in the country, whereas several Government buildings, projects and programmes have been named after the members of the Nehru-Gandhi family. The effort to display the Nehru-Gandhi name is so strong that an international airport that was supposed to be named after Andhra Pradesh's great leader, two-time Chief Minister and film star NT Rama Rao, was ultimately named after Rajiv Gandhi.

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expressed in other ways also. There is a widespread feeling that even our smaller neighbours are finding us too weak and we are not asserting the power that ought to come from a large and ancient country like India. A realisation of this public perception is the reason why the External Affairs Ministry has showed some spine in retaliating against US diplomats in India for Washington, DC's shameful treatment of an Indian diplomat in New York.

This realisation also seems to have alerted the Manmohan Singh-led Government to reject Pakistan's insistence on a high-level bilateral dialogue. This is in sharp contrast to Mr Singh's history of bending over backwards to accommodate Islamabad's demands even as Pakistani soldiers targeted Indian security personnel across the Line of Control.

However, all this muscle flexing on the part of the UPA is too little and too late and will not make any tangible difference in the public perception that the regime is weak and suffers from policy paralysis. Obviously, an impression created over a decade cannot be changed overnight.

This waking up at the last minute is unlikely to get the party back at the top of the popularity charts, as the Congress's prince charming is still trailing far behind Mr Modi in almost every survey that has been published. The nation is all set to pack off the Congress in the summer of 2014, irrespective of whether the party names Mr Gandhi as its prime ministerial candidate. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

Growth and social welfare trigger BJP hat-trick in MP

By C. Rajashekhar

Shivraj Singh Chauhan has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for the third time. Not only has the BJP bucked the anti-incumbency factor in the state it has been re-elected for a third term with a thumping majority. What explains the Chief Minister and the BJP's electoral popularity in Madhya Pradesh?

One, economic growth in the Shivraj Singh Chauhan regime definitely seems to have played a role in the party's victory in the state. Between 2004-05 to 2012-13, the annual trend growth rate or compounded annual growth rate of *real* GDP growth for the state- or more simply put, the inflation adjusted long run average growth has been a huge 8.94 percent per annum; a creditable feat for an erstwhile *bimarou* state. That this growth has led to better living standards is also borne out by the improvement in per capita income in the state. The per capita income in MP rose from Rs 15,442 in 2004-05 to Rs 26,514 in 2012-13.

This increased growth also seems to have made a dent on the poverty in the state if one were to go by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) results. The NSSO's 61st round in 2004-05 revealed a 48.6 percent below poverty line (BPL) population in the state which fell to 36.7 percent in the NSSO's 66th

round in 2009-10 and which further fell down to 31.65 percent in the NSSO's 68th round conducted in 2011-12. Correspondingly, the number of people living below the poverty line in the state has declined from about 3.16 crores in 2004-05 to 2.62 crores in 2009-10 and further down to 2.34 crores in 2011-12.

Two, in any developing society it is the truly downtrodden who count the most and it pays in every way to focus on them. Therefore, the aim of governance in a state like Madhya Pradesh must be to improve the social welfare of its vulnerable and marginalized sections. This is precisely what Shivraj Singh Chauhan's social agenda has done. The state's slew of social welfare programmes have led to new networks of solidarity between the government and the poorest sections of the population. In the process, a new base of support has emerged for the Chief Minister and the party which has been the key to the party's third consecutive victory

in the state.

A brief description of the state government's flagship social welfare programmes is illustrative of the pro-poor orientation of the BJP government in the state. The

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Mukhyamantri Annapoorna Yojna launched in April 2008 provides 20 kilograms of foodgrains at Rs 3 per kg of wheat and Rs 4.50 per kg of rice to BPL families every

month. Likewise, under the *Antyoday Anna Yojna* 35 kgs of foodgrains are given every month to the *extremely* poor at the rate of Rs 2 per kg of wheat and Rs 3 per kg of rice. The *Deendayal Antyoday Upchaar Yojna* started in September 2004 provides free treatment worth Rs 30,000 for every BPL family in a year in government hospitals. Official data suggests that till Dec 2012, 58.85 lakh family health cards have been made under this scheme and 39.41 lakh people have availed free treatment. The state government also runs a *Deendayal Chalit Hospital Yojna* under which mobile health clinics make a weekly visit to *all* tribal majority blocks and *selected* Scheduled castes majority blocks and provide multiple health related services such as diagnosis, distribution of medicines, vaccination, pre-pregnancy tests, pathological tests etc. Official figures suggest that there are 123 such mobile health units in the state. The *Prasav Hetu Pariwahan Ewam Upchaar Yojna* started by the state government in 2004(and its successor Janani Suraksha Yojna launched by the Union Government in 2005) aims to cover transport and treatment expenses of pregnant women belonging to SC and BPL families in government hospitals. The *Vijayraje Janani Kalyan Bima Yojna* launched by the state government in 2006 in tandem with the United India Insurance Company in 2006 offers cash incentives to pregnant women of BPL families to avail institutional deliveries. Some estimates suggest that nearly 60 lakh women have

