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Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

Subscription

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Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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CONTENTS

Rallies

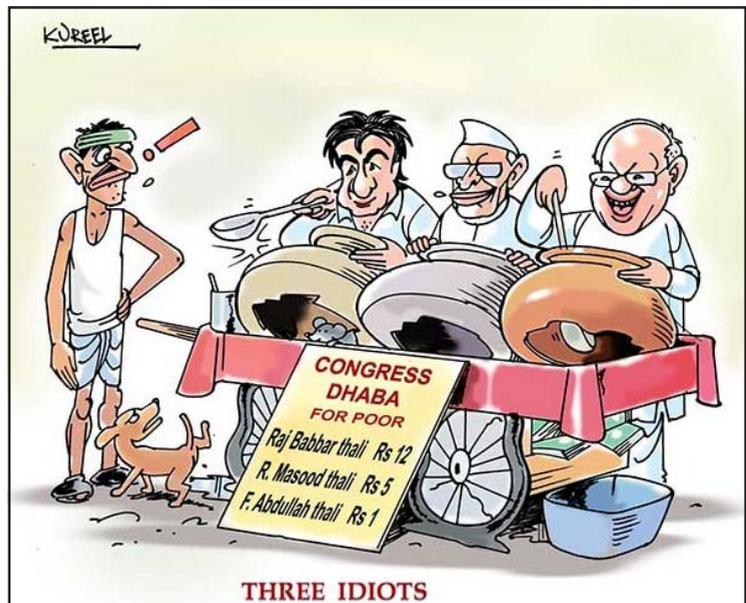
Amethi, Uttar Pradesh.....	7
West Bengal.....	8
Uttarakhand.....	9
Uttar Pradesh.....	10
Andhra Pradesh.....	11
Bihar.....	12
Varanasi.....	13

Articles

Spurious Robert Vadra development model By Balbir Punj	17
Why there is no Amethi model By M. J. Akbar	19
Look who is talking about respect for women, law By Kanchan Gupta	21
Neither here nor there, is the Congress's fate By A Surya Prakash	23

Others

Narendra Modi's Blog.....	14
BJP releases video of 'Damad Shree'.....	15
Largest Mass Outreach Campaign in Electoral History.....	25
On Assam violence.....	29
Golden words from Aadhyatma.....	30





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O Arjuna, by spiritual intelligence discard fruitive actions which certainly are abominable and aspire for the refuge of the science of uniting the individual consciousness with the Ultimate Consciousness by this spiritual intelligence. Those impelled by fruitive result are wretched –(Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 49)

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"We are getting a clear majority in the Lok Sabha elections and our party will get more than 300 seats."

-Rajnath Singh



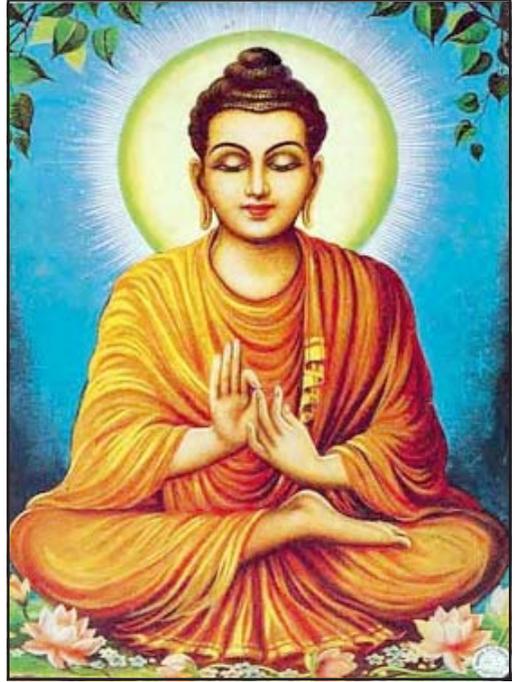
"I cannot ask anyone who are you. Everyone is a proud child of India."

-Narendra Modi

Buddha Purnima : 14th May, 2014

Vaishakha Purnima also known as Buddha Purnima, is traditionally observed as Goutam Buddha's Birthday by Buddhists in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tibet, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and the South East Asian countries of Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Indonesia. However Buddha Purnima festival is actually celebrated to commemorate the Birth Anniversary, Enlightenment and Mahaparinirvana (death anniversary) of Gautama Buddha. Buddha Purnima is also known as Buddha Jayanti, Vesak, Vaishaka and Buddha's Birthday.

The Childhood name of the Gautama Buddha was Siddhartha who later became a great Buddha and called as Gautama Buddha. He became a great spiritual teacher and founded Buddhism. He was born in the Lumbini, Nepal to the King Shuddhodana (King of Kapilvastu) and Queen Maya Devi. He was a Prince by birth however he never chose to live very easy and prosperous life of the palace. He got married to a beautiful woman and got a son. At 29, a big turning point came in his life, he left the palace and went outside in the search of truth. He started wandering like an ascetic after renouncing his worldly life. He reached Bodh Gaya and sat beneath the Bodhi tree for the deep meditation until he got enlightenment. He attained nirvana after 49 days of the deep meditation and became a Buddha. He died at 80 in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. Buddha Purnima is celebrated to commemorate the Lord Buddha and his religious achievements during his life time.



Places like Bodh Gaya, Lumbini, Kushinagar and Sarnath has become the most important pilgrimage sites for the Buddhists as these places are deeply attached to the life of Gautama Buddha. Bodh Gaya is the place where Gautama Buddha obtained the Enlightenment after many years of Tapa, Sarnath near Varanasi is the place where he first taught the Dharma, Lumbini is his birth place and Kushinagar is death place. Hindus also consider Buddha as the 9th incarnation of Lord Vishnu.■



In India democracy has become a unique phenomenon!

Editorial...

As the polling for the general elections 2014 is coming to an end, Indian democracy is showing to the world its inherent strength and uniqueness. India has not only become a democracy which is largest in the world but a democracy where people participation is also very high. Elections take the form of a national festival as the issues before the people become live at every nook and corner of the country. From the TV studios to village chaupals, the discussions are intense and all embracing. Colourful processions, roadshows, public meetings, door to door campaign become the measure of a candidate's or political party's strength. From posters to TV ads to radio and FM ads, different slogans and attractive songs attempt to capture the imagination of everyone. In fact the entire nation becomes livid in this huge exercise of electing a new government.

The voter turnout this time has surprised everyone. Almost everywhere there has been huge increase in the voting percentage compared to 2009 elections as people came out in large numbers to exercise their franchise. One might well imagine the arrangements that are required to facilitate the voting of 81.5 crore electorates which comprises of 10 crore new voters. Male and female both come out with full enthusiasm to register their preferences while different issues are debated through different mediums. Apart from having a festive look, the process entails a serious exercise. The issues before the nation are discussed threadbare with the participation of the different sections of the electorate.

While the elections have remained peaceful some incidents of violence in certain pockets have also been reported. The most serious in nature was the post poll violence in Assam where innocents of a particular community were targeted. It should be condemned by everyone and message should be clear that in our democracy there is no space of such violence. The other serious issue is the attempt of Pakistan's army chief to interfere with the electoral process in India. Such attempts should be opposed with full strength and a strong signal should be immediately sent to Pakistan. At the same time there have been efforts to derail the debate by raising unnecessary, irrelevant and petty issues. BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi's popularity is giving sleepless nights to his opponents. They are busy creating issues out of nothing to counter his rise but in vain.

Pollsters who have predicted huge victory for BJP led NDA are now convinced with their findings as people have come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise. There is almost consensus among them that high turnout is indicating towards huge consolidation of voters in favour of change. It also proves that a new kind of aspiration has encouraged the voters, more particularly the first time voters who are around 12.5% of the

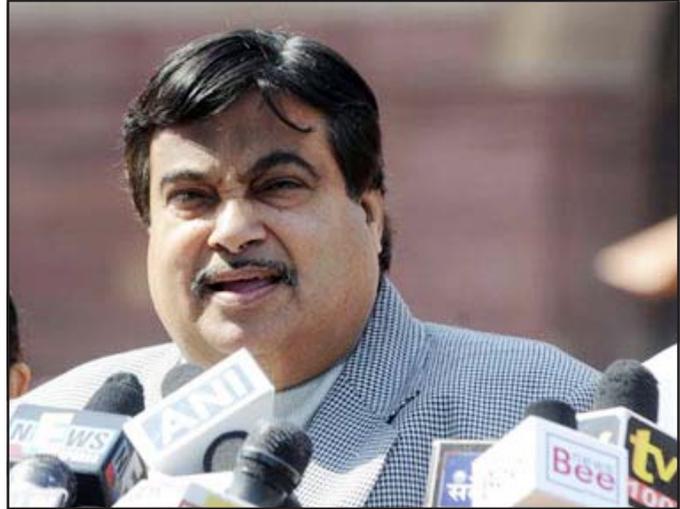
total electorates, to cast their votes in large numbers. It is not only a victory for the democracy but also a victory for India as large numbers of people have shown courage to come forward to participate in the electoral process. It has further enhanced the reputation of India as a democratic society where democracy has not only survived, it has thrived all these years.

