



Lokpal wins!

Lokpal Bill having stringent provisions against corruption was first passed in Rajya Sabha and then in Lok Sabha with the support of BJP and other political parties. Anna Hazare who was on a hunger strike in Ralegan Siddhi broke his fast by taking fruit juice and made people feel the victory by waving tricolour. It may be said without any doubt that the credit for the victory of Lokpal goes to eighty year old Anna Hazare. It was good to see that Anna Hazare also thanked Congress and BJP categorically for helping pass the Lokpal Bill.

When the Bill which was stalled from 1968 was passed then at least the person who was agitating for last 3-4 years for this Bill had smile on his face. Former supporters of Anna claim that the support of Anna Hazare to this 'Jokepal' through which even a mouse can't be punished would be a support to a wrong draft. Here this point needs to be emphasised that Anna Hazare said that if it is 'Jokepal' in their eyes and they disagree with it then they are free to wage their own agitation. 'I am myself satisfied'. This rejoinder of Anna must have shown the reality to Arvind Kejriwal.

After the Bill comes into force the appointment of the Lokpal will be done by a committee comprising of Prime Minister, Lok Sabha Speaker, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist.

In this Lokpal Bill the post of the Prime Minister will come under its preview with some security related provisions. The provisions have given the power to the Lokpal to give permission to prosecute government officials.

The government has even completely accepted the recommendations of the Select Committee that the CBI officials investigating into a matter will not be transferred unless permitted by the Lokpal. The advice of the Lokpal will be taken in this regard.

The recommendations which the government has accepted also include the separation of Lokayukta Bill for the states from the Lokpal. It was a very controversial provision as many parties believed that through it the Central government may encroach upon the rights of state government.

The Bill has also provision that CBI Director will be appointed by a three member collegium consisting of Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India. The government has also accepted the recommendation that permission to prosecute government officials will be given by Lokpal in place of the government itself. It has also been agreed that before taking such types of decisions the Lokpal will follow proper procedure and take the reaction of the government official concerned.

Clarifying the need to make only judges the head and members of the Lokpal, Shri Kapil Sibal said that such issues involving complex legal angles required the experience of the judges. Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that the credit for the passing of a tough Lokpal bill goes to Anna Hazare who created pressure on the government by repeatedly going on hunger strikes.

The credit for passing the Lokpal Bill in the third week of the last month of the year 2013 will have to be given to Anna Hazare and all other political parties except Samajwadi Party. Lokpal Bill has been passed but in the process Kejriwal was exposed. It has become clear in the eyes of the people as to why he got associated with Anna and why he got separated. At the same time Anna clearly distancing himself from "AAP" shows that "AAP" has no support of any kind from Anna. Anna Hazare has clarified his position that the fight was for the enactment of Lokpal Bill and not to serve the vested interest of any political party. ■

BJP governments take charge in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh

MADHYA PRADESH

Shivraj Singh Chouhan sworn in as MP-CM for third term

M P CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 14 December, 2013 was sworn in as Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister for the third consecutive term, nearly a week after he led BJP to a spectacular hat-trick victory in Assembly elections. Both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Shri Chouhan himself, created history by forming Government for the third consecutive term in the State.

54-year-old Shri Chouhan was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Madhya Pradesh Governor Shri Ram Naresh Yadav at a ceremony held at Jamboree ground in Bhopal. Noteworthy Shri Chouhan led the BJP to win an impressive 165 seats in 230-member Legislative Assembly reducing Congress tally to just 58 from 71 in 2008.

The entire BJP senior leadership, including BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley, former National President Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt.

Vasundhara Raje, Goa Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parriker, Punjab Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP president Shri



Chandrababu Naidu, BJP State President Shri Narendra Tomar, National Vice-Presidents Sushri Uma Bharti and Shri Prabhat Jha and other senior leaders of Shiv Sena and Shiromani Akali Dal attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Earlier Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Chouhan was elected as the leader of the legislative party of the Bharatiya Janata Party, at a convention before taking the Chief Minister's oath.

After taking oath, at the first meeting of the BJP legislative party of the 14th Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shri Chouhan cautioned debutante MLAs against becoming arrogant or impolite. "Do not make the mistake of thinking you have become too big. Those who did have never seen the face of the Assembly again," he said.



MP CM starts Day 1 by fulfilling promises

**MP BJP Govt. to provide rice at
Rs. 1 per kg to poor**

After the swearing-in, Shri Shivraj Chouhan made history again by signing four orders related to the welfare of the people of Madhya Pradesh. The first one was to provide rice at the rate of Rs. 1 per kg to the poor. This was one of the promises made in the party's manifesto.

Shri Chouhan assured the gathering that by 2018, Madhya Pradesh would be one of the most prosperous States of the country. He said, "The BJP regime has been providing wheat at Rs 1 per kg and rice at Rs 2 per kg to poor families. Henceforth, the Government will provide wheat, rice and salt at Rs 1 per kg."

He signed an order to this effect from the stage itself which said that this rule would become effective from January 1.

Apart from this, Shri Chouhan also passed three other orders which include launching the Khet Sadak Yojna and constituting the Madhyam Varg Ayog besides a Vyapar Samvardhan Mandal for traders.

The second in the series was Khet Sadak Yojana (roads connecting farms in villages). Stressing the need to provide good road connectivity in rural

areas, the Chief Minister said not only will no village be left without roads, but even farms will be connected to roads. The next announcement was regarding Madhyam Varg Ayog (Commission for Middle Class). Observing that middle class and lower-middle class families often

complain that their problems went unheeded, he said the Madhyam Varg Ayog would be constituted to identify their grievances and make recommendations to resolve them.

Pointing out that development of trade was as much important as promoting industry, Shri Chouhan said the Vyapar Samvardhan Mandal would be formed to chalk out policies and to look into various problems of the community.

The swearing-in programme was a grand success as over two lakhs people gathered at the venue. With each and every announcement, the Chief Minister maintained direct dialogue with the people. He asked whether what had been decided was needed, and the reply was a 'yes'



Shivraj Singh Chouhan inducts 23 ministers

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inducted 23 ministers include three women: Yashodhara Raje Scindia, Maya Singh and Kusum Mehdele in his ministry. The others who were inducted as Cabinet ministers are: Jayant Malaiya, Gopal Bhargava, Dr Gauri Shanker Shejwar, Kailash Vijayawargiya, Sartaj Singh, Narottam Mishra, Vijay Shah, Gauri Shanker Bisen, Umashankar Gupta, Paras Jain, Rajendra Shukla, Antar Singh Arya and Rampal Singh.

from the public each time.

In response to every announcement, the people clapped for full minutes. The gathering danced with placards depicting Shri Shivraj's images.

The businessmen who attended the programme were Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani, Force Motors Chairman Abhay Firodia, Bharat Forge Ltd Executive Director Amit Kalyani, Trident Group Chairman Anil Gupta, Vardhaman Group Chairman SP Oswal, CMD of Surya Roshani Ltd Jaiprakash Agrawal, Essar Group Director Anshuman Ruiya and others.

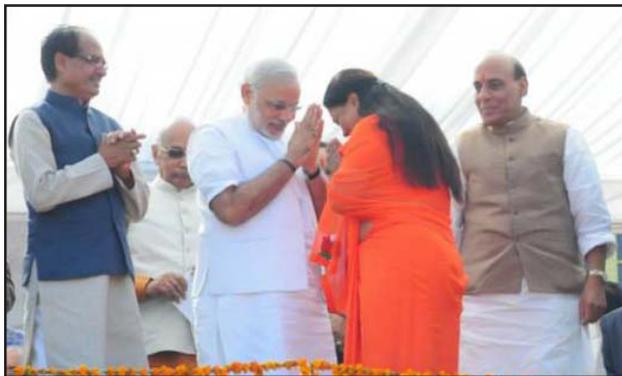
The Chief Minister also sought blessings from Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian and Buddhist religious leaders present on the occasion.

Vasundhara Raje takes oath as new CM of Rajasthan

Smt. Vasundhara Raje, who led BJP to a thrilling landslide victory in Rajasthan Assembly polls, was on 13 December 2013 sworn-in as the new Chief Minister for the second time in the presence of BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi and other senior BJP leaders.

Sixty-year-old Smt. Raje, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Smt. Margaret Alva during a grand swearing-in ceremony inside the Assembly building premises in Jaipur.

Among the BJP leaders who attended the function were party National president Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chhattisgarh CM Dr. Raman Singh and other senior leaders of the party. Elected MLAs and a large number of religious heads also attended the function.



The main stage for the ceremony was erected inside the Assembly building premises. Large screens were installed at the venue to allow the invitees sitting at a distance to watch the live telecast of the ceremony.

After the swearing-in function, Smt.

Vasundhara Raje drove straight to the Chief Minister's Office at the Secretariat. Noteworthy, BJP won 163 of the 200 seats where elections were held. Over 1 people and Karyakartas attended the ceremony for which arrangements were made at Jan Path. 60-year-old Raje, who belongs to the royal Scindia family of Gwalior and married in



Rajasthan, has been elected to the state assembly thrice and five times to Lok Sabha. Smt. Raje became Rajasthan's first woman Chief Minister in 2003 and led BJP to its most famous victory in the predominantly rural state.

