



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

Subscription

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

Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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

CONTENTS

Cover Story : Hunkaar Rally in Patna (Bihar)

Massive support sets tone for a new era of politics..... 6

Rallies

Rajasthan..... 9

Uttar Pradesh..... 10

Chhattisgarh..... 12

Articles

When V.P. Menon Cornered A British General

By LK Advani..... 13

The Threat to Free Speech

By Arun Jaitley..... 16

PM's visit to China yields no result

By Vikash Anand..... 27

Special Reports on Assembly Elections

Madhya Pradesh..... 18

Chhattisgarh..... 19

Rajasthan..... 21

Delhi..... 22

Others

Statue of Unity foundation stone ceremony..... 24

BJP to pressure Centre on relief to Phailin victims..... 29

Golden words from Aadhyatama..... 30



Courtesy : Asian Age



, 'k rs fhkfgrk I k[; s c[) ; kxs fRoeka 'k.k[
c[Ók ; [ks ; ; k i kfkZ deZU/ka [gkL; fI AA39AA

O Arjuna I have explained to you this spirituals intelligence regarding the nature of the soul, now listen this science of actions without fruitive desires by which spirituals intelligence is endowed completely releasing you from the bondage of reactions from actions.
— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 39)

Q
U
O
T
E
S

"It's the duty of the government to provide security to all rallies, regardless of party organising it. Bihar government failed to follow its 'Rajya Dharma'."

-Rajnath Singh

"The weather is changing! And it is changing fast. Not only here but also from Kashmir to Kanyakumari."

-Narendra Modi

"The cheap Food Scheme available to the weaker sections in Chhattisgarh is far better than what is promised by the UPA's Food Security Act."

-Arun Jaitley

Chhath Pooja : November 08-09, 2013

Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu festival and only Vedic Festival dedicated to the Sun God, Surya. Chhath Puja is performed on Kartika Shukla Shashthi, which is the sixth day of the month of Kartika in the Hindu Calendar. This falls typically in the month of October or November in the Gregorian Calendar. The Chhath Puja is performed in order to thank Surya for sustaining life on earth and



to request the granting of certain wishes. The Sun, considered the god of energy and of the life-force, is worshiped during the Chhath festival to promote well-being, prosperity and progress. In Hinduism, Sun worship is believed to help cure a variety of diseases, including leprosy, and helps ensure the longevity and prosperity of family members, friends, and elders.

The rituals of the festival are rigorous and are observed over a period of four days. They include holy bathing, fasting and abstaining from drinking water (Vrat), standing in water for long periods of time, and offering prashad (prayer offerings) and arghya to the setting and rising sun.

Although it is observed most elaborately in Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern UP and the Terai regions of Nepal in modern times, and is more prevalent in areas where migrants from those areas have a presence, it is celebrated in all regions and major urban centers in India.

Chhath is a festival of bathing and worshipping, that follows a period of abstinence and segregation of the worshiper from the main household for four days. During this period, the worshiper observes purity, and sleeps on the floor on a single blanket. This is the only holy festival which has no involvement of any pandit (priest). The devotees offer their prayers to the setting sun, and then the rising sun in celebrating its glory as the cycle of birth starts with death. It is seen as the most glorious form of Sun worship. ■



Editorial...

In the path of making Congress-free India, there will also be obstacles

As the acceptability of Narendra Modi is increasing in India, those including Congress who are dreaming for 2014 Lok Sabha elections like Mungerilal are feeling the heat. Narendra Modi is the name of courage and credibility in Indian politics. He is fastly becoming the glory and pride of Indian politics. Nation has started believing in him. After a long time nation is awaiting a leader eagerly. It is a rare event in politics.

Congress along with some weak leaders of Third Front who have lost their existence in their respective states are trying to build an unholy nexus against Narendra Modi. Can they be successful? Perhaps all these people are misreading the situation. Probably they are not aware of the wave in the country. In the entire country people are preparing to welcome Narendra Modi and these poor people are busy lamenting this fact.

After all why the world famous singer Sushri Lata Mangeshkar said that Shri Narendra Bhai Modi should be the next PM of the country. Congress should understand this but it seems they are refusing to accept this reality. Congress is busy attacking Lata Mangeshkar. Does any one have no right to talk about national interest? If tomorrow Sachin Tendulkar says that country needs Narendra Modi then would Congress oppose him also? How many people would the Congress oppose? Whatever Shri Shivanand Tiwari (JDU) said in front of Nitish Kumar was a shock for him. Now the day is not far when many Congressmen who consider national interest above party's interest would join hands with Narendra Modi.

The kind of bomb blasts that took place in Patna Gandhi Maidan has exposed the designs of the enemies of the nation. The courageous people who did not move from Gandhi Maidan even in the face of blasts should be congratulated. Terrorists wanted to create disorder and anarchy in the rally so that 'Hunkar rally' get converted into 'Chitkar rally'. But it did not happen. People stood their ground with courage and Narendra Modi went there and delivered his speech boldly.

Will the Congress stop Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah who said that there is impact of Modi even if there is no wave. What will Congress and Nitish (JDU) say on this?

BJP should continue to move ahead on its mission. Country now wants to get rid of the Congress. In the effort to make a Congress free India there may be some obstacles but even in the face of all these BJP will have to continue to march ahead under the leadership of Narendra Modi. ■

Massive support sets tone for a new era of politics

Four biggest enemies of democracy are dynasty, caste politics, communal politics and opportunism and all these evils are present in the rulers of Bihar and the UPA : Narendra Modi

BJP will improve the conditions of the farmers when it comes to power : Rajnath Singh

In a historic turnout, lakhs of people gathered in Patna Gandhi Maidan to attend Hunkaar Rally on 27 October 2013. Undeterred by the bomb blasts people courageously stood their ground and challenged the JDU-Congress unholy nexus led by Nitish Kumar for going against the people of Bihar and the mandate they gave to NDA. All the streets of the Patna were filled with people arriving from different districts in their colourful attires raising slogans while brimming with enthusiasm and festive fervour. It was a scenario, never witnessed before – a sea of people were seen covering the endless horizon and people chanting slogans setting tone for the arrival of a new era in politics.

The BJP Prime Ministerial candidate **Shri Narendra Modi** addressed the historic Hunkaar Rally at Patna's iconic Gandhi Maidan on the afternoon of Sunday 27th October 2013. Shri Modi described the rally historic and one that will script a new chapter in the history of India in the years to come. Shri Narendra Modi came down heavily against those forces who divide the nation of the lines of caste and creed and said that a poor Hindu and poor Muslim do not want to fight each other but they want to



fight poverty. Shri Modi echoed the demand of the Bihar BJP for a Rs. 50,000 crore special package for Bihar and also told the people that even if the Centre does not give, it is only a matter of 200 more days when he will get the opportunity to give back the love the people have showered on him during the Hunkaar Rally. Shri Modi categorically stated that the nation wants change and that the more the people will throw dirt on the BJP and him, the more the Lotus will shine. During his speech Shri Narendra Modi lauded the performance of the BJP Ministers who served during the BJP-JD(U) coalition from 2005 till 2013.

Shri Narendra Modi exposed the opportunist and hypocritical politics of the Bihar Chief Minister. He said, "The Chief Minister is my friend. People ask why did he leave BJP

but I say- those who left JP, what is BJP for them! Those who consider themselves disciples of Lohia have stabbed him in the back by going by trying to get close with the Congress. JP and Lohia ji will never forgive their actions." Shri Modi compared the warmth towards the Bihar Chief Minister on his visit to Gujarat as compared to his actions towards BJP leaders.

Shri Modi recalled that 13 years ago the strength of the BJP was double than that of the JD(U) and other parties but the aim was to rid Bihar of Jungle Raj, which is why the BJP offered the Chief Ministership to the current Chief Minister when it was larger party. "In a week the Government fell but it was our effort to free Bihar of Jungle Raj and we accepted his leadership." Shri Modi also said that he withstood every possible insult only so that Jungle Raj does not return to

Bihar but the intentions of the Bihar Chief Minister were never good and now his friends are telling him to join hands with

He questioned the Congress on their promise to bring prices down, failure to clean the Ganga and their inability to complete



the Congress so that he can become the Prime Minister. "He (the Bihar Chief Minister) has not betrayed the BJP. He has betrayed the people of Bihar. He has betrayed you all," Shri Modi avowed.

In his speech Shri Modi did not even spare the Congress leaders for their misgovernance and misleading the people of India. Referring to the anger of the Congress leaders on Shri Modi calling the Congress Vice President Shahzaada (Prince), Shri Modi said, "If you feel bad on being called a Shahzaada then the nation also feels bad at your dynastic politics. Stop this dynastic politics and you will not be called Shahzaada."

The BJP's PM candidate opined that the 4 biggest enemies of democracy are dynasty, caste politics, communal politics and opportunism and that all these evils are present in the rulers of Bihar and the UPA in the Centre.

80% of the works promised in the Common Minimum Programme. Shri Modi questioned what the Congress leaders knew about poverty and added that they are neither bothered about the farmers nor the poor. Shri Modi shared that coming from a poor family who experienced poverty and even sold tea in trains, he knew more about the poor than other leaders and Railway Ministers who pay lip service to the poor. Shri Modi questioned the statement of a Bihar Minister that people join the army to die. The Minister had made the statement in the wake of Jawans from Bihar being beheaded by Pakistan. He came down on the Bihar Government for their failure in the 20 Point Programme and the fact that despite having a larger Muslim population, Muslims are not availing of the Haj benefit because they lack the money to do so in Bihar.

Shri Modi also took on the attitude of select leaders towards Muslims and shared a vision for inclusive development of all communities. He shared that the two fastest growing districts in Gujarat, Kutch and Bharuch have significant Muslim population.