Shri Narendra Modi and BJP have kindled a new hope in the people. People are coming forward with new dream in their eyes for a resurgent India. It seems that all kinds of caste-religion calculations are going to prove wrong as people are voting as one people and to see a new future. The electoral exercise has taken a shape of a movement, it is a movement for change and to see India free of corruption, price rise and misgovernance. Not only this people are having aspirations to live in a developed country and bring a change in their fortunes. The democratic process is facilitating such aspirations to take shape. There is new hope, enthusiasm and a positive atmosphere in the country. In India this time, democracy has become a unique phenomenon. ■

Manish Tewari tenders unconditional apology to Nitin Gadkari

The Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari has tendered an “unconditional apology” to former BJP President Nitin Gadkari for the allegations made against him in the Adarsh Society Scam.

“ I state that in future, I will never put you in disrepute by making any comments with regard to the Adarsh Society”,



Manish Tewari said in a written submission made in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mumbai.

Tewari, in his capacity as spokesperson of the Congress Party, had made a statement at a press conference on November 10, 2010, alleging that Gadkari owned a Benami flat in the Adarsh Society.

Gadkari had filed a criminal defamation suit against Tewari after he refused to apologize for the allegations.

In his submission before the court, Tewari said “I state that, after perusal of the newspaper reports regarding the judicial commission appointed to investigate the Adarsh Society scam, it reveals that you have not played any role or you have any concern of whatsoever nature with the scam”.

He further submitted before the court that “therefore, now I understand that whatever statements I had addressed in the press conference on November 10, 2010, which were aired in electronic media and printed on November 11, 2010 in print media, were not related to the true facts”.

Manish Tewari, in his submission before the court also said “I understand that, by such statements you have to suffer huge disrepute and have to face uncomfortable situation within your party and the society. Therefore, by this communication, I tender my unconditional apology for the allegations made against you.”

In the light of the unconditional apology tendered by Manish Tewari in the court, Nitin Gadkari moved the Additional Metropolitan Court with a plea to withdraw his petition. ■

Narendra Modi demolishes Congress's castle of lies



The Congress' betrayal of the people who reposed their faith in it, and a startling revelation of the dismal development in Amethi, was shared by BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi during his address in the region, on the evening of 5th May. From the lack of infrastructure facilities and inadequate and improper transportation systems to the acute poverty in the region, Shri Modi exposed the Congress' appalling negligence towards its family bastion of Amethi, despite ruling the region for over 30 years. He also released the BJP's Manifesto for Amethi, which incorporated effectual policies to develop the region and turn it into a 'Progressive Amethi'.

Expressing deep concern for the abject lives of the people of Amethi, Shri Modi spoke of how the region lagged behind its counterparts across the country. Be it agriculture or trade, the region lagged far behind its neighboring districts, not just the Nation. From the severe lack of basic amenities like water and sanitation to erratic power supply and insufficient educational institutions, Shri Modi shared a clear picture of the Congress' utter disregard for its people, and spoke of Amethi as just a votebank for the Nehru-Gandhi family. Addressing the issue of lack of toilets in schools, which had led to the alarmingly low figures of girl child education, Shri Modi shared the initiative taken in Gujarat whereby 76000 toilets were constructed in schools so as to enable girl students to pursue their education.

He questioned the arrogance of the Central government in being accountable for their work,

and stated how Smt. Smriti Irani had, within a short span of time, acknowledged and started addressing the problems of the people. Shri Modi also attacked the Congress for its lies and its attitude of blaming the State Government for its own incompetence. "They are telling lies when they say that providing power and other development is unto the state government," said Shri Modi, as he asserted that if the BJP government was voted to power, it would solicit and ensure the State Government's active participation in implementing favourable policies for the State.

Shri Modi made a scathing attack on the Congress Vice President's unconcern for his people by stating how despite being the MP from the region, he had never bothered to address local issues in the Parliament, and get them solved. Giving a ray of hope for the distressed people, Shri Modi released the BJP's Manifesto for Amethi, citing the development strategy and spoke of how the Party's reformist policies would work towards making a 'Progressive Amethi'. "In so many years they have ruined the dreams of 3 generations. I am here to sow seeds of hope among the youth. I have come here to share your sadness and make your problems mine," affirmed Shri Modi.

Disclosing the reason behind choosing Smt. Smriti Irani as the candidate from Amethi, Shri Modi said that this was done, not to increase the burdens of the already burdened Rahul Gandhi, but to lessen the sufferings of the people of Amethi. "Smriti ji works with me. She is a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat. We gave her a district close to MP

border and I have seen the great work she has done in that district. Seeing her work I decided I will send her to the district which is least developed in UP. We wanted to present an alternative model," said Shri Modi. Complimenting Smt. Smriti Irani's competence, Shri Modi affirmed that if compared with the Congress family, she would know the nearby villages of Amethi better than the Family.

He further attacked the arrogance of the Congress leaders by citing how one of them had questioned the identity of Smt. Smriti Irani. "Families that are devoted to public life cannot make such statements.

I cannot ask anyone who are you. Everyone is a proud child of India," said Shri Modi, while further adding, "When arrogance reaches a new level, one loses thought process. I will tell you who she is- she is my younger sister. I can tell you that Smt. Smriti Irani has come here to undo what you did in 40 years. She has come here as a ray of hope

for the people here."

Shri Modi affirmed that the Polling till date had not only ensured the ouster of the Congress and its allies but had also laid the foundation stone for the formation of a strong, stable and development-oriented government. He affirmed that the future looked bright under the BJP-led government, and appealed to the people to support the NDA government. "Take this in writing. In 2019 I will again come to Amethi and present my account of work done," affirmed Shri Modi.

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Smriti Irani cited the lack of educational opportunities for the girl child and attacked the Congress VP for his false commitment towards woman empowerment. She affirmed that the massive presence of the people reflected the yearning of the people, who wanted the change, that the Nation too desired for. "The wave of change that is taking place in the nation, Amethi wants to be a part of that," said Smt. Smriti Irani.

WEST BENGAL

Congress, Left and Didi all were together in UPA Govt.

A deep concern for the lack of development in West Bengal and a focused determination to undo this and work towards the State's prosperity was conveyed by Shri Narendra Modi during his rallies at Bankura and Asansol in West Bengal, on the afternoon of 4th May. From a more efficient state government with BJP at the Centre, to his resolve of fighting the scamsters, Shri Modi shared

various insights into a BJP-led government that would ensure the prevalence of 'badlaav ki raajneeti' (politics for change).

Asserting how the effectiveness of a BJP-led government in Delhi will only impel the ruling State government to take action and focus on developing the State, Shri Modi said, "If you stand with Didi alone then will anything happen? No.

Get Modi to Delhi and then there can be a healthy competition." He also added how the people could have a 'double faida' by electing a BJP government in Delhi that would work for West Bengal, and consequently having a more efficient State government who will be on its toes, working for the progress of the State and its people.

Retaliating strongly to the TMC chief's recent comments citing Shri Modi as 'paper tiger' and comparing him to the Royal Bengal tiger in a disapproving manner, Shri Modi



said that the real tiger was, in fact, the Bengali youth with their immense potential. In defiance of the comment, Shri Modi confronted 'Didi' and asked her if her government could punish the doers of the Sharda Chit Fund scam and prove themselves as the 'real tiger'. "What kind of a set up is this where people form chit funds, smile with leaders and keep looting people. A real tiger will never save scamsters. I am fighting against this lot," said Shri Modi.

Condemning the TMC leader's preference and support for intruders from Bangladesh, Shri Modi spoke of how this had robbed the State's youth of growth opportunities. He affirmed of strict action against those infiltrators who had only come to flare up votebank politics, but, at the same time, also asked the people to warmly welcome those who had been shoved off by Bangladesh and had come to seek refuge. "Those who were children of Bharat Mata, those who observe Durgashtami they

are my brothers. We must treat them like children of India, but those who come here for votebank politics and take away jobs of our youth will have to go back," said Shri Modi.

In Asansol, Shri Modi urged the people to support Babul Supriyo, the BJP candidate from the region. He also attacked the State government for various scams, including the scam in recruitment of teachers in the State, and shared Gujarat's success story of recruiting teachers through online software. Citing facts and figures which conveyed that Muslims in Gujarat were well-off when compared to their counterparts in WB, Shri Modi condemned the State government for its incompetence in ensuring the progress of every section of the society.

Shri Modi also appealed to the Election Commission of India to ensure that the next two phases of polling, in these regions, must be free of any rigging or any other form of manipulation.