Vasundhara Raje inducts cabinet ministers

Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inducted a group of ministers into her cabinet. The ministers who were inducted were: Dinesh Chand Katariya, Rajendra Rathore, Nand Lal Meena, Yunus Khan, Gajendra Singh Khimsar, Prabhu Lal Saini, Sanwar Mal Jat, Kalicharan Saraf and Kailash Nath Meghwa.

The ministers of state (MoS) with independent charge included Arun Chaturvedi, Ajay Singh Kilak and Hem Singh Bhadana.

Dr. Raman Singh takes oath, starts third inning



The doctor-turned politician Dr. Raman Singh took oath as Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh for the third successive term of the BJP Government at Police Parade Ground in Raipur amid presence of about 50,000 people and Karyakartas. Almost the entire senior leadership of the BJP and allies — Shiromani Akali Dal and Shiv Sena were present on the occasion.

Chhattisgarh Governor Shri Shekhar Dutt administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 61-year-old Dr. Singh who led BJP to victory for the third time in a row. The BJP has won 49 seats in the 90-member House. On day one of the third innings as the Chief Minister of India's premier mining State, Dr. Raman Singh vowed to speed up development in Chhattisgarh.

“The journey of development in Chhattisgarh will get more pace in my third innings, I will strive hard for welfare of 2.55 crore people and will do each and everything required to put Chhattisgarh as the number one ranked State of the country,” Dr. Singh told media persons at a Press conference after the oath taking ceremony.

BJP Parliamentary Board Chairman Shri LK Advani, party National President Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi, former BJP National Presidents Shri Nitin Gadkari and Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Goa Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar, the designated Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Smt. Vasundhara Raje and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Punjab Chief Minister Shri

Prakash Singh Badal, Shiv Sena Chief Shri Uddhav Thackeray, senior BJP leader from Delhi Dr. Harsh Vardhan, former Bihar Deputy CM Shri Sushil Modi, BJP National Vice-Presidents Smt. Uma Bharti, and Smt. Smirti Irani BJP MP Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda and Chhattisgarh's former Minister and Congress leader Shri Ajit Jogi were among the leading personalities who witnessed the swearing-in ceremony of Dr. Raman Singh.

Noteworthy, the BJP registered a thumping victory by winning in 49 of the 90 seats, one less from its 2008 figure, while the Congress managed to win 39 Assembly seats. Rest of the two seats went to BSP and an Independent each.

The Chief Minister earlier visited the ancient Sheetladevi Temple and offered prayers. ■

Nine ministers take oath in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh Governor Shekhar Dutt administered the oath of office and secrecy to nine legislators on December 18. The chief minister retained five ministerial colleagues of his second stint (2008-13) in the new cabinet: Brijmohan Agrawal, Amar Agrawal, Kedar Kashyap, Punnulal Mohle and Rajesh Munat. The four new faces are former assembly speaker Premprakash Pandey, former minister Shri Ajay Chandrakar, BJP state President Ramsevak Paikra and Ramshila Sahu.

Country will certainly get a robust and effective Lokpal : Sushma Swaraj



Lokpal Bill was passed in the Parliament with the support of almost all political parties except Samajwadi Party. BJP was in favour of a strong Lokpal and it stood by its commitment accordingly. We are publishing the synopsis of the speech delivered by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj on 18 December 2013.

Madam Speaker, you might recall that a meeting was called by you before the onset of the present session. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had also convened a meeting. In both the meetings, I had said this demand on behalf of my party that Lokpal Bill must be passed in this Session itself at any cost. The Bill was sent back to the Rajya Sabha by the Select Committee of the Upper House after making certain recommendations.

I was of the considered view that we should pass the Bill in Lok Sabha as soon as it is sent to the House after its passage in the Rajya Sabha. I am happy that Lokpal Bill is back in the House despite so many hurdles and we have a great opportunity in hand in turning this session into a memorable session once we are able to pass Lokpal Bill in the House despite facing so many challenges. While speaking on the Bill I had said on 27th December, 2011 when it was brought in the House that the country was desperately waiting for the Government to bring a Bill in the winter session which will lay the foundation for an effective and powerful Lok Pal to strike at the core of corruption and pave way for a corruption free society. At that day, I had also raised the issue that this Bill is in contravention of several constitutional provisions and also that this Bill will create a weak and Government Lokpal and that the Bill is full of several shortcomings and anomalies. I had also said that we need a Bill through which an effective and circumspect Lokpal is created that will strike a severe blow to the edifice of corruption.

I also said that it may take two more months for it to come back but it would be wise to refer it to the Standing Committee at this juncture so that the Government is able to come out with such a Bill that meets the aspirations and hopes of the people. However, my suggestions were not given any heed at that day. We passed the Bill but I am happy now that the task which we had been unable to accomplish was completed by Rajya Sabha. When the Bill was sent to the Rajya Sabha, the Hon. Members of Rajya Sabha took cognizance of the fact that the Bill as arrived in

Rajya Sabha was a weak Bill and provided for establishing a Government Lokpal. That is why they opted to refer it to the Select Committee so that an effective Lokpal could be created. I offer my gratitude to the Members and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha that they presented before Rajya Sabha an extremely good Bill by incorporating 15 recommendations in it and held wide deliberations over it. However, I am equally pained to point out that the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha had made its recommendations on the Bill one year ago but the Government chose to put it on the backburner. It was only when I had specifically said in both the meetings that this Bill should certainly be brought to the House that the Government felt pressurized and it decided to bring the Bill in Rajya Sabha. The Government had accepted 13 out of 15 recommendations. However, both the left out recommendations were so important that Lokpal could not have been effective without them. However, both these recommendations were accepted by the minister after yesterday's discussion. One of the recommendations was related to CBI which now is being brought under Lokpal and it was in this context it was mentioned that the Government has the power to change the investigating officer during the course of the investigation.

We wanted that prior permission of Lokpal should be mandatory for giving effect to such change. The Government accepted its yesterday that it will require the prior permission of Lokpal if any such change in investigating officer is brought about during investigation. Second recommendation that the Government was not willing to accept was related to giving prior notice to a person caught red handed accepting bribe or in cases where raid is required. The Government accepted this recommendation also after yesterday's discussion. Therefore, an effective Lokpal Bill has arrived from Rajya Sabha. The country will certainly get a robust and effective Lokpal after Lok Sabha passes all the amendments moved by the hon. Minister today and I, therefore, support the Bill. ■



Law regarding citizens charter and grievances also needs to be passed : Arun Jaitley

In the Rajya Sabha BJP strongly supported the Lokpal Bill. We are publishing the synopsis of the speech delivered by Leader of Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley on 17 December 2013 in the house.

Today's debate is an extension of the debate of 29th December, 2011. Government's understanding has somewhat changed and it understands the merit of things said on 29th December, 2011. After this debate that has been on for the last 46 years, we should pass the Lokpal Bill removing its shortcomings. Samjwadi Party's contention that people will be afraid to take decisions is unfounded.

People will be afraid to take wrong decisions. This law will be a great contribution in the country's interest. The passage of this Bill will increase political credibility. The promise made by former Finance Minister that they will give an effective Lokpal Bill to the country has not been fulfilled. It requires improvements. Law regarding citizens charter and grievances also needs to be passed in this House. There was promise of appointing Lokayukta in States. Fight against corruption can be carried out within the federal structure of the country. Central Government wanted to keep Lokpal or Lokayukta under its jurisdiction but other political parties believed that this law concerns the services of States. Therefore Select Committee suggested that appointment of Lokayukta in every State within one year will have to be made mandatory. Select Committee headed by our colleague Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi

improved the old draft of 29th December, 2011. We believe that by appointment of Lokpal in Centre 27 by Central Government and in States by State Governments will lead to political misuse. Therefore we kept Chief Justice of India, Leader of Opposition, Speaker of Lok Sabha and Prime Minister as four Members and these four will select the fifth member who will be

that keeping private institutions getting donation from public under the jurisdiction of Lokpal will overburden the Lokpal. You agree with this recommendation of the Select Committee. The Select Committee has simplified the process of investigation. I have some suggestions regarding amendment No. 6. The person under prosecution has the right to be heard. But there is an exception to that. If someone is to be caught red handed, prior notice need not be given. Lokpal should have the power to take action without hearing such a public servant. Section 26 provides that when investigation is ordered, search and seizure can be carried out. Permission for search and seizure should be without prior permission. Amendment to this effect should be brought. This will help in checking corruption. Select Committee had suggested the appointment of a Director and appointment of Director of prosecution with regard to financial powers. I suggest that in case of matter being pending, if any officer is to be transferred then prior permission of Lokpal should be taken. The powers in Lokpal referred cases should vest in Lokpal itself as far as CBI is concerned. You have provided for religion based reservations in the matter of appointment. The constitution does not permit this kind of religion based reservation. The Minister may kindly consider the language. ■

The smooth passage of the Lokpal Bill in both the houses is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations to all members of Parliament. I am also happy that Shri Anna Hazare has ended his fast after today's development. It is a historic day in India's Parliamentary democracy. The contribution of both the Leaders of Opposition Smt Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley deserves special mention as they played a positive and proactive role in getting the Lokpal Bill passed in Parliament.