He profusely thanked the people of Bihar for the very warm welcome at the Hunkaar Rally and talked at length about the glorious culture of Bihar through history. Shri Modi even talked in the various local languages of Bihar as the audience gave a thundering applause.

Earlier addressing the gathering **BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh**, sharply attacked the UPA and touched on the issue of price rise. He told how the NDA rule had not let the inflation to rise.

A specific alert was sent to the Bihar police by the Central Intelligence Bureau on 23rd Oct. 2013 with regard to the rally to be addressed by Shri Narendra Modi in Patna. The letter number of this alert was v-111/PA/2013 (3). This alert was specific enough to mention that the IM modules could organize strikes during Shri Narendra Modi's Patna visit.

-Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

Bihar Government is responsible for deliberate negligence and casual approach which allowed terrorists to carry out serial bomb blasts in Patna rally.

-Shri Prakash Javadekar, BJP National Spokesperson

He ensured the crowd that the BJP will improve the conditions of the farmers when it comes to power. In his usual humorous manner, he told how anything on which the Prime Minister puts his hands disappears, be it potatoes, onions, coal files. He also told that BJP will be taking all the sections of the society together and will not get indulged in communal politics like Congress and JDU.

Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley expressed confidence after seeing today's crowd at the rally and said that winds of change are blowing all across the country and those who don't understand that will be blown away. He also said that current government at the Centre is the most corrupt government in the history of country and the leadership has been disappointing.

Shri Sushil Modi, former deputy CM of Bihar also praised the enthusiasm of the crowd and said that he had seen JP and Lalu Yadav's rally along with JDU's rallies but this rally had broken all the records. He also said that as more than half of the people attending the rally are youth, we are convinced that youth are with the BJP.

BJP National Vice President Dr. C.P. Thakur asked the crowd to vote for BJP and help it get 40 out of 40 Lok Sabha seats and make Shri Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, deputy leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha said that this rally is the shanknaad of the people of Bihar.

Former Minister Shri

Modi salutes people of Bihar for courage they showed in the wake of the unfortunate blasts during the time of the *Hunkaar Rally*

Talking to the media during his visit to Patna on the afternoon of 2nd November 2013, Shri Narendra Modi said that he has come to Patna to share the pain of families of those who lost their lives during the attack on the Hunkaar Rally and that all BJP Karyakartas firmly stand by the family of those who lost their lives.



Shri Modi saluted the people of Bihar for the courage they showed in the wake of the unfortunate blasts during the time of the *Hunkaar Rally*. He said, "At the rally on the 27th the courage that the people of Bihar have shown is extraordinary and is unheard of. Having been in public life for long, I know how even in meetings of 2000-3000 people there would be chaos if a rumor went off that a cow has come but the people of Bihar showed patience and great strength that is very special. There were bombs going on, there was blood, people were being taken to the hospital but still there was no stampede." Shri Modi added, "It was as if they were attached from the heart. This is a very big thing and it shows the strength of the people of Bihar. They kept peace in the midst of bombs."

"BJP holds Bihar Government responsible for deliberate negligence and casual approach which allowed terrorists to carry out serial bomb blasts in Patna rally addressed by BJP's PM Candidate Sri Narendra

Chandra Mohan Rai was overwhelmed with the huge gathering at Gandhi Maidan and told that this rally would be a game changer in Bihar politics. He also asked Shri Narendra Modi to contest elections from Bihar. Another former minister Shri Giriraj Singh asked Rahul Gandhi and Nitish Kumar to open their eyes as entire Bihar is now doing NAMO NAMO. He also said that Rahul Gandhi and Nitish Kumar are not even comparable to Shri Modi.

Lok Sabha MP Shri Kirti Azad attacked the UPA government over rampant corruption, hunger, fear and insecurity to the Indian soldiers at the border. Dr Prem Kumar, who represents Gaya, told how the Prime Minister is running on remote control. He also told about how the conditions of villages and cities have deteriorated under the mis-governance of Congress. He also talked about how the prices were kept under check during NDA

regime while farmers are forced to commit suicide today due to inflation.

Shri Nand Kishore Yadav, leader of opposition in Bihar Vidhan Sabha came down heavily on the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar and told how it had betrayed the trust of people of Bihar as they had voted for NDA.

He also told how the mask has fallen of Nitish Kumar's face as he had been anti-congress all throughout his life but had to resort to Congress support to save his chair.

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, BJP National General Secretary Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shri Shatrughan Sinha were among the dignitaries present at the Hunkaar Rally. ■

UDAIPUR (RAJASTHAN)

Vasundhara Raje worked really hard for development

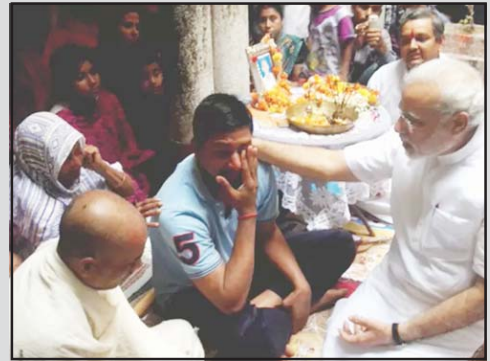
Shri Narendra Modi addressed huge gathering in Udaipur on October 26, 2013. He counted the failures of the Rajasthan state government and also attacked the Congress government at the Centre.

He said he was very amused with a flood of inauguration ceremonies in Rajasthan which even led to the disappearance of scissors. "Panch saal tak jeb kaatne waale ribbon kaatne meilage the" said Shri Modi.

Launching an attack on the Congress prince, Shri Modi said that whatever he spoke during his visit to Rajasthan was not even understood by the Congress members. He also said that the prince preaches secularism while there have been a plethora of incidents of communal violence under the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan. Shri Modi also told how the Prince is trying to show a family drama to the Indian public instead of

Narendra Modi meets families of victims of Patna blast

On 2nd November 2013, Shri Narendra Modi visited various parts of Bihar to pay homage to the people who lost their lives in the unfortunate blasts in Patna on the day of the Hunkaar Rally, which was held on 27th October



2013. He assured the family members that they are not alone in this hour of grief. Shri Narendra Modi began the day by travelling to Gaurichak village near Patna to meet the family of late Raj Narain Singh. He consoled the family members of the deceased martyr and asked the family members to be brave.

replying to the queries of the failures of the Congress Government.

Stepping up his attack on the Gehlot government, he explained how the Rajasthan Governor, the judiciary, NHRC & the Minority commission and even their own Prince do not trust the Rajasthan government. He asked the crowd, "Jis Sarkaar ko shehzade, governor, Human Right commission, judiciary, minority commission sweekar nhi karta kya usko rajasthan ki janta



sweekar karegi?" He got a reply in negative that clearly indicated the resentment among people against the Congress government in the state.

Further stepping up his attack on the Ministers

of the Rajasthan government, he told that no woman in the state wants to go to a minister with her problems.

He also asked whether the Congress government has given details of its work? Instead they are scolding the BJP. They do not even care about the rising inflation. He tore into the Congress government's inability to curb inflation and



told how Jaggery was available at Rs 9 under the NDA rule while now it is available at Rs 50. Red chilly was available Rs 50, Rajma at Rs 28, Diesel at Rs 22 while all these things are now available at Rs 200, Rs 100 and Rs 60 respectively.

Elaborating more on the Congress' misuse of CBI Shri Modi also explained how the Congress has deployed CBI against Shri Gulabchand Kataria and would also do it against Smt. Vasundhara Raje. He asked the government whether the CBI will be used in the same way against the Prime Minister against whom a serious bureaucrat has raised senior questions. He also told that if the same questions had been asked against a BJP leader, CBI would have been already unleashed on them.

Praising Smt Vasundhara Raje, he told how she had sleepless nights thinking of providing water to the water scarce regions of Rajasthan. He also told how she had tried her best to make Rajasthan a power surplus state but under the present Gehlot government there is darkness.

He ended his speech on the note of Congress Mukht Bharat and hoped that Rajasthan would be at the forefront of changing the fortunes of the country by throwing away the Congress from power. Shri Gulabchand Kataria, a prominent BJP member of Rajasthan told about how the Gehlot government has indulged in rampant corruption and is allotting mines to the family members of the Chief Minister.

Smt Vasundhara Raje, former CM of Rajasthan and state BJP head, asked the people to get ready for a final war against the Congress and remove it for good. She explained how the Congress government has snatched away the dreams, future, jobs and food from the common public. She also retorted about how the Congress keeps on going back to the Gandhi Family to count its achievements and how those achievements are not even visible.■

JHANSI (UP)

Give us only 60 months, we will change the image and the fortune of the country
Farmers in Gujarat are being given interest free loans, says Rajnath

Shri Narendra Modi addressed his second rally in Uttar Pradesh, 25 October 2013 in Jhansi. Addressing the huge public gathering, Shri Modi asked the people to get UP rid of Congress, Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party. He also said



"Ye SABAKA lootate hain". SA for Samajwadi party, BA for Bahujan Samaj Party and KA for Congress.

Elaborating on it, he told that whenever the elections approach, appeasement politics of Congress and other regional parties in UP starts. They start offering various packages for the development of the state. However, that package is used only to shut the mouth of the leaders of SP and BSP.

He also said that the regional parties in UP have no interest in building the future of the state or its youth. They are only interest in doing dirty politics.

Shri Modi asked people to give a chance to BJP for only 60 months as compared to the 60 years that have been given to Congress. He ensured people that BJP will change the face and future



of India.

Shri Modi also praised the hardworking people from UP and Bihar who have come to Gujarat and also talked about a pilot project where he himself saw the high level of productivity from the people of these two states. People from UP and Bihar come to Gujarat and work for almost 13 hours a day and complete 1 year work in 6 months, he said.