benefited from such schemes. The *Mukhyamantri Kanyadaan Yojna* that began in April 2006 conducts mass marriages and provides financial assistance of Rs 13,000 to every couple for establishing their *grihasti* or household. Official figures reveal that more than 2.25 lakh such marriages have taken place in the state so far. The state government has now replicated this scheme for Muslims and started the *Mukhyamantri Nikah Yojna* from 2012-13; 926 Muslim girls were married under this scheme in FY 2012-13. Finally, under the *Laadli Laxmi Yojna* launched in 2007 Rs 6000 worth of National Savings Certificate(NSCs) are purchased by the state on behalf of a girl child every year from her birth

till she attains 5 years of age. The child would then be given Rs 2000 when she enters Class VI, Rs 4000 in Class IX and Rs 7500 in Class XI. The girl would also be given Rs 200 per month in Class XI and XII. Finally, when the girl attains 21 years of age, she would be given a lumpsum amount of Rs 118,000. Launched with a view to improve the sex ratio, the educational, health and general status of the girl child, the *Ladli Laxmi* scheme has benefited 13 lakh girls as per official data.

Clearly, the slew of innovative social welfare programmes of the government have yielded political dividends to the BJP in the state. ■

(The writer is the National Convenor of the BJP Economic Cell.)

...Continued from page 21

the Kashmir problem. I hope the truth is otherwise. I further hope that I do not have to wait for the memoirs of the Prime Minister to know the truth.

Track-Two diplomacy is not an unknown phenomenon. It is an accepted instrument world over. But Track Two diplomacy cannot be at complete variance with the stated national position. At best it can be marginally ahead of the national thinking. If the above stated points that the Pakistanis have been frequently mentioning i.e a dilution of the LoC and a tripartite arrangement were part of this 'breakthrough', it would be a de-facto acceptance of Jammu & Kashmir being a disputed territory. It is with great difficulty that Indian diplomacy has achieved a non-internationalization of the Kashmir issue and an internationalization of cross-border terrorism. By even suggesting such a resolution, we could squander all gains. De-militarisation of the valley without dismantling the terror infrastructure by Pakistan would be disastrous. I hope the Government was not working in this direction.

Since the Prime Minister for the first time informed the nation that a resolution on Kashmir was almost agreed to, it is eminently desirable that he takes the nation into confidence of what the specifics he had in mind about the failed solution. Even for history to make assessment of Prime Minister's tenure, these details would be of immense help. ■

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

Babus enjoy bribes, country bears cost

By Joginder Singh

Admitting that corruption is the biggest issue that is “bleeding the people dry”, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi, while addressing a gathering at Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, on December 21, minced no words. He made clear

painstakingly recorded oral and written evidence after cross-examining witnesses at length. This resulted in an almost 700-pages-long report. It is true that sometimes, under coalition compulsions, the Government in power denies the commission of any offence. However, the facts

Bureaucrats, with the blessings of their political masters, are an expert in extracting their pound of flesh. It does not matter to them if national interests are damned in the process.

do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

Our politicians believe in Joseph Goebbels maxim: If a lie is repeated a

thousand times, it will become the truth. A Union Minister laughably claimed in September that there is no corruption in the Government. According to him, Press reports suggesting otherwise are propaganda pieces unleashed by the Opposition to stop the Government from functioning.

that “arbitrary powers” were holding up projects. “I am in complete agreement, with the need for a regulatory system, to be rapidly and radically, modernised. Frankly, there are no excuses, for the length of time required to clear some of these projects. We are a fast-moving economy. We cannot allow you to be held back by slow decision making. Accountability has to be clear, fixed and time-bound”, said Mr Gandhi. Yet, there has hardly been a year in India wherein corruption scams have not surfaced. The list is too big to be recalled.

Ironically, the Congress-led Government of Maharashtra has recently rejected the judicial commission’s report on the Adarsh Cooperative Housing Society scam. The panel had

thousand times, it will become the truth. A Union Minister laughably claimed in September that there is no corruption in the Government. According to him, Press reports suggesting otherwise are propaganda pieces unleashed by the Opposition to stop the Government from functioning.

