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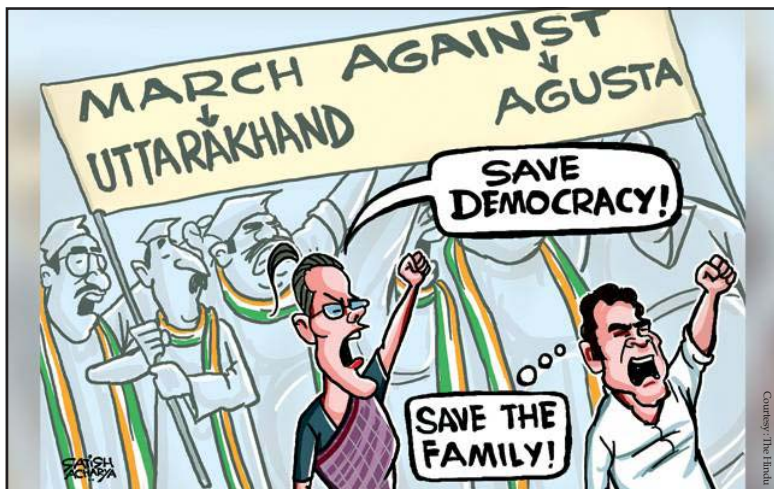
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If I cease to perform prescribed actions the inhabitants of all the worlds would be put into ruin and I would be cause of unvirtuous population and would destroy all these living entities. —(Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 24)

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“Usage of modern solid & liquid waste management practices in urban areas will also benefit the adjoining rural areas.”

-Narendra Modi

“The Congress & Communist both have only one goal to grab power anyhow. They have neither any ideology nor differences in them.”

-Amit Shah

Buddha Purnima : 21st May 2016

Buddha Purnima during Vaishakha month is celebrated as birth anniversary of Gautama Buddha. Gautama Buddha whose childhood name was Siddhartha Gautama was a spiritual teacher on whose teachings Buddhism was founded.

The time of Gautama Buddha's birth and death is uncertain. However, most historians date his lifetime between 563-483 B.C. Most people consider Lumbini, Nepal as the birth place of Gautama Buddha. Buddha died at the age of 80 at Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh.

For Buddhists, Bodh Gaya in Bihar is the most important pilgrimage site related to the life of Gautama Buddha. The other three important pilgrimage sites are Kushinagar, Lumbini, and Sarnath. It is believed that Gautama Buddha obtained enlightenment at Bodhagaya and he first taught the Dharma at Sarnath.

It is believed that Gautama Buddha got birth, obtained Enlightenment and passed away on the same day. Buddha Purnima is also known as Buddha Jayanti and Buddha's Birthday.

Among Hindus in North India Buddha is considered as the 9th incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Now people celebrate Buddha Purnima with pomp and show by paying homage to Gautama Buddha. However, tradition ascribes to the Buddha himself instruction on how to pay him homage. He advised everyone not to cry over the disintegration of the physical body but to regard his teachings, because only the Dhamma truth is eternal and not subject to the law of change.

He also stressed that the way to pay homage to him was not merely by offering flowers, incense, and lights, but by truly and sincerely striving to follow his teachings. ■





For Congress 'family' interest is more important than principle and ethics

Recent debate in parliament on the Augusta Westland scam revealed how uncomfortable Congress is getting day by day with the progress of investigation in various scams during its regime. While it has been established beyond doubt that the kickback were paid in the Augusta deal the Congress tried to paint it as an assault on its leadership. It went to the extent of organizing a march in the name of democracy in its attempt to don the mantle of 'victimhood'. Its real intention was exposed in the process when the posters of Robert Vadera were on display along with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. It is to be noted that while investigations against Vadera is moving forward, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are on bail in National Herald case. The Congress is trying to create pressure on the government in a bid to stall the investigations fearing that its top leadership might get caught in the net of investigating agencies. But the government has to respect the mandate of the people which has voted against the corruption and scams of Congress during UPA rule.

It is still fresh in the memory of the people that Congress and corruption has become synonymous during UPA rule. The situation was so that not a single day passed when a scam was not exposed in the country. There were countless scams of different proportion among which 2G scam, Adarsh society scam, Coal scam, CWG scam, Augusta Westland scam are some of the major scams. Apart from this the kind of policy paralysis that afflicted the UPA government and inaction on major scams along with deliberately stalling the formation of SIT on black money even in the face of Supreme Court orders showed its true colours.

The Congress not only lost credibility in the eyes of the people it also weakened the entire political establishments by making them to serve its political ends. Now that the investigating agencies are working in accordance with the rule book the Congress is afraid of getting further exposed and facing the law of the land. It is really shameful to see that while in Italy the Augusta scam was exposed and those paid bribes have been booked the government under UPA rule failed to take any serious step to nail the culprits.

There are evidences that the investigations were stalled under one pretext or the other and in the words of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar the 'invisible hand was guiding action or inaction' in probe cannot be denied. It remains a mystery as to why Congress could not act even when the scam was exposed in Italy and the courts in Italy proceeded against the culprits. How India has not even identified the people who were involved while Italy has already booked the culprits. India as a country needs to dispel the notion that it cannot act against high and mighty by taking stringent measures against those involved in the cases of corruption.

Congress has today become a party representing corruption and opportunistic politics in the country. While its Uttarakhand chief minister is seen openly involving in horse trading in a sting operation, its Himachal chief minister Veerbahdra Singh is facing probe and Kerala chief minister Omen Chandy is found involved in scam. It is fighting against Communists in Kerala while contesting elections in West Bengal in alliance with the Communists. It is to be noted that the Congress never hits street on any national issue but when its 'family' comes under the scanner the Congress is seen on the street in the name of democracy. It shows that it is now completely in the grip of dynasty politics and it considers serving the interests of 'family' more important than the politics based on principle and ethics. Such approach of the Congress leadership has made it a party of the past with no hope for future. ■

Congress has made corruption and the government synonymous to each other : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressed huge public rallies in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Paravoor in Kerala on 05 May 2016. He called the people of the state to rebuild a strong and developed Kerala under the ruling of BJP-led NDA government by rooting out the corrupt Congress-led UDF government from the state.

BJP president said, the 2016 Assembly elections is very important for the future of the people of Kerala and the state. He said, Congress-led UDF and Communist party's LDF government is ruling the state since for 50 years but both governments have neither done much for the development of Kerala nor to bring changes in the lives of the people of the state.

He said, the LDF and UDF, both have blocked the development of Kerala. Shri Shah said that the people of Kerala never vote to choose one from these two, they vote to oust one from power, the other comes in power itself.

He said the only goal of these two parties is to gain power anyhow, they have no ideology and there is no

difference between the two. He said, what is this if not a vote bank politics, what is this if it's not a cheating that LDF



- LDF and UDF fighting together in West Bengal but they fight against each other in Kerala. What is this if not a vote bank politics, what is this if it's not a cheating?
- If one has to find corruption, then find it in Kerala, air, earth or water - there is no such places left where there is no corruption
- If there is a BJP government in Kerala, there will be no discrimination or injustice with anybody in the state

and UDF are fighting together in West Bengal while just to show the people, they fight against each other in Kerala.

Attacking fiercely on the Congress-led UDF government in Kerala, the BJP President said that the Congress has made corruption and the government synonymous to each other. He said, Corruption is everywhere in Kerala. He said if one has to find corruption, then find it in Kerala, air, earth or water - there is no such places left where there is no corruption.

Taking a dig at the Congress, he said that the

half of the state government budget is lost to the scams in Kerala. He said that the UPA government at the Centre had done the series of scams. He said, Adarsh scam on land, submarine scam in water, 2G & Agusta-Westland scam in air and coal scam under the earth, Commonwealth scam in games, i.e. there is no such places left where there is no corruption. Lashing out at the then Defence Minister A. K. Antony during the UPA government on AgustaWestland kickbacks, he raised the question that at whose behest, the helicopter field trials conducted on alleged company's premise rather than in India, why the tender has been given to a non-original manufacturer, the people of the country want to know the truth.

Attacking strongly on the poor law and order in Kerala, the BJP President said that the law and order situation in the state under the Congress-led UDF government is worse. He said, a Dalit girl is raped and then brutally murdered in the state but the Kerala government remains inactive and emotionless, the CM keeps quiet, then who is responsible for the atrocities on Dalit women in the state?

Shri Shah said that we have no hidden agenda, we have just one agenda and that is to uproot the corrupt LDF and UDF governments from Kerala. He said, a confusion is being dispersed among the

people of Kerala that if the BJP comes in to the power in Kerala, then there will be violence in the state and communal harmony will be in danger. He said it is ridiculous.