UTTARAKHAND

Development is the solution to all problems

All other types of caste, communal and dynasty politics will not do good

On 3rd May, Shri Narendra Modi addressed massive rallies at Srinagar, Almora, Rudrapur and Roorkee in Uttarakhand, and affirmed of the BJP's focus on evolving a separate development strategy for the Himalayan states, which would embrace the strengths of the region and address its weaknesses. Shri Modi exposed the divisiveness of the Congress and urged the people to vote them out and enable the BJP to form a development-oriented government at the Centre.

Shri Modi spoke of how the Congress and its allies were only focused on stopping Modi, be it by 'gathbandhan' or 'lathbandhan'. And this, he said, was because of their fear for their fate after the declaration of results on 16th May. He attacked the

misgovernance of the Mother-Son led government in Delhi and the Husband-Wife led government (referring to CM Harish Rawat and his wife Renuka) in Uttarakhand, and said, "Does Congress not have a single leader or Karyakarta or woman leader? Why is it that in Delhi there is Mother-Son & here Husband-Wife." He further stated how Shri



Rawat was also the incharge of Water Resources in his capacity as a Central government Minister earlier, but did little towards flood water management during the natural calamity that struck the State few months back.

In Srinagar, Shri Modi also thanked the women for attending the rally in large numbers, and drew their notice to how the safety of women, under the Congress rule, was under serious threat. He cited the report on 'Dignity of Women' which put forth that amongst the top 10 states with maximum atrocities on women, 7 were Congress-ruled.

Affirming of the BJP's emphasis on farmers' welfare in the Terai region, Shri Modi stated the inclusion of a standardized quotient for determining the Minimum Support Price for the farm produce, in the BJP's Manifesto. This, he said,

would reinstate the mantra of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. He also spoke of the immense yet untapped potential of tourism in the country and stated how Uttarakhand could also elicit a large number of tourists. He asserted the BJP's commitment to develop every region with separate development modules, incorporating the strengths and weaknesses of that region, and this would include a different growth policy for the states in the Himalayan range.

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Major-General (Retd.) Bhuwan Chand Khanduri was present during the rally at Srinagar. He spoke of how Shri Modi had extended a helping hand generously during the natural calamity that hit the State last year, and affirmed of the people's wish to see Shri Modi as the PM of India.

UTTAR PRADESH

Divide and rule is the way Congress does their politics while we say let's unite and do development

Addressing massive rallies across Uttar Pradesh on 2nd May, Shri Narendra Modi spoke of his thorough focus on developing the eastern part of the country and getting it at par with its western counterpart. Shri Modi also exposed the Congress' duplicity wherein they were only concerned about the 'kursi' (chair), and urged the people to vote for the BJP and form a government that was concerned about people's 'khushi' (happiness). Shri Modi spoke at Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda and Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh.

Terming the Congress' Manifesto as 'Dhokha Patra', Shri Modi spoke of how many promises made in their past Manifestos were never fulfilled, and kept getting repeated in the subsequent Manifestos. He also spoke of how the Congress dodged every question posed to them, surrounding their inefficiency, by only referring to 'secularism'. Shri Modi said that hiding under the garb of secularism was the Congress' strategy of hiding their faults and misleading the people, so as to grab the 'Chair'. In contrast, the BJP's sole aim was the people's progress and the Nation's development, said Shri Modi, and added, "The Congress is fighting for the kursi (chair) while I am

fighting for your khushi (happiness)."

Shri Modi also stated the rampant corruption prevalent in the country and spoke of how the Congress' unabashed indulgence in various scams had lent the moniker of 'Scam India' for the Nation. He highlighted how the Congress' politics was about 'divide and rule', while for the BJP, it was about uniting the people and ensuring development. Affirming of his vision for a 'Skilled India' as opposed to the Congress' 'Scam India', Shri Modi stated that for the Congress 'Divide India' was the priority, while for him making a 'Digital India' was of importance.

Shri Modi also shared his vision of developing the Eastern part of the country and making it at par with its prospering Western counterpart. Skill development for the youth, empowerment of farmers through the introduction of technology in agriculture, providing regular power and sanitation facilities, and supporting the defunct sugar factories in the State, were other aspects stressed upon by Shri Modi, who further highlighted the BJP's focus on determining the Minimum Support Price for the farmers with a more standard approach.

We need a Skilled India but Congress has created a Scam India in last 10 years

BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi affirmed of the BJP's undivided focus on developing Seemandhra, during his rallies across Andhra Pradesh on 1st May, 2014. From making Seemandhra turn into 'Swarnim Andhra', to developing a 'Skilled India' that could scale new heights of progress, Shri Modi talked about many initiatives to be taken by the BJP towards ensuring the progress of India.

Addressing massive rallies at Madanapalle, Nellore, Guntur, Bhimavaram and Visakhapatnam, Shri Modi stated how the choice between making Seemandhra a 'Swarnim Andhra' or 'Scam Andhra' lay with the people of the State, and urged them to vote sensibly and



wipe out the government (Congress) that had only ruined the State and the Nation. "Those who looted Andhra and those who had to be jailed by their own party, do we want to give Andhra in those hands," asked Shri Modi to the crowd.

From the initiative of linking rivers (while recalling Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's dreams) to the setting up of warehouses and better transportation facilities for agricultural produce, Shri Modi spoke of promising initiatives that could give a boost to the agricultural sector of the State. "Give our farmers water and see the wonders they can do. Atalji wanted to link the Ganga & Cauvery. River linking will help farmers here. We also need better cold storage and warehouse facilities for farmers. We can use railways and give priority to what the farmer produces as the produce may later get spoiled," said Shri Modi. He also emphasized upon better branding and production

facilities through value-addition techniques, so as to improve the quality of the produce and enable the farmer get better prices. He also shared his 5F formula - farm to fibre, fibre to fabric, fabric to fashion and fashion to foreign - for the betterment of the cotton producers in the State, apart from emphasizing on the scope for port-led development. "Atal ji dreamt of Sagar Maala. We have to fulfil that dream. We will focus of the development of

ports and port cities," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi also shared the BJP's focus on developing Seemandhra as one of the best 'knowledge cities' in the country. He spoke of how such initiatives would positively contribute in giving employment to many youth. "I assure those parents whose children work in Gulf and face problems that

we will take care of these children of India. We will build 100 smart cities across India. Seemandhra needs a knowledge city that will help the people of the region," said Shri Modi.

A scathing attack on YSR Congress and its chief Jagan Mohan Reddy was also made by Shri Modi who stated how the YSR Congress Party was formed, not on the basis of any ideologies but because of the Party Chief's greed to grab the Chief Minister's chair. He urged the people not to support such parties who did not bother about people's welfare.

He affirmed of the Congress' wipe out in the 2014 Elections, and urged the people to vote for the BJP-TDP alliance in Andhra Pradesh so as to save the State from further ruin. Former BJP National President Shri Venkaiah Naidu, former AP CM Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu and popular cine actor Shri Pawan Kalyan also spoke at the rallies.

For you I am neither the PM nor CM

Our bond is a bond of affection and I am your sevak

Addressing massive rallies in Bihar on 30 April, Shri Narendra Modi urged the people to vote for the BJP and ensure the formation of a strong and stable government at the Centre which focused on the empowerment of all.

Acknowledging the large presence of supporters at the rallies in Ujiyarpur, Shivhar, Chhapra and Hajipur, Shri Modi said that this reflected the awareness among people regarding the power of their vote. He reiterated the democratic spirit present in every citizen, and said, "Those who only see India as a land of illiterate and uneducated people I tell those people- democracy



is in our veins."

Recalling the contribution of former CM of Bihar Late Karpoori Thakur, Shri Modi called him as the 'messiah for the marginalized sections of the society' and urged the people to vote for the Lotus and enable the BJP to fulfill the dreams of Karpoori Thakur, whereby the poor and the marginalized can live a life of dignity.

He also recalled his visit to Bihar in October 2013 and stated how, despite the bomb blasts then near his rally, he was left unscathed. "It was the blessings of Lord Krishna that a son who travelled from Dwarka was saved that day. That day the love that Bihar gave me, I said it time and again, Bihar has won me over," said Shri Modi.

Highlighting the Congress' inconsideration for the people who voted it to power, Shri Modi spoke of how they looked down upon the poor. "When those born with golden spoons talk of poverty, it is deeply painful. What do these people know about poverty," said Shri Modi, even as he recalled his childhood days spent in poverty and stated how his struggles then had reaffirmed his resolve to serve the poor and the oppressed. He recalled how the country had prospered under the rule of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and spoke of the misrule it witnessed thereafter under the UPA.