The World Bank brings out a report every year on how easy or difficult it is to do business in different countries of the world. Nations are ranked from one to 185 according to the ease of doing business. This year’s report points to the various bottlenecks that exist, like getting a plethora of permissions and sanctions before starting a business. In this regard, India stands at 182nd position, while with respect to enforcing business contracts, we are at

184th place. Our overall ranking in the world is 134.

According to information revealed in Parliament by the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, 35 bribery case were registered against IAS officers by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the four years between 2009 and 2012; 200 IAS officers were suspended over the last two decades; 47 IAS officers are now facing cases punishable with dismissal.

The Minister added that the CBI has registered over 2,000 corruption cases in the last three years and 758 of them are pending investigation. The agency had registered a total of 2,283 cases of corruption between 2010 and June this year. A total of 7,157 cases have been filed by the CBI under the Prevention of Corruption Act and they are pending trial in various CBI courts across the country.

Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Pondicherry alone account for 1,608 (22.46 per cent) of the pending corruption cases. What’s more, several of the cases have been pending trial for more than 20 years.

All the above information is a matter of public record, having been revealed in Parliament. The cases mentioned above are generally against gazetted or other senior officers. This is apart from the action taken by the State Governments’ anti-corruption wings all over the country. To

say that there is no corruption in India is a travesty.

On Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index last year, India was ranked 94th out of 174 countries. Such endemic corruption has caused not only a decline in India's attractiveness as a foreign direct investment destination but also led to withdrawal of several proposed investments by rich Indians settled abroad.

In one of the biggest foreign investment pull-outs, the world's largest steel magnate Arcelor Mittal has scrapped its \$12 billion steel plant in Odisha this July after inordinate delays and problems in acquiring land and securing iron ore linkages. The development came just a day after South Korean steel major Posco cancelled its Rs 36,000 crore steel plant in Karnataka.

According to news reports projects worth crores of rupees have been stuck with the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests. Bureaucrats, with the blessings of their political masters, are an expert in extracting their pound of flesh before doing any job. It does not matter to them whether the country is damned in the process.

I once addressed a meeting of the top industrialists urging them to maintain the highest integrity and ethical standards. The richest man in the audience stood up and said: "For you, this is easy to say. But there are 65 inspectors visiting my industry and any one of them is capable of closing my establishment." Our country is over-regulated and over-legislated but grossly under-governed.

Simply because a Minister says that there is no corruption and it is all propaganda, does not alter the fact. In the meantime, the Government should waste no more time and use the big stick to weed out the corrupt from its ranks, so that people get some relief. ■

(The writer is former CBI Director)

BJYM protests outside Rahul's house demanding action against Himachal CM

The Bharatiya Janata Party's youth wing, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) protested in front of Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi's house on December 31st condemning Himachal Pradesh chief minister Virbhadra Singh, who has been accused of corruption. Demanding action against Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh over the corruption allegations against him, thousands of BJYM activists and

supporters held protests outside Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi's house in Delhi. Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh has been accused of taking a bribe for granting extension to a private power firm for a project. Senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley has written to the Prime Minister seeking to know to what action he, the Congress President and Vice President would take against Shri Singh.

The protesters were led by Lok Sabha MP and BJYM National President Shri Anurag Thakur and demanded action against him. Police resorted to a baton-charge and used water cannons to disperse the crowd. Some protesters were detained and were taken to a nearby police station before being let off.

BJYM holds 'Ghotalon Ki Baraat' to protest against corrupt UPA

Another procession was taken out by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha on January 4 named "Ghotalon Ki Baraat" (Marriage Procession of Scams) to highlight the rampant corruption under UPA government. The activists holding placard that highlighted corruption of UPA



II and also highlighted prominently recent case of corruption against Congress leader and Himachal chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh over payments from a power company's promoter. BJYM National General Secretary Shri Rahul Kothari led the procession with a marriage band and a groom sitting on a horse and dressed as Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi, wearing garlands of currency notes.

The procession started from BJP Central Office, 11 Ashok Road, ending near Rahul Gandhi's residence. Despite peaceful demonstration, the police used the force and stopped the procession few meters away from Rahul Gandhi Residence. ■

Mobile application for India 272+ launched

From Our Correspondent

On January 1st 2014, the NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi launched the mobile application of India272+. The application is available on the Google Play Store and can be downloaded for free by Android