-Rajnath Singh

an eminent jurist. In Lokpal Bill moved by Government the power to remove Lokpal vested with Central Government. That provision was changed and process of removal of Lokpal by impeachment was brought in. Power of removal or suspension of Lokpal was also vested with Supreme Court for the purpose of impartiality. Only those institutions should be in the jurisdiction of Lokpal which are funded by Government money. Select Committee was of the view

Assembly Elections results show which way the wind is blowing : Narendra Modi



BJP's PM candidate and Gujarat CM Shri Narendra Modi addressed the huge Shankhnaad Rally at Dehradun's Parade Grounds on 15 December 2013. Prior to Shri Modi, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh also addressed the massive Shankhnaad Rally and made a strong appeal to the people of Uttarakhand to give all 5 seats in the state to the BJP. Leaders of the Uttarakhand BJP unit, former CMs Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Shri BC Khanduri, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Lok Sabha MP Smt. Mala Rajya Lakshmi Shah among others were present.

On that occasion Shri Modi shared his vision for the development of the state of Uttarakhand and assured to fulfill the aspirations of the people would be the BJP's responsibility. Shri Modi affirmed that the results of the Assembly Elections in 5 states have clearly shown which way

the wind is blowing and that the journey towards a Congress Mukht Bharat has begun.

Shri Modi presented a coherent vision for the development of Uttarakhand, highlighting the problems faced so far and the solutions of the problems. He shared that earlier it was believed 'Yahan Ki Jawani aur Yahan Ka Paani Kaam Nahi Aata' but assured the people this will change soon. "There is so much water in the hills yet there is darkness. Science can ensure that we can get electricity from water but is the Government in Delhi or the Government in Dehradun interested? They want people to remain poor" pointed Shri Modi.

He also talked about the importance of tourism in a state like Uttarakhand. Shri Modi shared that Uttarakhand is home to several religious places that people want to visit and added that a lot can be done to draw more tourists to Uttarakhand. He recalled that Mecca was not as

developed in terms of facilities 30 years ago but after proper facilities were put in place, many more pilgrims came there. Shri Modi opined that people are talking about SEZ now but Uttarakhand has been SEZ for years, a Spiritual Environment Zone. He believed that there is ample scope for adventure tourism to grow in Uttarakhand. He also stated that if the railway connectivity is improved then more pilgrims and tourists can visit Uttarakhand. Shri Modi talked about skill development opportunities for the youth and ensuring excellence in sectors like handicrafts and Ayurveda. He also paid tributes to all those proud sons of Uttarakhand who are serving in the Army and living for the nation.

Shri Modi took on both the Congress-led UPA government and the Uttarakhand government for their anti-people attitude. He affirmed that these governments are cut off from reality and their arrogance is sky

Belgaum (Karnataka)

high. Shri Modi opined that if the government devoted even half of the energy it is devoting in troubling Baba Ramdev then things would be different. He asked what kind of democracy is this where every day some or the other case is being registered against Baba Ramdev?

He was critical of the Uttarakhand government for their severely partisan attitude in the wake of the Uttarakhand flood tragedy. Shri Modi stated that during times of grief, tragedy and human suffering there cannot be any scope for politics. He recalled that when Kutch was destroyed in a quake everyone, including Pakistan offered help and the Gujarat government accepted their help.

Giving an example of the arrogance of the Congress, Shri Modi pointed that their senior leaders took a press conference in the issue of a Lokpal but if they were so serious about the Lokpal, why has the Congress government not implemented the tough Lokpal Bill that Shri Khanduri brought as the CM, which was even praised by Anna Hazare ji.

Shri Modi recalled the contribution of former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the creation of Uttarakhand and also mentioned the role played by Shri Rajnath Singh, who was serving as the Chief Minister of UP that time. He also talked about his close bond with Uttarakhand, a state for which he was the Prabhari of the Party. ■

Jan Bhagidari crucial to success in health sector : Narendra Modi

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the JN Medical College in Belgaum, Karnataka on 19th December 2013. Addressing the gathering he talked about the importance of both health and education in society at large. Shri Modi pointed that in addition to health insurance, the focus must be on health assurance and the prevention of illness.

Speaking about the importance of education Shri Modi said, "A society that does not give importance to education cannot progress. Let there be any Government, it must have a vision to make India shine in the field of education."

He went on to say, "Whenever we have entered a Gyaan Yug, India has led the way. The 21st century is also a century of knowledge."

Talking about healthcare he noted, "There is a matter of great concern. Illness and ill people are increasing. And we need more and more doctors. We are the world's most youthful nation but still we need skilled manpower for paramedical staff. Even technology is very important.

Why is it that we still get medical equipment from the west?" Shri Modi called for greater research in the health sector as well. He said that the poor are hit very badly during times of illness. Shri Modi shared his belief that success to a healthy India can be achieved through Jan Bhagidari.

He said that social hygiene is as important as personal hygiene. He affirmed that as India celebrates Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations in 2019, a mission for cleanliness could be taken up across India. He pointed that this could be a big agent of change. ■ (FOC)



'Hum Wade Nahi, Irade Lekar Aaye Hain' : Narendra Modi

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the mammoth Vijay Shankhnaad Rally in Varanasi on 20 December 2013. There was unprecedented enthusiasm among the people at the rally as more than five lakhs of Karyakartas, supporters and people from all walks of life joined the Rally to hear BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Narendra Modi and the other senior BJP leaders. Also present during the rally were former BJP President and current Lok Sabha MP from Varanasi Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, UP BJP President Shri Laxmikant Vajpayee, UP Prabhari Shri Amit Shah and others.

Addressing the huge gathering Shri Narendra Modi assured the youth of the nation that the BJP is committed to ensuring a bright future for them and that if a Government cannot guarantee the future of the youth, it cannot guarantee anything for the nation.

He challenged the conventional wisdom that Uttar Pradesh is important only due to the number of MPs it sends to Parliament. He said that what is more important is the development of the state. Shri Modi affirmed, "It is said that without UP no government can be formed. This thought is an insult to UP. Is the importance of Uttar Pradesh only to increase numbers in Parliament? Is UP only about

making governments? My thoughts are not so narrow. I do not think of UP merely on the basis of the MPs it sends. This state can be the engine of India's development." He added, "If India wants development and stability, it cannot happen without UP. For us, Uttar Pradesh is not a political playground but the most important land for India's development."

He commented on the poor governance in UP due to which the poor, the farmers and the youth are suffering. Shri Modi said, "Farmers of

this land has the capability to fill the stomach of so many people but the farmer of this land is unable to fill his own stomach. See the government you have. How does a farmer feel when he knows that grains are rotting?

This is not only an economic loss but also touches the heart of the farmer. The Honourable Supreme Court says give grains to the poor, the government lets it rot and gives it to alcohol manufacturers. What the Government is doing is an insult to the farmer and making a mockery of the poor."

Attacking the political culture of paying lip service to the poor, Shri Modi declared, "When elections come they keep talking about poor, poor, poor, poor... But, if there is someone responsible for India's poverty, it is one family." Recalling his own experience of poverty Shri Modi said, "I have spent my childhood in poverty. I



do not need to go to the houses of the poor to see what poverty is."

Reacting to the negative and deeply personal attacks made against him, Shri Modi affirmed, "One UPA leader calls me a tea-seller but I ask you all- is it a crime to stand on one's own feet and make ends meet? Anybody who is blessed by the people can become the Prime Minister irrespective of what he or she does. *Hume Chai Bechna Manzoor Hai, Desh Bechna Nahi* (It is acceptable to sell tea but not acceptable to sell the nation)." Shri Modi urged the poor people to uproot those who have



exploited them for years. Answering the statements made by a senior Congress leader who called the BJP a Party of thieves Shri Modi opined, “Yes, we are thieves, we have stolen the sleep of the Congress Party.”

The people of India want answers from the government on what they have done to clean the Ganga.” Shri Modi urged the people to uproot those who have fooled the nation in the name of the Ganga. “Those who could not manage the Ganga, how can they manage the nation? To purify the nation we have to make Delhi and Lucknow pure first,” said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi expressed concern at the state of the Ganges River. He stated, “For others the Ganga can be a river but for us it is our Mother. *Ganga Paani Ki Dhara Nahi, Sanskriti Ki Dhara Hai* (Not only water but also our culture flows in the Ganges). The UPA made a scheme to clean the Ganga, a lot of campaign was done and the people thought they would see a difference. But I want to say that in the last five years except meeting three times no step was taken by the Centre.

The people of India want answers from the government on what they have done to clean the Ganga.” Shri Modi urged the people to uproot those who have fooled the nation in the name of the Ganga. “Those who could not manage the Ganga, how can they manage the nation? To purify the nation we have to make Delhi and Lucknow pure first,” said Shri Modi.

Referring to those people who keep asking him what his “vision”

is Shri Modi replied that he does not come with mere promises but with ideas and determination (*Hum Wade Nahi, Irade Lekar Aayien Hain*). Shri Modi asked all those who ask what his “vision” is to come spend some time in Gujarat, see the transformation of the Sabarmati River.

