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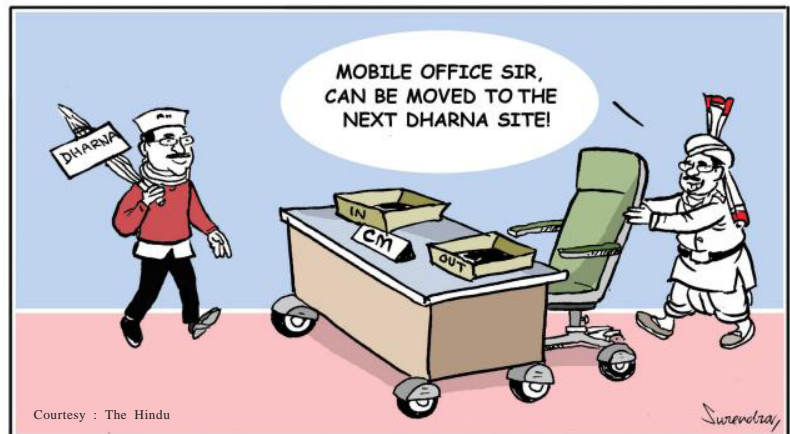
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All that is served in a well water is better served by a vast lake; similarly all the purpose in all Vedic scriptures are realized to he who knows the Ultimate Truth.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 46)

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“For the growth of the country, there should be development of the youth. The youth of India should first get jobs. But now the Bangladeshis are getting it. Where will the youth of our country go”

–Rajnath Singh

“If we have to make India a Vishwa Guru, then West Bengal must be a Rashtra Guru, only then it will happen”

–Narendra Modi

“As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh’s tenure comes to an end, it is time for him to introspect the damage he has done to the collegium system.”

–Arun Jaitley

Maha Shivratri : February 27, 2014

Mahashivratri is an auspicious and important festival of Hindus, especially for the devotees of Lord Shiva who celebrate the religious festival with great enthusiasm. The Mahashivratri festival also much popular as ‘Shivratri’ or ‘Great Night of Lord Shiva’, is observed every year in the Krishna Paksha of Maagh according to the Hindu calendar and largely celebrated in India, Nepal, Mauritius and other countries. Devotees on Mahashivratri throng to temples, holy shrines and 12 Jyotirlingas to offer prayers and please Lord Shiva.

According to Hindu tradition, Mahashivratri is Lord Shiva’s favourite day. Devotees on this day remain on fast or perform hour long spiritual meditation by following rituals to commemorate Mahashivratri and be blessed with grace. In the early morning, they visit temples to offer cold water, milk and bale leaves on the Lingam, a symbol for the worship of Lord Shiva. Wearing a garland made from rudraksha and applying turmeric vermilion or holy ash on forehead symbolizes a holy ritual on this religious festival. Holy mantras are also recited and special puja ceremonies are held throughout the night to celebrate Shivratri. Numerous interesting and intriguing religious stories are believed pertaining to the celebration to Mahashivratri. In a version, devotees believe that Shivratri is auspicious because it marks the marriage ceremony of Lord Shiva and Parvati.

However, many believe that Mahashivratri signifies the auspicious night when Lord Shiva performed the dance ‘Tandava’ that led to the creation, conservation and devastation of the universe. It is believed that the people who fast on this night and offer prayers to Lord Shiva bring good luck into their life. For women, Mahashivratri is an auspicious festival. They observe fast and offer prayers both to Lord Shiva and Parvati to shower their grace with a peaceful and blissful married life. ■





Third Front a non-starter!

Some political parties are again trying to forge an alliance in the name of 'Third Front'. Some political parties are in the habit of enacting the same drama in the name of non-BJP, non-Congress alternative. The nation is witnessing talks about formation of 'Third Front' only on the eve of elections and more particularly when they are left with no face to face the electorates. Some of the parties like Left and JDU are now left with no options as they could not get into alliance with Congress. Nitish Kumar who was hoping to enter into an alliance with Congress is finding himself in soup as Congress has preferred to ally with RJD-LJP in Bihar. Mulayam Singh and Mayawati are in habit of reaching an understanding with Congress once elections are over. So the game plan behind 'Third Front' is very much clear. It has been actually planned to mislead the nation by confusing the voters.

Can the game plan of 'Third Front' succeed? Can the people be fooled again? People have seen the formation of 'Third Front' government with Congress support between 1996 and 1998. It was a phase of political instability and directionless policies. There was a national crisis. The country had also seen how Congress was able to blackmail the National Front government. Even the prime minister was at the mercy of Congress. The country had to pay for this costly experiment. Now the nation is not ready to be misled and befooled. The country is already paying the price for electing Congress led UPA government which has pushed the country in the quagmire of corruption, loot, mehangai and policy paralysis.

Why is it that the talk of 'Third Front' starts just before the elections? Can a group of desperate political parties form a cohesive alliance? Can the appeal of any party in the proposed 'Third Front' government cut across regional lines? Can any political party in the Third Front may claim of getting enough seats to claim the leadership of the country? In that event a party having 20-30 odd Lok Sabha members can not think of becoming Prime Minister and even if it happens, the condition will be same as Madhu Koda of Jharkhand. Do the country want to see a Madhu Koda kind of situation at the centre? 'Third Front' can't be a reality in present day scenario. Different regional parties are at loggerheads against each other. Any formation having Left can't get the support of Mamta Bannerjee, BSP will not support a front with SP, DMK and AIADMK would never see eye to eye at each other and JDU will never get the support of RJD and LJP. In fact it is a futile attempt to deceive the nation. The 'Third Front' can only push the country to third grade status as it has neither vision nor policy or programme for a developed nation.

The people cannot be fooled again and again. People now know that any alliance without having common agenda, programme and policies cannot take the country forward. The Congress led UPA has also failed as an alliance. It has proved to be an alliance knit together by the common agenda of looting the country. Now another attempt is being made in which Congress and its allies can play role from backdoor. It is a huge conspiracy to cheat the voters and get into power by confusing and misleading them. But the people have already made their mind. The hope of the nation rests on Shri Narendra Modi and BJP. The nation now cannot afford to engage into futile experiments. 'Third Front' will prove to be a non-starter.

People are extending massive support to Shri Narendra Modi and BJP across the nation. Congress and other political parties are developing cold feet due to the growing support to BJP. They are taking different steps to hoodwink the nation. Every karyakarta will have to actively stand guard against such designs so that the verdict of the nation is not stolen away. People will be made aware of such designs so that the nation votes unitedly and categorcially. Nation now needs a clear cut mandate in favour of Shri Narendra Modi as even a minute mistake may cost heavily to the nation. Let all BJP karyakarta take resolve to continue to work tirelessly so that we are able to build a glorious India which is developed, prosperous, healthy and strong. ■

People of Bengal took a big decision in State Elections; now take a brave decision in 2014 : Narendra Modi

Addressing a massive Jana Chetana Sabha BNP PM Candidate and Gujarat CM Shri Narendra Modi said, "Amar sonar Bangla. Aami tomay bhalobashi" while drawing a warm welcome from the public in Kolkata, on 5th February.

Speaking to the massive gathering, Shri Modi said that the support shown by the massive crowd

development had happened even after this. "You bid farewell to those who ruined West Bengal for 35 years. That was a very good start. But I also want to ask has the Parivartan come? Can you feel the change," asked Shri Modi.

Urging the supporters to make Bengal take the lead, Shri Modi said, "I want you to do one thing- please make BJP win all Lok Sabha seats from



who had gathered for the rally, only proved that the people of India had made their decision. "Those sitting in Delhi and talking about the 3rd front should come here and see what way the wind is blowing," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi said that the 2014 elections were going to be very different, and could prove the calculations of political pundits as wrong. "Political Pundits measure things but if they cannot gauge the mood of the people then their calculations will not be correct".

Shri Narendra Modi applauded the people of West Bengal for their initiative to vote out the CPM, but also put across his concern of whether

West Bengal. People of West Bengal are revolutionary. You took a big decision in the State Elections, now take a brave decision in 2014."

He asked the people to vote for BJP and then compare the West Bengal state government and the BJP at the Centre, and see the results. "If you give us all the seats then I would really love to come here more often and serve you even more," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi spoke about the callous attitude of the present-day Central government, saying that they were not bothered about what the common man and woman wanted. "After so many years, is asking for development not your right," questioned

Shri Modi, while speaking about the sorry-state-of-affairs of the people in the Eastern part of India.

Stating that the land of West Bengal was blessed by both goddesses Lakshmi ji and Saraswati ji, Shri Modi highlighted how the state was duly capable of giving to the nation. He also questioned as to why the domains of agriculture and education, and aspects of unemployment and sanitation facilities were in a pitiable state, inspite

Giving an example of the Congress' injustice towards West Bengal, Shri Modi spoke about how President Pranab Mukherjee was not chosen for the post of the Prime Minister in the past, inspite of his seniority. "When Indira ji was killed, Rajiv Gandhi was in Kolkata. Democracy entails senior most Minister (Pranab ji) should have been PM. But no, that did not happen and Pranab Da was not taken in the Ministry

of the State's vast potential. "Development in the Eastern part of India cannot be slow. It must match the development in the other parts of the nation," said Shri Modi. He conveyed to the audience that the BJP believed in acknowledging a n d worshipping hard work. "Shram ko punji mana jaye. Shram ki pratishta ho ... our Mantra is

Shrameva Jayate," stated Shri Modi.

Taking on the prevailing mindset of only remembering the poor and the minority communities during elections, Shri Modi asked, "Want to ask these secular leaders of West Bengal, why is the application for Haj for West Bengal is proportionately so less than Gujarat?" while further adding, "When polls come they do 2 things-talk of the poor and sing songs of secularism. Those who shout about secularism have failed to see minorities as individuals, they see them as mere vote banks."