Shri Modi heavily criticized the recent statements by the Congress Vice President, terming it as irresponsible comments filled with emotional drama. He asked Rahul Gandhi about his statement of him getting angry when his grandmother was killed. He also said that along with Rahul Gandhi, various Congressmen also got angry that led to the mass killing of Sikhs in the country and even till now, not even a single person has been punished.

Continuing with his attack on Rahul Gandhi, Shri Modi questioned his statement about ISI attempts to talk to Muslim youth in the wake of the Muzaffarnagar riots. He asked the prince to either disclose the names of those who are in touch with the ISI or publicly apologize for his irresponsible comments which have led to the defamation of a particular community. He wanted to know why such information was being shared with Rahul Gandhi who is just an MP and has not taken any oath of secrecy.

Shri Modi came down heavily on the Congress as it is only behaving like a news

agency giving information about the infiltration of ISI in India. He asked them what are they doing in the capacity of the ruling party. Isn't it Congress' responsibility to stop ISI from spreading its wings in India? Shri Modi asked.

Shri Modi mocked the Congress and said that in its 60 years of rule, they have been able to improve the situation of the poor as earlier, he used to AADHI ROTI and now he is getting POORI ROTI. At this rate, to completely eradicate hunger from the country, Congress will need at least 100 more years.

He criticized the PM and the planning commission for declaring that a person who earns Rs 26 a day in a village and Rs 32 in a city is not poor. He tore into them saying that they do not even know what it feels like to be poor.

BJP Vice President Sushri Uma Bharati elaborated about how Gujarat is the state where Muslims now feel the most secure in India. She also told that women security is the best in Gujarat.

BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh also delivered a strong speech and told that he can see a revolution in Jhansi and told about how the farmers are suffering in Bundelkhand while farmers in Gujarat are being given interest free loans and how Modiji has developed the entire agricultural landscape of Gujarat.

He also said that the day BJP is given a chance to govern India, they will ensure that every farmer family is not solely dependent on family. ■

Shri Modi came down heavily on the Congress as it is only behaving like a news agency giving information about the infiltration of ISI in India. He asked them what are they doing in the capacity of the ruling party. Isn't it Congress' responsibility to stop ISI from spreading its wings in India? Shri Modi asked.

Congress has repeatedly betrayed tribals

BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi on October 7 asked the people of Chhattisgarh to reelect the Raman Singh-led Government to continue the path of development. "Congress has ruined the newly formed Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. But BJP developed Chhattisgarh," Shri Modi said addressing a huge public rally in Jagdalpur in Bastar district.



"Chhattisgarh has stepped into its thirteenth year. The future is crucial for the State," Shri Modi said.

"Chhattisgarh is the first State to bring the first Food Security Bill in the country. Chhattisgarh provides better food security than what the Congress-led Centre assures," Shri Modi said.

"Shri Raman Singh laid a strong foundation of Chhattisgarh. It's time now to bring Chhattisgarh to a new height," Modi said.

Congress has done nothing for poor

Addressing another election rally in Kanker on November 7, Chhattisgarh BJP Prime Ministerial Candidate Shri Narendra Modi said Congress which has ruled the country for 60 years has done nothing for poor.

"Congress got votes and power by milking the issue of poverty, but it did nothing for poor. It is time to punish the Congress," Shri Modi said as the cheering crowd chanting 'Modi lao desh bachao'.

"I stay in Delhi or in Gujarat but I understand your problems. After Chhattisgarh was born Congress destroyed the State. It is the BJP Government led by Raman Singh which cured Chhattisgarh's

sickness." In an oblique reference to Congress chief Smt. Sonia Gandhi who is in the State to address poll rallies Shri Modi said, "Madam says Congress doesn't say anything but work. Madam is right that Congress doesn't speak about scams." "Congress promised that it will reduce inflation in 100 days but it didn't keep its promise. Congress promised employment but didn't fulfill it," Modi said.

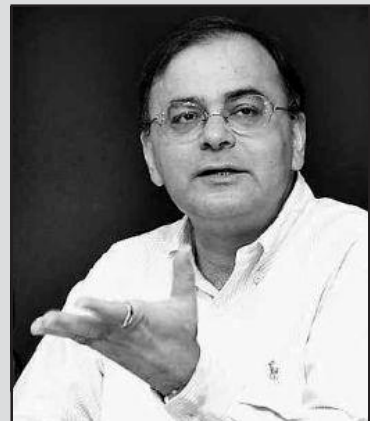
"The country is very smart, now it won't buy Congress's version," Modi further said. ■

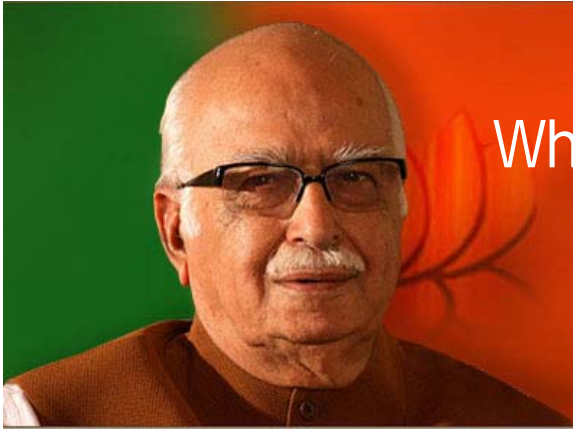
Price rise will be nemesis of Congress : Jaitley

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley on November 7 lambasted at the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and said that she was misleading the people of Chhattisgarh in her rally as she is unaware of the decline of poverty rate under Raman Singh Government.

Addressing a Press conference Shri Jaitley said, "Price rise will be the nemesis of Congress this time. Sonia Gandhi should be aware that there is a double digit decline in poverty in Chhattisgarh. Congress at the Centre is directionless & have no decisive leadership and are uninspiring." "Congress has weak policies on security related issues also.

Talking about the upcoming Assembly poll in the States, Shri Jaitley reiterated, "Our objective is to win elections in 4 out of 5 States, even the indications are positive, in our favour." ■





When V.P. Menon Cornered A British General

By L.K. Advani

In the Tailpiece to this blog I had recalled what I had read in a recent Pioneer report that Panditji wanted to refer the Hyderabad issue also to the U.N. Security Council and he had strongly disapproved of Sardar Patel's decision to send the army into Hyderabad.

The Pioneer report was based on a book written by an IAS officer, one MKK Nair. In my blog relating to Dr. Munshi's letter, I had said that I have been desperately searching for the book on which the news report was based, but I have not been able to locate it at any bookstore or even in any library. Shri Chandan Mitra, Pioneer Editor also had been unable to get it for me. Through this blog, I appealed to all my readers that I would feel "greatly indebted" to whosoever can procure the book for me. I also asked a senior leader of the Kerala BJP, and a former Parliamentary colleague of mine, Shri O. Rajagopal, to try to locate the book.

I am very happy that these efforts have borne fruit, thanks particularly to Rajagopalji. It appears that the book had been written in Malayalam. The news item in the Pioneer was based on

that. The book was in the process of being translated into English. The translator, Shri Gopakumar, has now addressed a letter to me, and along with the letter sent me a copy of the translated manuscript which he writes would be published by the publishers soon after appropriate editing.

Going through the relevant portions of the book, I find that the cabinet meeting which occasioned a sharp exchange between Nehru and Patel on the Hyderabad issue took place shortly before the so called 'police action' actually took place in 1948. This was also a phase when Lord Mountbatten had left for London, and Rajaji had become Governor General.

What follows in MKK Nair's book is an episode which casts a serious reflection on some British army officials hostile to India. Instead of paraphrasing this episode, or giving just its summary, let me put on record what Nair has exactly said in his book titled "The Story of an Era Told without Ill Will".

Nair writes:

'On April 30, 1948, Indian Army withdrew fully from Hyderabad. After that, Rizvi and

the Razakars began to behave licentiously all over the state. Mountbatten had left and Rajaji was the Governor General. Nehru, Rajaji and Patel were all aware of the dangerous situation prevailing in Hyderabad. Patel believed that the army should be sent to put an end to the Nizam's wantonness. At about that time, the Nizam had sent an emissary to Pakistan and transferred a large sum of money from his Government account in London to Pakistan. At a cabinet meeting, Patel had described these things and demanded that army be sent to end the terror-regime in Hyderabad. Nehru who usually spoke calmly, peacefully and with international etiquette, spoke losing his composure, 'You are a total communalist. I will never accept your recommendation.'

Patel remained unperturbed but left the room with his papers.

The situation in Hyderabad worsened day by day. Rajaji wanted to find a solution to the basic issue and also conciliate between Nehru and Patel. He called V P Menon and talked to him. VP let Rajaji know that the army was being kept battle-ready and could be asked to attack at

any time. Rajaji invited Nehru and Patel to come to Rashtrapati Bhavan (then the Governor General's house) next day. V P Menon was also asked to be present. As V P Menon was on his way to Rashtrapati Bhavan for the meeting, an ICS officer named Butch (from the State

The meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan began after Nehru and Patel arrived. Rajaji in his typical style described the situation in Hyderabad. He felt that, to safeguard India's reputation, a decision should not be delayed any longer. Nehru was concerned about international repercussions.

Home Ministry who had conducted discussions for integration of Travancore and Kochi) stopped him and handed over a letter. It was from the British High Commissioner and protested the rape of seventy year old nuns of a convent two days earlier by Razakars. V P Menon handed over the letter to Rajaji when he reached for the meeting.

The meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan began after Nehru and Patel arrived. Rajaji in his typical style described the situation in Hyderabad. He felt that, to safeguard India's reputation, a decision should not be delayed any longer. Nehru was concerned about international repercussions. Rajaji then played his trump card – the letter from the British High Commissioner. Nehru read it. His face turned red and veins bulged on his bald head. Anger choked his words. He shot out of his chair, slammed his fist on the table and cried

out, 'Let's not waste a moment. We'll teach them a lesson.'

Rajaji immediately told V P Menon, 'VP, inform the Commander-in-Chief to proceed according to the plan'

VP conveyed the order to General Busher. Nehru sat with his head in his hands. He drank tea and remained silent. Rajaji smiled and said: 'If it is cancer, it has to be removed, even if it is painful.'

V P Menon returned to his office after the meeting and quickly planned the things to be done. The Commander-in-Chief of Pakistan was also an Englishman who nursed feelings of enmity with Indian leaders. When Busher took over from General Lockhart as Commander in-Chief, he had sworn allegiance to India in God's name. Soon after Busher heard from V P Menon, he instructed Rajendra Singh who asked General Choudhary to begin military action at three next morning.

At seven that evening, Busher contacted Karachi and spoke with his counterpart there. The conversation was in French.

Next morning at ten, V P Menon walked into Busher's room. Assuming that he had come for details of the Hyderabad action, Busher brought him up to date with its progress. VP then said, 'I know all that. I have come for something else. Did you speak with Pakistan's Commander in-Chief yesterday evening.' Hearing this, Busher's face went pale.

'VP, are you saying that we

friends cannot speak with each other?

'Was that a friendly conversation?'

'Do you doubt it?'

'Why did you speak in French?'

'Have you started tapping telephones?'

"Shouldn't we if circumstances warrant? Was it really a friendly chat?'

'Of course!'

V P Menon took out a document and gave it to Busher. It was the transcript of the previous evening's conversation and an English translation which read:

Busher: Attack on Hyderabad begins tonight. Will not last many days. If you must do anything, do so right away.

Pakistan C-in-C: Thanks. Shall inform Liaquat Ali. Jinnah is on his deathbed.

Busher: After I do my duty, I shall be in your hands.'

Busher who had pretended to be offended by telephone-tapping was sweating now. He looked sorrowfully at V P Menon and said, 'What should I do, VP? I have made a mistake. I am sorry.'

V P Menon asked him, 'Did you not swear allegiance to India in the name of God, with your hand on the Bible?'

Busher: 'VP, please save me. I am willing to atone for what I have done. Don't humiliate me. Help me for our old friendship.'

V P Menon obtained a letter from Busher that read, 'I resign on personal and health grounds. Please accept it immediately' and left. General Cariappa was then given charge of the Indian Army. ■

Today Opinion Polls, what next ?

By Narendra Modi

As different opinion polls predict total rout of Congress in the assembly elections slated to take place in November –December and its defeat in coming 2014 Lok Sabha elections as well as victory of NDA, Congress and its allies have started crying foul while seeking ban on opinion polls and surveys. Earlier also Congress has tried to gag the free voice in media and other forums in complete contravention of democratic spirit. It is a very dangerous trend for democratic polity and needs to be countered with all force at command. BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi has highlighted the dangers that is lurking from behind in the form of open attacks on opinion polls and surveys. We are publishing the full text of his letter for our esteemed readers:

Dear Friends,

Hope you have had a wonderful Diwali with your family and loved ones!

In the last few days, I have been reading news articles in the newspapers, Internet and social media on the views of our friends in the Congress Party on the banning of opinion polls. In response to that, two Tweets caught my attention. BJD's Lok Sabha MP, Jay Panda wrote in response to that, saying "Next step, curb opinions" and Chetan Bhagat Tweeted, "Ban Opinion Polls. Better ban opinions. Or best, ban polls."

https://twitter.com/Panda_Jay/status/396700899235463168

https://twitter.com/chetan_bhagat/status/397238404598870016

Friends in their humor there is a profound message.

Those who have followed Indian politics and the workings of the Congress party after Independence would agree that the stand of the Congress Party does not come as a surprise. The biggest casualty of the Congress Party's arrogance while in power and its tendency to trample over Institutions has been our Fundamental Right to Free Speech.

It was not too long ago that the UPA Government showed us how intolerant it was of Social Media criticism when Twitter handles were suspended by the Government. On that occasion I had blackened my Twitter display picture as a mark of solidarity with all those in Social Media who were speaking up for free speech and expression. On the Nirvan Diwas of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in 2011, many Central Ministers spoke of controlling social media. Irony truly died a hundred times over that day. Some months back a Restaurant in Mumbai was threatened for expressing its Opinion against the UPA's Policies in a creative manner on a Sales Receipt.

At a time when the nation is reeling under high prices, and unemployment is rising, we have this shameful spectacle of a Central Ministry writing to media persons regarding the television coverage of the PM's Independence speech on the 15th August, that too two months later. **This is clearly a case of terribly misplaced priorities. Energy is being wasted on non-serious issues by this Government instead of addressing the pressing issues of national importance.**

I would also like to ask my media friends why they are silent on these proposals and advisories aimed at restricting their freedom of expression?

As for opinion polls, it is not that I have any particular affinity for them. In fact, I am quite aware of their limitations. Our enlightened pollsters made assertions about how Gujarat will vote against the BJP in 2002, then again in 2007 and even in 2012 with such great confidence only to be proven incorrect by the people.

However there is an important principle and ethic here that holds true for every Party and

...Continued on page 21

The Threat to Free Speech

By Arun Jaitley

The fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India are an integral part of the constitutional basic structure. They are un-amendable. The most pre-eminent out of the freedoms enshrined in Article 19 of the Constitution is the Right of free speech and expression. It is pre-eminent because unlike other fundamental rights which can be restricted on account of certain reasonable restrictions, the right to free speech cannot be restricted on the ground of any undefined reasonable restriction. Article 19(2) provides specific conditions under which the right to free speech can be restricted. These restrictions must necessarily have nexus to sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of State, friendly relations of foreign states, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement of an offence.

No restriction can be imposed on the right to free speech either by the Government or by the Election Commission which falls outside the purview of any of the above circumstances. Three possible violations or potential violations of the right to free speech have come to public notice. The Prime Minister and the Contrarian View

The first is an order dated 30/10/2013 issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The order states

that the Prime Minister is the leader of the country and not of a political party. When the Prime Minister speaks on national occasions, putting him in 'artificial competition' with anyone is not appropriate. This leads to denigration of the status of the Prime Minister and would be contrary to ethical journalism.

The order further states that the Cable Network rules forbid anything which is not in good taste, decency, slanderous or detrimental to social/public and moral life of the country. Any channel which shows the Prime Minister in competition would be liable for adverse action under the Uplinking and Downlinking Regulations as also a penal action under section 20 of the Cable Network (Regulation) Act. This is an unconstitutional censorship order prompted by the Modi-phobia.

The effect of this order is that on days the Prime Minister addresses the nation, no other speech should be telecast. The Chief Ministers of the States must be boycotted. Any comment of an Opposition leader should be censored. If this principle is accepted it may even extend to a Finance Minister's Budget speech or a Defence Minister's comment on the security of India.

Censorship has no place in democracy. Censorship cannot be enforced directly or indirectly. Comment and criticism is a way of life. Even judgements of the highest court can be criticized. All individuals in public life must be subjected to scrutiny. We must be criticized when we go wrong. Criticism is a part of public accountability. Criticism which does not offend any of the

The Chief Ministers of the States must be boycotted. Any comment of an Opposition leader should be censored. If this principle is accepted it may even extend to a Finance Minister's Budget speech or a Defence Minister's comment on the security of India. Censorship has no place in democracy. Censorship cannot be enforced directly or indirectly. Comment and criticism is a way of life. Even judgements of the highest court can be criticized.

Article 19(2) restrictions can never be restricted. No action under the Cable law can be taken for legitimate exercise of the free speech right. The restrictions under the Cable regulations must all be read in the context of Article 19(2). Otherwise such provisions of the Cable regulations may fall foul of Article 19(1)(a).

Airwaves are public property. They belong to the

people of India and not to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. The user of the airwaves is only regulated by the Government. The user can only be restricted on two grounds. Firstly, if airwaves are not available which is not presently the case. Secondly, if the user of the airwaves violates the constitutional guarantees for free

The President of the United States each year delivers a 'State of the Nation' address. After the address is completed the Party in Opposition through its representative delivers it's version of the 'State of the Nation.' This version is also globally telecast. Plurality of opinions is an inherent aspect of Indian democracy.

speech and uses the speech against the sovereignty and integrity of India or any of the Article 19(2) restrictions. Disagreement with the Indian Prime Minister is not a restriction mentioned in Article 19(2).

The President of the United States each year delivers a 'State of the Nation' address. After the address is completed the Party in Opposition through its representative delivers it's version of the 'State of the Nation.' This version is also globally telecast. Plurality of opinions is an inherent aspect of Indian democracy. If the Prime Minister speaks for the nation on a national day, so do the Chief

Ministers and so does the Opposition.
Restricting Advertising Time

Earlier the Government on the advice of the TRAI has restricted the maximum number of advertisements that can be telecast in an hour. Ostensibly this hurts the business of a news channel. But effectively it hurts the right of free speech. In the Constituent Assembly, Late Shri Ram Nath Goenka had the vision to state that a time will come where the right to free speech will be restricted not through censorship but by pinching the business pockets of the media organizations. Commercial advertising supports free speech. If newspapers and televisions have no advertisements, they would be unable to exist. A d v e r t i s e m e n t s supplement the right to free speech. Boredom of a

viewer caused by lengthy advertisements is not a permissible restriction under Article 19(2). Both in the United States and India, the Courts have taken a consistent view that a business of a media organization can not be delinked from the exercise of right of free speech. If the size of a newspaper is restricted or the number of advertisements are restricted, it has a direct impact on its survival. Even if the circulation of the newspaper or viewership of the channel is adversely affected by pinching its revenues, it hurts free speech. Excessive taxation on media organizations which impinges on survival has

been held to hurt free speech. Such restrictions in the name of sectoral regulations are clearly ultra virus of the Constitutional scheme.