He also spoke about the decline of Varanasi’s Sari sector and pointed out how the similar sector in parts of Gujarat was not allowed to fall into decline like this. He even spoke about how the Gujarat Government used technology and make recruitment of teachers totally transparent while in several parts the focus is more of “sepharish” than merit.

Shri Modi further pointed out that these elections are not being fought by any party or by any leader but it is the people who are fighting the elections. He said that the people of India are eager to uproot the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre. ■



We are running to unite the people, to unite the villages and to unite the nation : Narendra Modi



Rajnath Singh 'Runs for Unity' in Delhi

On the morning of 15th December, the *Punya Tithi* of Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh along



with Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley participated in 'Run for Unity' in New Delhi. BJP has organized throughout the country to mark the *punyatithi* of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Over 40 lakh people across over 1100 locations all over India joined the 'Run for Unity.' The Run for Unity was held in 565 cities across the country.

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh credited BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi for conceptualising 'run for unity'.

On the occasion while talking with media Shri Singh said "Narendra Modi should be credited for conceptualising and taking a lead in organising this programme across the country. This is the world's biggest youth programme,". Shri Singh along with Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel and Leader of BJP legislative Party in Delhi Assembly Dr Harsh Vardhan led party cadres and participants in the 'Run for Unity' marathon in New Delhi. Addressing the gathering, Shri Jaitley said that the event will act as an inspiration to all of us to build strong India. "Sardar Patel had played a pivotal role in shaping the destiny of India and the BJP stands committed to fulfil the dreams of Sardar Patel," he said.

Gujarat

Shri Narendra Modi flagged off the 'Run for Unity' in Vadodra. Shri Narendra Modi said that this run is being held with a determination to unite the people, unite the villages and unite the nation. He described the 'Run for Unity' as a matter of *Rashtra Bhakti* and an effort to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of India. Shri Modi called for integrating the future generations with the message of unity.

Shri Modi paid rich tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his *punyatithi*. He said, "Sardar

Patel devoted his life to unify the nation. He integrated the common people in the freedom struggle and made efforts to rid the nation of the colonial mindset. He undid the mindset of divisiveness and united the nation. When we remember Gandhi ji we remember truth, non-violence, sacrifice, simplicity, Satyagraha; when we remember Sardar Patel we remember Ekta, Surajya and Kisan



(unity, good governance and the farmer).

He categorically stated that India's diversity is India's strength. Shri Modi gave the *mantra* of 'Akhandata Me Ekta, Hindustan Ki Visheshta' (Unity in diversity, this is India's strength). He further stated, "Our diversity is not something that is on paper. It is the manifestation of our strength. It is not only our identity but also our tradition." Shri Modi avowed that there can be no bigger inspiration for the message of unity than Sardar Patel. Shri Modi said that good governance is the need of the hour and that it is India's tradition to move ahead with a spirit of Jan Bhagidari.

Earlier, Shri Modi flagged off the 21 km and 15 km run. He also flagged off the 5 km run. The 'Run for Unity' has generated a phenomenal response all over the nation.

Former Deputy PM of India and BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani flagged off the 'Run for Unity' in Ahmedabad. While flagging off the run Shri Advani said that "the country is showing the respect towards the great man that should have always been there"

Karnataka

More than 4,000 people from all walks of life participated in the two-km Run for Unity in Mysore. The run also created awareness among people about the construction of the tallest statue of Patel in

Gujarat.

The run, which started at Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple, passed through Dufferin Clock Tower, Ashoka Road, Suburban Bus Stand and Harding Circle and culminated at the starting point.

Members of various organisations took part in the run, which was flagged off by former minister Shri SA Ramdas.

Skaters, physically challenged and senior citizens also participated in the event. Many BJP workers wearing a mask of party's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi and Swami Vivekananda participated in large numbers in the run. Members of Ashodaya Samiti, an organisation which works for the welfare of

transgenders and sex workers, also took part in it.

A similar rally was also held in Bangalore in which BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar, State BJP President Shri Prahlad Joshi, actors Shri Ganesh and Shri Srinath, former ministers Shri Ramachandra Gowda, Shi R Ashok and Shri Murgesh Nirani took part.

Bihar

Leaders and workers of BJP along with a large number of common people held 'Unity March' in Patna. Prominent leaders including former Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, BJP state *prabhari* Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP state President Shri Mangal Pandey, Deputy Leader of BJP in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravishankar Prasad, Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Shri Nandkishore Yadav and others participated in the 'Run for Unity' which began from the famous Ecopark and ended near Chitkohra bridge at the statue of Sardar Patel. After the run, Shri Pradhan told mediapersons that iron would be collected in large quantity from Bihar to make the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel, the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat.

He said Sardar Patel had strived for the unity of the country and the march was organised to commemorate his work. Reports regarding organising of the run by the BJP were pouring in Patna from various district headquarters.

Odisha

A large number of people from different walks of life participated in 'Run For Unity' marathons held in various places of Odisha to mark the 63rd *punyatithi* of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In the state capital Bhubaneswar, the run organised from Forest Park to Lingaraj Temple, was flagged off by former state police chief Shri Amiya Bhushan Tripathy.

A galaxy of BJP leaders including state party unit President Shri K V Singhdeo, BJP State General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Prasanna Kumar Mishra, Shri Ashok Mishra, Shri Samir Mohanty and Shri Anil Dhir took part in the run.

similar rallies were also held in Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambhalpur and other places of the State.

Apart from political leaders, people belonging to different walks including youths and students participated in the marathon to spread message about national unity.

Andhra Pradesh

A large number of people participated in the 'Run for Unity' marathon held Hyderabad and elsewhere in Andhra Pradesh. Former India cricketer Shri VVS Laxman was among those who participated."The motivation and goal for all of us is to make sure that India is the place, the most powerful country in the world.

I think all of us should stand united to take inspiration from the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and to achieve our goal to make India the most powerful country in the world and the most beautiful place to live," Shri Laxman said.

Manipur

The Bharatiya Janata Party, Manipur also held the 'Run for Unity' in the state in that morning. The Run for Unity was flagged off from Kwakeithel Thounaojam Leikai Community Hall, Imphal and concluded at the Manipur BJP office at Nityaipat Chuthek in Imphal. More than 2000 runners participated in the run.



West Bengal

The BJP organised a run for unity in Kolkata. The two-km 'Run for Unity' from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's statue at Shyambazar to Swami Vivekananda's house on Shimla Street was led by BJP National Vice-President Smt. Smriti Irani and the party's West Bengal State President Shri Rahul Sinha.

Rajasthan

Thousands of people led by Olympian Shri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore participated in the 'Run for Unity' marathon held in Jaipur,

organised on the 63rd *punyatithi* of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. People including hundreds of children dressed in their jogging suits ran on a 2-km stretch from Amar Jawan Jyoti memorial to Statue Circle on Janpath here. The run was a show of support for a giant statue of Sardar Patel to be built in the middle of Narmada in Gujarat, Shri Rathore who joined the BJP before the Assembly polls said.

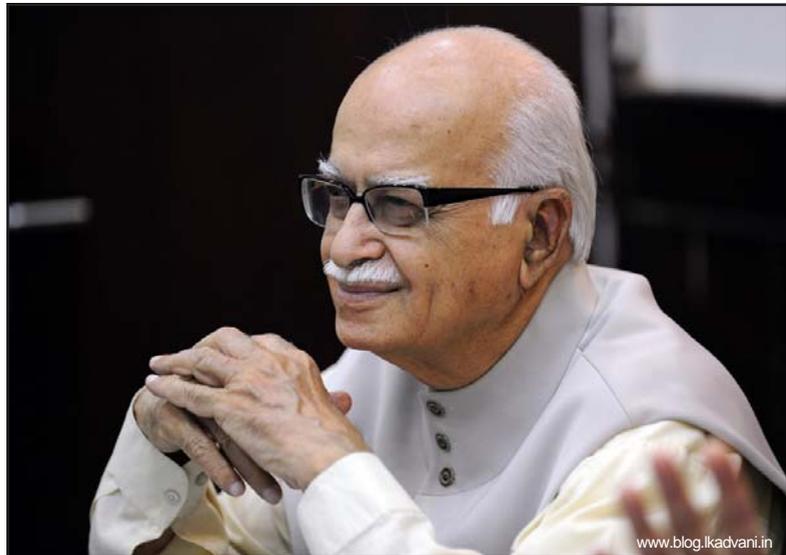
The statue is billed as a dream project of BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi. LED monitors, playing audio-visual message of the Gujarat Chief Minister, were installed at Amar Jawan Jyoti . Around 8,000 people had registered for the run. Similar runs were organised by state BJP in 32 districts where hundreds of people from all walks of life participated. ■

“Indian Democracy is Vibrant Enough to withstand both Coercion and Bribery”

By L.K. Advani

The year 2013 is coming to a close. An important poll battle has just ended. A crucial battle is to be waged in the coming year. Before the first half of next year ends, the fate of the Sonia Gandhi-Manmohan Singh regime would have been decided. Newspaper headlines have called this last Assembly battle ‘a rout for the Congress.’ M.J. Akbar’s article in the Sunday Times (December 15, 2013) is captioned: ‘Post-poll lessons for the winners, and whiners’. The last three sentences of the article sum up the piece thus: “India seethes when every Indian is angry. We have got a glimpse in 2013. We will see the full face of anger in 2014.”