He said, the BJP follow the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', we are ruling in 14 states and such an untoward incident never took place anywhere, however in contrast to it, we blessed with great affection from all section of society.

BJP President said the Communist Party is accusing us for violence, but the truth is that many BJP workers were killed brutally by the Left and both the LDF and UDF governments, both remained silent spectator. He called upon the workers that the sacrifice of our workers would not get wasted, a developed Kerala will be rebuild on the foundation of sacrifices made by workers and the BJP-led NDA will form the government.

The BJP President said, the Congress and the Communist both have done great discrimination and injustice with the people of Kerala due to their vote bank politics. He said the BJP do not believe in the politics of partisanship like Left.

He said, "I assure you that if there is a BJP government in Kerala, there will be no discrimination or injustice with anybody in the state, the BJP is committed to the all-round and equal development

of Kerala." The BJP President said that the Communists are contesting on the name of a 96-year old veteran Achuthanandan Ji but they will not make VS the CM of the state, instead, Mr. Vijayan will be the face of the Communist in Kerala.

Shri Amit Shah said that the BJP-led central government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji has worked ceaselessly for the betterment and social welfare of poor, oppressed and underprivileged, and laid many innovative projects for a new change which are showing fruitful results now whether it be Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana, Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Bank Yojana, Crop Insurance scheme, Make in India, Startup India or whether it be Stand Up India. Shri Shah said our main priority is to bring an improvement in the quality of life of the poor by serving through development.

Shri Shah called upon the party workers to gear up for a full majority BJP government in the state for a developed and strong Kerala where, there is no discrimination and injustice in the state. He appealed to the people of Kerala to give BJP an opportunity with majority to serve the state to rebuild violence and corruption free Kerala. ■

Under Ujjwala Scheme, free LPG connections to be provided to 5 crore BPL families

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Ballia. The scheme aims to provide cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years.

Noting that May 1st is observed as Labour Day, the Prime Minister



said that in this century, the aim of all workers across the world should be to unite the world.

Reiterating that the Union Government's primary focus

has been the welfare of the poor, the Prime Minister mentioned various steps for labour welfare taken by the Union Government over the last two years.

He mentioned the Shram Suvidha Portal, and the Labour Identity Number given to Shramiks. The Prime Minister recalled that Ballia is the land of the revolutionary Mangal Pandey, and said that while the development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh has suffered for decades, connectivity is now being strengthened in the region. He said the Union Government is allocating tremendous resources for the development of Uttar Pradesh. He mentioned the rapid progress that has been made in rural electrification. He said the fruits of development must reach the eastern part of India, for us to gain strength in the fight against poverty. The Prime Minister emphasized that schemes must be designed keeping in mind the welfare of the poor, and not merely to derive electoral benefit. He said that the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will benefit the poor, especially the women. ■

The scheme provides free LPG connections to the poor women of the nation. Under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, about 8,000 crore rupees has been reserved to provide fifty million LPG connections to the poor family units. Each of the beneficiary will receive monetary support of about 1,600 rupees to get a connection of cooking gas. Qualified family units will be discovered by consulting with the state governments as well as Union territories. This strategy will be carried out for the following 3 years continuously.

PM launches e-boats and e-rickshaws in Varanasi

After launching the LPG scheme in Ballia PM Shri Narendra Modi went to Varanasi to launch e-boats and e-rickshaws in his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi on May 1. "Schemes that strengthen the people are important, not schemes that strengthen vote banks," he said at Assi Ghat after the boat ride. The Prime Minister flew into Varanasi after launching a scheme in Ballia under which free LPG connections will be given to five crore poor women. While there, he had his visit should not be politically interpreted - indicating a speculation made with an eye at the 2017 assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh. He said the Centre had plans to allocate "tremendous resources" to develop Uttar Pradesh. "Fruits of development have to reach the eastern part of India and then we will gain strength in the fight against poverty," he said.



Aadhaar downloads cross 40 crore mark : UIDAI

Average downloads of electronic version of Aadhaar at 6 lakh per day

The number of people downloading Aadhaar on the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) website is on the rise with the number of average downloads per day of Aadhaar at 6 lakh. As on date, Aadhaar downloads have crossed 40 crore. The reasons for popularity of download of Aadhaar through website can be attributed to increased usage of Aadhaar as Proof of Identity and also as Proof of Address by service providers and the ease with which the residents can download Aadhaar from UIDAI website.

The total numbers of Aadhaar generated as on May 2, 2016 stand at 100.93 crore.

The data in the electronic version of Aadhaar is the same as printed on the Aadhaar letter. Hence, the Aadhaar downloaded from UIDAI's website has the same validity as Aadhaar card received by a resident through post and therefore, the downloaded Aadhaar is treated at par with a printed Aadhaar card received through post. The downloaded version of Aadhaar has also been notified as a valid proof of identity and address by the Reserve Bank of India, vide its

notification DBOD.AML.BC. No. 100 /14.01.001/2013-14.

"Anyone who has misplaced his/her Aadhaar or is yet to receive Aadhaar card through post, can easily download an Aadhaar after providing certain details online. In case, a person does not remember the details, the Aadhaar can be downloaded and printed from the nearest authorized Aadhaar Kendra for a nominal fee of Rs.10," said Dr. Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Director General & Mission Director, UIDAI.

Central and State Governments have linked various social sector schemes/projects to Aadhaar and have notified Aadhaar as a valid

Proof of Identity and Address. As Aadhaar is being increasingly used as a proof of identity for availing various services, wider use of downloaded version of Aadhaar is expected.

To download an Aadhaar online, the person should have registered his/her mobile number at the time of enrolment as the system will prompt the person to input a One Time Pin to validate himself/herself, while trying to download the Aadhaar. The electronic version can be downloaded either from <https://resident.uidai.net.in/home> or by clicking on the 'Aadhaar Services' link on <http://www.uidai.gov.in>. ■

Development of Ramayana, Buddhist and Sufi Circuits

For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has launched the Swadesh Darshan scheme - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits, in 2014-15. Under the scheme, thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development, namely North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

Under Buddhist Circuit theme, Ministry has sanctioned the project "Construction of Cultural Centre at Bodhgaya, Bihar" for Rs.33.17 crore in 2014-15. ■

Fast Tracking Expressways plan approved

Government of India approved a plan on May 5 for constructing 1000 km of Expressways under NHDP Phase-VI at a cost of Rs. 16,680cr on DBFOT basis. The main criteria for selection of Expressway corridors will be the traffic volume and it was approved that the highest density corridor i.e. Vododara-Mumbai Corridor (400 km) was given top priority and considered for feasibility study. It was also decided that remaining 600 km will be selected out of the routes identified on the basis of traffic volume. The high density corridors approved under NHDP Phase-VI are (i) Vododara-Mumbai Corridor (400 km) in Gujarat and Maharashtra, (ii) Delhi-Meerut (66 km) on NH-58 in Delhi/UP, (iii) Bangalore-Chennai (334 km) on NH-4 in Karnataka/Tamil Nadu, (iv) Delhi-Jaipur (261 Km) on NH-8 in Delhi/Rajasthan, (v) Delhi-Chandigarh (249 km) on NH-1 and NH-22, (now changed to Delhi-Ludhiana-Amritsar-Katra Expressway) in Delhi/Punjab/J&K, (vi) Kolkata-Dhanbad (277 km) on NH-2 in West Bengal/Jharkhand and (vii) Delhi-Agra (200 km) on NH-2 in Delhi/UP.

Out of 66 Km length of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, 30.63 Km length has already been awarded in 2 packages and contract agreement is executed on 4.3.2016. Bid for one package of 19.284 Km length has been invited with Bid Due Date of 9.5.2016. Feasibility study of remaining length is under progress.

In addition to above, Government has approved to take up one more expressway namely Eastern Peripheral expressway for a length of 135 Km in 6 packages. The construction on Eastern Peripheral expressway has been started w.e.f 14.09.2015 (Appointed Date) with construction period of 30 months.

The progress of these Expressways is being monitored closely by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and NHA has been asked for the time bound construction of these expressways; State Governments are being involved during land acquisition process of these expressways.