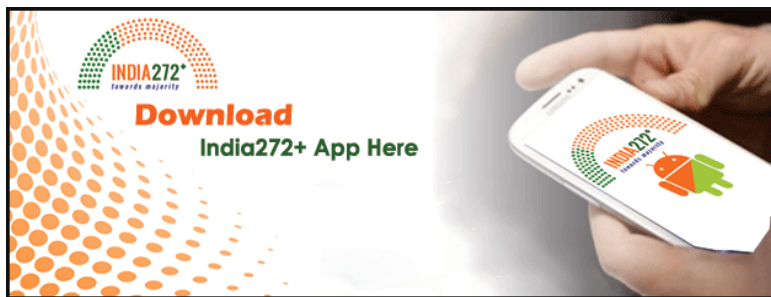
and blogs. Additionally, volunteers can connect with other volunteers in the various groups. Several groups have been created on the India272+ platform that allows volunteers to contribute based on their skills and interest. The groups vary from specialized groups for

gained immensely from the feedback received from the volunteers and added that he looked forward to receiving more such feedback in the coming days. Shri Piyush Goyal, who is heading the Information Communication Campaign Committee welcomed the launch of the application and gave his best wishes.

In the past, Shri Narendra Modi has given repeated clarion calls to people to join the India272+ volunteer platform. He has explained how this platform empowers the people to get involved with the BJP campaign for 2014 General Elections and that too without approaching leaders to press one's case. Shri Modi's repeated appeals have been a major shot in the arm for the India272+ family. Today, the platform has lakhs of volunteers who are actively contributing and participating.

Ever since it was launched in August 2013, <http://www.India272.com> has been witnessing a steady stream of activity and innovation. Apart from the vibrant groups, healthy discussions and brilliant contributions, the platform has started on-ground activities that are beautifully complementing the work done online. The on-ground activities enable volunteers to connect, collectively brainstorm and gather ideas for the success of Mission 272+.

The mobile application will surely go a long way in contributing to the success of Mission272+, which is an effort to make Shri Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of India and give India the governance it deserves. ■



users.

The launching of the mobile application is another path breaking endeavour to take BJP's Mission272+ to a wide range of volunteers across India and the world. The mobile application enables the volunteers to participate in Open Forums and share thoughts, ideas for upcoming speeches by Shri Narendra Modi. The Open Forum is one of the most distinctive features of the India272+ platform, which has successfully introduced the idea volunteer sourcing in electioneering. Shri Narendra Modi has been using numerous ideas given by the volunteers of India272 during his speeches in Hyderabad, Rewari and recently in Uttarakhand and Varanasi.

Through the mobile application, volunteers can contribute towards tasks that can be done through mobile phones. The tasks range from sharing pictures from rallies, recording a quote in one's own voice to sharing clippings of popular news stories

writers, artists and designers to even separate groups for doctors, IT specialists and NRIs. A separate group pertaining to women empowerment is among the most popular groups on the India272+ platform. Volunteers can also connect with members of their respective parliamentary constituency.

The application enables volunteers to share latest updates through prominent mediums of social media including Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp.

While launching the mobile application, Shri Narendra Modi extended his best wishes and expressed confidence that the application will go a long way in not only strengthening the bond between existing volunteers but will also draw more volunteers to the India272+ platform. A firm believer in technology, Shri Modi welcomed the innovative use of technology in expanding the larger BJP family and seeking the contribution of the volunteers. He shared that he has

MADHYA PRADESH

CM Orders departments to upload 100-Day Action plan on Websites

MPP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has directed that all departments should post 100-day action plan on their websites. Only efficient officers should be posted in the field. Ministers should review action plans of their departments every week. Adopt zero-tolerance policy towards corruption.



Shri Chouhan was undertaking department-wise review of 100-day action plan for implementation of Vision Document-2018 at Mantralaya

on 03 January. Concerning departments' Ministers, Vice-Chairman of State Planning Commission and officials were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister reviewed 100-day action plans of departments under 16 Ministers in two sessions. In the morning session, he reviewed Water Resources, Finance, Commercial Taxes and Planning & Statistics departments' action plans and directed to pay special attention to increasing area under irrigation to 40 lakh hectares and use available irrigation capacity efficiently.

He said that the Water Resources Department has done good work for increasing irrigation potential. But despite this, attention should be paid to ensuring that no irregularity occurs in irrigation and constructions works. Special attention should be paid to quality of roads and road repair works should be completed within the time-limit.

During the review of the Health Department, the Chief Minister directed to pay special attention to Janani Express Yojana's implementation, improve sanitary arrangements in Government hospitals and ensure dispensation of quality health services in Government and medical college hospitals.

During Food Department's review, the Chief Minister directed to implement Chhattisgarh model

to strengthen public distribution system. Ideal arrangements should be made for procurement of wheat on support price. During review of Agriculture Department, Shri Chouhan directed to make every possible effort to increase agriculture production and post list of department's beneficiaries on the website. During review of the Higher Education Department, the Chief Minister directed to attach top priority to youths' skill development.