The prospects for the Congress in the coming encounter therefore may not be very different. Till before these last Assembly elections, I used always to recall the post-Emergency Lok Sabha elections of 1977 to caution the Congress Party how, in a vibrant democracy popular fury can become the most effective



instrument for ushering into the political system the much needed attribute of accountability.

1977 was the first parliamentary election in India’s political history in which the Congress Party was dislodged from office. For thirty years, the party had seemed invincible.

But in early 1975 the Allahabad High Court accepted an election petition against Smt. Indira Gandhi and not only annulled her election to the Lok Sabha but besides, disqualified her from being elected to Parliament for a period of six years. The opposition naturally demanded her resignation. Mrs. Gandhi’s response was: invocation of Art. 352 and imposition of the Emergency.

A series of steps followed which brought India’s democracy to the brink of annihilation. Over one lakh opponents of the Emergency including patriots like Jayaprakash Narayan, A.B. Vajpayee and Chandrashekher, besides more than 300 media persons were put behind bars.

Numerous curbs were imposed on the media.

If Indian Democracy has survived this critical crisis of 1975-1977, the credit goes to two factors. Firstly, the valiant struggle for the defence of democracy put up by Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan along with the political parties who had accepted his leadership when he, even before the Emergency, had mobilized a campaign against corruption. Secondly, the electorate’s angry record-breaking verdict in the 1977 Lok Sabha elections.

In that election, out of the 236 Lok Sabha seats in the northern states, the Congress Party secured only two seats, one in Rajasthan and the second in M.P. In U.P., the Prime Minister of the country, Smt. Indira Gandhi herself was defeated in the elections.

I hold that the recent round of Assembly elections has been for the Congress Party the second disastrous defeat since the Emergency days, despite all attempts to buy over the voters. In Rajasthan particularly, numerous election-eve decisions were taken

to tempt the voters. In one of my earlier blogs relating to corruption, inflation, black money etc. I had remarked that in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the country need not be surprised if the Congress score slumps to two digits. **TAILPIECE**

I have undertaken numerous *yatras* in my life. My last *yatra* was in 2011. It was named *Jana Chetna Yatra*. The duration was 40 days. The *yatra* was a campaign against corruption, inflation, particularly food inflation, and black money. The demand was to stop corruption, bring down prices, particularly of food articles, and take steps to bring back to the country money stashed in tax havens overseas.

I was myself surprised to discover that the popular response to this last *yatra* was far greater than to all my earlier *yatras*.

Following this campaign in the country, GOI presented a White Paper on the issue in Parliament, but there has been no follow-up. Not a single paisa has been brought back.

A recent news report put out by the international watchdog Global Financial Integrity (GFI) has revealed that in 2011 over Rs. four lakh crores of black money was illegally taken out of India. This was 24 percent more than the previous year! ■

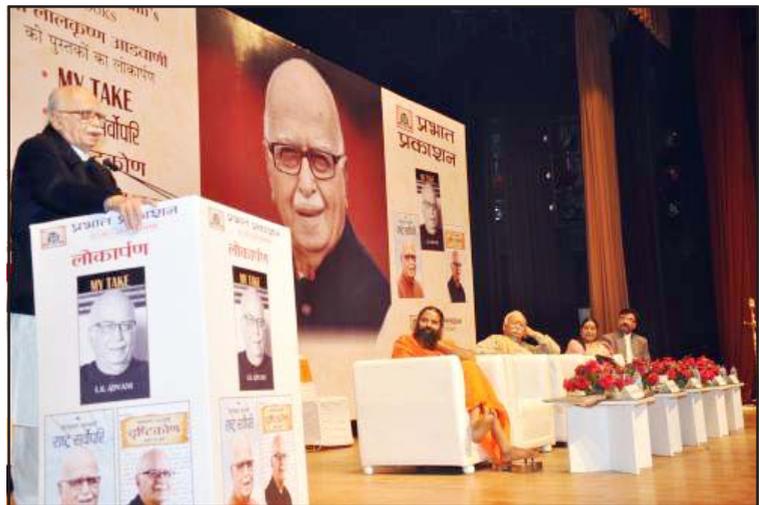
Three books of L.K Advani released

Former Deputy Prime Minister and BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani said that one may be inspired from any source or place and use it in making a constructive society. He was speaking at FICCI auditorium on the launch of the compilation of three books based on what he had written in his blog in the recent past.

“I have learnt a lot from events, political situations and individuals and have tried to implement the same in my personal life. I have also spread these ideas in the public domain through books and other means. I have also learnt from books, movies, religious persons and veteran leaders at various occasions that helped me develop an idea of myself.

I always try to use these ideas for others and for the development of the nation,” Shri Advani said.

Three books — which were launched on December 17 at the event — are My Take, Rashtra Sarvopari



and Drishtikone. Those present on the occasion were head of Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat, Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leaders of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley, former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP Rajya Sabha member Dr Chandan Mitra with others. Yoga guru Baba Ramdev also graced the occasion.

Shri Mohan Bhagwat, who was a special invitee, said that people must learn from the BJP patriarch, who has always struggled for the nation. “Advani motivated people to serve the nation and has never worked for his personal benefit, which makes him different from others.

He gets ideas from all possible means and uses it for the growth of the society,” said Shri Bhagwat.

Speaking at the launch, Baba Ramdev said that Shri LK Advani is not great because of his age, but because of his qualities. “The BJP leader has great talent which distinguishes him from others. He thinks like a youth and always talks sense. We always learn a lot from his books and wait for his blog updates enthusiastically,” said Baba Ramdev.

Earlier, presiding over the event, Smt. Swaraj said that those who are guided by the veteran leader should consider themselves fortunate. ■

'Need to create effective mechanism to deal with corruption'

By Arun Jaitley

History has provided us another opportunity to approve the Lokpal Bill which is pending for the last 46 years. Whether we correct the lapses and the weaknesses of the original Lokpal Bill as was introduced and approved by the Lok Sabha or we allow that to remain is being watched by the people of India. We need to restore faith in public life and create an effective mechanism to deal with corruption. It is important that we provide for an effective Lokpal legislation.

The Lok Sabha passed a Bill on December 27, 2011. On December 29, 2011 the Rajya Sabha disagreed with it. The majority members were in support of the amendments proposed by the Opposition parties. It was at this stage that the House was adjourned. Subsequently, the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, which has since submitted its report.

The Select Committee was headed by Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, a senior Congressman. It functioned predominantly on non-partisan lines and has come out with a large number of recommendations, which were substantially unanimous. However, there are some changes, which have been made by the government to the

recommendations of the Select Committee. The issues which were required to be resolved by the Rajya Sabha are mentioned hereunder.

1. The procedure for appointment for Lokpal: The original Bill as approved by the Lok Sabha provided for a Five-member collegium, which would appoint members of the Lokpal. It comprised the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India and a Jurist of eminence. Since a Jurist of eminence was appointed by the Government of India this could give the Government a majority in the matter of appointment. The Select Committee has recommended that the Jurist has to be appointed by the other four members through a consensus process.

2. Removal of erring members of Lokpal: The Bill as approved by the Lok Sabha provided for removal of Lokpal by a reference made to the Supreme Court by the President of India, on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. Thus only the Government of India could initiate the process of removal of a member by making a reference

to the Supreme Court. Presently, the Select Committee has replaced this procedure and 100 members of Parliament are entitled to petition the Supreme Court asking for removal of a member of the Lokpal. In the

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original Bill, during pendency before the Supreme Court, the Government alone was empowered to suspend an erring Lokpal. This power has now been shifted to the Supreme Court.

3. Jurisdiction of Lokpal to cover NGOs: Clause 14 (h) provided that the jurisdiction of the Lokpal would extend to a large number of private organisations outside the government. The object of the Lokpal was to deal with the officers from the Government. However, a 'revenge Provision' was introduced against the civil

only such private bodies would be covered, which either receives funding from the government or from foreign sources.

The Government though its official amendments has sought to deal with this provision by excluding religious organisation but allowing the Lokpal to have jurisdiction against any other private organisation. There is no rationale in Lokpal having jurisdiction over bodies, which have nothing to do with the Government or instrumentality of the state. The BJP is of the opinion that the recommendation of the Select Committee are fair and should not be interfered with.