Reforms initiated by Modi Govt. in Oil and Gas Exploration

The Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan informed the Rajya Sabha in a written that the Government takes various policy and administrative initiatives from time to time to facilitate hydrocarbon exploration in the country. Some of the policy decisions taken by the Government in recent years to enhance exploration and production activities are as under:

- Government has approved Hydrocarbon and Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and same has been notified on 30th March 2016. This policy provides for a uniform licensing system to explore and produce all hydrocarbons such as oil, gas, coal bed methane, shale oil/gas, etc. under a single licensing framework Policy also provides many incentives such as reduced royalty rates for offshore blocks, marketing & pricing freedom and easy to administer revenue sharing model.
- Marketing and Pricing freedom for new gas production from Deepwater, Ultra Deepwater and High Pressure-High Temperature areas subject to certain conditions.
- Discovered Small Fields Policy- 67 oil & gas fields which have been held by ONGC and OIL for many years, but have not been exploited, has been approved for bidding under this policy.
- Policy for grant of extension to the Production Sharing Contracts of 28 Small and medium sized discovered blocks.
- Policy Framework for relaxation, extensions and clarifications at the development and production stage under PSC regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries: Government approved this policy on 10.11.2014, and the same is being implemented. Under this policy, about 40 pending cases have been resolved.
- New Domestic Natural Gas price Guidelines, 2014: Under these guidelines, gas price has been linked to the market/ important hub prices. ■

Integral Humanism Revisited

✍ P. Parameswaran

Integral humanism is not a quick-fix solution for electoral success nor is it a convenient strategy for capturing power. It is not even a political philosophy devised to promote and support any political party. It is a comprehensive world-view which originated in India as a result of the profound insight of generations of wise men who are known as the 'Rishis'. It covers every spectrum of human life and its foundations are eternally sound and always relevant. It is from that rich philosophy that the great Indian culture evolved. Any truly nationalist movement can benefit from this all embracing philosophy. It is inclusive of spiritual as well as material progress of mankind.

The current global paradigm which is basically Western (American) is crumbling from within due to the weakness of its foundation and unsustainability. It is also being attacked by external forces. The world is desperately in quest of a different paradigm which is both sustainable and fair to all.

During the last quarter of the previous century there were discussions about a "Third Alternative". Shri. Dathopanth Tengdiji, a profound thinker, wrote a book "The Third Way". That was the time when there were two major paradigms claiming leadership of the world- the Capitalist and the Communist. Both were Western in origin though based on conflicting ideologies. But, the Communist paradigm collapsed in its own citadels, leaving capitalism triumphant and USA, its citadel claimed

monopoly for reshaping a new world order showcasing itself as the only successful paradigm for the whole humanity. But, the celebration did not last long. The recent collapse of American Economy, bursting like a balloon played havoc, not only within America but also among the countries of the world, which had integrated with the American economy in different degrees. Fidel Castro, the architect of a distinct paradigm of development, has now candidly admitted that the Cuban model is a total failure. Countries of Europe - the erstwhile imperial masters, colonizing large parts of Asia and Africa, have miserably fallen behind.

World is in need of a new paradigm considering the chaotic conditions engulfing the globe. What we need is not an alternative paradigm, but a "True Paradigm" based on a globally relevant view

and vision of life. Any paradigm presupposes a vision of Reality which inspires to reconstruct a world order. Vision depends upon the level of consciousness in which the visionary functions. The present chaotic, conflictual, exploitative, threatening scenario is a true reflection of the level of consciousness at which the leadership of the world operates. They cannot do better. All the machineries, all sophisticated instrumentations, all the economic and political apparatus, and all the cultural and civilizational structures, they have introduced are all the products of this consciousness. To have an alternative paradigm it is of utmost importance that the level of consciousness on which their conceptual framework functions must undergo corresponding changes.

The Western conceptual

frame work, whether capitalist or communist, is basically materialistic. The changes they want to bring about are at the material level by re-arranging the resources, both human and natural, in such a way that an 'ideal' paradigm could be shaped. The concept of development and the concept of human welfare in all its aspects are measured in terms of material parameters. Needs, comforts and luxuries all indicate that varying degrees of material possessions. Man, for whose sake all development programmes are aimed at also, according to them, is a material being with the body as the main substratum. This is a highly partial and parochial view of Man. Enjoyment and a materially satisfying supply of goods and services is what they aim at. In the whole process they totally ignore that man is much more than an advanced animal. The same is true with the Western vision about the reality. They see a compartmentalized world with conflicting interests.

I

There is a general consensus across the world that humanity is facing a civilizational crisis. Many leading thinkers rank it as an existential crisis, which if not immediately averted can even spell doom for the human species. But this awareness is only at the rational or intellectual level. It has not

sufficiently seeped into the emotional dimension with the result that although there is enough of discussions and debate, they are not matched by adequate operational agenda. When it comes to that there is no unanimity of approach. Cancun conference is indicative of this. Decisions are postponed and follow up are not undertaken.

It is also accepted that the crisis is the outcome of the aggressive western civilisational paradigm, mainly spearheaded by the world's lone superpower, the USA. That much is conceded even in the European countries. The American model is basically and essentially materialistic and consumeristic. It has its roots in the biblical command by the Lord that the Nature is meant for exploitation by man for his comforts. The communist model has not succeeded in evolving a suitable solution for the ills of capitalism, the main reason being that it is equally materialistic. It is another version of Christianity turned upside down. It is only a reactionary fruit born out the root of capitalism.

Asian continent is on the rise. But Asia is not one united power nor has it one common civilization. There are two major contestants emerging as promising super powers, China and India. Among the two, China is ahead in many ways which compels world powers to rank China as the

immediate winner. China is in all likelihood to dominate the world scene in the near future. But that is not going to be for a long time. The world will not like to be under a dominating superpower especially when it is dictatorial and not democratic. The outcome is, in all probability to be in India's favour. It is only a matter of time. But meanwhile, India has to equip herself to play the role required and expected of her cultural and civilisational genius.

The really serious question that India has to face is what model of civilization and what fundamental values will India present before the world which is capable of providing a suitable alternative for the present crisis. It is not only a matter of theoretical or ideological paradigm but a practical and workable solution with a universal appeal. That means it should be sustainable and inclusive, tolerant and equitable. Such a model has to be evolved in all spheres of life so that the world could appreciate it and draw appropriate and useful parallels for their application also. This will be the main job for India for at least the coming generation. But the crucial question is whether the dominant policy makers is sufficiently or even vaguely aware of this mighty challenges we are facing?

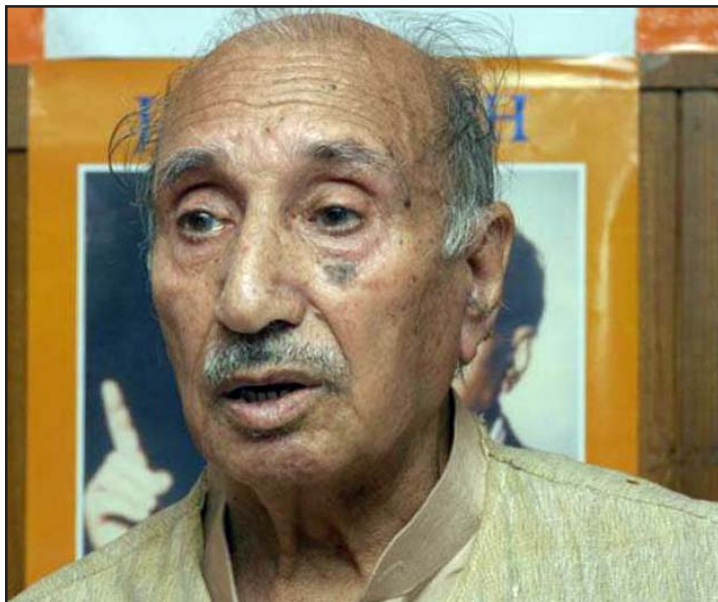
To continue...

(Courtesy : Nationalism, Good Governance and Development : Kamal Sandesh Special Issue)

Former president of Bharatiya Jansangh Balraj Madhok no more

Staunch nationalist and former president of Bharatiya Jansangh the earlier avatar of the present Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Prof Balraj Madhok breathed his last on 02 May, 2016 at the age of 96.

Shri Madhok was ill for the last few days and the end



came around 9.00 am at his residence in Central Delhi's New Rajendra Nagar.

Born on February 25, 1920, in Skardu (Baltistan) region of Kashmir (now in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan area), Shri Madhok had his education in Srinagar, the Prince of Wales College in Jammu and the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College (DAV College) in Lahore, graduating with B. A. Honours in History in 1940.

He came in contact with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) while he was studying at Lahore in 1938 and became a Pracharak in 1942.

He was sent to Jammu and Kashmir to start Sangh work there.