Shri Modi also spoke of the Congress' double standards whereby they were reluctant to reveal their association with Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. "Did the Mother-Son not help Lalu ji to be released from jail? They did but why cannot they share stage with him at a rally," said Shri Modi. He further stated how the Prime Minister of India had refused to accept the 'Modi wave', and said that this answer was expected of him, since if he could not see corruption, price rise and unemployment in the past years, then how could he see the 'Modi wave'.

Shri Modi affirmed that the results of the Elections will prove wrong all the mathematical calculations of the political pundits. He urged the youth, especially those in the age-group of 18 to 28 years, to come forward and cast their vote for the formation of a strong and stable government in Delhi. "For you I am neither the PM or CM. Our bond is a bond of affection and I am your sevak. It is the people of Bihar who will give us a resounding win come 16th May," said Shri Modi.

Former Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan was present during the rally at Hajipur, and spoke of how the focus was on winning all 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar. "We will form the government in Delhi and then we will form the government in Bihar, where elections are going to be held," said Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. ■

Lakhs participated in biggest road-show of world's largest election

Lakhs of BJP workers, supporters and common people of Varanasi have washed the ancient city in saffron colour and rose petals being showered from the terraces and windows of homes as BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi's open truck crawled along the two-km route from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) to the collectorate during the nomination filing road show on April 24, 2014.

In a carnival-like atmosphere, during the show people were everywhere, on the road, on terraces, on trees; in their traditional attire, holding up of flags dressed as Gods. The sound of conch shells punctuates the sloganeering. Across the city, hundreds of prayer ceremonies were held by the common people to bring luck to Shri Modi.



At around 10.40 am, Shri Modi started the road show and garlanded the statue of Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya the Banaras Hindu University's founder whose grandson, a retired judge was among those who proposed his name. Among others a singer, a weaver and a boatman were the other proposers. Shri Modi

filed his nomination papers from Varanasi Lok Sabha seat at around 2.30 pm, saying he had been called by 'mother Ganga' to contest from this holy city.

Talking to reporters before filing his papers, Shri Modi said he felt "Mother Ganges" has called him to contest from this constituency, "...Earlier I used to think that the BJP has sent me here, sometimes I felt that I am going to Kashi. But after coming here, I feel neither has anybody sent me nor have



I come on my own. It is mother Ganga who has called me.

"And the way a child feels when he is back in his mother's lap, the same way I feel here," said Shri Modi who is also contesting from Vadodara in his home state.

He vowed to make Kashi a spiritual capital of the world. "God... give me strength, so that I can work for the city, for my poor weaver brothers...so that Kashi can become a spiritual capital of the world," he said. ■

"Varanasi : A glorious past, an even glorious future for the ancient city that is india's pride"

Dear Friends,

Today I embark on a unique and memorable journey from the land of Somnath to the city of Lord Vishwanath. Later today I will be filing my nomination papers from Varanasi as the BJP candidate. I would like to thank the leadership of the Party for giving me this opportunity to contest elections from this city that has such a rich history and culture. I bow to the Party Karyakartas who have been working tirelessly on the ground from the time my nomination was announced and the Karyakartas and well-wishers from all over India who have supported me in the last few months.

It was said about Varanasi:

"Varanasi is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend, and looks twice as old as all of them put together."(Mark Twain)

Varanasi is the cradle of India's glorious culture, a confluence of tradition, history, culture and harmony. This is the blessed land of the Sankat Mochan temple. The spiritual power of this land is exceptional. It drew people from all over the world, who came to this land in search of peace and Moksha. It was in Sarnath, that Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining Enlightenment. Varanasi is the birthplace of the venerable Sant Ravidas. It was in Benaras that Mahatma Kabir was born, lived and shared his wisdom. Mirza Ghalib described Benaras as 'Kaba-E-Hindustan' and 'Chirag-E-Dair' or the light of the world. When Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had to select a place to set up a centre of learning, it was not a surprise that he chose Benaras. No mention of Varanasi is complete without remembering Ustad Bismillah Khan, arguably the greatest symbol of Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb. Ustad Bismillah Khan Sahab's love for Varanasi is legendary. I was very happy when Ustad Bismillah Khan was conferred the Bharat Ratna by Atal ji in 2001.

Truly, there is something special about Varanasi and its people.

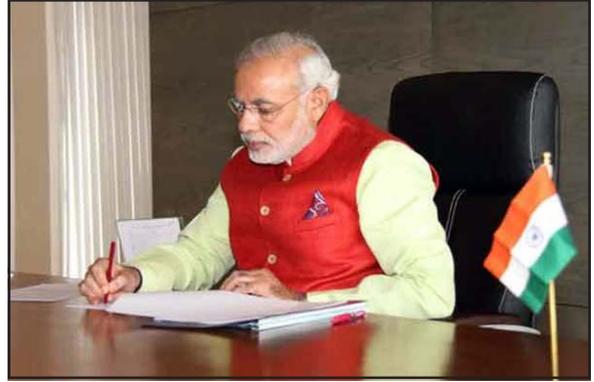
इस देवभूमि का हर निवासी अपने अन्दर कहीं न कहीं देवत्व लिए हुए है।

With the blessings of Lord Vishwanath and inspired by the legacy of a glorious past, we set out to create a magnificent future for Varanasi.

We envision Varanasi as a World Heritage Site that is able to draw both devotees and those who wish to understand and absorb India's culture. This means creating state-of-the-art tourist and infrastructure facilities for Varanasi. And it is my firm belief that once we are able to give the required impetus to tourism, it will not only bring more tourists but also enhance the livelihood of the poorest of the poor. More tourists means more income for those associated with temples, those who are living on the Ghats, those who ride the ferries on the Ganga...the entire town and surrounding areas will receive a much needed facelift.

Ganga is the lifeline of Varanasi and is at the core of our identity- She is our Mother. Unfortunately, governments have not been able to devote the attention that should have been given to Ganga. The condition of the Ganga in several parts of UP is pitiable. We can't let this go on anymore! Need of the hour is to work towards cleaning the Ganga and restoring it to its previous glory. In 1986 the Government of the day brought the Ganga Action Plan but it merely remained a plan, the action was missing. Budgets were allocated but the money was never used for the intended purpose. The condition of the Varuna too is similar. Now is the time for urgent action to solve this anomaly!

And when I talk about my commitment to clean the Ganga, it is not a mere promise. When I took over as CM in 2001 the condition of Sabarmati was similar. It was better known for hosting circuses and children



...Continued on page 28

BJP releases video of 'Damad Shree'

The BJP on April 27 released a video targeting Robert Vadra for his land deals in Haryana and Rajasthan under the Congress-ruled governments. The video named Damad Shree accused the Haryana and Rajasthan governments of colluding with Robert Vadra to help him acquire lands fraudulently. The video also accused Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi of facilitating illegal land deals for Vadra. BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad in a press statement detailed the charges against Vadra and said Smt. Sonia and Rahul should answer the questions raised by the party.

About land purchase by Shri Robert Vadra in Haryana

M/s Skylight Hospitality was floated by Mr. Robert Vadra as a registered company in November-2007 with one lakh rupee of equity capital. In February-2008, the Company registered the purchase of 3.531 acres of agriculture land in village Shikohpur, Sector 83, Gurgaon for Rs. 7.5 crores using a false cheque. Cheque No. 607251 for Rs 7.5 crores was shown as payment made to the vendor M/s Onkareshwar Properties in registered deed No. 4928 dated 12.02.2008. It was claimed in the deed that Rs. 45 lakhs towards stamp duty was also paid in cash by M/s Skylight Hospitality. The advances received from M/s DLF were used to pay for the cost of land and stamp duty later on 9th August 2008. The land with commercial colony license permission for 2.701 acres was sold to M/s DLF for Rs. 58 crores. As per clause 3 (a) of a collaboration agreement dated 5th August, 2008, the possession of the land was already handed over to M/s DLF. A total consideration of Rs. 58 crores for sale of land and commercial colony license was received as follows:

Rs 5 crores on 03.06.2008

Rs 10 crores on 27.03.2009

Rs 35 crores on 07.10.2009

Rs 8 crores on 25.07.2012

A Letter Of Intent for commercial colony license was issued with great speed by the licensing authority, Director Town and Country Planning Haryana, on 28.03.2008, within just 18 days of the application made. The commercial colony license was similarly granted in great hurry on 15.12.2008 against the application made on 18.11.2008. The license was renewed on 18.01.2011 and permitted to be transferred on 03.04.2012.



The value of 3.531 acre land shot up by Rs. 50 crores due to the commercial colony license permission accorded to the company by the government. The value of the LOI/ License was Rs. 50 crores which was hawked to M/s DLF Retail Developers (now DLF Universal). The fortunes of M/s Onkareshwar Properties soared from Rs. 6,783/- as on 31.03.2005 to

a bank balance of Rs 70.84 crores, net investments of Rs 85.27 crores and fixed assets of Rs 9.76 crores within a period of 6 years as on 31.03.2011.