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society by providing that any organisation, which collects donations from the public would be under the jurisdiction of the Lokpal. Thus, all religious organisations, education organisations, societies, cooperative societies, clubs and associations or any other body doing charitable work which claims funding from the Government would also be covered under the Lokpal. This would increase the burden of work on the Lokpal without larger public interest being involved. The Select Committee recommended the deletion of this provision. It recommended that

first be made to the Lokpal, who would conduct preliminary inquiry itself or through the CVC. Thereafter it has to decide whether to refer the matter to the CBI or any other investigative agency or not. At this stage, all documents would be shared with the delinquent. After the completion of the investigation by the CBI or any other investigative agency, the said investigation would come back to the Lokpal and the Lokpal itself would become the prosecuting agency. All experts who appeared before the Select Committee, disagreed with this recommendation. The select

committee has therefore recommended a straight forward procedure for investigation. The said provisions now include a preliminary inquiry by the Lokpal, a reference to the investigative agency to investigate the case, filing of the chargesheet or the closure report by the investigative agency. It has further provided for grant of sanction after obtaining opinion of the competent ministry. The power of granting sanction has been vested in the Lokpal. While most of these recommendations have been approved by the Government, the Government has introduced a new provision by which at the stage of preliminary inquiry, before embarking on preliminary inquiry, the delinquent official would be provided a hearing by the Lokpal. This would render the inquiry or investigation otiose. In cases involving bribery, accumulation of wealth, disproportionate assets, where an official has to be taken by surprise, searched and raided, the provision for grant of an opportunity for hearing before such action can be taken would defeat the purpose of evidence collection. This is an important area of disagreement between me and the changes as proposed by the Government. It is important that we go back to the recommendation of the Select Committee. The recommendation of the Select Committee should be accepted.

5. Central Bureau of Investigation: The Select Committee examined in detail various proposals with regard to ensuring professionalism and independence of the CBI. It has

made several recommendations in this regard. There would be two separate wings in the CBI viz. the Prosecution Wing and the Investigation Wing. There would be a Director, Prosecution appointed on the advice of the CVC. The CBI, Director would be appointed by the collegium comprising the Prime Minister, the LOP and the CJI. The Director, CBI would be the head of both the wings. The Director, CBI and the Director, Prosecution would have a fixed tenure. The power of superintendence with regard to the CBI in relation to the Lokpal-referred cases would vest in the Lokpal.

The panel of advocates representing the CBI would be independent lawyers and would be appointed by the CBI with the consent of Lokpal. Certain amount of financial powers would be vested in the Director, CBI in order to ensure independence of the investigation and incurring of the expenditure necessary for making fair investigation.

However, there is one area of difference between the recommendations of Select Committee and my view. I had proposed that the transfer of the officials investigating cases, referred to by the Lokpal, during the pendency of the investigation, can only take place with the concurrence of the Lokpal. However, the power as it stands today is vested in the Government. The Government can defeat the purpose of independent investigation by transferring an inconvenient officer. This requires a relook.

6. Lokayuktas in the states: A Lokayukta in the state can only

be appointed by a law passed by the State legislature. This is because the subject matter deals with the services of the State. The Select Committee, therefore, rightly provided for a provision, which would provide Lokayukta in the State and for that purpose a model law would be circulated to all the States on the pattern of the central Lokpal Act.

On a joint reading of the recommendations of the Select Committee and the Government's amendments to the same, there are only four areas of disagreement that I have with the proposals under consideration.

1. There cannot be a

provision for a religion based reservation in the matter of jurisdiction of Lokpal.

2. Transfer of officers during investigation can only be done with prior approval of the Lokpal and not otherwise.

3. No opportunity of hearing can be given at the stage of preliminary inquiry to a delinquent official since that would defeat the very purpose of the inquiry itself.

4. All NGOs which are neither funded by the government nor by foreign sources should be outside the jurisdiction of the Lokpal. ■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha)

Gujarat's first solar rooftop project generates 1.2 million units in six months

The state's first roof-top solar energy project in Gandhinagar that started operating this year has so far generated a total of 1.2 million units of solar power. In the first six months of operations, nearly 260 small residential households participated in the first phase of the project in Gandhinagar with a total generation potential of one megawatt, stated an official release from Gujarat Power Corporation Limited (GPCL) which is in-charge of developing and implementing the rooftop solar concept in Gujarat.

To facilitate this partnership, Gujarat Power Corporation has opened a facilitation centre at Gandhinagar where households willing to offer their roof can enroll for an initial assessment of the technical suitability of the rooftops. Till date over 760 KW of

residential leases have been signed by the developers with 260 residents in Gandhinagar. The rooftop owners get at least Rs. 3 per unit of energy generated as a rooftop rental. So far, about 3.2 MW of solar rooftopsystems have already been installed in the state's capital. "The total installation capacity under the Gandhinagar project is five megawatts. Out of this, four megawatts will be installed on government buildings and a total of one megawatt will be installed on private residential homes. We are now taking this successful program to Surat, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Mehsana and Vadodara in the second phase where we plan to generate 25 megawatt of energy", says Gujarat minister for Energy, Shri Saurabh Patel. ■

Madhya Pradesh – Chhattisgarh Chief Ministers have created history

By Prabhat Jha

BJP has won, Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has taken oath for the third time. A record has been made and BJP has created history. An example was created in the political journey of Madhya Pradesh. If one looks at the political events in Madhya Pradesh then one may realise that so far no party or chief minister has made government for third time in a row. When Madhya Pradesh was formed in 1956, Congress government was in power till 1966 and then 'Samvid' government was formed in 1967 which remained in power for next two and half years. Then Congress government was formed again. In 1977 Janata Party government was formed in the state. This government also lasted for two and half years. Again Congress government was formed. After this BJP government was formed in 1990. Shri Digvijay Singh became the first Congress chief minister who remained in power continuously for ten years. Before him no Congress chief minister could remain continuously in power.

This time by breaking the record of the Congress Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan made a record of forming government for the third time. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan got the chance to create history. After Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have become two such states in BJP politics who can claim loudly that they are now in the list of the governments who have

formed government for the third time. If we discuss about Chhattisgarh, Shri Ajit Jogi became chief minister when the state was formed but thereafter Dr. Raman Singh became chief minister and remained in the chair for last ten years and it is not an ordinary thing that the government has been formed under his leadership for the third time.

Chhattisgarh has also created a history. Dr. Raman Singh who created history also became a historic figure. BJP government and its chief minister Dr. Raman Singh changed the fate and fortune of Chhattisgarh. Congress has now been marginalised in both these states and finds itself drowned in the chaos of internal conflict. The election results have sent Congress in pitiable condition in both these states. The kind of claim the Congress was making before and after the elections clearly points to the fact that it has now no capacity to assess the strength of the others and its own. In both the states Congress was dismissing the prospects of BJP claiming that there was 'anti-incumbency' factor in these states. Congress kept waiting for it while the reality is that it never did anything worth agitating against the government in these states. In contrary sometime it appeared that there was nothing in the name of opposition in Madhya Pradesh. Congress kept indulging itself in

drama in the name of politics. Any struggle worth name which the people might have felt that Congress had waged for their benefit was not to be seen the state.

If we try to look at the situation in Madhya Pradesh, Congress was reduced to cipher even before the elections. At that time it tried to pose if it was getting united. Even

This time by breaking the record of the Congress Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan made a record of forming government for the third time. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan got the chance to create history. After Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have become two such states in BJP politics who can claim loudly that they are now in the list of the governments who have formed government for the third time.

after this Congress could not build confidence among the people that it was united. Though it kept singing the song of unity but it was never united. To show unity it organised many rallies but the situation remained the same. The situation in Congress started worsening the time Jyotiraditya Scindia was made convenor of the election campaign committee. As soon as the declaration of Maharaja was made, Raja got discontented. The game

which begun between Maharaja and Raja had its repercussion on the stage of Rahul Gandhi. Those having political insight could see through the game the Raja played against Maharaja. Congress was in despicable condition.

Even Jyotiraditya Scindia believed that seats could be won only by having public meetings. It was his misunderstanding. Only speeches in the meetings, Scindiaji neither knew the local Congress leaders nor the organisers. He was

If BJP keeps working tirelessly in the coming five years, Congress is bound to break. If one falls after having fallen everyone extends hands to make him stand but Congress is doing just opposite here. What will be the future of Congress which having fallen is made to roll and preparations are being made to see that it never stands on its legs again? It will only be known in the time to come.

only fulfilling formalities. He did not even bother to know as to what impact his speeches were making on the people. The way Congress leaders including Scindia ji were criticising Shivraj ji and Dr. Raman Singh, anger in people against Congress was rising. People were angry that Congress was not doing anything for them and by criticising whatever BJP had done it was digging its own grave. Congress had no plans for the future, it did not do anything in the past, so it was wielding sticks in the air.

Kantilal Bhuriya of Madhya Pradesh who had the responsibility of party president could not even tour the entire state in two years. The meetings of the party which should have taken place in Bhopal office started to take place in Delhi Congress office. The existence of the state president came to a nought. The situation came to such a pass that one day he had to say to the Congress president that he wanted to resign. The situation can be understood from this fact that

Congress leaders left no stone unturned to get tickets for their relatives. There was a competition as to who could get more tickets for their supporters. The possibility of win was a distant thing, importance was given as to who can get more and more tickets. One reason for the Congress loss was to get tickets for supporters whether they were able to win the elections or not. There was no one to stop them.