Prof. Balraj Madhok was very active in the contemporary Indian politics in the 1960s. He succeeded Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya as President of Bharatiya Jansangh following the murder of Pt. Upadhyaya. ■

PM condoles the passing away of Shri Balraj Madhok



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has condoled the passing away of Shri Balraj Madhok. PM said, "Balraj

Madhok ji's ideological commitment was strong and clarity of thought immense. He was selflessly devoted to the nation and society. Had the good fortune of interacting with Balraj Madhok ji on many occasions. His demise is saddening. Condolences to his family. RIP", the Prime Minister said.

BJP National President condoles the death of Shri Balraj Madhok

Paying his last respects to Late Balraj Madhok ji BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said I was



saddened by Balraj Madhok's demise. His entire life was committed to nation & ideology. My condolences to his family.

'Tamil Nadu has become a symbol of corruption instead of a place of entrepreneurship and industrialization'

BJP rally in Pattukottai, Tenkasi and Nagarcoil

From Our Correspondent



Shri Amit Shah addressed huge rallies in Pattukottai, Tenkasi and Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu on 04 May, 2016 and blamed the DMK, AIADMK and Congress for the plight of the Tamil Nadu and attacked them fiercely. He also urged the people of the state to form a BJP-led government in the state for the development of Tamil Nadu.

The BJP president said, the people of Tamil Nadu have to take a decision in this 2016 Assembly elections that whether they need of a development oriented BJP-led NDA government or the DMK/AIADMK government of corruption and scandal? He said that the DMK or the AIADMK - both parties have exploited the people of Tamil Nadu one-by-one and nurtured corruption while the people of the state have already rejected them outrightly.

He said that the DMK and AIADMK governments had done nothing for 50 years rather than corruption. He said that there is no difference between the DMK and AIADMK, both are corrupt and worked to keep people of the state bereft of development. He said, the problem of unemployment, drinking water

and electricity in Tamil Nadu is only due to corruption.

BJP President said, the country has pickup the path of development very first time after the formation of BJP-led NDA government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and there is a new ray of hope among the people of the state. He said, we have to initiate such starts in Tamil Nadu also and for this, we have to form a BJP-led NDA government by changing the alternative governments of the DMK and AIADMK.

Shri Shah said that Tamil Nadu has become a symbol of corruption instead of being place of entrepreneurship, hard work and industrialization. He said the DMK, AIADMK and Congress - all three parties are bellyful sunk in corruption.

He said, the 2G, Airtel-Maxis scams are connected directly to the DMK and the Congress, the face of Congress in Tamil Nadu, P. Chidambaram and his son Karthi Chidambaram is already charged in the disproportionate assets case and in many other corruption cases. He said, the Congress-led UPA government has done scam of more than

Rs.12 lakh crore in its 10 years of regime - scams like 2G scam, Commonwealth scam, Agusta-Westland scam, coal scam etc are just the glimpses of so many scams of UPA government.

He said that AIADMK Supremo is also involved in disproportionate assets case, liquor scam and many other scams. He said, we heard many types of scandals in the country but in Tamil Nadu, a scam of baby milk has been done by the ruling party leaders. Also



the DMK and AIADMK, both parties have involved in scams of sand & mines worth more than Rs.2000 crore. Taking a dig at Jayalalitha government of Tamil Nadu, Shri Shah said, when the AIADMK government form in the state for five years, the people do not ever know when the CM of the state will be changed.

The BJP President said that the people of the state have seen the ruling of two parties and two families, this 2016 Assembly elections is an opportunity to get the rid of it.

Shri Shah said there is not even a single allegation of corruption on BJP government under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in last two years. He said, we have laid the foundation of a corruption-free government in the country.

Shri Shah said Modi government is committed to the safety of fishermen of Tamil Nadu. Shri Shah said, during the two years of Modi government, not even a single Tamil fishermen has been shot by Sri Lankan Navy. He said that we ensured safe return of Tamil Nadu fishermen from Sri Lanka despite of

having death penalty in Sri Lanka and maintained the dignity of the state intact.

He said, during the flood in Tamil Nadu where the state government were sleeping, it was our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who himself stood for the proper organization of the relief efforts in Chennai and immediate financial assistance of Rs.2,000 crore was given to the state government to help affected people.

Accusing the Jayalalithaa government, Shri Shah said that despite spending the money of improving infrastructure and public facilities, Cheque signed by Amma were distributed, not only it, the Tamil Nadu CM is also distributing rice at low cost to the people of the state while the central government is providing rice at the low cost to the state.

He said, Tamil Nadu's AIADMK government remains frigid in implementing public welfare schemes of the central government like rural electrification and use of LED bulbs, Prime Minister Sadak Yojana, Crop Insurance scheme, Soil health card scheme, social security schemes and Mudra Yojana for the self-reliance of poor etc.

The BJP President said that the BJP government at the Centre has launched several schemes for the benefit of the health of poor. He said, 'UJJWALA' yojana has been initiated to give free gas cylinders to five crores poor families of the country by 2019 but these schemes cannot be reached to the common man in the ruling of the DMK and AIADMK governments in Tamil Nadu.

The BJP president said if we have to take the state to the top of the prosperity then we need to change the trend of alternative government of DMK and AIADMK in the state. He said, if NDA government is formed in the state, then most of the problems of Tamil Nadu will be resolved automatically. He appealed to the people of the state to make a BJP coalition government in the state for the development of Tamil Nadu. ■

Vajpayee's Legacy on Modi's Shoulders

By Balbir Punj

After Narasimha Rao liberalised the economy, Vajpayee brought the first generation of market reforms. Now, it is Narendra Modi, another BJP Prime Minister, who is bringing in the second generation of reforms

While the media continues to focus on aberrations like the unfortunate death of Shaktimaan, the Uttarakhand Police horse, the big story of the Indian economy taking a U-turn, has been conveniently ignored. Meanwhile, Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan's remark that, in the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king, has underlined the reality that the Indian economy is recovering fast, and is robust in the midst of a global downturn.

However, behind this emerging success story is a tale that needs to be recalled. Some 25 years ago, when India faced virtual bankruptcy, the Congress Government at the Centre took a bold step to disband the Nehruvian model control-and-command economy and opt for a free-market structure.

Was the decision facilitated by the fact that a non-Gandhi family Congress leader was the Prime Minister of India at that time? This question notwithstanding, no one can fail to acknowledge that Prime Minister PV

Under the AB Vajpayee regime from 1998, the market economy transformed the face of India. The telecom revolution of the Vajpayee regime put a mobile phone in the hands of 300 million people. It also facilitated cheaper call rates and affordable mobile phones. Under this Government, the Indian state got out of businesses like hotels, enabling a surge not only in new constructions but also renewed old ones.

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Narasimha Rao and his non-political economist Finance Minister Manmohan Singh had the guts to take this decision, even as the Government was hanging by a thin thread of majority in Parliament.

There is no doubt that the switch from licence raj to a market economy did much good, not only to the Indian economy but also to the Government within a short span of time. In 1991, we had foreign exchange reserves just about enough to finance imports for a fortnight and a miniscule export earnings. In just a year of market economy, this rose to a three-month-reserve. India gained recognition at the global table and ended its reliance on aid from the International

Monetary Fund and others lenders.

The transformation of the Indian economy from being supply-determined to demand-driven was due to the adoption of a market economy. No more was there a waiting period for cars and scooters; the housing and road construction industries were drawing down rural unemployment; shortage in automobiles was eliminated. The automobile industry, which welcomed several foreign firms that set up factories and distribution agencies in India, become a big employer.

Under the AB Vajpayee regime from 1998, the market economy transformed the face of India. The telecom revolution of the Vajpayee regime put a mobile phone in the hands of 300 million people. It also facilitated cheaper call rates and affordable mobile phones. Under this Government, the Indian state got out of businesses like hotels, enabling a surge not only in new constructions but also renewed old ones.

A new programme of laying highways, expressways and rural roads also brought a large number of Indian and foreign construction firms into the limelight. Yet another employment creator was the low-cost private sector airline.

Now the middle-class traveler could afford air travel as competition between airlines brought down air ticket prices. The Vajpayee regime brought the 21st century to India.

Under the socialist miasma, for instance, India was promised indigenous small cars crawling over its roads. Middle-level cars like the SUVs were declared luxuries not suitable for socialist India. And even the small car was to be built in the public sector.

Awaiting the small car from the public sector, the production of medium cars like the Ambassador and Fiat was severely restricted to some 30,000 units a year. The result was just like the chaos that Mao's communism created in China – 10 to 15 yearlong waiting lists and quotas for a poor quality car. But even this poor quality car, with no new innovation, created a thriving black market with under-the-table sales as no other brand was available and quota cars could be obtained through influence by people who did not need it.