Mentioning the grave concern of rampant unemployment, Shri Modi said that, rather than

giving jobs to the local youth, the government was focusing on providing livelihood to the Bangladeshis. Taking objection to the influx of Bangladeshis, especially in the eastern states, Shri Modi, said, "Influx from Bangladesh is worrying people be it in Assam or here. People of India have the first right to resources and development," said Shri Modi.

Comparing the growth and development of the Western states in India and relating it to the non-existence of the Third Front in these states, Shri Modi attributed the lack of development in the eastern part to the presence of the Third Front. Stressing on how the leaders of the Third Front were bent on ruining the economy of India, Shri Modi said, "Third Front will make India Third Grade and we need to reject them forever."

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By speaking about the contribution made by Gurudev Tagore's relative in Gujarat's success story and Subhas Chandra Bose's contribution at the Haripura session, Shri Modi underscored the close bond shared between Gujarat and West Bengal. He went on to add that Swami Vivekananda's dream of a Jagat Guru Bharat could only be achieved when West Bengal would become the Rashtra guru. "If we have to make India a Vishwa Guru, then West Bengal must be a Rashtra Guru, only then it will happen," said Shri Modi.

Speaking about momentous contribution made by Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Shri Modi said, "It is natural to remember Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee when I come to West Bengal. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a visionary and sowed the seeds of a movement that has touched hearts of every Indian. He had said that the nation will not progress under Congress."

Putting forth his definition of secularism, Shri Modi said, "My definition of secularism is very clear. The sole religion of the Government is Nation First, the holy book is the Constitution."

Shri Narendra Modi also urged the people of

West Bengal to reject violence, hartals, corruption, industrial stagnation et al. He affirmed,

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Urging the crowd to Vote for BJP in 2014 elections, Shri Modi said, "Vote for Lotus, your gain is 3 fold- Mamata ji will work here, we will work in Delhi and Pranab Dada is from here too. Today I say, support us and we will give you Surajya."

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh recalled the rich contribution of the stalwarts from West Bengal, and spoke highly of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, while mentioning about his initiative to abolish the permit system that was mandatory for every North-eastern willing to visit Kashmir. Shri Rajnath Singh also spoke about various issues plaguing West Bengal, including rise in crime rate, pitiable condition of farmers, rampant corruption and the deepening unemployment scenario. He assured the people of a developed economy under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi.

Terming that the 2002 Godhra riots was an unfortunate incident, BJP president Rajnath Singh today said it is the credit of Gujurat Chief Minister and BJP prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi that no such incident has taken place in the state in the last 12 years. "Some divisive forces are active in Bengal to create disturbances in Bengal. Some people should go to Gujurat and see. Congress always talks about the riots in Gujurat. Yes, an unfortunate incident did happen there. A very unfortunate incident," Singh said while addressing a rally here. "But it is also the credit of Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi that no such incident or riots has ever taken place there in the last 12 years," he said with Modi sitting beside him.

Time and again, Congress has attacked Modi on the issue of Godhra riots in Gujarat in 2002. Shri Singh took a dig at the UPA's "flawed" policies in dealing with the influx of Bangladeshi refugees in Bengal. "For the growth of the country, there

should be development of the youth. The youth of India should first get jobs. But now the Bangladeshis are getting it. Where will the youth of our country go," said Shri Singh.

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Shahnawaz Hussain in his address spoke of how Bengal, by showing support for BJP, will also contribute towards bringing the change that the Nation wants. He said that West Bengal had seen many ruling parties including the one led by Mamta Banerjee, but now the people were keen on seeing

**N a r e n d r a
M o d i .
"Trinamool
Congress is
also an old
Congress, the
glass may
have changed
but the water
is the same,"
he said. He
added that
o n l y
N a r e n d r a
Modi could
bring Bengal
back on track,
a n d
highlighted
BJP's focus on
development
and doing
away with
corruption.**

**F o r m e r
Minister Shri
Tapan Sikdar
paid tributes
to Dr. Syama
P r a s a d**

Mookerjee and Shri Subhas Chandra Bose. Singer and music composer Shri Bappi Lahiri sang a song on the occasion, reflecting the love of the people for the BJP. "BJP, we all love you," said Shri Bappi Lahiri.

West Bengal BJP President Shri Rahul Sinha, BJP National General Secretary & Bengal *Prabhari* Shri Varun Gandhi and all senior leaders were also present on the occasion.



BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh recalled the rich contribution of the stalwarts from West Bengal, and spoke highly of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, while mentioning about his initiative to abolish the permit system that was mandatory for every North-eastern willing to visit Kashmir.

Vijay Shankhnad rally in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)

For 60 years you gave chance to *Shasaks*, now give *Sevak* 60 months

Addressing a colossal gathering in the Vijay Shankhnad rally in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) BJP PM candidate Shri Narendra Modi duly stressed upon the problems plaguing Uttar Pradesh, be it unemployment, poverty or the pitiable condition of farmers. Shri Modi highlighted the need for good governance, and emphasized on the need to take agriculture ahead, through a 3-pronged approach of traditional produce, animal husbandry and sowing seeds on the border of

as vote banks." He questioned about the rising poverty in the country, and attributed it to the Congress' motive of gaining seats by keeping the poor in poverty.

He spoke about the Congress' mentality, which did not approve the son of a Chaiwallah to walk with his head held high. Shri Modi also assured the Dalits and Tribals of the BJP's commitment towards their betterment.

Shri Modi criticized the Congress, SP and BSP



every field to generate increased revenue. Shri Modi also questioned the ineffective fertilizer industry and urged the farmers to experience the coordination in the sugarcane sector of Gujarat.

Belying the propaganda that BJP could not win among SC and ST communities, Shri Modi highlighted the spectacular victory of the BJP at the elections held in December, wherein the Congress had been badly defeated, especially in the seats of SC communities. Putting forth the Centre's apathy at treating the Dalits and marginalized, Shri Modi said, "Some people feel poor, Dalits, tribals, marginalised people are in their pockets. They treat them not as humans but

for the poor development. He also underscored the vast potential of Uttar Pradesh by saying, "One UP alone can remove India's poverty. It can transform India this is the strength of this land." Highlighting the state's heritage and cultural legacy, Shri Modi said that with focused efforts, UP could surge ahead within a decade.

He retaliated to Samajwadi Party's Chief Mulayam Singh Yadav's statement, and said that making Gujarat could not be achieved by everyone. "Netaji, Gujarat means giving 24/7 electricity, growing agriculture and safe living. You are right you cannot make Gujarat...iske liye chappan inch ka seena lagta hai," said Shri Modi.

Underscoring the BJP's focus areas, he said that they did not want a sad India or an India of bloodshed, but instead wanted to make India competent with the best of the world and surge ahead. He urged the audience to support the BJP, and said, "For 60 years you gave chance to Shasaks, now I request you to give a Sevak 60 months. I say give me 60 months and we will give you a life of peace and happiness."

Applauding the massive support witnessed at the rally, Shri Modi said that every rally in UP had broken the records set by the previous rallies, and this strong presence of supporters at the rallies showed the change in the direction of the wind. "Janta janardan ke darshan ishwar darshan ke barabar hote hain," said Shri Modi. He also applauded the support shown by the youth of UP at the recently held Run for Unity, and spoke about the ongoing Loha Sangraha movement, to collect

iron for the statue.

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh in his address spoke about how the Samajwadi party had broken their promises and shattered the dreams of the people of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Rajnath Singh also mentioned the UP government's preference for votebank politics, while ensuring the audience of implementing policies for the betterment of youth and farmers, if the BJP was voted to power.

Describing Shri Narendra Modi as the future Prime Minister of India, Gorakhpur Lok Sabha MP Shri Yogi Adityanath spoke about various issues plaguing Eastern Uttar Pradesh, like unemployment and lack of infrastructure, and said that the people of Uttar Pradesh had seen the development in Gujarat, and could vouch for the safety and good treatment meted to them in Gujarat. ■

Vijay Shankhnad rally in Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)

Congress a divisive party, it believes in divide & rule, it believes in votebank politics

BJP PM candidate Shri Narendra Modi addressed the historic Vijay Shankhnad rally on 02 February, in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Addressing a gathering of around 7 lakhs crowd including lakhs of supporters and karyakartas, Shri Modi expressed deep respect for Swami Dayanand Saraswati who had made Meerut his Karma Bhoomi, and said that the city entailed tremendous growth potential as was reflected in its emergence as one of the fast growing cities in India.

Speaking about the erratic electricity supply in the State, the worrying unemployment

scenario, the grave concern of safety and security of women, and the lack of infrastructure development in the State, Shri Modi said that this only reflected the dismal performance of the ruling Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. Terming the SP as Samajvirodhi Party and not Samajwadi Party,



Shri Modi assured of all round development under a BJP government, and said, "Things can be changed. There can be development. Youth can get jobs but that does not happen with promises only."

He retaliated to SP leader Mulayam Singh Yadav's statement of UP's budget for Lok Kalyan being more than Gujarat's entire budget by saying that inspite of a lesser budget (due to the difference in the size of the states) the people of Gujarat were prospering, while the people in UP were unhappy. He questioned where the money had gone, referring to the corruption under the SP regime in UP.

Condemning the SP's approach of looking for ways to enrich their pockets rather than focusing on development, Shri Modi strongly disapproved of the 'sepharish' required to get a government job. He spoke about how youth in Gujarat were employed through computerized selection, and merely on the basis of their qualification.

He urged the Opposition to compete with him and the BJP on the aspect of development, rather than competing on the basis of the number of rallies held.