In Chhattisgarh, the incident by Naxalites was considered enough for victory by Congress. Congress forgot that it cannot win in the entire state only because of this incident. Whatever trick the Congress played to corner BJP could not fetch success for it. It was crystal clear that BJP had no ill intention in Naxal attack nor it was done at the expense of BJP. But Congress tried to establish that the attack by Naxals was sponsored by BJP. It did not go down well with the people. Law and order is the responsibility of the state but no one can deny that Naxal problem is a national level problem. It is an issue not related to any single state but exists at

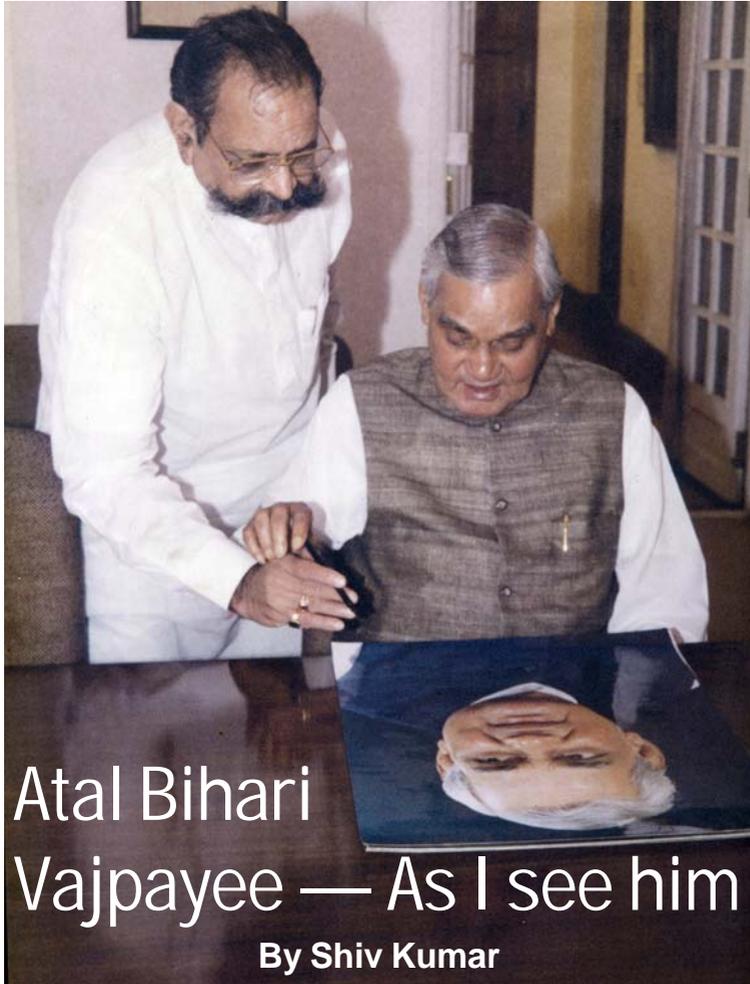
national level. Congress forgot this fact. The manner in which this incident was portrayed as a national incident and the way it was sought to take political benefit out of it had a very bad impact on the people. People had a feeling that the incident should not have taken place but if it had taken place it was wrong to indict only BJP government for the same.

In Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh there were many problems of their own kind. When it was required to raise these issues, Congress never came forward. By the time it tried to come forward, the opportunity was lost. Congress is on a crossroad. It is becoming difficult to reorganise itself in both these states. Even after being out of power the kind of infighting taking place in Congress is shameful.

Congress is on death bed in both the states. What will happen in the future cannot be said. If BJP keeps working tirelessly in the coming five years, Congress is bound to split. If one falls after having fallen everyone extends hands to make him stand but Congress is doing just opposite here. What will be the future of Congress which having fallen is made to roll and preparations are being made to see that it never stands on its legs again? It will only be known in the time to come.

BJP will also have to strengthen itself in the coming five years. The unity which BJP has shown in these years will have to be made rock solid. If BJP is able to do this which is very much possible then Congress will be never be seen in the days to come. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President and member of Rajya Sabha)



Atal Bihari Vajpayee — As I see him

By Shiv Kumar

Century's *mahanayak* Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee encompasses in himself the ideals of Lord Ram, prudence of Lord Krishna, profundity of Lord Buddha and brilliance of Swami Vivekananda. A brilliant orator, a great litterateur and poet every word of whose comes out of the depth of his heart that mesmerizes everyone. It is said that a person whose intentions are good, who is morally high, god is always on his side. This is the truth of Atalji's life. Born and brought up in an ordinary family, he suffered the sting of slavery, jumped into freedom struggle from his childhood underwent imprisonment, he is the

Ajaatshtra (who has no enemies) in politics. The one who rules the hearts of crores of Indians is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Possessed of perfection in the rare quality of taking everybody along and able administrator, he personifies the lotus emerging out of the mud of politics. He is a craftsman who can enjoin one heart with another. He has the attribute to mould a statue into man and to infuse life into it. This softness apart, he is possessed of a strong will as hard as the stone of a statue. A connoisseur of human values, a versatile journalist, above all, a parliamentarian, the best one, he is a leader whom even opponents own as their own. It is the peculiarity

of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that at the pinnacle of power he can pray: "God, don't raise me so high that I may not be able to embrace others. Don't render me that cold too".

Some years back Atalji had said that if there is Third World War it would be over water. He also used to prophesy that a time will come when a man will put a coin in the machine and he will get a chilled glass of drinking water; he will sip a cup of tea or coffee and, as a result, the vendor and his family on the roadside will die of hunger. His prediction has come out true today. Raising a loan has become the order of the day. It looks as if everything subsists on loans. Atalji used to tell that there was a philosopher Charvak who said: "Take a loan and enjoy a drink of ghee". Today everyone is luxuriating on the strength of loans raised. Atalji said this a decade back. This is proving true today.

People say Atalji is ill, unwell, can't speak, can't hear and can't walk. I don't agree with them. I say he is neither ill nor unwell. You can say that he is passing through what is called the stage of advancing age.

I give below an extract from his poem:

Maut se bekhbar

Zindgi ka safar

Sham har surmayee

Raat vanshe ka swar

*Baat aisi bhi nahin ki koyee
gham he nahin*

*Gham apne paraye kuchh kam
bhi nahin*

Pyar itna prayon se mila

Na apnon se baki hai koyi gila

These are the feelings that flow out of my mind. I have been witness to Atalji's personality during my long years with him. ■

(The writer is former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's lifelong associate. He has followed Atalji like a shadow. He has devoted all his life to be his partner in life through thick and thin.)

UPA regime losing sheen by the day

By Joginder Singh

There are different opinions as to why the Congress, the main political party in power that leads the Government at the Centre, was literally wiped out in the four State Assembly elections, results for which were declared on December 8. The party could only hold on to Mizoram whose Assembly results came out a day later on December 9.

It is difficult to hazard a guess that would be accurate, in this case as individuals have different reasons for voting for different parties. Some experts attribute the voting pattern to the Congress's poor governance record, others say that it is the

For instance, corruption remains at an all-time high in the country and the corrupt are hardly ever punished. Indian laws are the weakest in tackling corruption. For instance, in disproportionate assets cases, the onus lies on the Government to prove that the wealth acquired is beyond the known sources of income of the allegedly corrupt. Assets of top bureaucrats or politicians are rarely attached, who often enjoy ill-gotten gains.

party's Hindu-bashing in a Hindu-majority country that is to be blamed, still others point to the the Congress's politics of minority appeasement. Then, there are other commentators who have said that the issues of price rise and rampant corruption have brought down the party.

In this context, let us look at the Congress's communal violence Bill, which casts aspersions on the majority community as a communal group, so as to curry favour with minorities. First, law and order is a State subject. Other than the Janata Dal (United), all other parties have opposed the Bill. All Indians, including minorities have equal rights under the Constitution. But gradually, the Congress-led Union Government is trying to take over State subjects — by giving subsidies for projects that are clearly in the domain of the States.

A friend of mine recently said that some of our politicians would be happy to be sell their grand- mothers for a few votes. I pointed out that it was too harsh an assessment. Yet, the fact remains that when our politicians say that they want to beef our economy, I doubt if most of them can differentiate beef from pork. Party hopping is also quite common among politicians. As former US President Ronald Reagan once said: "Politics is supposed to be

The Government is bureaucratic by nature. Archaic rules are more important than the final results and public welfare. The rise of the broom is a manifestation of people's anger over the state of affairs

the second-oldest profession. I have come to realise that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

People want clean politics and cleaner politicians — and this is clear with the victory of a greenhorn political outfit in the Delhi Assembly election. The Aam Aadmi Party is barely two years old and it already has a formidable presence in the electoral fray. Yet, if the established parties delivered even one tenth of what they promised, things would not have come to such a sorry pass.

For instance, corruption remains at an all-time high in the country and the corrupt are hardly ever punished. Indian laws are the weakest in tackling corruption. For instance, in disproportionate assets cases, the onus lies on the Government to prove that the wealth acquired is beyond the known sources of income of the allegedly corrupt. Assets of top bureaucrats or politicians are rarely attached, who often enjoy ill-gotten gains.

India's archaic laws are another problem. One gets the impression that the Government does not want prompt disposal of cases, and it lets corrupt politicians and bureaucrats escape so that it can hold onto power itself. It is for this reason that the number of judicial officers is woefully low. With some high courts having vacancy of up to 50 per cent, appeals often go unheard.