Opinion Polls

Psephology in India is still maturing. There are opinion polls and opinion polls. Some have acquired credibility and some can easily be ignored. Some are cases of even "participatory psephology." Whatever may be the reliability or otherwise of these polls, can they be prohibited or banned? Polls like Gallup in the United States have acquired great credibility. Conducted on carefully chosen small samples, the polls normally prove correct. When the trend of opinion polls are adverse to the political parties, they rubbish them. They start demanding a ban. The loser demands a ban and the potential winner wants them to continue. A ban on such polls can not be considered based on who is demanding the ban. Clearly, polls are also a part of free speech. Restricting them is constitutionally neither permissible nor desirable. The Election Commission will be best advised to keep away from this controversy and allow the market place of democracy to accept or reject the findings of the opinion poll. If the polls can be legitimately banned in this country, the next step would be to ban political commentators from giving assessments favourable to some and adverse to some others. A potential loser in an election can not seek to alter the rules of Free Speech. ■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha)

BJP set to win four states, Congress to lose all five

From Our Correspondent

The die has been cast, with India's Election Commission (EC) announcing dates for crucial assembly polls in five states that will gauge the mood of the nation before the people announce their verdict in the next year's general election.

The people are set to reject Congress government across these election going states thereby sending a strong message to Congress led UPA government at the Centre.

The EC has scheduled voting in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Mizoram over nearly a month before the results are announced on 8 December. Voters in Chhattisgarh will turn out in two phases on 11 November and 19 November, Madhya Pradesh on 25 November, Rajasthan on 1 December, and Delhi and Mizoram on 4 December.

While the BJP is seeking a third consecutive term in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the Congress is fighting strong anti-incumbency in Rajasthan and Delhi. In Mizoram, where Congress president Sonia Gandhi has already launched the party's campaign, the party is facing tough competition from the Mizo National Front (MNF); the party won 32 of the 40 seats in the 2008 election.

MADHYA PRADESH

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in Madhya Pradesh is seeking a third term in the state where he is cashing in on a reputation for good governance and economic development. While Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will lead the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress has not announced its candidate for the chief ministerial post. Although a section of senior leaders is seriously considering projecting union power minister Jyotiraditya Scindia for the top post, no official announcement has been made as yet. The Madhya Pradesh BJP government has hogged national limelight for its welfare schemes and remarkable development records. Some of its achievements are as follows:

- In the ten years under BJP rule, Madhya Pradesh has grown rapidly. From 4% in 2003, it is in 2013 growing at 11.98%.
- Madhya Pradesh's GSDP reached 10.02% by the end of the 11th plan. Agriculture grew by 9.38% annually; specifically in the year 2011-2012, agriculture in Madhya Pradesh grew by 18%.
- In Madhya Pradesh industry sector grew at 11.25% and tertiary sector grew at 9.99%.



- In 2003, Madhya Pradesh had roads covering 44000 kms. Since 2003, about 90000 km roads have been constructed.

- Installed capacity for power generation was only 4600 MW in

2003. By 2013, this capacity had risen to 10023 MW. From 1.68 lakh transformers in 2003, there are in 2013, 4.68 lakh transformers.

- 12 districts provide 24 hours power to their villages.
- Per capita income in 2003 was at Rs 13,095. In 2013 it has risen to Rs 43,080.
- Consistently for the past 5 years, in Madhya Pradesh, the budget deficit has remained under 3% of GSDP.
- An agriculture cabinet specifically for taking speedy decisions on agriculture related issues. This is in addition to having a separate budget for agriculture.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest contribution of wheat to the national kitty surpassing even the Green Revolution states. E-procurement of wheat with direct cash transfers to farmers accounts.
- Farm loans at zero per cent interest have encouraged small and marginal farmers and fishermen for better yields.

- Wheat production in 2003 was 49.23 lakh tonnes and this in 2013 has touched 127.03 metric tonnes. Milk production in 2003 was 5.38 million tonnes which in 2013 has reached 8.15 million tonnes.
- Madhya Pradesh's Water, Housing and Logistics Policy plans to develop state as storage and logistics hub.
- The Narmada-Kshipra river-linking project will alter the development scenario in Malwa region helping it regain glorious past enriched water wealth. With this 17 lakh acre will get irrigated. Further the drinking water needs of 70 towns and 30000 villages will be taken care of.
- Under the Pancharneshwar Yojana Panchayats are empowered to take up village level infrastructure projects by converging resources. Un-tied funds are going to Gram panchayats.
- Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has reduced from 379 in 2003 to 269 in 2013.
- Anganwadi centres have increased from 47,433 in 2003 to 92,230 in 2013.
- Primary schools have increased from 56326 in 2003 to 83412 in 2013. Middle schools too have risen from 18800 in 2003 to 28400 in 2013. There are now 315 ITIs in 2013 while in 2003 there were only 110.
- Seven new medical colleges and a medical university at Jabalpur are established. In private sector alone six medical colleges, 13 dental colleges, 347 nursing colleges and 217 paramedical institutions are set up.
- Ladli Laxmi Yojana for

educational empowerment of Women covered 13 lakh beneficiaries.

- For the safety and security of women 50 helplines in 27 districts are established. Nine police stations exclusive to help women are established. In Rani Durgawati Battalion 30% posts of sub-inspectors posts are reserved for women.
- Special Courts Act 2011 ensures quick disposal of corruption related cases involving public servants. Bhopal, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Indore have eight special courts – two in every district.
- 15228 joint forest management committees protecting 66876 sqkms of forest area.
- Special scheme for funding self-employment among backward class youth provides up to Rs 25 lakh for youth through banks. The state government shares five per cent interest as grant and 25 per cent as capital grant. Similar schemes exist for youth from general category too.
- Under 'Maa Tujhe Pranam Yojana' youth are taken on visits to the borders.

It was as a result of these welfare measures that the face of Madhya Pradesh has changed and the response of the people could be gauged from the massive crowds gathering in Janashirwad Yatra of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. All the opinion polls so far have predicted massive victory of BJP in Madhya Pradesh with increased strength.

CHHATTISGARH

In neighbouring Chhattisgarh, the Congress faces an internal crisis after the killing of 27 Congressmen, including



leader of opposition Mahendra Karma, state unit president Nand Kumar Patel and senior leader V.C. Shukla by Maoist insurgents in May. The Raman Singh-led BJP government, which is seeking a third consecutive term, is looking to leverage the goodwill generated from the various welfare schemes launched by the government. The Chhattisgarh BJP government has a number of achievements to its credit, some of which are as follows:

- In Chhattisgarh, crop loan is reduced from 14% to 1%. For drip/sprinkler irrigation systems 75% assistance has been provided for small and marginal farmers. Crop insurance premium has been raised from 5% to 20%. Tube well grants to SC/ST farmers are raised from 25000 to 45000. Farmers are exempt from paying electricity meter and installation charges.
- Under the 11th Five Year Plan, in Chhattisgarh, the farm sector was targeted to grow by 1.7%. It actually grew by 6.89%.
- Farm procurement process is kept transparent in Chhattisgarh. Procurement is

through co-operative societies. Middlemen and traders are completely eliminated. On the spot payments through computer generated cheques cut out leakages. This way the government has achieved 100% paddy procurement of 71 lakh metric tonnes from 10 lakh farmers.

- Chhattisgarh produces 16% of the total steel, 18% of the total coal and 20% total cement produced in the country.
- Chhattisgarh has achieved zero power cut in both rural and urban areas. In the last ten years the per capita electricity consumption has gone up 5 times from 300 to 1557 units. Korba will be the energy capital of India.
- Chhattisgarh leads India in the completion of the projects under the PMGSY. 54645 kms of roads have been built in the last 8 years. An investment of Rs 4000 crores is made for building 3 rail corridors.
- In Chhattisgarh, under the Swalamban Yojana that ensures job-oriented programme for job readiness more than 500 women have benefitted. Free of cost training is provided for widows, divorcee and unmarried women in the age group of 35-40 years, so that they can self-employed.
- In the last ten years, per capita income in Chhattisgarh has risen from Rs 10000 to Rs 45000.
- Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country to guarantee right to food. The act covers 42 lakh families (90% of the state population). In the last five years no hunger deaths or farmer suicides are reported.
- Under the Chhattisgarh Food Security Act, there is provision for nutritional requirement for destitute and people affected by natural disasters. Thanks to the financial restructuring, average profit of FPS has jumped from Rs 700 to Rs 8000 per month.
- Chhattisgarh offers universal health scheme. The scheme will provide annual health insurance cover for 30,000 each to every BPL, APL and all unorganised workers.
- A new capital city spread across 20,000 acres with state of the art facilities is created at Naya Raipur.
- One of the fastest growing states in the country, in the last five years Chhattisgarh's

BJP to win in 4 key states : Surveys

The BJP is set to form state governments in all four key states going to polls in November-December, according to an opinion poll conducted for India Today by ORG. The poll suggests comfortable wins for the party in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and wafer-thin majorities in Delhi and Chhattisgarh.

In Delhi, the survey suggests that the saffron outfit will win 36 seats, thereby just managing to get a majority in the 70-member assembly, while Congress will see its tally nearly halved from 43 to 22. The newly-formed Aam Aadmi Party is projected to win eight seats and others four.