Raising concern over the state-of-affairs of sugarcane farmers, Shri Modi spoke about the apathy of the State government towards the farmers of UP. He said, "Those who believe in Ram Manohar Lohia are not bothered about farmers of a state that gave us Chaudhary Charan Singh and Mahendra Singh Tikait." Shri Modi further went on to highlight the growth of cooperatives in Gujarat which along with focusing on tissue culture, genetic engineering and drip irrigation, had gone a long way in helping the sugar industry, and thereby empowering the farmers.

Shri Modi also went on to highlight the neglect experienced by the people of North-Eastern states. Shri Modi said, "People of Arunachal are fighting China. But these are the same people who greet each other by saying Jai Hind. Then, why is it that the students from North East cannot get houses easily? The need-of-the-hour is to make hostels for them. Children of North East are our children."

Speaking about the global image of India, reflected especially in the past few weeks, he said, "A few days ago women from Africa were ill-treated, a boy from Arunachal was killed. This does not augur well. Also, we need to see Delhi as

a Global City but in the past few days what is happening. Our heads hang in shame." Shri Modi also spoke highly of the academicians of Saraswati Mandir, who took care of the people of North East and Poorvanchal and were instrumental in educating the children from these regions.

Recalling the 1857 First War of Independence in Meerut, Shri Modi said that it was then that the connection of the 'Lotus' and 'Roti' was established, and now, after more than 150 years, in 2014, the Nation yet again needs the 'Lotus' to be able to ensure 'Roti' for the poor.

Upholding the BJP's focus on ensuring peace, unity, brotherhood and Sadbhavana, Shri Modi assured the people of UP, a riot-free Uttar Pradesh under the BJP rule. "We have to make UP riot free. We have to free this state from violence, killings," said Shri Modi.

BJP PM candidate gave a fitting reply to the Congress President's remarks that the BJP believes in 'Zehar Ki Kheti', saying that it is the Congress that has tasted power for the maximum time

and thus has also consumed the maximum poison. Speaking about the votebank politics followed by Congress, Shri Modi said, "We need to understand the Congress Party well. These days they do something - something is asked, but the answer is different. Congress is a divisive party. They believe in divide and rule, they believe in votebank politics, of making communities fight. But the time has come to end votebank politics and to end the practice of spreading poison. The need-of-the-hour is to embrace development politics."

Recalling the 1857 First War of Independence in Meerut, Shri Modi said that it was then that the connection of the 'Lotus' and 'Roti' was established, and now, after more than 150 years, in 2014, the Nation yet again needs the 'Lotus' to be able to ensure 'Roti' for the poor.

Shri Modi highlighted the BJP's focus on inclusive and development politics by saying that when the state of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh were created under Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee ji's rule, there was no communal tension, but the creation of Telangana had led to disruption of peace. "When states were created in 2000, everyone was celebrating. But see what those who spread poison did in Andhra," said Shri Modi.

Urging the people of Uttar Pradesh to Vote for India in 2014, Shri Modi underscored the need to come forward and take decisive steps to ensure a better future for India.

Addressing the rally, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted the prosperity experienced by the minority community in Gujarat under the leadership of Shri Modi and said that the BJP treated everyone as equal. He spoke about the innumerable communal riots that have happened during the Congress rule and the deepening corruption levels that have eroded our economy, and said that the Congress party must apologize for the sorry-state-of-affairs. Shri Singh spoke about the callous governance of the Samajwadi Party by addressing issues of law and

order and pitiable condition of farmers, and assured that the BJP, if brought to power, would take necessary steps for the welfare of the farmers.

Former UP CM Shri Kalyan Singh said that it would be a historic revolution in the country if Shri Modi became the Prime Minister of India. He also spoke about the need for a stable, strong, corruption free, development oriented and patriotic government, and assured the audience that BJP would give a corruption-free government, which would not only forbid prices from rising, but would also improve the law and order situation in the country.

Former Minister Satpal Malik spoke about how farmers and businessmen will prosper, and the youth will progress, under the rule of Shri Modi. Captain Abhimanyu said that the Nation is looking forward to a BJP government under Shri Narendra Modi, and added that Western UP and Haryana shared a close bond, and that the Yamuna did not divide these states but was rather integrating them.

Other dignitaries to attend the rally included Shri Surya Pratap Shashi (Former UP BJP President) and Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Shri Satyapal Singh. ■

Ummat Business Conclave 2014, Ahmedabad

Ensuring security, equality, prosperity and equity is important for nation's growth : Narendra Modi

The need to adapt a growth model that ensured equality for one and all, irrespective of their cast, creed or religion, formed the crux of BJP PM candidate and Gujarat CM Shri Narendra Modi's address at the Ummat Business Conclave 2014, held on 7th February, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Emphasizing on the 4 most important facets of Gujarat's growth and development story – Security, Equality, Prosperity and Equity – Shri Modi spoke about how adherence to these in all government and societal initiatives had ensured a safe and

secured living for the people of Gujarat, irrespective of their cast, creed, religion or status.

Speaking about the cotton industry of Gujarat, Shri Modi underscored the need for not just the export of cotton but also its value addition. He encouraged the producers to adapt the 5 F formula,



which involved farm, fibre, fabric, fashion and foreign. Highlighting the immense scope entailed in this segment, Shri Modi spoke of the need to ensure maximum production at minimum cost by ensuring that the entire process – beginning from production to the export of cotton – happens at the same place. Shri Modi urged the industrialists to come up with projects that will ensure the progress of the economy and prosperity of the poor, while ensuring them complete cooperation from the Government.

Speaking about how a fair approach, adopted in Gujarat, had gone a long way in contributing to the growth of all sections of the society, Shri

The example of the Jyotigram Yojana that ensured 24-hour electricity to all villages. This, he said, had enabled even the lower sections of the society to prosper, as the regular electric supply had ensured better production capacity and manufacturing ability. "24-hour electricity not only ensured comfortable living, but also enhanced the financial growth of the economy."

Narendra Modi gave the example of the Jyotigram Yojana that ensured 24-hour electricity to all villages. This, he said, had enabled even the lower sections of the society to prosper, as the regular electric supply had ensured better production capacity and manufacturing ability. "24-hour electricity not only ensured comfortable living, but also enhanced the financial growth of the economy," said Shri Modi.

Addressing the 3-day Conclave, Shri

Modi spoke about how most political parties were only looking for power, but that was not the case with the BJP. "The BJP wants the power, but they want it so as to empower the people," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi highlighted how a participative and fair approach, wherein the Government and the society working together, had contributed to the development of all sections of the society in Gujarat. Citing the example of Ismail Sheru, a Muslim farmer in Banaskantha, Shri Modi spoke about how his

adaptation of the government initiative of drip irrigation had earned him the record of producing the maximum potatoes per hectare, even while ensuring the best of quality.

Underscoring Gujarat's growth story in every domain, Shri Modi spoke of how the State, which was earlier attributed only as a trader state, had today succeeded in making its mark on the manufacturing front, by focusing on its entrepreneurial skills and through adaptation of technology. He emphasized on the need to focus on delivering Zero defect product and promote global marketing so as to ensure our position on the global platform and thereby aid the creation of Brand India.

Recalling his early days as a young child, Shri Modi spoke about how the members of the Chhipa Samaj in his village had worked relentlessly and delivered good quality in the printing of cloth, but could not go beyond a certain level of production and productivity due to lack of technology. Citing the current day scenario, he said that, with the right guidance and training, the same community had today prospered with the adept use of technology. "Why shouldn't there be change, why shouldn't we adapt modernity," stated Shri Modi.

Putting forth the need to make our kids job creators, instead of job seekers, Shri Modi spoke about the significance of skill development. He highlighted the need for a 'development partnership' – through the participation of society and government – which would enable the youth to better their skills and thereby contribute to personal, as also the country's growth. "The more we give importance to skill development, the more competent will be our youth," said Shri Modi. He also spoke of the need to map the talent of the Muslim youth through research, and provide them with due growth opportunities. "We need to map which are the areas where the Muslim youth have shown immense talent. They can give a lot and we will help them," said Shri Modi. He assured of the Government's support to develop the untapped skill, while adding that by providing the youth with the right guidance and proper environment, we could involve them in the Nation's growth process.

He said that with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', the nation and its people could achieve new heights of growth and development.■

India will only gain if the North East gains

BJP PM candidate and Gujarat CM Shri Narendra Modi addressed a huge crowd of supporters and Karyakartas at the 'BJP New Hope New Manipur' rally on 8 February, in Imphal, Manipur.

Echoing his concern for the North-Eastern part of India, Shri Modi said, "This region has been suffering due to lack of infrastructure. People have wrongly been made to feel that they are not part of mainstream." He went on to add how the Central government policies were not aligned to the development of this region, while highlighting the pro-people policies framed by the BJP government, for this region, under the leadership of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. Some of these remarkable initiatives included the formation of a separate Ministry for the North-east, special package for economic development of the North-east and the 20-point programme for the economic development of this region.

With a promise to take forward the processes started by Shri Vajpayee, Shri Modi said, "With lot of conviction and commitment to do something, we promise to bring this region at par with other regions of India." Shri Modi highlighted the tremendous potential of the North-Eastern region - which included the 7 sister states of Assam, Manipur, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Nagaland, and the state of Sikkim - by saying, "Yeh Bharat ke bhagya ko badalne ki ashta lakshmi hai."

In a clear rejection of the divisive forces that have spread havoc in the North East Shri Modi affirmed, "Because of lack of attention and lack of governance

the North East fell into the hands of divisive forces. Extremism and infiltration are big threats and Manipur has seen bad governance under the Congress. Drug trafficking is also a very big problem. Not only has the Congress failed to stop that but also their leaders are complicit." He further said, "Congress feels that the only solution to insurgency is fake encounters but they do not know such steps will further spoil the atmosphere."