Trades for training should be selected purposefully and as per market demand. He directed to abolish practice of attaching teaching cadre of the department to other departments. Posting of professors should be rationalised.

It was informed that the Water Resources Department will complete 100 minor irrigation projects and clean canals during 100-day action plan. The Finance Department will appoint financial advisors in 10 big departments having budget of over Rs 1,000 crore. Norms of equal payment for contractual employees will be laid down. It was informed that 5 crore Aadhar Cards have been prepared in the State. Two crore more Aadhar Cards will be prepared till June.

The 100-day action plan of the Forest Department includes preparation for planting saplings in 97,650 hectare, rehabilitation of forests in 1.53 lakh hectares and revival of forests in 71,808 hectares. Besides, e-Surveillance System will be introduced for monitoring of tigers in Bhopal, Hoshangabad and Raisen districts. Forest-based small and cottage industries will be identified.

The Public Works Department will chalk out a plan for developing service area for facilities on National Highways, roads upto villages from canals, ensuring payment to contractors within 15 days and constituting vigilance teams for quality improvement. Besides, 500 youths will be imparted training under Yuva Contractor Yojana. Accident Response System will also be established. In the 100-day action plan, the Health Department will construct buildings of 1000 sub-health centres, implement Health Service Delivery Guarantee Scheme and develop 1,600 ideal maternity centres and 626 mobile medical teams for 313 development blocks. Construction of Vidisha medical college will be started and 1648 Ayurvedic dispensaries will be strengthened.

Narendra Modi deposits the gifts he received last year towards girl child

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi donated 3,064 gifts worth approximately Rs.26.54-lakh to the government treasury. The gifts included 103 gold and silver artifacts, roughly valued at Rs.14.81-lakh, besides artifacts like chariot, watches, mementoes, coins, medals, metal and wooden handicrafts, photo frames, swords, bow and arrows, traditional and tribal attires, umbrellas. The date and venue of the auction of these gifts would be announced shortly.



This happens to be his 13th installment of gifts Shri Modi has been regularly donating to the treasury since November 2001. He has earlier donated Rs.18.91-crore in the government treasury, the amount raised through auction of 15,464 gifts he had received between November 2001 and December 2013. This totals up to 18,710 gifts so far. The auctions are held at different places in Gujarat by rotation, as in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Mehsana, Rajkot, Valsad, Vapi, Bhavnagar, Bharuch and Anand.

Incidentally, Shri Modi happens to be the only Chief Minister in India who has been regularly donating the gifts he had been receiving for some noble cause. The sum thus raised is donated to the fund for girls' education, called *Kanya Kelavni Nidhi*. This includes Rs.3,064 gifts worth Rs.14.81-lakh in the latest installment this time.

CHHATTISGARH

Create Environment for Narendra Modi to become PM: Raman Singh

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh urged the BJP workers in the State to get out of the winning euphoria of the recently held Assembly polls now and accept the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls as a challenge to ensure the party's

victory. "The people of the country are fed up with the Congress led UPA rule at the Centre and are now looking with eagerness towards the BJP. This is the turning point for our country. We have to reach out to every booth and create an environment in favour of the BJP's prime ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi," he said while addressing a party's office bearers at the State BJP headquarters in Raipur.



He said that whatever programmes had been determined by the party's central leadership for the Lok Sabha polls, they need to be implemented completely by being fully focused on them in the State. Dr. Singh said that the workers have to ensure their participation in the preparation for the Lok Sabha polls themselves. "We have the target of winning all the 11 Lok Sabha seats in Chhattisgarh," he added.

He said the workers of the party's women's wing had worked very hard to ensure the victory of the candidates in the Assembly polls. He said the local issues work in case of an Assembly polls and national issues in a Lok Sabha polls. This time, the biggest issue is about the country's leadership. "Last time, the entire country stood in support of Atalji. Similarly, the party workers need to raise the pitch of the party's slogan 'Ek note, ek vote' (One note, one vote) in the name of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi at the booth level and get down to preparing for the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

Dr. Singh said the massive statue of the late Home Minister of the country Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel would be made in Gujarat for which old iron agricultural implements of farmers and mud from the entire country would be collected. He said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a farmers' leader and played a key role in amalgamation of the princely states in India. "We have to reach every house and tell people why Narendra Modi should be elected as the Prime Minister of the country. The people also need to be informed that the Congress-led UPA Government is pushing the country into a financial slavery," he said. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has failed in ending the price rise, corruption and unemployment in the country, he said. ■