What happened to the small car finally is a reminder of the corruption and nepotism that characterised Congress regimes. In 1962, JRD Tata proposed to Jawaharlal Nehru that he will build a small car within reach of the Indian middle class. But the Prime Minister rejected the offer as the official policy was to build the car in

the public sector alone.

All this represents the built-in corruption, the false claims, and the one family dominance that was the hallmark of Nehruvian socialism. The Indian economy was then pejoratively referred to as being under the spell of the Hindu rate of growth of 2.5 to three per cent.

After the market economy was ushered in, the curse of a 2.5 per cent growth rate was lifted. By the time the BJP government under Vajpayee completed its term, the rate of growth had climbed to six per cent and then subsequently to eight plus per cent.

**NR Narayana Murthy who built up the iconic IT company Infosys reveals what it meant to be under the Nehruvian socialism while building up an IT services company. "I had to come to Delhi 18 times to get a permit to import the type of computer I needed to meet the needs of the contract for software I had obtained," he said in a newspaper interview. The export-import control choke was dismantled under the market economy and with the swing that the Vajpayee government gave the IT industry, India was earning over \$50 billion by 2007.**

In the first quarter century after the market economy was introduced, the first real thrust came from the BJP-led Vajpayee Government the telecom

reform, the disinvestment drive, the low fare competing airlines, the proliferating cable TV channels, the \$300 billion foreign exchange reserve, new jobs in the IT sector, oil refining, trade, telecom, tourism and travel, ATM banking, e-governance, the construction boom etc.

Now, it has once again fallen on to yet another BJP Government, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to further broadbase the market economy through a series of reforms such as the national market for agriculture products, the proposed GST, extensive e-governance, the Digital India framework, the Sagarmala port linkages, enervating the railways network with high speed trains, exclusive freight corridors that link major ports to the interiors, the revival of national highway-building, support to start-ups and entrepreneurs, the big push to manufacturing through the Make in India programme, the support to job creators rather than job seekers, the banking revolution, the indigenous weapons and military aircraft production with foreign participation, the energy solution with lower pollution, and so on. That the first and the second phase of the market thrust to the economy have both come from BJP-led Governments is a historic upturn for the country and a matter of pride for the party.■

*(The writer is a renowned columnist)*

# Invincible hand was guiding the actions or inactions by CBI and ED : Manohar Parrikar

**In the parliament issue of Augusta Westland scam was debated in which many members participated. We are publishing the synopsis of the speech of Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar for our esteemed readers :**

**T**ake strongest action against takers of money, whoever it may be. A litany of omissions and commissions at various stages of the decision-making process indicate malafide and corrupt actions and violations of accepted norms of procurement processes. On 5th August, 1999, the Air Force proposed the replacement of MI-8 VIP helicopters and a global RFP was issued to eleven vendors on 20th March, 2002. The Technical Evaluation Committee shortlisted three vendors viz., MI-172, EC-225 and EH-101. The flight evaluation of EH-101 could not be done as the helicopter was not certified for an altitude of 6,000 meters. The EH-101 helicopter was later renamed as AW101 of Agusta Westland. After flight evaluation, only EC-225 was found suitable for acquisition.

From 2005 onwards, a series of measures were taken by the then Government which resulted in eventual acquisition of AW helicopter. These steps received stringent criticism by the Comptroller and Auditor

General of India. The fact that there was corruption in the matter is brought out in extensive details in recent



judgements of Milan High Court. The country wants to know as to who instigated, who supported and who benefitted from the corruption. We cannot let this pass. The cabin height of 1.8 metres was made mandatory in the revised Service Quality Requirements. The acceptance of necessity for the procurement of 12 helicopters at Rs.793 crores was accorded by the Defence Acquisition Council on 3rd January, 2006. These changes in SQRs eliminated the EC-225 helicopter which had met the Operational Requirements earlier and allowed AW-101

helicopter to enter the fray. In this way, options remained limited to a few range of helicopters.

While the RFP was issued to M/s AgustaWestland, Italy, the response to RFP was received from M/s Agusta Westland International Ltd., UK, which was not the entity to whom RFP was issued. The bid of M/s Agusta Westland International Ltd., UK, should have been rejected outrightly as it was not the agency to whom the RFP was issued, instead, the relentless push in favour of AWIL continued. RFP has categorically stated that FET would be carried out in India on 'no cost no commitment' basis. This crucial aspect has been given a go-by by permitting trials in foreign lands. Even the trial was conducted on representative helicopters as at the time of FET, the AgustaWestland helicopter was in developmental stage. Neither S-92 nor AW-101 fully complied with SQR in the FET. However, AW-101 was recommended for induction

in spite of emerging as a single vendor by waiving off two parameters, while no such concession was granted to S-92. The warranty of 'three years/900 hours whichever is earlier' offered on the whole helicopter by M/s AWIL was accepted instead of RFP stipulation of 'three years/900 hours whichever is later'. The accepted principle in procurement is that deviations must be approved only under exceptional circumstances. Augusta Westland gave a yearwise breakup of work from 2011 to 2014 to be executed by IDS Infotech under this offset programme even though the work has been completed well before the conclusion of the contract in 2010.

Investigation in the matter so far revealed involvement of IDS InfoTech as a conduit for transfer of bribe money. The benchmark 111 cost for such helicopters was unreasonably high than the offered cost. It was six times the estimated total project cost which indicates that proper estimates was not prepared. Ministry of Finance had declined the proposal. CNC had provided no realistic basis for price negotiations. Final negotiated price was quite high compared to the estimated cost. Even the CAG Report also found deviations of norms in such a purchase. The matter about corruption started appearing in the media in Italy from February, 2012. The Government of

**After the present Government took over, CBI and Enforcement Directorate have been vigorously pursuing all aspects of the investigation including the arrests and/or extradition of three foreign nationals and the MoD had no option but to cancel the contract. If the then Government had acted in right earnest the entire advance payment could have been recovered.**

India, instead of taking action on the company, adopted a route of writing to the Ministry of External Affairs, to the Embassy etc. and no explanation was asked from the company and the operation of the said agreement continued. Even the deliveries of three helicopters were accepted in December, 2012. Only on receiving the reports of arrests of M/s. Finmeccanica Chief, the Ministry of Defence, on 12th February, 2013, asked the CBI to conduct an inquiry into the matter. The operation of the agreement was put on hold and payments stopped with issuance of the first Show Cause Notice on 15.02.2013. As per the advice of the AG, the contract was cancelled on 1.1.2014 and all the guarantees / bonds were invoked.

However, against an advance payment of Euro

250.32 million given to M/s AWIL, only an amount of Euro 199.62 million towards delivery of three helicopters, were recovered. In addition, the Government also suffered an estimated loss and damages of Euro 398.21 million. It is strange that the CBI which registered an FIR in the matter on 12th March, 2013, did not bother to forward a copy of the FIR to Enforcement Directorate for nine months. The Enforcement Directorate did not act on the FIR in July, 2014. It appears that invisible hand was guiding the actions or inactions by CBI and ED. After the present Government took over, CBI and Enforcement Directorate have been vigorously pursuing all aspects of the investigation including the arrests and/or extradition of three foreign nationals and the MoD had no option but to cancel the contract. If the then Government had acted in right earnest the entire advance payment could have been recovered. There is an agreement that the corrupt practices were involved in the procurement of the AugustaWestland helicopters. The Italian court judgement also unequivocally accepts that the deal involved corruption. Hence the main action required is to detect these corrupt practices. The CBI has already done a lot of investigation. I cannot divulge the details of investigation for obvious reasons. ■

# Agusta exposé puts fourth estate's credibility at stake

By Swapan Dasgupta

**T**here is a cynical suggestion that all Defence deals in India involve a measure of financial impropriety and that the recent revelations of bribery and corruption in the aborted AgustaWestland helicopter deal, while titillating in itself, indicates no real departure from an established pattern. There is undoubtedly some merit in this argument. In any case, since the 1980s, there is a growing belief that both individuals in high places — particularly in the military, bureaucracy and politics — use the large sums expended in Defence purchases to build themselves a tiny nest egg. Some of the illegal proceeds, it is also believed, find their way into the coffers of political parties.

The controversy over the purchase of artillery guns from the Swedish company Bofors was the first occasion when the paper trail establishing monetary inducements and kickbacks came into the public domain. The furore over the alleged Rs 64 crore payback had a significant political fallout and was an important factor in the defeat of Rajiv Gandhi in the 1989 general election.