He affirmed that all records of corruption have been broken by the Congress in the Centre and in Manipur. He cited the example of the Loktak Lake scam and affirmed that crores have been siphoned off in this scam. "Except corruption they do not want to do anything. When the BJP comes to power we will seek the accounts of every Rupee," stated Shri Modi. He questioned why the Prime Minister has failed to do anything for the North East despite being MP from here for over 20 years.

BJP PM candidate questioned the lackluster attitude of the State and the Centre towards issues of National Security and asked why border pillars with Myanmar are missing. He asked why were agreements with Myanmar signed

by the State CM without taking approval from Parliament.

Talking about the vast untapped potential of this region, in terms of its culture, demographics and nature's bounty, he said that the Indian culture was not complete without the Manipur dance, and that the state also contributes a lot in the domains of sports and national security. "So many boys and girls from Manipur are in the Army. This state gives colour and vibrancy to our life and adds to India's diversity," said Shri Modi, while adding that, "India will only gain if the North East gains."

Shri Modi also spoke about the need to develop the rich biodiversity of this region by giving an impetus to Plantation, Horticulture and Agro-based industries, while emphasizing on the need to harness the rich mineral resources. He further added how development of tourism and herbal exports, through ensuring value-addition, will give employment to the youth of this region and take its economy forward. Shri Modi also condemned the recent attack on a North-eastern student in Delhi, and attributed this 'shameful and sad incident' to the collapse of the governance in Delhi. He further added that this collapse was reflected in many other areas including the grave concern of atrocities on women. ■

Prabhat Jha and Uma Bharati get organisational assignments

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on February 3, 2014 appointed BJP National Vice Presidents Shri Prabhat Jha and Sushri Uma Bharti as in charge of organisation affairs in Delhi and election in charge in Uttarakhand respectively.

Rajnath Singh launches 'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat'

On the occasion of the Indian Republic day, the National President of BJP, Shri Rajnath Singh has extended his greetings to all Indians, all over the world. Going



with the spirit of the republic by which our constitution gives equal rights to every citizen in the process of nation building, Shri Rajnath Singh launched BJP's nationwide initiative 'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat' on the India272 portal at <http://www.india272.com/meresapnokabharat>

Shri Narendra Modi recently shared his Idea of India with all of us. Taking the message forward, this initiative by the Campaign Committee, under the leadership of Smt. Smriti Irani is aimed at giving a platform to common citizens to share their dreams for India and ways to achieve them.

Despite the era of poor governance by the Centre that has led to inflation, nepotism, colossal corruption; every Indian

still hopes for a new dawn, a new day that will lay the foundation of the country of their dreams. It is time to transform this dream into reality with small ideas that can make a big difference making our daily lives simpler.

'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat' is an idea-centric and pro-people initiative, with its focus on empowering the average Indian to contribute towards nation building. The emphasis, herein, is to invite ideas from the common man – ideas that will contribute towards improving

the current-day governance and working.

Mere Sapno Ka Bharat offers a paradigm of change through the online medium, wherein the volunteer simply has to record/click a video/photo, and post them on the India 272+ Volunteering platform. Their thoughts on bettering day-to-day functioning will then be reviewed by a panel of esteemed judges like Kirron Kher and Paresh Rawal. The group of finalists shall be facilitated for a meeting to discuss ideas with BJP's PM candidate Shri Narendra Modi, who has now captured the imagination of citizens as a role model for good governance.

To strengthen the concept of participatory governance the project shall facilitate participation of common people at 60 Venues in Delhi this week. Next week the Volunteers of 'Mere Sapno Ka Bharat' shall touch 300 venues in 100 cities across India before it starts its statewide effort. ■

BJP released a mobile based application for easy voter registration

On 25th January 2014, on the occasion of the National Voters Day and the Foundation Day of the Election Commission of India, Shri Rajnath Singh, the President of Bharatiya Janata Party, in presence of Shri Ram Lal, National General Secretary (Organisation), officially released a mobile based application for easy Voter.

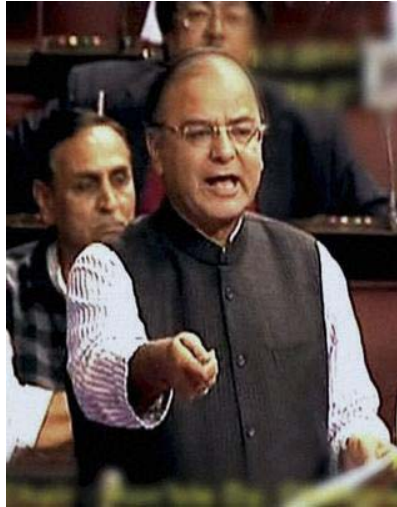
Shri Rajnath Singh commented that new voters will take advantage of this unique initiative and become an active participant in changing India's destiny

Shri Narendra Modi in his blog congratulated the EC of India for having steadfastly stood as a guardian and protector of the most important democratic process in India – elections, for over 6 decades. A vote, he said is the most effective tool in the hands of the people to express themselves and make their voice heard and urged the youth to be proactive and participate in strengthening the Indian democracy. ■

BJP opposes 'Prevention of Communal Violence Bill' in Rajya Sabha

A united opposition led by BJP prevented the government from introducing the prevention of communal violence Bill in the Rajya Sabha after Leader of the Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley questioned the competency of the House to legislate a law that may impinge on the spirit of federalism.

Shri Jaitley argued that there was a "lack of legislative competence to enact the Bill". He questioned how this Bill could have a Chapter V on 'Public



Shri Jaitley later said, I objected to the introduction of the Bill on the ground of lack of legislative competence in the Parliament to enact the law. My opposition was based on the legislative entries contained in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. List II of the Seventh Schedule is the State list. Entry 1 deals with the Public Order. Entry 2 deals with Police and Entry 41 deals with the Public services of the States.

Order' when it was essentially a state subject and said "now these powers of state are being encroached upon through this Bill".

The AIADMK, DMK, CPM and Trinamool Congress joined the BJP in opposing the Bill on the same grounds.

In his blog, Shri Jaitley later said, I objected to the introduction of the Bill on the ground of lack of legislative competence in the Parliament to

enact the law. My opposition was based on the legislative entries contained in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. List II of the Seventh Schedule is the State list. Entry 1 deals with the Public Order. Entry 2 deals with Police and Entry 41 deals with the Public services of the States. These are matters exclusively within the domain of the State. The central legislature has no legislative competence to enact on these issues.

He added, "The Bill as proposed creates a new category of offences. It deals with declaration and notification of areas which are disturbed areas. It suggests steps for prevention of acts in relation to communal violence. It has a chapter dealing with maintenance of public order. It then deals with the compensation mechanism and action to be taken against officers of the state government and the penalties which can be imposed upon them. All these matters are exclusively within the domain of the state executive. The response of the union Law Minister was that federalism is not threatened as long as the power in relation to each of these subjects vests in the State executive. My response was that there is a clear distinction between legislative power and the executive power. The legislative power is the power to enact a law.

Executive power is a power under the legislation to undertake necessary steps. My objection was based on the lack of legislative competence. The Centre cannot say that by enacting, I am giving the power to the officers of the state because under List II, Entry 1, 2, 41 the power does not belong to the Centre in the first instance. Almost all Opposition parties supported the view taken by the BJP. The Bill has therefore rightly been deferred at the introduction stage itself." ■

Has the Prime Minister destroyed the Collegium System?"

By Arun Jaitley

There are a large number of public appointments which are expected to be on non-partisan lines. Government is a political entity. Appointments which are exclusively made by the political executive in the government fail to inspire confidence. It is for this reason that the collegium system has been mooted in relation to several appointments. Currently, the chairman and the members of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), Vigilance Commissioners, CIC and Information Commissioners and now the Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal are to be appointed by a collegium. The collegium for each of these appointments is differently constituted. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha is associated with each of these appointments. For the NHRC, even the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha is a member of the collegium.

As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's tenure comes to an end, it is time for him to introspect the damage he has done to the collegium system. He puts on a veneer of straightforwardness but he is excessively political. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister during the NDA regime, there was only one occasion where the two LOPs had dissented to an appointment. The appointment to which Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh

dissented was that of the Chairman of the NHRC that the NDA had appointed. It is indeed embarrassing for Dr. Singh, along with his leader for having raised an objection to the appointment of Justice J.S. Verma as Chairman of the NHRC. There could not have been, at that stage, a candidate with better credentials than Justice Verma. His dissent was motivated by political considerations.

As a Prime Minister, he wanted to appoint a tainted person as the CVC. My colleague and the Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj dissented. Her dissent was upheld and the appointment of the CVC was struck down.

Even though the Lokpal law gives power to the four members to appoint the fifth member, the discretion of the four members was restricted for selecting seven members of the committee. The eminent jurist included Shri Mohan Gopal, a functionary of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Smt. Swaraj is believed to have suggested that amongst the eminent jurists available, the best in the outstanding persons could be appointed. She suggested the names of the former CJI, Shri F.S. Nariman, Shri Soli Sorabjee, Shri K. Parasaran, and Shri Harish Salve.

Smt. Swaraj would even have been agreeable to the names of Justice M N Venkatachaliah and Sh. K K Venugopal. The Prime Minister maintained a position that only one name could be considered that of Sh. P.P. Rao. None of the names suggested by Smt. Swaraj could be considered.