In the lower judiciary, for example, the strength should be around 75,000, as per universal norms. But there are less than 14,000 judicial officers, against the sanctioned strength of 18,000. This leads to perennial delay in the disposal of cases and hence poor conviction rates. According to data compiled by National Crime Records Bureau, in 2010, over 1.78 crore cognisable criminal cases, including cases registered under the Indian Penal Code and Special Local Laws were pending for trial at the beginning of the year in various criminal courts.

About 67.51 lakh cognisable crimes, comprising 22.25 lakh IPC crimes and 45.26 lakh crimes under SLL, were reported in 2010 while 8,6330 cases have been pending investigation/trial from previous years under the Prevention of Corruption Act and related sections of the IPC in 2010. Another 3822 cases were registered during the year. Therefore, a total of 10,152 cases were pending investigation in 2010 out of which charge-sheets were filed in just 2,929 cases.

The conviction rate vis-à-vis persons accused under POCA in 2009 was 26.4 per cent. Similarly

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the conviction rate in 2010 for heinous crimes, such as attempt to commit murder, murder, rape and riot was 27.7 per cent. Conviction rate for crimes against women (under IPC and SLL) for 2010 was 27.8 per cent. Similarly, it is hard to believe that there were less than 10,000 corrupt officials in the country out of a total of 1.97 crore, State, Central and public sector employees. Our legal system has made life too easy for criminals and too difficult for the law abiding citizens, as the Supreme Court also noted last year.

We have all the trappings of good governance but little to show for it. Our Parliament and State Assemblies only pass laws, which have little or no enforcement, even if it is there on the paper. Perhaps, someone should remind our Government that if Columbus, who discovered America, had as many advisers

as it does, he would probably still be at the dock deciding whether to sail or not.

As a joke, it is said in the US, that it might be more fruitful if people stopped wringing their hands and started wringing those of their lawmakers; it is for the readers to decide as to how much of this applies to India. Our Government is bureaucratic by nature – for it, the final results and welfare is not important, but the letter of the law is all that matters. Bureaucrats, both serving and retired, never had it so good as in the present dispensation. There is no accountability and no punishment.

Even if bureaucrats don't work, the laws makes it difficult to fire them. The Government's solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem itself. In this situation, the lawmakers will do well to keep in mind that the Government which governs the least is in effect the best sort of Government.

Finally, instead of selling promises it can't keep and dreams that it will not fulfill, it is time for the Government to deliver and show tangible gains. As of now, thanks to the indifference of the regime, inflation is at an all-time high, economic growth has slowed down and prices of even essential items have shot through the roof. That the Government of the day can actually take credit for the fact that the price of petrol per litre is less than that of one kilogram of onions or tomatoes is not just ironic but indeed a cruel joke on the common man. ■

(The writer is former CBI Director)

Youth – the change agent for 2014

By Muralidhar Rao

A half century after political independence from West, Asian economies are re-emerging. In terms of GDP, China is expected to be the front runner by 2040, leaving the US far behind. India is projected to overtake China later this century. The wheel is turning full circle. India and China's contribution to the world GDP went from a high of 24.5 per cent and 33 per cent respectively (in 1750) to a low of 1.7 per cent and 6.2 per cent, as their economies shattered under industrial revolution-fuelled imperialism. Balance is only now being restored.

India and China enjoy a huge demographic advantage, with a population of 3.6 billion, nearly half that of the world. India enjoys the demographic dividend of a largely young population, unlike China. In the West, the dependency ratio is increasing, while it has reduced considerably in India in the last few decades, from 81 in 1964 to 55 in 2010. China's one child policy of China has increased its dependency ratio.

India boasts a billion people under 45 years of age, which is 75 per cent of the total population. China, by comparison, has 900 million people below 45. This trend is projected to continue. By 2020, the average age in India will be 29, in Chinese 37 and in Japan, 48.

India's development challenges will thus be radically different from those of the

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developed world. Employment, food security, education, health and proper utilization of resources will have to be addressed keeping this segment in view. For instance, our education system, which could have been our key strength and a millennial game changer, does not focus on skill development and employability. The spending on education has increased by more than 350 per cent between 1999 and 2009, but the results are not proportional to the expenditure. Even though 12.8 million people join the job market every year, only 2 per cent of the total workforce in India undergoes skills training. According to the recent survey by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the employment rate in India dropped to 0.83 per cent in the period 2004-'05 to 2009-'10, while it was 2.66 per cent in the period 1999-2000 to 2004-'05. As of January, 2012, the total number of unemployed people in India was 10.8 million.

First-time voters in 2014 are estimated to be around 15 crores (nearly 20 per cent of total voters). Another 30 per cent of the electorate is below 35 year of age. The majority of this youth population in the age group of 18-35 are educated. The new generation is vocal, confident, questioning and dynamic. The demographic dividend coupled with technology penetration has created a new dynamic. India's youth now participate in a global market and therefore, the nation cannot afford to fall behind the rest of the world in terms of employment, development, governance, economic progress and national security. The youth are initiating and participating in the debate on these issues and are determined to shape the outcome of the 2014 general elections.

Sensitive to pan-Indian issues like price rise, corruption, internal security and gender equity, this generation's approach is participative. They are not inclined to be mute spectators. Thus, after 9 years of UPA rule, they are looking for change, for new leadership that can deliver. Narendra Modi's performance as Chief Minister of Gujarat has convinced many that he is a doer, someone who understands and encourages their aspirations and will help realize their goals – both national and individual. Small wonder he has emerged as an icon for young India. ■

(The writer is BJP National General Secretary)



Yoga of Synthesis

By Sri Swami Sivananda

Yoga of Synthesis is suitable for the vast majority of persons. It is a unique Yoga.

Man is a strange complex mixture of will, feeling and thought. He is a triune being. He is like a tricycle or a three-wheeled chariot. He wills to possess the objects of his desires. He has emotion; and so he feels. He has reason and so he thinks and ratiocinates. In some the emotional element may preponderate, while in some others the rational element may dominate. Just as will, feelings and thought are not distinct and separate, so also, work, devotion and knowledge are not exclusive of one another. He must, therefore develop his heart, intellect and hand. Then alone can he attain perfection. Many aspirants have lop-sided development. They do not possess an integral development, as they neglect one or the other of these aspects of their personality.

One-sided development is not commendable. Religion and Yoga must educate and develop the whole man - his heart, intellect and hand. Then only he will have integral development.

In the mind there are three defects, viz., Mala or impurity, Vikshepa or tossing, and Avarana or veil. The impurities of the mind should be removed by the practice of Karma Yoga, by selfless service. The tossing should be removed by worship or Upasana, by Japa and devotion. The veil should be torn down by the practice of Jnana Yoga, i.e., by study of Vedantic

literature, enquiry, self-analysis, service to the Guru, and deep meditation. Only then Self-realization is possible.

If you want to see your face clearly in a mirror, you must remove the dirt in the mirror, keep it steady, and remove the covering also. You can see your face clearly in the bottom of a lake only if the turbidity is removed, if the water that is agitated by the wind is rendered still, and if the moss that is lying on the surface is removed. Even so is the case with Self-realization.

Action, emotion and intelligence are the three horses that are linked to this body-chariot. They should work in perfect harmony or unison. Then only the chariot will run smoothly. There must be integral development. You must have the head of Sankara, the heart of Buddha, and the hand of Janaka. The Yoga of Synthesis alone will develop the head, heart and hand, and lead one to perfection. To become harmoniously balanced in all directions is the ideal of religion and of Yoga. This can be achieved by the practice of the Yoga of Synthesis. To behold the one Self in all beings is Jnana, wisdom; to love the Self is Bhakti, devotion; to serve the Self is Karma, action. When the Jnana Yogi attains wisdom, he is endowed with devotion and self less activity.

Karma Yoga is for him a spontaneous expression of his spiritual nature, as he sees the one Self in all. When the devotee attains

perfection in devotion, he is possessed of wisdom and activity. For him also, Karma Yoga is a spontaneous expression of his divine nature, as he beholds the one Lord everywhere. The Karma Yogi attains wisdom and devotion when his actions are wholly selfless. The three paths are, in fact, one in which the three different temperaments emphasize one or the other of its inseparable constituents. Yoga supplies the method by which the Self can be seen, loved and served.

Hence everyone should have one Yoga as the basic Yoga and combine other Yogas. You can combine Nishkama Karma Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Raja Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, Sankirtan Yoga, etc., with Jnana Yoga as the basis. This is my Yoga of Synthesis, which will ensure rapid spiritual progress.

A little practice of Hatha Yoga (Asanas and Pranayamas) will give you good health. Raja Yoga will steady your mind. Upasana and Karma Yoga will purify your heart and prepare you for the practice of Vedanta. Sankirtan will relax your mind and inspire you. Meditation will take you to liberation. Such a Yogi has all-round development. The Yoga of Synthesis will help you to attain God-realization quickly. Upanishads, Gita and all other scriptures speak of this Yoga. Therefore, O Mokshapriya, practice this unique Yoga of Synthesis and attain Self-realization quickly. ■

(Courtesy : Divine Life Society)