Looking back, the Bofors controversy established the presence of middlemen who received commission for the purchases by the Indian

Government. It also established the role of politically connected arms agents and freelancers who received a cut. This in turn fuelled speculation that significant amounts of money was further channelled into the pockets of political leaders. Mercifully, however, the Bofors controversy did not tar the reputation of the military in the same way as an earlier purchase of submarines for the

establishment — whose names are the subject of furious speculation — tweaked the bidding process to favour one company and received financial rewards for this act of manipulation.

Compared to the Bofors deal, there was, however, a new entity that emerged in the scrutiny of the AgustaWestland papers so far available. The court records indicate that the manufacturer

**The AgustaWestland controversy that is now under the scanner in India following a string of convictions on bribery charges by an Italian court has, so far, prompted some initial conclusions. It has established that the helicopter manufacturer wasn't averse to paying out bribes. It has also indicated that key decision-makers in the military establishment may have been compromised. There are also hints that some leading lights in the political establishment — whose names are the subject of furious speculation — tweaked the bidding process to favour one company and received financial rewards for this act of manipulation.**

Indian Navy did.

The AgustaWestland controversy that is now under the scanner in India following a string of convictions on bribery charges by an Italian court has, so far, prompted some initial conclusions. It has established that the helicopter manufacturer wasn't averse to paying out bribes. It has also indicated that key decision-makers in the military establishment may have been compromised. There are also hints that some leading lights in the political

paid a middleman something in the region of Euro 6 million for "media management".

The sum set aside for managing the media or a handful of relevant journalists is very revealing. There was no hint of any media involvement in the Bofors scandal and, indeed, it was the media that played a significant role in unearthing documents that established a large part of the hanky-panky. Today there is the bizarre spectacle of the media being put in the dock for being

players in a sordid game involving manipulation and bribery.

Part of the reason lies in the changed environment. In the mid-1980s, the media had little or no role in the decision-making process. Its task was basically that of a chronicler and, infrequently, as an investigator. Today, thanks to its phenomenal multiplication and its staggering outreach, the media has become a part of the decision-making process. The media today has the potential and the ability to create a favourable environment or even a vitiated atmosphere that can make or break a big decision involving public money. Managing the media has consequently become an important facet of marketing.

It may well be argued that there is nothing irregular in companies promoting their products. To some, even a bout of generous hospitality – the odd lunches and dinners, not to mention the bottle of whisky on Diwali – is part of public relations. But there is a difference between advocacy – a term preferred by Western-funded NGOs who are good at getting their point of view across to the media – and lobbying. The question that the media must ask itself in view of the AgustaWestland revelations is whether some journalists used their privileged access to the Defence Ministry to influence decisions or even

suppress key information. Were they specially paid for their services? Did journalists misuse their professional status to solicit business for a particular company?

These are questions that can no longer be evaded, not least in the context of the 'paid news' controversy that has eroded the credibility of the Fourth Estate. So far the professional associations that claim to safeguard media interests have maintained a sullen silence on the AgustaWestland revelations, pretending that it is a non-issue. Such ostrich-like attitudes won't suffice any more. If there is evidence that

public relations agencies and individual journalists went beyond the call of duty and were engaged in influencing decisions relating to facets of national security, there has to be remedial action. The Government-approved Press card gives the media privileged access into Government offices. If this is being misused, it compromises the entire profession.

The response to the AgustaWestland revelations doesn't lie in governmental vigilance alone. The profession as a whole must engage in self-correction. ■

*(The writer is a member of Rajya Sabha and a renowned Columnist)*

## Indian Government makes agreement with Russia for setting up Kudankulam Units 5&6

An Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between Government of India and Government of Russian Federation was signed in December 2008 for setting up units 3 to 6 at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu in technical cooperation with Russian Federation. Discussions on the draft General Framework Agreement for setting up Units 5&6 (KKNPP 5&6) are currently in progress.

The project is planned to be set up on technical cooperation basis with shared scope of work. The Indian private industry would be involved in supply of equipment, execution of the works contracts, providing services in Indian scope of work and localisation of components.

The Kudankulam site was found to have an optimum potential for locating six units each of 1000 MW by the Site Selection Committee of the Government. The Government accorded 'in principle' approval for setting up of Units 5&6 at Kudankulam in October 2009, in addition to Units 1&2 then under construction and Units 3&4 which were accorded 'in principle' approval earlier. Regarding the cost of Units 5&6, discussions are in progress on the Techno-Commercial Offer submitted by the Russian side. The cost will emerge on conclusion of the discussions. ■

## Don't just change regimes in Kerala, think of future : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 8 May, 2016 asked the people of Kerala to think of their future and not just change regimes, as he continued his tirade against the ruling UDF and the opposition LDF saying both have failed to provide even drinking water to them in so many years.

Addressing his second election rally in Kuttanad, Shri Modi also accused the Congress and the CPI (M) of covering each other's corruption and said they would get to know that governments have to work for the people only when they are defeated. There was a loud applause from the crowd when the Prime Minister began his speech in Malayalam.

Shri Modi said, "Kerala is surrounded by water but still there is no drinking water here. India will next year complete 70 years of her freedom. Both Congress and Communists have ruled the state by turn (all these years) but they are not concerned about even providing

drinking water".

Asking the people whether those who have failed to provide even basic things like drinking water should be elected or not, he said "both the Congress and Communists are in sync when it comes to indulging in corruption."



"These people have decided to taste power for five years in rotation. This way, they decided not to look each other's sins and open their files (expose corruption)," he said. "You need to think if you just have to change the government or your future also," Shri Modi exhorted the crowd.

This was his second election rally in the Southern State, which is all set to go for polls on May 16, 2016.

'UDF, LDF doing adjustment politics'

Earlier in the day at a poll rally at Kasaragod, PM Shri Modi had taken a dig at the two main political combinations of Kerala, saying both were "insulting" the educated people of Kerala through their adjustment politics.

"A new model of politics has come up in Kerala. It is an adjustment politics, politics of compromise, politics of corruption and politics of contract to save each other," he said.

"It is a contract rule between UDF and LDF. For five years you rule and for another five years we will rule".

This is how the two Fronts have been returning to power in the State, Shri Modi said.

Embarking on his second leg of electioneering for the May 16, 2016 Kerala Assembly elections, Shri Narendra Modi took a swipe at the tie-up between the Congress and the CPI(M) in West Bengal and said both these parties were "insulting" the educated people of Kerala and they should understand the adjustment politics of the two

parties.

"Congress leaders in Kerala talk about the violence unleashed by CPI(M) cadres in the State, but when they go to West Bengal, they say only communists can save West Bengal", he said.

"I want to ask the educated people of the State if they would trust the parties who speak two languages in two places at one time", he asked.

**"If we have to secure Kerala's future, then corruption should be weeded out, politics of development instead of politics of violence should be embraced and the BJP should be given a chance", he said and recalled the contributions of Adi Sankara, Sri Narayana Guru, Chattambi Swamikal and Ayyankali towards the social, cultural and educational fields of the State.**

"This election is not about who will form the government in Kerala, but who will save Kerala and who will give jobs to Kerala's youths and secure their future," Shri Modi said.

Seeking votes for BJP-NDA candidates, he highlighted the various development and welfare schemes launched by NDA government in the last two years in office.

"Government in Delhi is working out steps to help arecanut and coconut farmers and we are aware of the crisis faced by them", he said.

The Prime Minister also mentioned about the benefits of Agriculture Crop Insurance and Mudra Yojana introduced by the NDA government.

"We have a dream. By 2022, when India celebrates its 75th anniversary of independence, we want to double the income of farmers in the country," he said amidst cheers from the huge crowd.

Attacking the CPI(M), Shri Modi said Kerala has been "destroyed by politics of violence" as he mentioned the murder of a BJP activist years ago at Thalassery in Kannur

district.

"One among those who killed him (the BJP worker) is now the Chief Ministerial candidate of CPI(M) in Kerala. Will Kerala's future be safe in the hands of these people?" he said.

"I want to tell the media in Delhi, in Kerala, which is known as God's Own Country, these innocent people have been killed and people of country were not aware of it," he said, adding that people who were sitting with "eyes closed" should be aware of the politics of violence in this part of the country.

At the meeting, the Prime Minister also introduced to the crowd a victim of alleged

CPI(M) violence, Sadananda Master, whose legs were cut off. "He did not make any mistake, his only mistake was attackers did not agree with the victim's ideology", he said.