Sh. P.P. Rao is an honourable man. It is the Prime Minister's insistence that none of the others could be considered and the government was only interested in P.P. Rao is what makes me doubt its intentions. The objective of having a Chief Justice or his nominee judge in the collegium was intended to maintain a balance. Ordinarily, in view of the divided opinion, the nominee judge was expected to come out with some outstanding name who would be acceptable by all. This did not happen.

Dr. Singh's tenure as Prime Minister comes to an end soon. Amongst the various institutions that he has done damage to is the collegium system for making appointments to several public positions. As one of those who was actively involved in drafting of the Lokpal Law, I have started introspecting as to whether the collegium system can be so easily subverted in order to subvert the appointment of a Lokpal. The Prime Minister damaged the institution of Lokpal even prior to its appointment.■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha)

The reds by any name have the same mindset

By Balbir Punj

On the day the newspapers reported the life sentence awarded to three Communist party leaders from the Kozhikode district of Kerala and eight others (belonging to a hired killer gang), by a Sessions Court, for the 2012 barbaric killing of a dissident Marxist leader, there were reports also of North Korea's Communist leader Kim Jong-un, executing all immediate family members of his uncle Jang Song Thaek, days after the old man was put to death for plotting to overthrow the regime.

The Kerala Communists who were sentenced for life had been found guilty of conspiracy to kill dissident leader TP Chandrasekharan who had floated a rival outfit in 2009. According to the court verdict, political rivalry was the cause of the murder. After a first failed attempt, the politicians hired a gang of assassins to hack the dissident leader to death in broad daylight, at his native place near Kozhikode.

The Communists, be they in Russia, Germany, China or Cambodia, have not had any compunction in eliminating whoever opposes them. The history of the last 75 years bears testimony to this. Joseph Stalin eliminated almost all his colleagues in the Bolshevik party by the 1930s, accusing each one of them of anti-party activity and

The Communists, be they in Russia, Germany, China or Cambodia, have never had any compunction in eliminating whoever opposes them. The Maoists and the Left in India are not very different in this matter



worse. China's Mao Zedong indulged in mass killings of the country's peasants, as his successors have later testified. In the erstwhile East Germany, the Communist regime used a countrywide network of secret agents to force citizens to spy on each other. Family members often betrayed each other, as secret service files, that were released after Communist rule ended, revealed.

But the highest marks in brutality has been scored by Communist Cambodia where the Khmer Rouge regime eliminated about two million people in what since has been described as the Killing Fields. An eye witness account of the most brutal mass killings proves that the Killing Fields of Cambodia are rivalled only by Hitler's gas chambers

and starvation camps against Jews.

In India, the Communists have remained unchallenged in north Kerala for decades. Only the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has had the courage to provide an alternative ideology and political succour to the people. The Communists answered this challenge by targeting RSS members, individually and as a group.

Brutality was the usual weapon. The Chandrasekharan judgement in fact refers to the 1999 murder of BJP leader and school teacher KT Jayakrishnan who was hacked to death in the class room, in front of his students. The verdict specifies that political opposition was the motive in both cases; there was no personal motive for the murder, described by the judge, as "inhuman, barbaric and shocking to human conscience".

Significantly, the Communist party's boss in Kerala, Mr Pinarayi Vijayan, has described the verdict as "motivated", ignoring the mountain of evidence that had been placed before the court. Kerala police had listed 283 witnesses for the daylight murder and 686 items as evidence. However, Mr Vijayan's party colleague and former Kerala Chief Minister VS Achuthanandan, who is now isolated within the party

organisation, has welcomed the verdict. He even sought to visit Chandrasekharan's wife KK Rema, who has led a powerful campaign for justice.

Wherever the Communists are powerful, whether in Government or outside, violence, killings, brutality against rivals and dissidents have been a matter of routine. West Bengal saw this every day during the 36 years of Left rule. In

Banerjee came up and confronted the Left. The people rallied round her and got rid of the Communists in the 2012 Assembly election.

The Left also received a drubbing nationally in the 2009 parliamentary election. But their limited presence in Parliament notwithstanding, radical Leftists have been holding large chunks of the country to ransom through an armed insurrection, killing

Western and local capitalists. The Communists in China are rolling out the red carpet for capitalism. There are more billionaires in China than in Britain today, for instance.

For the followers of Marx, Lenin and Mao, killing opponents does not produce any conflict in their conscience. Their ideology justifies such killings in the name of saving the 'revolution. Decades after what happened under the Communists in Russia, China, East Germany and Cambodia, it is tragic that we still see that kind of barbarism repeated in Kerala, Bastar and elsewhere in our country.

In Nepal, the Communist movement split three ways, despite its ability to overthrow the royal regime; it is similarly split in Kerala despite being in power stakeholder in State politics for several decades. One more Communist outfit will hollow out the ideology to its shell – hence, the party's strong opposition to Chandrasekharan who dared to launch his own party.

Chandrasekharan had to be eliminated through a public and barbaric execution in broad daylight to remind Keralites of how BJP worker KT Jayakrishnan was done away with earlier.

The CPM differs little from the Maoists of Bastar in its dedication to a violent overthrow of the state, notwithstanding all its participation in parliamentary democracy that party general secretary Prakash Karat displays in public. ■

(Writer is national Vice-President, BJP)

The Left also received a drubbing nationally in the 2009 parliamentary election. But their limited presence in Parliament notwithstanding, radical Leftists have been holding large chunks of the country to ransom through an armed insurrection, killing not just security personnel but also the same civilians they claim to represent.



neighbouring Nepal, we have been witnessing the destructive politics played by the Maoists, led by Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal. Popularly known as Prachanda, he led an armed insurrection for decades.

But once he came to power, it did not take long for the Nepali people to be disillusioned with his leadership and soon cracks emerged within his party as well. The Nepalese experience follows the West Bengal example wherein the Communists violently suppress all opponents and dissidents, and then a subdued populace, afraid of the apparatchik, has no choice but it vote it to power.

In West Bengal, things changed when Ms Mamata

not just security personnel but also the same civilians they claim to represent.

The Maoists' latest target has been the Press. In Chhattisgarh, recently there was a wave of protests after the killing Bijapur-based journalist Sai Reddy by Maoists in December 2013. The Maoists have expressed no regret; on the other hand, they sought to deflect criticism by claiming that the security forces killed Reddy.

It is not that Indian Left leaders have failed to see that Communism is on the retreat even in Communist-ruled lands like China – the latest from President Xi Jinping in Beijing is that state sector must get its economic adrenaline from

Rahul Gandhi irresponsibly interprets facts, has a hollow vision for India

By Meenakshi Lekhi

In a recent interview to a TV channel Rahul has demonstrated what the Nehru dynasty is best known for - irresponsible interpretation of facts. The 'shahzada' claims credit for things his family always scuttled. Nehru and Indira's attempt to curb any free speech is very well known. A snapshot of their respect for free

members bill way back in 1984. But, Congress leaders mislead and renamed NDA's Freedom of Information Act into the RTI.

Rahul's ugly remark that the Gujarat Government engineered 2002 communal riots is typical of his arrogant shahzada-style rhetoric. India's judicial system - unlike CBI, CAG, IB - cannot be made into a personal fiefdom.

had summoned Sonia Gandhi over the issue as well. But for the blatant abuse of the investigative agencies Indian courts would have punished the murderers of the 1984 riots. If Congress did not engineer the 1984 Sikh riots in which thousands of Sikhs were murdered, why have his mother and Manmohan Singh apologized to the Sikh community repeatedly over the issue? Late Rajiv Gandhi's unfortunate statement that "Jab ek bada ped girta hai, tab dharti kampti hai" justifying Congress massacre of the Sikh community is a testimony of the Nehru family and its cronies' culpability.

Rahul's observations on other legislative measures of the Congress party are as hollow as his vision of India. The Right to Education and Panchayati Raj legislations are paper tigers which would benefit a few rather than helping Indians. He had 10 years to destroy India and he did precisely that.

Lawlessness, inflation, communal-disharmony, gifting national interest to foreigners, import driven economy and more. The least, Sonia and the Nehru family should do is obey Mahatma Gandhi's advice that Congress party should be dissolved as it has lost its relevance. It must be interpreted that Mahatma Gandhi hinted at future disasters if Congress were to rule India. ■

(The writer is BJP National spokesperson)

His remark on Gujarat government is contemptuous of a court verdict that Narendra Modi is not guilty of the unfortunate communal riots of 2002. The Gujarat Government in fact did everything it could to prevent the riots. The army was called in time as also the relief and rehabilitation of the victims. Efforts of Gujarat government facilitated speedy disposal of court cases and appropriate sentences were awarded to the guilty.

information can be seen during the days of Emergency and later by way of the notorious Defamation Bill authored by late Rajiv Gandhi.

During the interview Rahul was vocal about the "Right to Information Act" as Congress party's property which was gifted to Indian people by the Nehru dynasty. But the fact about Right to Information is contrary to what Rahul claims. The RTI movement actually started in India way back in the early eighties by several NGOs and was given a legislative framework during NDA. None other than Dr Subramanian Swamy had filed a private

His remark on Gujarat government is contemptuous of a court verdict that Narendra Modi is not guilty of the unfortunate communal riots of 2002. The Gujarat Government in fact did everything it could to prevent the riots.

The army was called in time as also the relief and rehabilitation of the victims. Efforts of Gujarat government facilitated speedy disposal of court cases and appropriate sentences were awarded to the guilty. But, what about cases of the 1984 riots accused? Several Congressmen are still evading justice.