The ABP News-Dainik Bhaskar-Nielsen opinion poll has predicted that the BJP is likely to get 60 seats in the 90 member assembly, an improvement over its 2008 performance. A release by the ABP News stated that its findings are based on views of 8,000 respondents across the state. According to the poll findings, the BJP vote share is likely to go up from 40 to 44%, which might increase its tally from 49 seats in 2008 to 60 seats this time. The Congress, which had got 39 seats last time, is likely to slip to its all-time low of 27 seats this time, according to the poll.

According to the CNN-IBN poll findings, the BJP could win 61-71 seats in the 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly. The poll, conducted for CNN IBN-Week by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), also predicted a six percent increase in the BJP vote percentage, indicating that the popularity of chief minister Raman Singh has not waned. It indicated the Congress tally in the Naxal-violence affected state could drop to 16-24 seats from the existing 38.

In neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, which goes to the polls on November 25, the poll has predicted another victory for chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. It predicts that the BJP is likely to win between 148-160 seats in the 230-member assembly. The Congress is expected to get between 52-62 seats.

The BJP could be romping home to victory in the coming Rajasthan assembly polls, while the Congress looks set to suffer major losses, according to an opinion poll conducted by CNN-IBN. The poll, done by CSDS for CNN-IBN, suggested that the BJP would win anywhere between 115 and 125 seats in the 200-member assembly, giving it a comfortable majority though short of a two-thirds tally. If this prediction comes true, it would see the BJP gain 40-50 seats from what it won in 2008. ■

GSDP has grown at 10.5% annually.

- Focussing on free and compulsory education Chhattisgarh has built 37000 primary, 16000 middle, 2000 high school and 2000 higher secondary schools in the last 10 years.

The developmental schemes initiated by BJP government in Chhattisgarh has seen a sea change in the life of poor and tribal people of the state.

The single minded devotion to the cause of poor people by Raman Singh government has made people continuously reposing faith in his leadership. All the opinion polls so far have predicted a big win for BJP in the state.

RAJASTHAN



In Congress-ruled Rajasthan, where the party is facing a strong anti-incumbency wave, it is also fighting the growing popularity of Modi, who has already addressed campaign rallies in the state.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is facing the issues of rising prices, misgovernance and controversies involving his ministers may mar Congress prospects. Two senior ministers in the Gehlot cabinet have resigned after being dragged into sex scandals. Rajasthan has a strong tendency to vote out the incumbent, and over the past two decades, governments in the state have been alternately formed by the BJP and the Congress. ■

...Continued from page 15

Government. From Bhishma in the Mahabharata to Kautilya in the Arthashastra we have been taught how important it is for those in Government to be attuned to Public Opinion. A government that is in denial over where the Public Opinion really stands is doomed to be thrown out of power.

Opinion Polls in India have a mixed record. They get their predictions right sometimes and not so right some other times. It is up to us as political parties to determine what to do with the findings of an opinion poll.

If the poll is favourable we are free to become complacent or we can continue our work on the ground without becoming over confident. If they are not favourable to us, we are free to reject the numbers and remain in denial or we can choose to take corrective action where it merits.

To resort to extreme steps simply because the Opinion Polls do not tell us what we may want to hear is utterly puerile. My concern is not limited to this proposal to ban opinion polls. Tomorrow, the Congress may seek a ban on articles, editorials and blogs during election time on the very same grounds. If they lose an election they may then seek a ban on the Election Commission and if the Courts do not support them then they may say why not ban the courts! After all this a Party that resorted to imposing the Emergency in response to an inconvenient Court Verdict.

I am glad that my colleague Arun Jaitley ji has raised these issues in an article as well.

If you ask me, the solution is much simpler. Rather than cope with these authoritarian and subversion tactics of the Congress, it is better we reject the anti-democratic Congress not merely in an opinion poll but in the Polling Booth where it matters the most.

People are the best judge!

-Narendra Modi

JD(U) State President joins BJP

Janta Dal (United) President of Dadar Nagar Haveli Shri Fatehsinh Chauhan and other leaders of JD (U) joined BJP in the presence of BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. He said that the People of the country are very enthusiastic about Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Fatehsinh Chauhan along with Dr. Chattar Singh, Sri Hirabhai L Patel, and Shri Rakesh Singh took the membership of BJP. Shri Chauhan said on the occasion that all other parties appears dwarf before popularity of Bharatiya Janata party. After huge success of Hunkar Rally in Patna, BJP's popularity among people has increased manifold. ■



BJP takes lead over Congress in Delhi Assembly elections

The Delhi Legislative Assembly elections are around the corner. Almost, Both major political parties the BJP and the Congress have declared name of their party's candidates for 70 assembly seats. A new outfit known as Aam Adami Party(AAP) has come into existence. But its influence on people is negligible. BJP declared name of former Delhi Health & Education Minister Dr. Harshvardhan as its Chief Ministerial candidate. The ruling Congress party has already taken decision to contest 2013 assembly elections once again under the leadership of incumbent Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dixit at a time when the ruling Congress is facing 15 years of anti-incumbency. People voted for Congress consecutively in past three elections but unfortunately despite that youngsters are jobless, women are unsafe and people don't even have safe drinking water. The Main issues in the elections are sky rocketing price rise, corruption, safety of women, unemployment, drinkable water etc. The Opposition BJP is raising these issues vigorously.

The Congress-led UPA government is facing scams like Coalgate, 2G, CWG etc, the city government in Delhi too is not far behind. For Congress, the issue is the biggest challenge. The country has probably never



Dr. Harshvardhan

seen bigger scams in independent India than during Congress rule.

The biggest case to haunt the Delhi government is the multi-

crore Commonwealth Games scam. While the poor preparations for the Games brought a bad name to the country, the massive corruption unearthed in construction projects undertaken by the Delhi government brought flak for CM Dikshit and her Cabinet. In fact, the CM was personally supervising several projects in the final days of preparations so as to ensure timely completion. The Shunglu Committee has indicted Shiela Dixit in CWG scam. The BJP has accused the Delhi government of irregularities in the public distribution system, saying food



meant for the poor is not reaching the beneficiaries. The common public also appears to be fed up with the alleged corruption prevailing in various government offices in the city, where bribe is sought to get things done.

BJP is raising strongly the issue of rapidly increasing electricity bill along with power cut.

The incumbent Congress is

as the top issue in Delhi polls 2013. While some areas of the national capital get water supply 24 hours, there are some where residents have to wake up as early as 5 am to make full use of half-hour water supply. And then there are areas that rarely see taps running; they have to depend on water tankers sent by the Delhi Jal Board to meet their daily water requirements. The lack of dependable water supply

100 per kg, coupled with a steady surge in diesel and petrol prices is testing the common man's tolerance levels. What could be worrying Sheila Dikshit the most is the fact that rising onion prices were partly blamed for incumbent BJP's defeat in 1998 elections.

After December 16 gang rape, women safety has emerged as major problem for Delhites. Two out of three women in Delhi have suffered sexual harassment at least two to five times in the last year. Female respondents to a survey expressed a dismal lack of confidence in the police to curb harassment, with only 0.8% reporting such incidents to the authorities. Nearly 80% of women in Delhi fear for their safety in the city, says a new survey conducted by the Delhi government's Women and Child Development Department, NGO Jagori, and the international organisation Unifem. In spite of awakening incident of December 16, the cases of rapes and sexual assault have not come down and the crimes against women are on the rise.

And this negative sentiment could hurt the Delhi government badly. Delhi State and Union government both are being ruled by Congress. So Congress can't shift blame to Union Government. Pollution and cleanness have also become buzzwords in 2013 election. Delhi is counted one of the filthiest capital cities in the world.

The whole scenario points to the fact that the people will not forgive Congress for its misrule. BJP is set to win this assembly election. ■

After December 16 gang rape, women safety has emerged as major problem for Delhites. Two out of three women in Delhi have suffered sexual harassment at least two to five times in the last year. Female respondents to a survey expressed a dismal lack of confidence in the police to curb harassment, with only 0.8% reporting such incidents to the authorities. Nearly 80% of women in Delhi fear for their safety in the city, says a new survey conducted by the Delhi government's Women and Child Development Department, NGO Jagori, and the international organisation Unifem.

facing the blame for failing to force the private distribution companies to improve infrastructure. The crumbling infrastructure leads to erratic, and sometimes massive, power cuts during summers when the demand is at its peak. Further, both the BJP has accused the Delhi government of being in connivance with the power discoms in fixing higher tariffs by showing losses in the balance sheets of the supply firms. The opposition party allege the discoms are in fact earning massive profits. BJP has promised to reduce power tariffs anywhere between 20% to 30% if they come to power.

Drinking water has emerged

as one of the biggest causes of underground water exploitation in Delhi, where the use of the same has now been banned by courts.

Like the common man in every other part of the country, the average Delhiite is also reeling under the burden of massive price rise. Prices of all essential commodities have risen manifold over the past several years. With the Congress-led government being in power at the Centre for the last 10 years, the Sheila Dikshit government cannot pass on the buck to Union government for its faulty economic policies.

The current spike in onion prices, which have touched Rs

If Sardar Patel was not there, the nation would have witnessed many divisions : L K Advani

To associate Sardar Patel only with any party is great injustice : Narendra Modi



On the morning of 31st October 2013, which is Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Birth Anniversary, Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Statue of Unity. Former Deputy Prime Minister of India and Lok Sabha MP from Gandhinagar Shri LK Advaniji was present on the occasion. The Statue of Unity is a statue to commemorate the Iron Man of India and India's first Deputy PM Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Statue will be 182 metres and would be built on the banks of the Narmada River. Shri Narendra Modi described this occasion as historic and described the Statue of Unity as a grand effort to integrate our future with our glorious history.