Referring to the recent brutal rape and murder of a Dalit law student at Perumbavoor and evacuation of thousands of Indians including Malayali nurses from strife-torn areas abroad, the Prime Minister said the Centre always feels pain if something untoward incidents happens in Kerala.

The Prime Minister said when 102 persons had been killed a few years ago in a stampede at the Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala, "none came. No question of Prime Minister coming" at that time.

"But within hours of the Puttingal temple tragedy in Kollam recently, where 109 persons had lost their lives, the Prime Minister of the country was here within hours to take stock of the situation," he said.

"If we have to secure Kerala's future, then corruption should be weeded out, politics of development instead of politics of violence should be embraced and the BJP should be given a chance", he said and recalled the contributions of Adi Sankara, Sri Narayana Guru, Chattambi Swamikal and Ayyankali towards the social, cultural and educational fields of the State. ■

## BJP committed to all-round development of villages : Amit Shah

**B**JP president Shri Amit Shah addressed a rally of thousands of newly-elected representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions (PRI) at Gohana town of Sonapat district, Haryana on 23 April, 2016. The government sources said that

development.

Shri Shah said the message from today's Panchayati Raj Sammelan is loud and clear, "Development of villages and corruption-free governance in Haryana".

BJP President Shri Amit Shah said, "The Centre is

government had zero-tolerance approach to corruption.

He promised Haryana villages would be developed on the pattern of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and asked Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar to send out

delegations to the two states to assess the development process there.

While referring to recent Jat agitation, Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar cautioned people against those forces which were trying to divide them. He said: "We are united and would



PRI representatives from 6,907 villages participated in the "Haryana Swaran Jayanti Panchayat Sammelan".

Addressing the gathering Shri Shah praised people of Haryana for their hard work and promised that every help would be provided to them to develop their villages and state on the pattern of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. He asked the Chief Minister to send delegations to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for spot assessment of the

committed to double the income of the common man in villages by 2022. The Narendra Modi government has realized that the country can only be developed once villages are developed," at the function. For the first time, he said, the people had voted BJP to power in Haryana, hoping a responsive government.

Shri Shah said, "The people were fed up with the governments of two families in the state," adding the BJP

remain that way. He urged people to live with the spirit of Haryana Ek Haryanvi Ek".

The Chief Minister said that all villages in Haryana would be linked through the internet and each village would have its own website through which information about various development works would be made available to people. To begin with, broadband facility would be provided in 2,500 villages this year, he said.

*...Continued on page 30*

# Miracle Growth Will Return : The Modi government has been battling a flawed inheritance in its first two years

By Arvind Panagariya

**W**ith the second anniversary of the government round the corner, assessments of its performance will begin soon. Such assessments need to take into account the baseline at which this government began. Any progress must be judged against this baseline.

In May 2004, when the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government lost the election, it handed to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) an economy that had grown 8.1% during the preceding full year.

The UPA ruled till May 2014, returning to NDA an economy that had grown just 5% during its last full year (the new GDP series subsequently revised this growth rate to 6.9%).

Under UPA-I, which ruled from 2004 to 2009, GDP growth averaged 8.4%. While this was an impressive performance, there is no satisfactory answer to the question what UPA-I did to make it happen.

You can carefully scan Budget speeches and other relevant documents of UPA-I but, beyond continuation of trade liberalisation and trimming of the small-scale industries reservation list, you would find references to

few reforms to which this performance can be attributed.

Indeed, there exists a near-consensus among informed commentators that the economic reform process that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao (1991-96) had launched and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1998-2004) had accelerated experienced a sudden stop under UPA.

**In May 2004, when the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government lost the election, it handed to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) an economy that had grown 8.1% during the preceding full year.**

**The UPA ruled till May 2014, returning to NDA an economy that had grown just 5% during its last full year (the new GDP series subsequently revised this growth rate to 6.9%).**

Taking advantage of revenues that the higher growth had made available, UPA-I (rightly) expanded social expenditures but (wrongly) did little to sustain the high growth so essential to continuing to grow revenues at a fast pace.

To its credit, with rare exceptions, UPA-I did not introduce policies that would positively damage growth prospects of the economy. Even the infrastructure (especially road) projects that had been contracted out under NDA largely continued and were completed on schedule.

Therefore, the potential created by the Rao-Vajpayee reforms could actually translate into 8% plus growth.

That, however, changed under UPA-II, which ruled from 2009 to 2014. Denial of clearances to major projects on environmental or other grounds became endemic. A flurry of corruption charges against officers with reputation for unimpeachable integrity froze the top bureaucracy and hence the decision-making process. So deep was the freeze that a definite change of course under the present government has still not fully restored the confidence of the top officials.

Counterproductive legislations such as those on retrospective taxation and land acquisition greatly undermined investor confidence.

Lack of proper oversight resulted in public sector banks lending vast sums of money to fund poorly conceived projects. Alongside, poorly performing loans were

transpired: decline in the growth rate to 4-5%, inflation at 10%, current account deficit at 4-5% and a rupee that had depreciated 13% during the preceding three months. "It is widely agreed the country is in its worst economic bind since 1991," concluded the magazine.

Assertions by commentators that economic

Estimate for 2015-16 turns out to be 7.8%, a hair's breadth away from the magical 8% mark.

Foreign investors who had been fleeing India in 2013 have returned with foreign direct investment rising 24% in 2014-15 over that in 2013-14 and 40% during April-December 2015 over the corresponding period in 2014.

If certain sectors of the economy exhibit weakness, it is because they had been in crisis at inheritance and sector-specific adjustments typically take longer than those relating to the overall economy.

It may be recalled that the early reforms under the Rao government had stabilised the exchange rate, inflation and current account within two years and returned the aggregate growth rate to its pre-crisis levels. But a sharper break in the growth rate came only in 2003-04, after the economy had time to adjust more fully to the Rao-Vajpayee reforms. Indeed, a common refrain of many reform critics in the early 2000s was that the reforms had not led to a significant shift in the growth rate.

Keeping this experience in mind, make no mistake about what is to come. Much change in policy has taken place since May 2014 and the miracle-level annual growth of 8.3% that India saw from 2003-04 to 2011-12 is poised to return.■

*(The writer is CEO, NITI Ayog)*

**Under the present government, the consumer price inflation has been below 5%, wholesale price inflation negative and current account deficit in the 1-2% range. While the global economy is struggling, growth rate in India has steadily climbed up from 6.9% in 2013-14 to 7.2% in 2014-15 and 7.6% (Advance Estimate) in 2015-16. The fourth quarter Advance Estimate for 2015-16 turns out to be 7.8%, a hair's breadth away from the magical 8% mark. Foreign investors who had been fleeing India in 2013 have returned with foreign direct investment rising 24% in 2014-15 over that in 2013-14 and 40% during April-December 2015 over the corresponding period in 2014.**

routinely permitted to "restructure".

Budgetary expenditures were allowed to expand without regard to revenues, leading to large fiscal deficits.

The result was that an economy, which had seemed unstoppable and had grown at the average rate of 8.1% during the first three years of UPA-II rule, descended into what appeared to be a crisis. An Economist story (August 24, 2013) gave a chilling account of what had

conditions today are no different from when the UPA-II departed bear little resemblance to the reality. Under the present government, the consumer price inflation has been below 5%, wholesale price inflation negative and current account deficit in the 1-2% range.

While the global economy is struggling, growth rate in India has steadily climbed up from 6.9% in 2013-14 to 7.2% in 2014-15 and 7.6% (Advance Estimate) in 2015-16. The fourth quarter Advance

# Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana : 2,508 cities selected under scheme for affordable housing

As many as 2,508 cities in 26 states have been selected under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' for providing affordable houses to the urban poor, the Lok Sabha was informed on May 4.

As on April 25, 2016, a total of 2,508 cities of 26 states have been identified as selected for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for all (Urban) Mission," Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said during Question Hour.

He said as per the scheme guidelines, the houses under the PMAY (U) mission should be designed and constructed to meet the requirement of structural safety against earthquakes, flood, cyclone, landslide etc. conforming to the National Building Code and other relevant Bureau of Indian Standards Codes.

The mission also includes a technology sub-mission to facilitate state technologies for adoption of layout designs and building plans suitable for various geo-climatic zones and to deploy disaster resistant and environment friendly technologies.

The scheme comes with an aim of constructing more than two crore houses across the nation within a span of seven years. The scheme, which was started in 2015,

would conclude in 2022.

The target beneficiaries of the scheme would be poor and people living under EWS and LIG categories in urban establishments of the country.