Questions to Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi

Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Mr. Robert Vadra must come clean on the land deals of Mr. Robert Vadra and his companies and answer the following questions to the nation.

With a cash & bank balance of Rs. 1 lakh, how was cheque no. 607251 for Rs. 7.5 crores issued by M/s Skylight Hospitality to M/s Onkareshwar Properties on 9.2.2008? Who paid the Rs. 45 lakhs in cash towards stamp duty on 12.02.2008?

Whether the cheque no. 607251 belonged to Skylight Hospitality and whether the cheque was presented to the bank for encashment?

Who are the beneficial owners of M/s Onkareshwar Properties? What was the quid pro quo for the sweetheart deal with M/s Skylight Hospitality?

What was the real purpose of M/s DLF Retail Developers when it paid M/s Skylight Hospitality advances of Rs 6.5 crores on 05.06.2008, Rs. 1 crore on 10.06.2008 and Rs. 0.55 crore on

12.06.2008? Were the purposes of these advances changed at a later date?

Was the payment of Rs. 7.95 crores (Rs 7.5 crores towards cost of land and Rs 45 lakhs towards stamp duty) not paid to M/s Onkareshwar Properties on 09.08.2008 vide cheque no. 978951 after receiving advances from DLF as above?

What assessment was made of the technical and financial capacity or intent of M/s Skylight Hospitality to develop over two lakhs square feet of commercial complex before issuing the LOI in a hurry within 18 days of the application on 28.03.2008?

A Collaboration Agreement dated 5.8.2008 was entered into between M/s Skylight Hospitality and M/s DLF Retail Developers to develop a commercial complex at the site. Why was an unregistered agreement entertained by the

licensing authority against the provisions of the Registration Act leading to loss of crores of State revenues?

Why was the commercial colony license granted in favour of M/s Skylight Hospitality when it was clear in the application for grant of license and other correspondence that the actual developer would be M/s DLF Retail Developers (renamed DLF Universal)?

When M/s Skylight Hospitality had already entered into an agreement to sell the land against which Rs. 50 crores was received as advance against sale and possession of the land was handed over to M/s DLF, why was the commercial colony license renewed in favour of M/s Skylight Hospitality on 18.01.2011?

Under what statute is the colony license permitted to be transferred and sold?

The transfer of the land was

completed before August, 2008 as per section 2 (47) (v) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Was tax paid by M/s Skylight Hospitality in the AY 2009-10 (FY 2008-09) on the short term capital gains of Rs. 50 crores which accrued to the company and if not, what penalty proceedings have been initiated against the company by the Income Tax authorities?

Do Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi support the business model of Mr. Robert Vadra? The business model of Mr. Robert Vadra is kleptocratic rentiering from the discretionary licensing and change in land use permissions of the government.

What went behind the scuttling of the thematic audit, "Issue of licenses for development of colonies etc. after release of land" in Haryana by the Comptroller and Auditor General on 3rd June, 2013? ■

India's economy in "worst crisis" : Yashwant Sinha

BJP attacked UPA for leaving the economy in the "worst" crisis" and said it was committed to a simplified tax regime and will, if voted to power, try to hasten implementation of Direct Tax Code and Goods and Services Tax after a consensus among states. "We are committed to simplifying the tax system - direct and indirect and therefore, we have always said that we will be critically examining the Direct Tax Code and the GST Constitutional Amendments Bill by getting a consensus among the states and try and hasten the process of DTC.

"We are quite confident that these two major tax reforms, if they are carried out by us, it will lead to better tax compliance and our receipts will go up," former Union Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha said, adding a simplified tax regime will lead to higher collection of taxes rather than reduced receipts.

Attacking the Congress-led government, he charged UPA is leaving an economy which is in "worse crisis than even the earlier crisis in 1991 and 1998". "It will be a major challenge for the new government to deal with it when it assumes office," Shri Sinha said. He also attacked Finance Minister P Chidambaram saying he has not projected the right picture in maintaining the fiscal deficit at 4.6 per cent and accused him of resorting to "tax terrorism". Listing out the "loopholes" in Chidambaram's projection, he said the expenditure has been savagely cut and termed it as a "mindless" reduction of expenditure and accused the tax administration of becoming "extortionary" by seeking advance tax from tax payers. Shri Sinha said tackling food inflation will be the top priority of the BJP if voted to power. He said the party would be inheriting the "weakest economy" in recent times if it took over the reins of the government, but it had a formula to bring down food inflation. "Curbing food inflation should be the first step of the new government, and it can be done by releasing huge quantities of food grains in our stock. The NDA [National Democratic Alliance] government has done this before in 2002-03, which were years of the worst drought. At the end of the period, inflation was at 3.5 per cent," he said. ■

Spurious Robert Vadra development model

By Balbir Punj

As a business, the Vadra-deal is not above suspicion. It is not even a desirable way of land transactions. It deprives land-owners of the legitimate value of their land just because they are not smart enough.

Attacking what is widely acknowledged in the current election scene as a desirable and achievable ideal, the Gujarat Model, Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi ridiculed it as kids buying toffee for a rupee each. More seriously, he himself explained it was a reference to the Gujarat Government giving away land to various industrial houses like Adani and the Tatas at a throwaway price of a rupee a square metre.

It is invariably tit for tat. Naturally, others hit back the Congress leader. They asked him to explain what sort of a model it is when his relative Robert Vadra buys land dirt cheap in Haryana and Rajasthan, using a company with a token capital of just one lakh rupees. Then Mr Vadra gets a loan from realty giant DLF to buy that land which, soon enough, is notified by the State Governments then ruled by the Congress, leading to a boost in the land price. The same DLF that gave Mr Vadra's one-lakh-rupee-capital company crores of rupees as loan then buys back the land by paying the Vadra-owned company several times the price which he paid to the previous owners.

In the process Mr Vadra makes a cool '300 crore. In the Gujarat Model, where land is

given cheap to industrial houses to set up plants, the transaction leads to large-scale manufacturing plants coming up, benefiting the local population with jobs and rise in



It is invariably tit for tat. Naturally, others hit back the Congress leader. They asked him to explain what sort of a model it is when his relative Robert Vadra buys land dirt cheap in Haryana and Rajasthan, using a company with a token capital of just one lakh rupees. Then Mr Vadra gets a loan from realty giant DLF to buy that land which, soon enough, is notified by the State Governments then ruled by the Congress, leading to a boost in the land price. The same DLF that gave Mr Vadra's one-lakh-rupee-capital company crores of rupees as loan then buys back the land by paying the Vadra-owned company several times the price which he paid to the previous owners.

their incomes. The entire country benefits as the industrial plants add to its production and trade that boosts its GDP.

Compare this to the Vadra Model. Certainly every private individual has a right to buy or sell land and make a big cut in the process. No sane person could question this. But what lesson does it give to the national projection? Of a land grab where the crucial factor that enhances the land value is the insider information?

Apart from the curious case of from where comes the insider information, or of collusion between somebody at the State Government-level leaking the critical information or of creating that critical information, the model makes no contribution to either national wealth creation or to local job creation.

As a model, the Vadra-deal is not above suspicion. It is not even a desirable way of land transactions. It is a model that deprives village land-owners of the legitimate value of their land just because they are not smart enough like the town buddy who has several leads into the Government and who can influence decisions. Mr Gandhi is upset that the Gujarat Model is sweeping the country with a specific option available between honest capitalism as against the crony one which his brother-in-

law represents.

The issue at stake is the Gujarat Model versus the Vadra Model. Do you want Governments to incentivise our own industrial giants to invest in the country, whether in Jamnagar or Jorhat, in the thick of desert at Barmer or in the hills of Kalahandi, and, thereby, kickstart a process of accelerating economic growth and job creation?

Or do you facilitate in some indirect way land changing hands through manipulation by smart men in satin suits? Incidentally, the final buyer of the Haryana land that Mr Vadra bought from farmers and sold to the DLF for huge profits did not see any business coming up there, though the State Government's notification changing land use was specifically meant to facilitate location of business or industry to create jobs locally and add to national wealth. The Gujarat Model leads to the mills of industry rolling; the Vadra Model is simply crony capitalism in action. That takes us to a more fundamental question: What was Mr Gandhi doing in creating a model that could make industry to come and transform the skyline of many parts of the country's hinterland?

In Kalahandi, for instance, he paraded himself as the 'sipahi' of the poor tribals who were being misled into believing that it was more important for them to protect the abode of their gods in the Niyamgiri hills rather than allow a huge bauxite mining and aluminum smelting industry to come up on land that has traditionally been a byword

for periodic famines.

Instead of educating the poverty-stricken tribals that, for their future, they have to learn to step into modern industry and business so that the wealth from their land would be multiplied many times and their interests could be legally safeguarded through guaranteed share of the profits of industry to the community, Mr Gandhi keeps them frozen in their backyard of skin-and-bones livelihood.