"Our society needs to be conscious about its history and through this statue we want to give a perspective to the future. This will be both a Prerna Teeth (centre of inspiration) and a Pravasan Dham (tourism sport) for the people...this Statue is not because of the dam or because Sardar Patel belonged to Gujarat. The dream is much bigger. It will draw the world to India," Shri Modi affirmed.

Narendra Modi gave a clarion call for national unity in his speech and said India's specialty is the unity in diversity. He said:

"BhashaAnek, Bhav Ek. Rajya Anek, Rashtra Ek. PanthAnek, Lakshya Ek. BoliAnek, Svar Ek. Rang Anek,

Tiranga Ek. Samaj Anek, Bharat Ek. RivajAnek, Sanskar Ek. KaryaAnek, Sankalp Ek. Rah Anek, Manzil Ek. ChehreAnek, Muskaan Ek."

Paying rich tributes to Sardar Patel, he stated that after Chanakya, if there was a person who integrated the entire nation it was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Narendra Modi came down heavily on the attempts by certain parties and leaders to reduce our heroes on partisan lines and said that the nation is always greater than the party (Dal se bada Desh). In this regard Shri Modi pointed, "Were Maharana Pratap, Rajguru, Sukhdev BJP members? Will we only remember BJP members? To associate Sardar Patel with any

party would be great injustice. Yes, the party was an important part of his life but his greatness transcends party lines." Modi ji question whether an inspiring person like Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar who is considered as a God by the marginalized sections of society can be associated only with a party.

Shri Modi said that he agreed with the Prime Minister when the PM said that Sardar Patel was secular and that the nation needs the secularism of Sardar Patel not

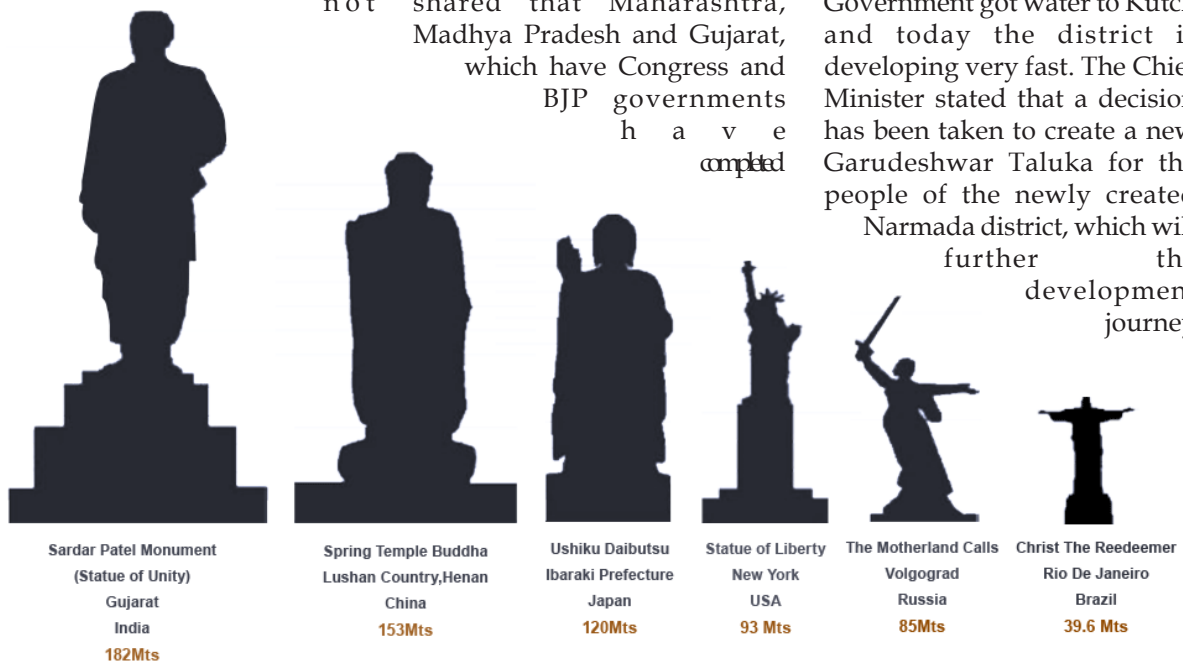
dil desh ke liye hona chahiye (party can be any but the heart must beat for the nation and every great it has produced).

He also pointed that earlier the advertisements in the newspapers ignored Sardar Patel but today there are more advertisements and this is due to the 'Gujarat effect.'

Shri Modi came down heavily on the PM and the Centre for the delay in installing gates in the Narmada Dam, which can potentially benefit a lot of people spread across four states. He shared that Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, which have Congress and BJP governments have completed

that Prime Minister realizes that there is no politics in the issue and he gives permission for installing the gates. Referring to the PM he avowed, "You can come for the inauguration, I will not even come but at least do it."

During his speech Narendra Modi talked about the importance of water and termed the Sardar Sarovar Dam as the brainchild of Sardar Patel. He talked about how Kutch used to be a district of negative growth where people wanted to move away from but the Gujarat Government got water to Kutch and today the district is developing very fast. The Chief Minister stated that a decision has been taken to create a new Garudeshwar Taluka for the people of the newly created Narmada district, which will further the development journey



The Statue of Unity is a statue to commemorate the Iron Man of India and India's first Deputy PM Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Statue will be 182 metres and would be built on the banks of the Narmada River. Shri Narendra Modi described this occasion as historic and described the Statue of Unity as a grand effort to integrate our future with our glorious history.

the secularism of votebank politics. Modi ji pointed that the secularism of Sardar Patel integrated and did not divide the nation. Shri Modi affirmed in this regard, "Dal koi bhi ho sakta hai,

the rehabilitation work and all that is needed is for the Centre to call a meeting and give permission for the gates but for obvious reasons that is not happening. He expressed hope

of the people.

He also called for emerging out of the colonial mindset and position India strongly at the world level. Giving examples, he said that it was the Vajpayee

Government that conducted nuclear tests that made the world take note of India. Similarly, it was the Vajpayee government that stopped the practice of presenting the budget at 5 in the evening because it was morning in Britain.

Shri Modi shared details of the initiative to gather iron implements from farmers across the nation and called for

with his august presence.

The foundation stone of the Statue of Unity was laid in the august presence of Shri LK Advani. Shri Advani released the book 'Hind Ke Sardar' and gave an inspiring speech on the occasion, where he paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for integrating the nation. Shri Advani affirmed that if Sardar Patel was not there, the nation would have witnessed many divisions. Elaborating further on Sardar Patel's efforts to integrate the princely states, Advani ji said that people talk about Junagadh, Kashmir and Hyderabad but there were several other states as well that Sardar Patel integrated successfully.

He shared that it was Sardar Patel who went to the Nizam of Hyderabad and told him that the atrocities of the Razakars will not be tolerated by

Independent India.

Shri Advani pointed out that what Sardar Patel did in a very short span of time, no other leader would have been able to do. He went on to say that India became Independent in 1947 and Sardar Patel died in 1950 and in this short period of time he managed some of the toughest situations very well and even integrated the nation. He pointed that the two books by VP Menon reveal the greatness of Sardar Patel.

Shri L K Advani expressed his joy to be in Gujarat and

recalled his old bond with the state that began from the time he first came here in 1945. He gave a fitting answer to those who believed colonial rule was good for India or those who felt that the rulers were decent (Sabhya) people. Shri Advani said that the British left India due to the struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel and even the several individuals who were not associated with the Congress Party, giving the example of the Naval uprising.

In his speech, Shri LK Advani ji congratulated Shri Narendra Modi for the effort of building the Statue of Unity, saying that the Sankalp done by Narendra Modi is like no other in the world. Advani ji shared that people go to see the Statue of Liberty but when they see the Statue of Unity they will be very proud. He expressed immense joy and pride on Shri Narendra Modi being declared as the PM candidate by the BJP.

Speaking on the occasion, Gujarat's Forest Minister Shri Ganpatsinh Vasava spoke about the contribution of Sardar Patel to the freedom struggle.

Revenue Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel paid tributes to Sardar Patel and said that the Statue of Unity was not merely a statue but a centre of inspiration for everyone. She lauded the efforts of Shri Modi in resolving issues relating to the Narmada Dam.

Apart from Advani ji and Shri Modi, the top Ministers of the Gujarat Government, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs, senior officials and others were present on the occasion in large numbers. ■

Shri Advani pointed out that what Sardar Patel did in a very short span of time, no other leader would have been able to do. He went on to say that India became Independent in 1947 and Sardar Patel died in 1950 and in this short period of time he managed some of the toughest situations very well and even integrated the nation. He pointed that the two books by VP Menon reveal the greatness of Sardar Patel.

participation in the Run for Unity Programme on 15th December 2013, which is Sardar Patel's Purnima Tithi.

Shri Modi thanked the people and the various individuals and organisations that contributed towards this initiative. He shared that the Statue of Unity has been a dream for many years and many people have added colour by giving their suggestions. Shri Modi also said that a lot of Manthan has gone into the building of this statue. He specially thanked Shri LK Advani for gracing the occasion

PM's visit to China yields no result

By Vikash Anand

Since 1954, Dr. Manmohan Singh became the first Prime Minister who visited China twice in a year. Dr. Singh in October was on a three-day official visit to Beijing to improve bilateral relations between India and China. The country had some expectation from the visit. But his tour did not bring any gain for India. Manmohan Singh's expenditure on foreign trips surpassed all former Prime Ministers of India. However this expenditure has yielded no result. The UPA foreign policy in toto has remained lackluster. There is no assertiveness in its foreign policy. His recent visit to China can also be counted in the same list. There was expectation that Manmohan Singh would raise the issue of stapled visa being attached to India's citizen's passports from Arunachal Pradesh visiting China. But that did not happen.