Replying another question, Naidu said it is the primary responsibility of the state governments to provide shelter for the urban homeless people.

In order to complement and supplement the efforts of the state and UTs, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is

implementing a scheme namely 'Shelter for Urban Homeless' as a component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission for providing permanent shelters with basic facilities to urban homeless.

As per the information received from the states and UTs, a total of 770 shelters have been sanctioned by states and UTs with a capacity of about 38,770 inmates. Out of this, 270 shelters with a total capacity of about 11,900 inmates are operational, he said. ■

## Smart Grid Projects

Government of India (GOI) has launched National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM), to plan and monitor implementation of policies and programmes related to Smart Grid activities in India. This was stated by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on 2 May, 2016.

The Minister further stated that an expenditure of Rs. 21.73 crore has been incurred for development of four Smart Grid pilot projects and one Smart City Pilot project during 2015-16. NSGM envisages implementation of Smart Grid projects in the country to make Indian Power infrastructure cost effective, responsive, reliable and self healing. Two smart grid projects for Amravati and Chandigarh have been approved under NSGM, at a cost of Rs 118.63 crore with 30% funding from GoI under NSGM. The Budgetary support for NSGM activities for the Financial Year 2016-17 is Rs.30 crore, the Minister added. ■

# Towards Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat...

*In the National Executive meeting held in New Delhi on 19-20 March 2016, General Secretary's report was presented by BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ramlal detailing the journey of the party in last three years. The report covered the period between 23 January 2013 to 24 January 2016. It is to be noted that Shri Rajnath Singh was elected as BJP National President on 23 January 2016 and after he became the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah became the National President on 09 July 2014. The period saw BJP getting massive victory in Lok Sabha elections under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. Apart from winning many state assembly elections BJP also become the largest political party in the world. It was a momentous journey for the party as it received huge support from the people and got the opportunity to play a historic role in shaping the future of India. We are publishing the full text of the report in a series for our esteemed readers:*



## Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan

- Many efforts were made for expansion and strengthening of the organisation and new dimensions provided to the training programme being run in traditional style.
- New records created in training programme for workers/office bearers at zonal level. The participation in the Maha Abhiyan this year has crossed 7,76,067 and the Abhiyan is still in progress. It is yet to be completed in many more states.
- The party literature has been made available in various regional languages for Prashikshan Maha Abhiyan

## Different Departments and Prakalps of the party reconstituted

For the effective conduct of party programmes at various levels different Departments and Prakalps were reconstituted at national, State and district levels and their activities expanded. In this direction different activities were reconstituted in 19 Departments and 10 Prakalps were formed.

## Departments

1. Good Governance, Central and State Government programs co-ordination
2. Policy Research
3. Media
4. Media Relations
5. Training
6. Political Feedback and Response
7. National programs and Meetings
8. Documentation and Library
9. Sahyog and Disaster relief Services
10. Presidential Office, Tours & Programs
11. Publicity Literature
12. Coordination of Trusts
13. Election Management
14. Election Commission
15. Legal Affairs
16. Party Journals and Publication
17. IT, Website and Social Media Management
18. Foreign Affairs
19. Life Time Membership Fund

## Rashtriya Prakalp

1. District Party office construction

committee

2. Office modernisation committee
3. Construction of Library
4. Construction of E-Library
5. Swachhata Abhiyan
6. Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao
7. Namami Gange
8. National Membership Drive
9. National Maha Sampark Abhiyan
10. National Training Programme

### **Organisational programme and public service work:**

Because of recurring elections most of the programmes have remained election centric. Yet, some prominent programmes are as under:-

**Jankalyan Parva:** In celebration of the completion of one year of NDA government led by Shri Narendra Modi on May 26, 2015 at 206 places in 35 States of the country 4,82,170 people participated in organizing press conferences, exhibitions and public meetings. At most places the programmes were very impressive. At Deendayal Dham, Mathura (UP) the public meeting addressed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proved to be unprecedented which was attended by more than two lakh people.

**Raksha Bandhan (Insurance Parva):** As a part of their zeal to promote women protection BJP karyakartas all over the country celebrated Raksha Bandhan in which Jandhan accounts of mothers and sisters were opened and the common man got insurance cover at just Rs. 12 and Rs. 330.

**31 October, 2015:** In celebration of birth anniversary of Lahu Purush Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel programmes like National Unity Run, garlanding of Patel statues, symposiums, and seminars, were organised on the day.

**Public Contact Programme by MPs:** Each MP and minister stayed for as long as 30 hours in 2 parliamentary constituencies and organised public discussions to make the achievements of the Central government reach people in every nook and corner in the country.

**Jan Swabhiman Abhiyaan:** Programmes were organised at all State and district

headquarters on January 18, 19 and 20 over the incidents in JNU and Hyderabad Universities.

**Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan:** For 10 days Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan was organised in all the States of the country. A special programme was also launched to end the curse of manual scavenging from every part of the country.

**Mudra Yojna:** So far loan amounting to Rs. 99,468 crore to 2.7 beneficiaries were advanced for promoting self-employment. Party launched a special programme to help small workers.

**International Yoga Day:** On June 15, 2015 the whole world was swept by the Yoga spirit. The main function was held at Rajpath in New Delhi in which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and top yoga gurus participated. 50,000 men and women took part in the event.

**Welfare Programmes for Poor:** A one-day training workshop on the Role of MPs in Effective Implementation of poverty alleviation programmes was organised on April 19, 2015 in which useful tips were given to MPs to extend this programme in their areas.

Special programme in organizationally and electorally weak States for greater success: A Central minister was specially put in charge to strengthen the party organisation to meet the challenges of elections in the States of Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamilnadu and Kerala.

**North-Eastern States:** A direct communication was established with the Karyakartas in every district in all the States in North-East from April 16 to 28, 2015 and suitable programmes for strengthening the party were framed.

**Sahyog:** To meet party Karyakartas concerning matters connected with the Central government a Union Minister is available from 3 to 5 PM every day in the Party headquarters at 11, Ashok Road, New Delhi.

**Good Governance (Sushasan) Day (December 25):** On this day programmes were organised in every district and mandal in all the 36 States of the country to publicise the achievements of the Modi government and in

States where BJP is in power.

**Agitational programmes:** Agitations and public meetings were organised against scandals, corruption and lawlessness in the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Assam. Hundreds of workers were injured and arrested.

**National Executive Meeting:** A meeting of the National Executive was held at Bangluru (Karnataka) on April 3 and 4, 2015 in which "Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao" programme was adopted and it was resolved to do away the curse of manual scavenging from all over the country. Workers all over the country have vigorously involved themselves to make these programmes a success. It is expected that the curse of manual scavenging will be eradicated by the end of 2016.

#### **At the Governance level:**

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the BJP-led NDA government is committed to the welfare of village, poor, army men and farmers. Our relations with our neighbouring and other countries have strengthened on humanitarian grounds. This government has continuously been on its toes to provide justice to the Dalits,

exploited, afflicted people and to accelerate the process of employment generation. The prominent public welfare schemes launched by the Central government during the last 20 months are as under:-

- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna
- Pradhan Mantri Jan-dhan Yojna
- Start-Up, Stand-Up India
- PM Kaushal Vikash Yojna
- Make in India
- Digital India
- Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao
- Namami Gange Abhiyan
- JAM - Jandhan-Aadhaar-Mobile
- UDAY - Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojna
- Kisan Crop Insurance Scheme
- Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna
- Issue of Agriculture Soil Health Card
- Launch of Shramev Jayte Yojna for labour and grant of minimum pension of Rs. 1000
- Yog Divas (International Yoga Day on June 21)
- Sukanya Smridhi Khata Yojna
- Regular address by PM on radio (MAN KI BAAT)
- Announcement of establishment of 100 smart cities
- 'Per drop, more crop' scheme.

*To continue...*

#### ***...Continued from page 24***

Shri Khattar listed out schemes for villages. "The government has made a budgetary allocation of more than Rs 88,000 crore for rural development this year. It is 28 per cent more than last year," he said.

He further said that under the social audit system, 11-member committees will be formed in villages to monitor, plan and execute development works. "The target is to make every household free from kerosene by providing them with LPG connections," he said, adding every family in villages would have concrete houses by 2022. Union Rural Development Minister Shri Birender Singh announced that around Rs 2 lakh crore under the rural development grant and like amount under the MENREGA would be provided to gram panchayats to give momentum to the Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan.

A booklet titled 'Swaran Jayanti Varsh 2016-17' was released during the programme. It highlighted the achievements of the state government. ■