In West Bengal, the very people who under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's leadership forced Tata's Nano plant out of the State, are now looking for some other industry to come up. First, under 35 years of Left rule that condemned profit-making as sin, and then under the mercurial Ms Banerjee, there are no investments coming up. Mr Gandhi, who is so eager to condemn the Gujarat Model, should have spent time more properly all these years telling his party's Union Government to re-examine its own economic model where Indian business houses prefer to invest outside the country rather than invest inside. What makes them disfavour their own country? Has the UPA model any leg to stand upon now with corruption and incompetence eroding its credibility completely? That erosion should explain why Indian investors prefer foreign to local destinations.

Phrases like 'policy paralysis' were not invented by the BJP. These were taken from the 2011 January statement of leading industrialists asking the Government to wake up. The Prime Minister's own insider

man has now revealed how unable or unwilling Mr Manmohan Singh was to act to save the ship from developing holes, if not sinking itself. With Indian capital in flight, only Gujarat seemed to offer a definitive sanctuary to set up plants costing millions and work them without having to pay protection money to the party in power or its hegemonies.

When honourable men in satin suits like Mr Vadra went about buying and selling land and deal-makers like the Union Minister for Coal in the Cabinet broke rules to hand out coal mines to undeserving applicants (as per CBI charge sheet), why did the Congress vice president not intervene like he did to get the UPA out of the shameless jam over the saving of condemned politicians through an ordinance?

Maybe the Congress vice president is upset that the Gujarat Model is sweeping the country with a specific option available to the voters between honest capitalism as against the crony one which his brother-in-law seems to represent. There is naturally much apprehension among the cronies who made money in clever deals, whether in land or coal or in defence weapon buying, and their patrons in power, as the reports tell the world that the Indian voter is determined to vote in the Gujarat Model and that he wants the beneficiaries of the Vadra Model investigated. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President.)

Why there is no Amethi model

By M. J. Akbar

Have you ever wondered, amidst the manufactured debate about the Gujarat model of development, why there is never any talk of an “Amethi model”? No mystery there. There is no development in Amethi. Congress cannot talk about something that does not exist. When your track record is regression, the only choice is pre-emptive aggression.

In the same decade when Amethi was wallowing in stagnation despite having the second most powerful person in India as its Member of Parliament, Gujarat was lifted from agricultural growth of around 2% to 10%. A few simple facts should suffice, without any overdose of statistics: with 5% of India’s population, Gujarat now soaks up 18% of national investment and contributes 26% towards its exports. Most important, a substantive portion of the meagre growth in employment during the arid decade between 2004 and 2014 has come from Gujarat. If Rahul Gandhi had done a quarter as much for Amethi as Modi has done for Gujarat, he could have offered a far more credible bid for leadership. Instead, his only option is silence on Amethi and diversionary tactics on Gujarat.

If anything, non-UPA parties have so much surplus ammunition that they do not quite know what to do with their reserve arsenal. In any other

In the same decade when Amethi was wallowing in stagnation despite having the second most powerful person in India as its Member of Parliament, Gujarat was lifted from agricultural growth of around 2% to 10%. A few simple facts should suffice, without any overdose of statistics: with 5% of India’s population, Gujarat now soaks up 18% of national investment and contributes 26% towards its exports. Most important, a substantive portion of the meagre growth in employment during the arid decade between 2004 and 2014 has come from Gujarat.



election, observations made by the Supreme Court on Tuesday 22 April would have made headlines. The highest court asked counsel of the Government of India, in sharp and even acerbic terms, why UPA had refused to obey a Court order to reveal names of Indians who had secret bank accounts in that convenient state known as Liechtenstein. Refusing to buy the Congress’ limp excuses for delay, the Court noted, “The direction to share the

information forthwith cannot be understood as after completion of investigation by SIT. The Court said forthwith disclose...The language of the Court is clear. The directions are crystal clear when it said disclose forthwith...From July 4, 2011 till now, the revenue secretary and the joint secretary in the ministry of finance had kept our orders in cold storage.”

Such flagrant disobedience of a Supreme Court order is as astonishing as the complacent reaction to such a cover-up. Why did UPA hide these names? You can rest assured that if the list contained names of Opposition leaders this would have been lead story on Doordarshan and All India Radio for three years, and Congress spokespersons would have had a great deal to say on each day of this election campaign.

Government protected these names only because they include either those at the top of the present establishment pyramid or those within that charmed circle.

If media has missed this message, then the people have not. Now that voting machines have shut for nearly 350 Lok Sabha seats, it is quite evident that the Congress game plan for 2014 has gone belly up. Its very hinge, a total dependence on minorities, has been dislocated. Reports from Mumbai indicate that Catholic voters, for instance, refused to follow any diktat from

a religious leader and went where their minds took them. A significant proportion of Muslims in the city refused to vote at all, rather than tread the traditional route to a Congress button.

The heart-warming reality is that a rising share of the electorate is voting for its stomach, for its welfare, and for the nation's economy, rather than out of fear or emotionalism. It matters less who the voter trusts than that it trusts a party for the right reasons. The young are turning out to be the most mature voters within the demographic pattern, for they have the most to lose from a lost economy. Their anger might have been sufficient to push any government out, but their rage is now laced with hope that Narendra Modi will restore the vision and horizon that has faded.

Modi will have to deliver both as Prime Minister and as Member of Parliament. In Varanasi, for instance, the tremendous enthusiasm of the people, across all traditional fissures, is based on the conviction that the massive ills within and around this ancient city, one of the great intellectual capitals of world civilisation, will be healed and the region nourished back to health. The phrase is not in use at the moment, but within five years Narendra Modi will have to create a Varanasi model of development, just as he has ensured a Gujarat model. That should become the template in 2019 against which other constituencies will be measured.

If the vote is at an all-time high for Narendra Modi on the banks of Ganga, and across the varied expanse of the Indian compass, then expectations are even higher. It has been a hard slog towards the Lok Sabha, but once he reaches that apex of democratic achievement, Narendra Modi will have to turn his energies and mind back to the India that sent him to Delhi. ■

(The writer is BJP National Spokesperson)

Bomb blast in Chennai Central Railway Station

BJP in a statement on May 1 said, "The twin low intensity blasts in a compartment of the Bangalore-Guwahati express



is utterly condemnable. Forces inimical to India are out to disturb the peaceful environment in which election are being held. They are active and information regarding such efforts have been brought to the notice of the election commission and the Union Home Minister by the BJP.

We reiterate the fact that there is every need to remain alert and not lower our guard even for a minute.

Media reports indicate that a bag containing materials good for making a pipe bomb were also found. We recall that nearly two years ago, during Shri L. K Advani's Yatra against black Money, his convoy was diverted from its scheduled route due to pipe bomb found under a culvert.

Moreover only last evening close to Chennai Central and enroute Guwahati, near Tirupati Shri Narendra Modi had held his rally. The Government of India should continue to remain alert." ■

BJP condemns provocative comments made by Pak Army Chief

In a statement the BJP on May 1 condemned the provocative and aggressive comments made by the Pak Army Chief General Raheel Sharif. The statement says, "Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. A unanimous resolution of the Indian parliament has stated in no uncertain words that the entire J & K inclusive of those parts which are under illegal occupation by Pakistan belong to India."

The elected civilian government of Pakistan should ensure that it focuses its attention on building a peaceful Pakistan and not allow its army to pose threat and issue alarm calls against peace in the region. ■

Look who is talking about respect for women, law

By Kanchan Gupta

It's not exactly edifying for Priyanka Vadra to speak so loftily of a party, one of whose high-profile MPs was caught on tape, not many moons ago, in a sex-for-favour scandal. It was the talk of Lutyens's Delhi for days

Faced with its worst-ever defeat as this summer's general election winds down, the Congress has decided to blindly hit out at Narendra Modi, the BJP's prime ministerial candidate riding an unprecedented popularity wave, hoping to score a sixer. It has had no luck till now.

On Wednesday, Priyanka Vadra, who describes herself as "daughter (of Sonia Gandhi), sister (of Rahul Gandhi), wife (of Robert Vadra) and mother (we shall keep children's names out)" lashed out at Modi, saying, "If you're talking about women's empowerment, don't snoop on their conversations."

On Tuesday Priyanka Vadra had feigned anger that her husband, the one and only Robert Vadra who is possibly the biggest landlord today after the Indian Railways, and has mastered the magic of turning a lakh of rupees into real estate worth thousands of crores of rupees in less than five years, was attacked by Modi in his election rallies. "My family ... my husband are being attacked", she had raged.