Distinguished fellow at Observer Research foundation Manoj Joshi reacting on Manmohan Singh's recent visit to China said, "Unlike the Vajpayee period, which saw the Chinese move on Sikkim and shift gears on border negotiations, the Manmohan era has known no significant breakthroughs". Manmohan Singh reckons in incremental trade engagement with China as an achievement. In reality, the Indo-China trade is skewed badly in favour of China. Bilateral trade between India and China has reached 67 billion

dollars with Indian imports touching 47 billion dollars. His leadership could not reduce this huge gap. Yet India did not succeed to force China to open up the market for IT services and pharmaceutical industry. In these areas, India has the upper hand and will be effective to reduce imbalance in Indo-China

Brahmaputra as reported earlier by the media.

The Brahmaputra originates in the Kailash range of the Himalayas, south of Rake Kanggyen Tso (Gun Kyud) lake in south-west Tibet. The river falls from an average altitude of 4000 metres, providing excellent potential of hydroelectricity



trade. Another major issue that did not happen was trans-border river agreement. No substantial talks took place on trans-border river agreement so as to resolve the ongoing controversy over damming Brahmaputra River (known as Tsangpo in China) by China. China is building, several dams on

generation.

The river after running 1790 kilometres leaves Tibetan plateau near Namche Barwa and flows down into the plains of India forming a great bend in Arunachal Pradesh called as Dihang. It is then joined by Teesta and Padma Rivers in Bangladesh, before falling into

Bay of Bengal. The great bend of the river Brahmaputra is very crucial in a sense that it is here, the river picks up huge amounts of water and momentum. This is where the three dams are being constructed just 550 kilometers away from Indian border near to the U bend area.

National Maritime Associate fellow Dr. Sahana Bose says "In constructing dams, the Chinese follows the principle of 'Prior Appropriation'. It means that when a nation has the source of the river within its territory, it has the absolute right to access the water resources for its domestic use without any external interference. The River Brahmaputra sets the perfect example for China." Once the ongoing construction of dams on the river is finished, the control on the water of Brahmaputra will be in the hands of China who can divert maximum discharge of the river water before it comes to India. India will be a loser heavily on three fronts. One, with 80 per cent of the river's catchment area in China, there will be a severe water crisis in India's Northeast. Two, the rich biodiversity of the Northeastern region will be almost completely wiped out. Three, diversion of water could lead to seasonal or permanent water supply problems for people in India and Bangladesh, who depend heavily on the Brahmaputra.

Manmohan Singh is patting on his back referring to Border Defence Cooperation Agreement(BDC) as another important achievement. Nothing is new in BDC. Similar agreement was signed in 1993, 1996, 2005 and 2012 for maintaining peace and tranquility. In spite of these, has China stopped intrusions? Not at all.

If we go through recent history of incursions by China's People Liberation Army, we get 250-300 intrusions by PLA inside Indian border annually. Expansionist China always comes up with fresh claim inside Indian Territory. BDCA, therefore, is nothing else but another deception by deceptive communist China.

Indecisive, corruptible UPA Government at Center has brought policy paralysis on all fronts. It has no strategy on how to counter China military intrusion. 20th October of this year marked the fifty-first anniversary of Chinese aggression on India. Unlike China, India has not developed infrastructure on its borderland yet. ■

Congress supported anti-nationals to malign patriot scientist : BJP

BJP on November 7, 2013 alleged that the IPS officer, RB Srikumar, who had falsely implicated top space scientist Nambi Narayanan in 1994 ISRO spying case later joined hands with other anti-national elements like Teesta Setalvad against BJP-led Gujarat Government. This officer was also involved in filing false charges against Modi's Government over post-Godhra riots cases.

While elucidating the validity of the claim, BJP spokesperson Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi said, "RB Srikumar used to target Gujarat along with Teesta Setalvad in the Godhra riots case. The IPS officer was involved in targeting Scientist Nambi Narayan. Scientist Nambi Narayan was targeted falsely in the 1994 ISRO spy scandal."

"There are plenty of cases pending against Teesta Setalvad. RB Srikumar had masterminded scam against Nambi Narayan but charges against him were dropped by UPA Government. Srikumar not only branded scientist Nambi Narayan, but also tortured him while he was in jail. Nambi Narayanan who was working on liquid fuel rocket technology, was falsely targeted. Srikumar not only branded scientist Nambi Narayan as traitor, but had ill-treated and physically tortured him in jail," she added.

Top ISRO scientist Narayanan was wrongly implicated with charges of leaking vital defense secrets to two alleged Maldivian intelligence officials, Mariam Rasheeda and Fauzia Hassan.

Nambi Narayanan along with another scientist D Sasikumaran were accused of handing over ISRO secrets to the Maldivian officials.

Narayanan was forced to languish behind bars for 50 days after being named in the case. He had later, after being cleared in the case, said that he was tortured for denying to wrongly name his seniors in the ISRO. Due to torture, he collapsed after which he was hospitalised.

The case against Narayanan was dismissed as false one in May 1996 after CBI probe into the matter. ■

Provide succour to the devastated families : Venkaiah Naidu

BJP to pressure Centre on relief to Phailin victims

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would take up the issues related to relief and restoration measures in the Phailin-hit districts of the State, particularly Ganjam district, in Parliament as well as with the Prime Minister, said Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, former national president of the party.

Shri Naidu along with several senior leaders of the party, including State president Shri K.V. Singhdeo, visited some of the cyclone-ravaged villages of Ganjam and Chatrapur blocks of Ganjam district on November 7.

Speaking to media, Shri Naidu said the devastation caused by the cyclonic storm and the floods that followed was immense. Both Central and State governments had to rise above politics to provide succour to the devastated families.

The BJP leader said it would not be possible for the State government to take up such mammoth task of relief, restoration and rehabilitation in the natural calamity-ravaged areas. "It is the duty of the Central government to come forward to

provide all possible assistance to the Odisha government. If needed the Centre should bring in changes in the existing norms for it," he added. The Central leadership of the BJP would discuss the devastation caused by natural calamities with the State body and would also review the memorandum of the State government to the Centre. After that the BJP leaders would raise the issue in Parliament and would also meet the Prime

committees should also discuss the complaints made by the general public regarding relief and restoration work.

He suggested the State government to provide free ration for three months to the Phailin-hit families. The BJP leader felt every cyclone devastated village in Ganjam district was now in need of safe drinking water and milk or milk powder for the children. He urged the administration to make these

arrangements soon. Shri Naidu wanted the government to replace damaged boats and nets of fishermen with new ones as financial compensation would not be sufficient for fishermen to buy new ones.

Shri Naidu was critical of the pace of power restoration work in Ganjam district.

The work was too tardy and most of the rural areas were still in darkness. Power restoration work should be taken up on war-footing.

Shri Singhdeo said the BJP was planning to ask the ruling party to convene a special session of the State Assembly to discuss the damages caused by the Phailin cyclone and floods. ■



Minister for provision of proper assistance to the State, he said.

Shri Naidu also asked the State government to form all-party committees at State, district and block level for monitoring relief and restoration work. The administration should provide all information regarding loss, relief and restoration work to the committees. Apart from it these

How To Find Out Your True Value

By Anup Taneja

Three things are regarded as priceless, as they come about due to the grace of the Supreme Being: human birth, longing for liberation and the protective care of an enlightened guru. Despite having been blessed by human birth, the one who does not make efforts to realise the Self, 'kills' himself by clinging to things unreal.

Once a disciple of Guru Nanakdev asked him: "What is the value of human birth?" Before answering this question, Nanak handed over a diamond to the disciple and asked him to have it evaluated in the market to find out its price.

As instructed, the disciple took the diamond to the market and began showing it to different shopkeepers. He first went to the fruit-seller, asking him, "What shall you give me in return for this?" "I will give you three apples in exchange for this diamond," said the fruit-seller. Next, he went to a tomato-seller and placed before him the same question. "I will give you five kilos of tomatoes in exchange for the diamond," said the tomato-seller. The disciple then went to a jeweller, requesting him to appraise the diamond. After examining the diamond, the jeweller offered to him Rs 20,000. The disciple then got the diamond evaluated by several

jewellers and each offered him a little more money, the maximum being Rs 50,000.

Finally, the disciple went to the most renowned and reputed jeweller in town and requested him to value its price. The jeweller placed the diamond on his palm and after examining it very closely he was struck with awe and kept gazing at it in



disbelief. The jeweller finally said: "O brother, don't ever think of selling this diamond. It is priceless." Bringing the diamond back to Nanakdev, the disciple narrated to him the entire experience. Nanak then remarked: "Hope you now understand the value of being born as a human being."

The human body, says Swami Vivekananda, is "the greatest body in the universe, and a human being is the greatest being. Even the devas, gods, will have to come down again and attain salvation through a human body."

In the Bhagavata Purana it is stated that human life is unattainable even to the gods and that such life is attained only after going through 84 lakh births as different species. Therefore, it would be foolish to fritter away the precious moments of one's life in pursuit of transitory objects of the world.

Life, youth, wealth, kinsfolk, spouse and children are all akin to the shadow of a fickle cloud. These are like a mirage that appears under the influence of the deluding power (maya) of the Lord which has no real existence. The glitter of the world is just like coating of nectar on the surface of a poisonous jar. Although the world seems bewitching, everything we see here is perishable.

Kabir sang, "You are like a traveller who comes and goes. You accumulate wealth and take pride in your riches. But when you leave, you will take nothing with you."

You came into this world with your fists clenched, but when you go your hands will be open."

Therefore, wake up from your slumber; adopt an attitude of dispassion; and make the best of this priceless human birth by delving deep into the innermost chambers of your heart through meditation and realising the eternal Self. ■

(Courtesy : The Times of India)