In fact, recently a US court

Modi promises India its National war memorial

By Kanchan Gupta

Independent India's rulers never thought it fit to erect a monument equally, if not more, grand than that at India Gate, to honour the memory of our soldiers who died since 1947

Nothing can be more ironical than the fact that more than six-and-a-half decades after Independence from British colonial rule, India still honours its war heroes — soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in defence of their motherland — by placing wreathes at a memorial that was added on to a relic of the British Raj. The Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate in New Delhi was and remains an after-thought rather than a true National War Memorial to honour the memory of more than 20,000 soldiers who have died on duty. No less ironical is the fact that India Gate, an imposing monument on the central vista in the heart of the national capital, was built by our colonial rulers to honour Indian soldiers who died in World War I. Independent India's rulers never thought it fit to erect a monument equally, if not more, grand, to honour the memory of our soldiers, airmen and sailors who died since 1947.

Instead, the easy and lazy route was chosen to install the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. Wreaths are placed there in the most desultory manner. We perfunctorily salute the

'Unknown Soldier' but fail to remember the soldiers who died battling India's enemies. Each of them had a name, a face, a regimental identity. All that, and more, is obliterated by our half-hearted gesture. What remains is a sense of bitterness among the loved ones left behind by our men in uniform.

It is not that there has never been a proposal for a National War Memorial. Indeed, this proposal has been made time and again but governments have dragged their feet. Even when an effort has been made to revive the proposal, there has been dogged resistance by the bureaucracy and the Delhi Urban

Arts Commission which instinctively rejects anything that may alter the colonial vista as conceived and executed by Lutyens. A half-hearted political leadership has done little to overcome that resistance. The last time we heard about the proposal was two years ago when Defence Minister AK

Antony said hurdles in the way of building a National War Memorial had been removed. Since then there has been total silence.

The absence of a National War Memorial rankles deeply with those who gave their sons to fight and die for the nation. More important, it has resulted

decades after Independence from British colonial rule, India still honours its war heroes — soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in defence of their motherland — by placing wreathes at a memorial that was added on to a relic of the British Raj. The Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate in New Delhi was and remains an after-thought rather than a true National War Memorial to honour the memory of more than 20,000 soldiers who have died on duty.

in a poor appreciation of their sacrifice among generations of Indians. We are no doubt proud of our Armed Forces, but that by itself is insufficient. As a nation we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to our men and women in uniform. A National War Memorial to honour the martyrdom and perpetuate the

memory of the bravest among them would be a small token of acknowledging that debt of gratitude. Yet, we have failed to do so – as a result, there is a gaping hole in our collective memory as a nation, a blot on our collective conscience as a people.

BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi was referring to this gaping hole in our collective memory, this blot on our collective conscience, when he eloquently spoke about how we have failed to honour our soldiers by not building a

The US has the Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam War Memorial to honour its soldiers. Similar memorials exist in other countries. In fact, a memorial in Colombo honours the soldiers of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force who died in Sri Lanka, the names of each one of them etched in stone forever.

National War Memorial. "There is no country in the world where there is not a war memorial. India has fought several wars, thousands of our soldiers have been martyred, but there is no memorial to honour their sacrifice", Modi said at the event to mark the 51st anniversary of Lata Mangeshkar's soul-searing song 'Aye mere watan ke logon'. More than a lakh people, among them thousands of war veterans and hundreds of families of martyred soldiers, who attended that event in Mumbai, endorsed Modi's view by applauding him for saying what few if any politicians have said from a public platform till now.

True to their creed, Modi's

critics have been prompt to twist and turn that statement and mock at him. Modi does not know that there is a war memorial called Amar Jawan Jyoti, said some. Others crudely reminded him about the war memorial at Kutch he inaugurated. Then there were some who spoke of the various war memorials in the States. Given their jaundiced vision, Modi's critics missed out on the stones and boulders, small pillars, occasionally white-washed and inscribed with names like 'Major Shaitan Singh', that dot our side of India's border with Pakistan and China. They are memorials too, immortalising the valour of our martyred soldiers at the spot where they fell, fighting till the end.

But are the scattered memorials in the States, the stark monuments to Major Shaitan Singh and thousands of others, the Amar Jawan Jyoti dwarfed by the majestic India Gate, the street corner testimonials written on rusting tin plates, the roundabouts named after our bravehearts, enough? Is that all we owe to our Armed Forces? Is that sufficient to inculcate a sense of gratitude among the masses, to teach our children to be upright and patriotic, to showcase the bravery of our soldiers for the world to see?

It is downright silly and plain stupid to mock at Modi for raising an issue that has been long festering, causing agony and pain among our soldiers, airmen and sailors: The absence of a National War Memorial. It is silly to

remind him of the scattered memorials – he inevitably visits each of them whenever he is in their vicinity. It is stupid to mock at him for "getting his GK wrong" because Amar Jawan Jyoti is at best an apology for a National War Memorial, listed as the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in tourist pamphlets.

Modi believes in enshrining the memory of each martyred soldier collectively at a single memorial. It is in the fitness of things that such a memorial should be built in New Delhi, in a large and open space, far more grand than any other memorial, yet sombre and dignified. The US has the Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam War Memorial to honour its soldiers. Similar memorials exist in other countries. In fact, a memorial in Colombo honours the soldiers of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force who died in Sri Lanka, the names of each one of them etched in stone forever. Sadly, those names are not known and heard of in India.

The National War Memorial which Modi envisages will similarly enshrine the memory of our heroes, the names of each soldier, airman and sailor who has died fighting for India since independence etched in stone so that future generations do not forget them. Their memory will become a source of inspiration and strength; it will rally round every Indian whenever the nation faces a crisis. India awaits a National War Memorial. Modi has let it be known that this wait shall be over when he becomes Prime Minister. His critics can eat crow. ■

(The writer is BJP National Executive member)

Spectre of Inspector Raj still looms large

By Joginder Singh

In the era of coalition politics, the priority of any Government is to survive. It is not about ushering in transparency in the working of the administration or making the bureaucracy efficient and responsive

I was invited by a group of industrialists in a very important State to speak to them on a subject of my choice. I exhorted them to rid India of the evil of corruption which is eating into the vitals of the country, and explained how we have become one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

In the question and answer session, I was told by the industrialists that at times there were 65 inspectors from various Government departments visiting their factories every month. Each one of those inspectors had the power to shut down their factories even if they were complying with all the rules and regulations. I asked the industry-owners why they had to bribe the inspectors, if everything was in order. I was told that the inspectors' words were law — no superior officials entertained complaints against them as they made their own cut in the process.

When I asked if any higher-up also had a share in the extorted money, one person in the audience asked me back if I was referring to Ministers. I said: "Yes". He told me a story about a businessman who wanted approval for setting up a new industry. A certain amount was

agreed upon, and the Minister cleared the file. When the required amount of money was not delivered on time, he called for the file and added the word "Not" before the word "Approved".

The businessman was in a dilemma. He found another middle man, who said that now the amount of bribe would be double, as the reputation of the Minister was involved. Once he had received the bribe, the Minister called for the file and added an "e". The status was changed to "Note Approved".

This is, of course, not to say that all politicians are dishonest.

Regarding the mid-day meal scheme, I once ran into a contractor who boasted that, no matter which party was heading the Government, he was the one who would always get the contract because he knew the price of each person involved in the assignment process. He also added that he was changing the name of his company, as it had been held responsible for the

death of students.

The BJP's prime ministerial candidate, Mr Narendra Modi, made a veiled reference to the removal of Ms Jayanthi Natarajan from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, when he sarcastically told a rally in Panaji: "We had heard of income, sales and excise taxes, but for the first time we heard about a 'Jayanthi tax' in Delhi, without which nothing was moving."

Ms Natarajan replied: "It is a targeted personal attack. I totally deny what he says. It is

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completely baseless. There are major green violations in Gujarat. He was destroying the environment. I was opposed to his destruction of the environment." Of course, she did not specifically refer to any project or proposal. Her

'resignation' had triggered speculation that it was due to reported complaints from the industry that she was holding up environmental clearances.

When the new Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr Veerappa Moily, took charge, he found that nearly 350 files had been held back by his predecessor. Documents accessed by a newspaper showed that as many as 180 of these files were returned from Ms Natarajan's residence on December 22, 23 and 24, 2013,

Natarajan was the Union Minister for Environment and Forests, she reportedly held over the file without giving any reasons. The project was given a go-ahead by her successor and cleared on December 27, 2013. The foundation stone for the Rs 23,502-crore project was laid by the Prime Minister on January 6.

Indeed, corruption, delay and inefficiency are inter-linked and cannot exist without one another. As a District Superintendent of Police in Karnataka, I had once promoted

the letter. When I officially called for an explanation, the clerk came up with the excuse that there was too much work and the file might have been buried under other files. I checked the Receipt and Despatch Register and discovered that on an average 10 letters were received or dispatched daily. When I confronted the clerk, he had no explanation. I suspended him and finally dismissed him for dereliction of duty.

It is a known case that when a Minister or his family's NGO was charged in the media for misusing a few lakhs meant for the underprivileged, one of his colleagues had remarked: "I do not think that he would have done it as it involved a small amount." The people of the country also cannot escape blame, as the votes are mostly given on caste, religion or region. After all, politicians are selected from among the people. In the era of coalition politics, the priority of any Government is to survive; it is not about ushering in transparency in the working of the administration or making it efficient and responsive.

The only principle of a politician or a political party is to become the ruler – the ruled be damned. We have all kinds of regulators and inspectors whose real job mostly is to extract as much money as possible, notwithstanding the grand claims of politicians. Rajiv Gandhi had said in 1988 that out of one rupee meant for the poor, only 15 paise reaches the beneficiary. It remains the case today. ■

(The writer is former CBI Director)

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and they were all unsigned. But 119 were signed files which were still held back by the Minister, while another 50 were retained by her staff. As many as 28 of these were sent to her in 2012, while two or three date back to 2011.