Priyanka's unstated assertion was clear to all: The

Priyanka Vadra's concern for women's 'empowerment' and 'safety' — she said she was speaking as a "daughter, sister, wife and mother" — is laudable. May more women find themselves as privileged as her. May their husbands get to bypass airport security on account of their wives' exalted status. And may they also get to buy farmland cheap and convert it to expensive industrial land. In brief, may more mothers-in-law be as 'empowered' as Sonia Gandhi, 'safe' in the knowledge that the long arm of the law is not long enough to touch them.

Nehru household, the Dynasty, the Congress's First Family, is beyond public scrutiny and criticism; hence, the Dynasty's son-in-law too should be treated with absolute reverence by us natives and his black deeds should never be questioned.

As Narendra Modi told ABP News on Tuesday evening, he has "no majboori" to be deferential towards the Congress's First Family. He is not alone. Many of us natives have no obligation to be nice to the members of the Nehru household and their damaad.

Priyanka Vadra had also bemoaned the 'harsh' language being used by those opposed to the Congress. Frankly, she has not exactly been oozing sugar and honey in her carefully-crafted interactions with voters and awestruck mediapersons, the kind whom Modi disparagingly refers to as 'news traders'.

And now this sly attack on Modi — Priyanka was obviously referring to what Modi's detractors call 'Snoopgate'. Till date the Congress and its cronies in the commentariat have not been able to make the 'Snoopgate' allegation stick on Modi.

On the contrary, the disgraced cop with a dubious reputation on whose baseless claim the Congress levelled its allegation has been found to be a pervert who constantly sought to sexually harass and abuse women, abusing his power. It's

not surprising that he should have found willing patrons in the Congress.

Priyanka Vadra's concern for women's 'empowerment' and 'safety' — she said she was speaking as a "daughter, sister, wife and mother" — is laudable. May more women find themselves as privileged as her. May their husbands get to bypass airport security on account of their wives' exalted status. And may they also get to buy farmland cheap and convert it to expensive industrial land. In brief, may more mothers-in-law be as 'empowered' as Sonia Gandhi, 'safe' in the knowledge that the long arm of the law is not long enough to touch them.

Meanwhile, Priyanka Vadra would do well to recollect the Congress's rather long dirty laundry list of scandals involving the abuse of women. Here are some of the stains — a few among the many — that sully the Congress which claims

Janpath. Priyanka could Google for 'Tandoor case' on her smartphone.

▶ Mahipal Maderna, a powerful Minister in the now ousted Congress Government of Rajasthan, is accused of sexually exploiting and then murdering Bhanwari Devi,

constituency Youth Congress, and Sameer Killarikar, also a Youth Congress leader, have been arrested for the murder of Kalpana Giri, a Youth Congress leader. They dumped her body in a lake after killing her. Priyanka could Google for 'Kalpana

Priyanka Vadra's concern for women's 'empowerment' and 'safety' — she said she was speaking as a "daughter, sister, wife and mother" — is laudable. May more women find themselves as privileged as her. May their husbands get to bypass airport security on account of their wives' exalted status. And may they also get to buy farmland cheap and convert it to expensive industrial land.

an indigent woman. Then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tried to scuttle the investigation. Priyanka Vadra could Google for 'Bhanwari Devi case' on her smartphone.

▶ Ram Kumar Chaudhary, a Congress MLA of Himachal Pradesh, was arrested for his

Giri murder' on her smartphone.

We could also request Priyanka Vadra to check out the colourful activities of senior Congress leader ND Tiwari — they were not exactly 'empowering' for the women ensnared by him, nor do they quite bear out the Congress's concern for the 'safety' women.

A last point: It's not exactly edifying for Priyanka Vadra to speak so loftily of a party, one of whose high-profile MPs was caught on tape, not many moons ago, in a sex-for-favour scandal. Lurid descriptions of what featured on the tape were the talk of Lutyens's Delhi for days. Just in case Priyanka Vadra missed them, Google Baba would oblige her with a huge amount of puke-inducing details about this scandal. She could then meet the woman, also a daughter, sister, wife and mother, exploited by her party MP in so hideous a manner, and ask her whether she feels 'empowered'. ■

(The writer is BJP National Executive member)

Mahendra Vikramsinh Chavan, president of the Latur Assembly constituency Youth Congress, and Sameer Killarikar, also a Youth Congress leader, have been arrested for the murder of Kalpana Giri, a Youth Congress leader. They dumped her body in a lake after killing her. Priyanka could Google for 'Kalpana Giri murder' on her smartphone.

to be a champion of women's 'empowerment' and 'safety':

▶ Sushil Sharma, a Youth Congress leader and Congress MLA, killed his wife, Naina, then proceeded to chop her body into pieces before shoving them into the tandoor at Bagiya, a restaurant in the heart of Lutyens's Delhi, a short walking distance from 10

alleged role in the murder of a young woman, Jyoti, with whom he is said to have had an 'illicit affair'. He then dumped her as their 'castes did not match'. Priyanka Vadra could Google for 'Jyoti murder case' on her smartphone.

▶ Mahendra Vikramsinh Chavan, president of the Latur Assembly

Neither here nor there, is the Congress's fate

By A Surya Prakash

The Congress is now virtually begging for Muslim votes. It finds itself bereft of both the majority and the minority votes and is falling between two stools. "Na ghar ka, na ghat ka", as they say in Hindi.

Unable to contain the Modi juggernaut, the Congress, which has consistently pursued a policy of minority appeasement for 10 full years, is now playing its final gambit before the Lok Sabha election to frighten the religious minorities and consolidate their votes in its favour.

This was the purport of Congress president Sonia Gandhi's recent appeal to the people on television and her strategic engagement with minority community leaders in the midst of an intense election campaign including the well-publicised meeting with the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid, Syed Ahmed Bukhari and a few other Muslim clerics. However laughable it may sound, reports of the meeting say that Ms Gandhi appealed to the Shahi Imam to ensure that "secular votes" did not split during the Lok Sabha election. This has been the consistent line of the Congress ever since Ms Gandhi became its president. The party believes that only Muslims, Christians and such other religious minorities are 'secular'

and that the Hindu majority is not, forgetting that India would never have had a secular, democratic Constitution and political system, if the Hindu majority was not secular.

These moves indicate that as the election campaign enters the final lap, the Congress finds itself driven to a corner and is desperately in need of some solid support from the Muslim community. However, the irony is that despite 10 years of appeasement, the Muslims are

However laughable it may sound, reports of the meeting say that Ms Gandhi appealed to the Shahi Imam to ensure that "secular votes" did not split during the Lok Sabha election. This has been the consistent line of the Congress ever since Ms Gandhi became its president. The party believes that only Muslims, Christians and such other religious minorities are 'secular' and that the Hindu majority is not, forgetting that India would never have had a secular, democratic Constitution and political system, if the Hindu majority was not secular .

really not wholly with the Congress. They swung away from the Congress many years ago in Uttar Pradesh and most of their votes are now shared by the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party. The last Assembly election in Uttar Pradesh saw a massive swing of

Muslims towards the SP. But what has hurt the Congress the most was the huge swing of Muslims in Delhi towards the Aam Aadmi Party in the Delhi State Assembly election last December. In that election, Muslim voters were torn between the Congress and the AAP. Although the Congress won five of its eight assembly seats in Delhi in Muslim-dominant areas, it suffered heavy losses because of the split of the Muslim vote. Even now, the Shahi Imam has himself come under attack from other Muslim clerics for hobnobbing with the Nehru-Gandhis.

Independent surveys have shown that while in the past, around 65 per cent to 70 per cent of the Muslim voters supported the Congress in the capital, this dropped

to about 45 per cent in the 2013 Assembly election. The biggest beneficiary was the AAP, which took away about 35 per cent of the Muslim vote.

In every election rally, Ms Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi have been desperately trying to frighten the Muslims

into voting for their party by repeatedly declaring that if Mr Narendra Modi comes to power, the religious minorities will be unsafe in India. The irony is that this comes from the leaders of the party that led the pogrom against the Sikhs in 1984 and engineered hundreds of communal riots against Muslims in different parts of the country since independence. Ms Gandhi's meeting with the Shahi Imam was meant to drive home the message to Muslims that in the Lok Sabha election they must all rally round the Congress.

The Congress managers are baffled at the attitude of Muslims towards the party, despite the party's open policy of minority appeasement. Before the advent of the UPA Government led by the Congress in 2004, no other Government at the national level had resorted to such blatant measures to appeal to a section of the population. This attitude of appeasement of religious minorities and especially Muslims by the Congress and its president has had its impact on every facet of Government, be it appointments to key posts or policies or laws. The first act of the UPA Government on coming to power in 2004 was to appoint the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities headed by Justice Ranganath Misra in October, 2004. This commission suggested reservations for Muslims and other minorities in Government jobs and educational seats.