The former Union Minister had also drawn flak for delaying crucial projects during her tenure. She had even sat on Haryana's 2,800MW nuclear power project at Gorakhpur village in Fatehabad district for over a year. On September 24, 2012, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd sent a pre-feasibility report, draft terms of references, the public hearing report and request on prescribed pro forma to the MoEF, seeking environmental clearance.

During the period Ms

a young Muslim constable to the rank of head constable for risking his life to arrest a desperado, and for suffering a gunshot wound from the criminal's illegal weapon. Since I was heading a relatively small district, I could visit all the police stations in a month.

During my next visit I found the person, who should have received his promotion orders a month before, was still doing the duty of a constable. I asked him whether he had got his promotion orders. He said, "No". I launched an inquiry into the matter. On returning to the office, I found that the letter signed by me had not been issued for over a month.

Two days later, I got a report that the despatch clerk of my office wanted Rs 100 for mailing

One speaks, the other connects with people

By Ashok Malik

This past week, Rahul Gandhi finally granted a television interview and was questioned, interrogated or grilled – feel free to use the verb of your choice – by Mr Arnab Goswami on Times Now. The Congress vice-president came across as sincere, earnest and well-mannered, but his answers were remarkably devoid of content. He appeared not quite certain of what he was saying. He responded to specific questions by making general and sometimes unrelated remarks. Reading the transcript of the interview – with questions and answers juxtaposed in print – would give the impression of a series of non sequiturs. Politically, the interview has not helped the Congress. Indeed, it may even have harmed it. For different reasons, Mr Gandhi's remarks on the 1984 riots as well as on the 2002 violence could be used against his party.

Was there a logic or a reasoning to Mr Gandhi's interview? In the days following the telecast, there have been questions asked as to his level of preparation, whether he went over mock questions and in a sense practised for his first major interview. Why was he exposed to a seasoned television anchor for 80 minutes? Why was the interaction not limited to 20-25 minutes? Did someone in Mr

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**Narendra Modi may not have given interviews to the media but he has been communicating his ideas, plans and priorities to the people. The same cannot be said of Rahul Gandhi, even after his recent long interview**  
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Gandhi's inner circle get carried away? Was this a deliberate attempt to pitch expectations low and begin a set of interviews – with several channels – that would see Mr Gandhi only improve as he went along?

Delhi is a city where gossip and intrigue, speculation and fact, surmise and certitude merge into each other seamlessly. As such, the story behind the interview and the assumptions Mr Gandhi and his advisers had made before it will never quite be known. What is apparent is the disgruntlement among Congress MPs, including a Minister perceived as close to the Congress heir, but heard saying after the interview: "Now we've lost 10 more seats..."

The one counter Congress spokespersons have had to all criticism of the Gandhi interview is the fact that it

happened at all. In contrast, Mr Narendra Modi has not given a single full-length interview to an Indian journalist, television or print, for several years now. So does this give Mr Gandhi a substantive or at least a moral advantage over the BJP's prime ministerial candidate? The question is at once valid and misleading. At the heart of it is the very infrastructure of assumptions that guide the establishment in Delhi – and the media is included here – and that have come up for repeated challenge at the hands of Mr Modi in this election season.

This is not to suggest Mr Modi should never give interviews. In an ideal world, and an ideal democracy, politicians and political administrators should grant interviews and address media conferences regularly. Yet, much more than that, much more that using the device of a media interaction, they must communicate. To believe political communication is co-terminous with engagement with and through the media is, however, an extremely limited and limiting interpretation. Of course, it is an interpretation journalists instinctively embrace – for it privileges them and makes them gate-keeper and connectors between the political personality and the public. By

allowing themselves to choose their questions and their theme of questioning, and by editing what they feel is newsworthy and relevant and what is not, they control the message, sometimes more than the politician can help.

All this is not to conspiracy-theorise and attribute sinister motives to mediapersons and interviewers. It is only to point out that a journalist comes to his work, and to an interview, with his or her own and natural set of beliefs and (honest) biases and news judgements. These need not always reflect what the interviewee wants to convey, and a tussle to take the conversation in another direction – either by crudely pre-deciding questions or answering only selectively and raising collateral issues – is often apparent. At times, it can make for a riveting experience; at other times, it can lead to a clash and make the politician look petty and churlish. Most important, such an encounter comes in the way of what the politician wants to tell his voter.

So what does a shrewd politician do in this situation? One answer is to resort to spin and media management and hire an astute and articulate understudy who nudges the media in a particular direction, playing the invisible hand that guides the course of an interview. In recent times, Mr Tony Blair used Mr Peter Mandelson. Closer home, there is the example of Mr Manmohan Singh's interview to The Telegraph in August 2007, warning the Left that the nuclear deal was non-negotiable. It was an aggressive move, executed by Mr Sanjaya Baru, then the Prime

Minister's media adviser; and it offered the unusual case of the interviewee, rather than the interviewer, determining the roadmap and outcome of an interview.

What if a politician chooses to bypass the media altogether? What if a politician takes the process of dis-intermediation to its logical conclusion and communicates with the people straightaway, making news channels and newspapers less relevant (but not irrelevant) to his communication plan? The Aam

disseminated; strongly-articulated public speeches, taking advantage of the individual politician's public-speaking skills; call-in numbers that allow you to listen to a speech on your phone, irrespective of where you are. In the past year, Mr Modi and the BJP have deployed these successfully.

As such, Mr Modi may not have given interviews to the national media but that is very different from suggesting he has not communicated. Like him or

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Aadmi Party contends new technologies – including, for instance, mobile phones that allow text messages – have deepened democracy and allow for constant and real-time feedback and public opinion to complement the five-yearly election. AAP's ideas on how such feedback mechanisms should be used may or may not be persuasive, but the fact that these technologies are available is undeniable.

Many of these technologies can be used to revolutionise the framework of political communication: Live-streaming or telecast of a speech that would previously have been available to just an immediate audience in a corner of India; regular social media updates; blogs that are translated and widely

not, people are clear about who he is, where he comes from, what he stands for, which subjects he would prioritise should he become Prime Minister. He has not met the media frequently, but would it be fair to say he has not communicated?

On the other hand, Mr Gandhi has just finished a long interview – but at the end of it are we any clearer about his ideas for politics and governance, beyond a few homilies and truisms?

These are questions for Mr Gandhi and his media council to consider. If Mr Modi continues with his communication strategy and still wins the election, these will become existential questions for the national media to consider.■

(Courtesy : The Pioneer)

GUJARAT

We have taken urbanization as an opportunity, as a means to empower people : Modi

BJP PM candidate Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated several pro-people initiatives of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in Ahmedabad on 03 February, 2014. These included the inauguration of the flyover



at IIM crossroads, the Gujarati bazaar (Riverfront market) and the Dhobighaat (Organized Laundry Campus) at Sabarmati Riverfront. Shri Narendra Modi was present at the draw for allotting of houses for people. The draw was done through a computer.

Inclusive development and a modern and technology-oriented approach at developing cities for the development of every section of society formed the crux of Shri Modi's address at Sabarmati Riverfront. Shri Modi spoke about how the *Mukhyamantri Gruh Yojana* had, through its allocation of homes to the less privileged sections of the society, benefitted scores of poor families. "When people get a home they not only get a roof but a lot of other benefits too that help them. Today, due to the draw, the lives of several people changed. May they get their homes as soon as possible," said Shri Modi.

Highlighting the wide reach of the *Mukhyamantri Gruh Yojana*, he said, "Over 22 lakh houses in cities and 28 lakh in villages will be made. I do not think work on housing has happened on such a large scale before." Shri Modi underscored the importance of involving all sections of the society in the development process. He said, "Urban development

initiatives must match the aspirations of the middle class and the neo middle class."

Talking about the need to fight every obstacle and take decisive steps for growth and development, Shri Modi said, "Development is our aim. Let there be any obstacle, including an old mindset, we are going ahead with development."

Shri Modi said that while the Riverfront projects witnessed several obstacles earlier due to vested interests, now things have changed. He urged the

economists, research scholars and environmentalists of India, and across the world, to study the inclusive growth approach of the Sabarmati Riverfront

Development project, through initiatives like the Gujarati Bazaar and Dhobi Ghat. "Those talking of 'inclusive growth' should go see the Gujarati Bazaar. It is an example of how to enhance the livelihood of the poor. While earlier the market was held only on Sunday, now it can go on all 7 days. All arrangements for this are in place now," said Shri Modi. Speaking

about yet another pro-people initiative, Shri Modi put forth the example of the Kankaria redevelopment, which, in the current times, witnessed a cross-section of people, rather than only from the select sections, as was the case earlier.

Shri Modi emphasized on the need to focus on development rather than living with old beliefs and an old mindset. "For so many years there was a mindset that considered urbanisation as a burden and a challenge. We have taken urbanisation as an opportunity, as a means to give people opportunity," said Shri Modi. Stating that the mere objective of some people was to defame Gujarat, Shri Modi said that acknowledging or reverting to them did not make sense as people knew the truth. Urging the people to take the initiative towards development, Shri Modi said, "We have to take steps to ensure that we walk two steps ahead of the world in our development journey. On the occasion, Shri Modi also felicitated the applicants who were selected in the draw for the *Mukhyamantri Gruh Yojana*. Revenue Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel, Mayor of Ahmedabad Smt. Minaxiben Patel, former Mayor Shri Asit Vora were among those present on the occasion.

Gujarat bagged the Highest Number of National e-Governance Awards amongst all States

BJP PM candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi Congratulated Team Gujarat for Winning Four Prestigious National e-Governance Awards out of a total of 16 Awards, the highest amongst all States.

These Awards were given away by the Governor of Kerala and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Govt. of India.

The National e-Governance Awards for 2013-14 were announced at a function held during the 17th National Conference on e-Governance at Kochi, Kerala on 30-31 January, 2014 organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India, in association with the Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India.

These awards were given in different categories concerning various aspects of e-Governance. The objective of these awards is to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

The award winning projects of Gujarat are:

1. Effective Seismological Monitoring through e-Governance to save lives & Damage due to earthquakes
2. Investors Support System (ISS) Software
3. GIS School Mapping-ensuring Access to Elementary Education
4. Bar-coded Ration Card & Biometric Food Coupon System for Effective & Efficient Service Delivery (Targeted Public Distribution System)

Noteworthy, so far Gujarat has won around 125 awards in the field of e-Governance.

MADHYA PRADESH

CM says efforts on for basic amenities to all citizens

MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the State Government is making committed efforts to provide basic amenities to all the sections of the society in education, health and housing sectors. The Government will leave no stone unturned in providing benefits of schemes to maximum number of people. Chief Minister Chouhan was addressing an 'Aao Banayen Apna Madhya Pradesh' convention at Harda on 06 February 2014. On the occasion, he laid foundation of 10 works costing Rs 11.94 crore.



He made a token distribution of Rs 115.23 crore to farmers as relief for crop loss. The Chief Minister gave assistance worth over Rs 52.80 crore to beneficiaries. Public Works Minister Sartaj Singh was present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is paying special attention to social justice. He urged all sections of society to become partners in State's development and public welfare works.

He said that free laptops will be given to Government and private schools' students on securing above 85 per cent marks. Smartphones will be given to students taking admission in colleges.

He said that efforts are being made for women's empowerment. He urged people to treat girls and boys equally. Chouhan said that assistance under *Mukhyamantri Vivah Evam Nikah Yojana* has been increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 per couple. He said that 15 lakh houses will be constructed for the poor during next 5 years.

The Chief Minister appealed to the people to plant saplings, use water judiciously, send children to schools, maintain hygiene, de-addict villages and give due respect to women. He also administered pledge to people to become partners in Madhya Pradesh's development.

Shri Chouhan directed the collector to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out of the scheme to provide wheat, rice and iodized salt at the rate of Rs 1 per kg. Every possible effort is being made to make agriculture profitable.

It is a tribute to farmers' hard work that the State is going to get Central Government's *Krishi Karman Award* consecutive for the second year.

BJP criticizes UP govt. for asking riot victims to return compensation



Hitting out at ruling Samajwadi Party in UP senior BJP leader Shri Kalraj Mishra said that insensitive face of the Akhilesh Yadav Government has been exposed when it asked some of the riot victims to return compensation of Rs 5 lakh by this month end. "When the people

are still languishing in relief camps around Muzaffarnagar and Shamli how can the Samajwadi Party Government justify its decision asking some of these people to return compensation. This shows that words and action of this Samajwadi Party government does not match. The Samajwadi Party claims the compensation package it had given to the victims was the best. Is this the way to give compensation," Shri Mishra said.

The district administration has issued notice to 12 people asking them to return relief compensation because the officials say their property is outside the 18 riot-affected villages of Muzaffarnagar and Shamli districts. They have even given the deadline to return money by the end of February. Reports suggest that some of the people, who shifted after the riots to their relatives' houses, were asked to return money. "To day government is saying that some outsiders have taken compensation claiming themselves as riot victims. If this is true the question is why such people were given compensation and what was the yardstick used to identify the riot victims. And now what is the guarantee that genuine people are not being harassed," he said.

He said that Samajwadi Party has orchestrated riots in parts of western Uttar Pradesh to polarize society on religious lines in view of forthcoming Lok Sabha elections. "It is the party which Muslims supported during thick and thin. The real face of this party has been exposed and Muslims now want to get rid of Samajwadi Party and would vote for Modi. The Samajwadi Party Government should issue a white paper on the steps it had taken for the development of Muslims," he said. Shri Kalraj Mishra said there is an undercurrent in favour of BJP in the state. People want to see Shri Narendra Modi as next Prime Minister of the country. ■

BJP candidates elected to Rajya Sabha

In the biennial polls, 10 Rajya Sabha members were elected from BJP. The BJP candidates who were elected to Rajya Sabha are Shri Prabhat Jha, Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. C.P Thakur, Shri R.K Sinha, Shri Ranvijay Singh Judeo, Shri Ramnarayan Dudi, Shri Narayan Panchariya, Shri Vijay Goel, Shri Sambhuprasad Tundiya, Shri Chunibhai Gohil and Shri Lalsinh Vadodiya. In Maharashtra BJP supported its alliance partner Republican Party of India leader Shri Ramdas Athawale for Rajya Sabha.

Prabhat Jha : Shri Jha, Editor Kamal Sandesh, was elected from Madhya Pradesh to Rajya Sabha. He is BJP National Vice President. He was elected to Rajya Sabha for the second term.

Satyanarayan Jatiya : Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya was also elected from Madhya Pradesh to Rajya Sabha. He is a former Union Minister and a senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party.

Dr. C.P Thakur : BJP National Vice President Dr. Chandreshwar Prasad Thakur was elected to Rajya Sabha from Bihar. Dr.Thakur is a former minister in the Government of India and a renowned physician.

R.K Sinha : Shri Sinha was elected to Rajya Sabha from Bihar.

Ranvijay Singh Judeo : Shri Ranvijay Pratap Singh Judeo, scion of the erstwhile royal family of Jashpur, was elected to Rajya Sabha from Chhattisgarh.

Ramnarayan Dudi : Shri Ram Narayan Dudi was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. He was the Revenue, Colonisation & Soldier Welfare minister in BJP Government of Rajasthan from 2003-2008.

Narayan Panchariya : He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

Vijay Goel : Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

Sambhuprasad Tundiya : Shri Tundiya former MLA of Gujarat Legislative Assembly was elected to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

Chunibhai Gohil : Shri Gohil, former Co-convenor of BJP state Fishermen Cell was elected to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat.

Lalsinh Vadodiya : Former MLA Shri Lalsinh Vadodiya was elected to Rajya Sabha from Gujarat. ■

Ahimsa

By Sri Swami Sivananda

In the regeneration and divinisation of man, the first step is to eliminate his beastly nature. The predominant trait in beasts is cruelty. Therefore, wise sages prescribe Ahimsa (non-injury). This is the most effective master-method to counteract and eradicate completely the brutal, cruel Pasu-Svabhava (bestial nature) in man.

Practice of Ahimsa develops love. Ahimsa is another name for truth or love. Ahimsa is universal love. It is pure love. It is divine Prem. Where there is love, there you will find Ahimsa. Where there is Ahimsa, there you will find love and selfless service. They all go together.

The one message of all saints and prophets of all times and climes, is the message of love, of Ahimsa, of selfless service. Ahimsa is the noblest and best of traits that are found expressed in the daily life and activities of perfected souls. Ahimsa is the one means, not only to attain Salvation, but also to enjoy uninterrupted peace and bliss. Man attains peace by injuring no living creature.

There is one religion - the religion of love, of peace. There is one message, the message of Ahimsa. Ahimsa is a supreme duty of man.

Ahimsa, or refraining from causing pain to any living creature, is a distinctive quality emphasized by Indian ethics. Ahimsa or non-violence has been the central doctrine of Indian

culture from the earliest days of its history. Ahimsa is a great spiritual force.

MEANING OF AHIMSA

Ahimsa or non-injury, of course, implies non-killing. But, non-injury is not merely non-killing. In its comprehensive meaning, Ahimsa or non-injury means entire abstinence from causing any pain or harm whatsoever to any living creature, either by thought, word, or deed. Non-injury requires a harmless mind, mouth, and hand.

Ahimsa is not mere negative non-injury. It is positive, cosmic love. It is the development of a mental attitude in which hatred is replaced by love. Ahimsa is true sacrifice. Ahimsa is forgiveness. Ahimsa is Sakti (power). Ahimsa is true strength.

AHIMSA, A QUALITY OF THE STRONG

If you practice Ahimsa, you should put up with insults, rebukes, criticisms and assaults also. You should never retaliate nor wish to offend anybody even under extreme provocation. You should not entertain any evil thought against anybody. You should not harbour anger. You should not curse. You should be prepared to lose joyfully even your life in the cause of Truth. The Ultimate Truth can be attained only through Ahimsa.

Ahimsa is the acme of bravery. Ahimsa is not possible without fearlessness. Non-violence cannot be practiced by weak persons. Ahimsa cannot be

practiced by a man who is terribly afraid of death and has no power of resistance and endurance. It is a shield, not of the effeminate, but of the potent. Ahimsa is a quality of the strong. It is a weapon of the strong. When a man beats you with a stick, you should not entertain any thought of retaliation or any unkind feeling towards the tormentor. Ahimsa is the perfection of forgiveness.

Remember the noble actions of great sages of yore. Jayadeva, the author of Gita-Govinda, gave large and rich present to his enemies who cut off his hands, and obtained Mukti (liberation) for them through his sincere prayers.

He said: "O my lord! Thou hast given Mukti to Thy enemies, Ravana and Kamsa. Why canst Thou not give Mukti to my enemies now?" A saint or a sage possesses a magnanimous heart.

Pavahari Baba carried the bag of vessels and followed the thief saying: "O Thief Narayana! I never knew that You visited my cottage. Pray accept these things." The thief was quite astonished. He left off his evil habit from that very second and became a disciple of Pavahari Baba. Remember the noble actions of saints like Jayadeva and Pavahari Baba, you will have to follow their principles and ideals. ■

(Courtesy: The Divine Life Society)