Then came the Sachar Committee, which was asked in 2005 to prepare a report on the social, economic and

educational conditions of the Muslim community. This committee made many controversial suggestions and even made a preposterous attempt to take a communal head count of the Indian Armed Forces. This was strongly rebuffed by the Armed Forces establishment and sections of the media, which felt that the Sonia Gandhi-Manmohan Singh combine was taking its minority appeasement policy to absurd levels and going berserk. What was even more tragic was the acquiescence of persons like Justice Rajinder Sachar in an activity that was blatantly anti-national, as it sought to disturb the secular character of the country's Armed Forces.

The Sachar Committee also glossed over the irresponsible acts of Muslim clerics who launched a campaign against the polio vaccine thus causing many Muslim children to be afflicted with the dreaded virus. Neither of these two bodies thought it fit to examine the pernicious effect that Muslim clerics were having on the social and economic and educational conditions of the Muslims and the communal poison that they regularly injected into the community.

In fact, minority appeasement became such a daily mantra that often it appeared as if the Government was run by persons who had developed a visceral hatred for the Hindu majority. The first draft of the Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence (Access to Justice and Reparations) Bill, 2011, was a clear pointer in this direction. This Bill, drafted by persons close to Ms Gandhi, held Hindus responsible and accountable in every communal riot situation. This obnoxious law was founded on the premise that whenever there is a communal riot, the majority community would have to take the blame. Similarly, Hindu officers in Government and police would be held accountable. Never before has Indian Parliament seen such a blatantly communal law coming before it.

Further, in order to make things abundantly clear, Mr Manmohan Singh declared publicly that Muslims had the first right to resources in the country.

It is indeed ironic that a party that titled so fully towards the Muslims for 10 years is now almost begging for Muslim votes in the country. Meanwhile, because of the party's sustained tilt towards the minorities, the Congress may have forfeited the votes of substantial sections of the Hindu majority. It now finds itself bereft of both the majority and the minority votes and is, therefore, falling between two stools.

"Na ghar ka, na ghat ka", as they say in Hindi. ■

(Courtesy : The Pioneer)

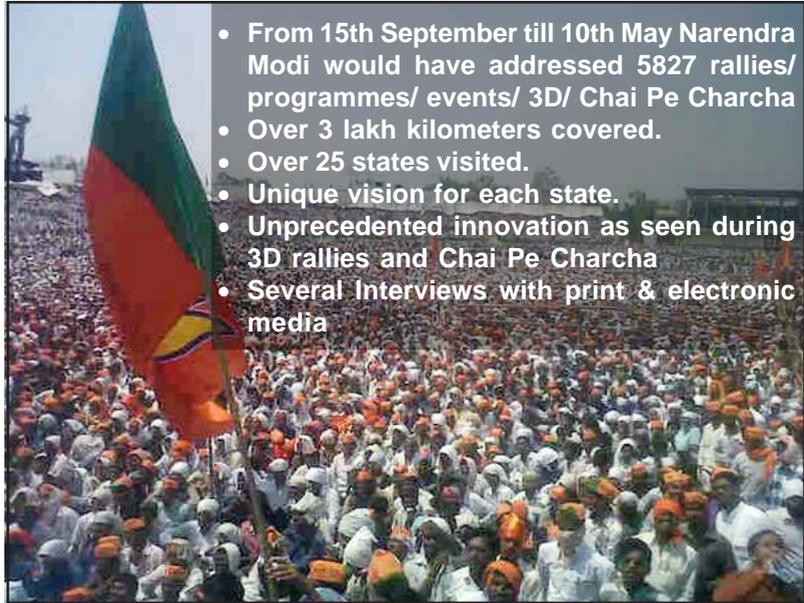
Largest Mass Outreach Campaign in Electoral History of a Democracy

From Our Correspondent

As India eagerly awaits the ballot boxes to speak on 16th May, it is essential to look back and recount some of the more memorable aspects of the 2014 campaign. When the history of this election will be written, one thing that will stand out is the historic campaign undertaken by Shri Narendra Modi to reach out to the people of India in order to convey the message of development and good governance. Never before has a campaign been undertaken with so much innovation and precision.

It would not be an exaggeration to describe the Modi campaign as one of the biggest mass mobilisation exercise seen anywhere in the history of electioneering. The scale and intensity of the campaign becomes even bigger when one understands the large population and geographic spread of India. Yes, in the past political leaders have led marathon campaigns but the scale at which this campaign has been done beats them all by miles!

Starting from 15th September 2013, when Narendra Modi addressed his 1st rally after being anointed as the BJP's PM candidate till 10th May 2014 when campaigning for the last phase of 2014 Lok Sabha Elections ends, Narendra Modi would have addressed 437 historic rallies across India from Jammu to Kanyakumari, from Amreli to Arunachal Pradesh. From 15th March to 10th May he would have travelled almost 3 lakh kilometers! Add to the 1350 rallies



- From 15th September till 10th May Narendra Modi would have addressed 5827 rallies/ programmes/ events/ 3D/ Chai Pe Charcha
- Over 3 lakh kilometers covered.
- Over 25 states visited.
- Unique vision for each state.
- Unprecedented innovation as seen during 3D rallies and Chai Pe Charcha
- Several Interviews with print & electronic media

through 3D technology across the nation.

Largest Mass Outreach Campaign in Electoral History of a Democracy

1787 rallies and almost 3,00,000 kilometers! Have you heard of something so massive?

For a simpler and clearer understanding of the subject we will divide the rallies in 3 distinct phases:

- Phase of preparatory mobilisation
 - 2013 Vidhan Sabha Elections and other rallies
 - Bharat Vijay Rallies post 26th March.
 - Preparatory Mobilisation: 38 mega rallies to set the ground
- Largest Mass Outreach Campaign in Electoral History of a Democracy

The juggernaut rolled on the

afternoon of 15th September 2013 when Shri Narendra Modi addressed ex-servicemen at a historic rally in Rewari in Haryana. From 15th September till his rally in a land that is closely linked with Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Wardha on 20th March 2014 Narendra Modi held 38 such rallies to enthuse the party rank and file as well as the supporters.

These 38 rallies covered 21 states of India. In a historic first, Narendra Modi even covered states where the BJP is not known to be traditionally strong and the response in every location was electric to say the least! The locational spread of the rallies is as follows:

On an average, each of these rallies in the bigger states drew crowds of 4 lakh with every rally in

Uttar Pradesh and several other places drawing even more than this number. The crowds in the Northeast and Goa were also historic and unprecedented.

Therefore, these 38 rallies among themselves covered almost a crore people!

Who can forget 27th October

Bharat Vijay Rallies : 196 rallies in 45 days

The Bharat Vijay Rallies began on the morning of March 26th 2014 from the pristine surroundings of Jammu and Kashmir when Shri Narendra Modi addressed a large rally in Udhampur after paying his respects at the Vaishno Devi

modest numbers, the number of people Narendra Modi would have reached out to through these rallies stands anywhere between 5 to 10 crore.

Two programmes that stand out are the historic roadshows in Varanasi and Vadodara when Shri Narendra Modi filed his nomination papers. It was as if the entire town had converged on the streets to support Shri Narendra Modi. Everyone was left marveled seeing the scale of the roadshows. Other programmes, events and rallies

In addition to these rallies Narendra Modi has joined several other rallies and programmes between September and March 2014. The number stands at 241.

This includes 52 rallies in the 4 states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi that went to polls in November and December 2013. The results were clearly in favour of the BJP. The party came to power with a historic mandate in Rajasthan, improved its tally in MP, retained power in Chhattisgarh and became the single largest party in Delhi.

The other programmes included a wide range of events including meeting lawyers, chartered accountants, cultural icons, presenting cultural awards and other routine delegations and visitors. It should be noted that despite being announced as the PM candidate till the Model Code of Conduct was announced Shri Modi continued to chair all cabinet meetings, attended assembly sessions and was involved in the presentation of the state budget as well.

Some of the special programmes Narendra Modi attended were the Shilanyas of

Pioneer of technology: 3D and Chai Pe Charcha

History has been scripted in a historic campaign by the manner in which Narendra Modi has used technology and innovation to reach out to people. The most prominent example of this is the 3D rallies. First used in Gujarat, albeit on a smaller scale, the 3D rallies are a historic medium to connect with people in multiple places at the same time. Such application of technology is a first across the world.



From 11th till 30th April several rounds of 3D rallies have been held covering 750 locations ranging from Kashmir to Kerala, Maharashtra to Assam. All those who have attended the 3D rallies say it is an experience of a lifetime. Over 600 more 3D rallies will be held from 1st May till 10th May 2014. The other innovation was seen during Chai Pe Charcha. Over a cup of tea, Narendra Modi interacted with people across India on issues such as agriculture and women empowerment. The Charchas were held across 4000 locations in 24 states in various rounds. Internationally it was held across 50 locations in 15 countries. Almost 10 lakh people joined the Charchas.

2013 when Narendra Modi addressed the Hunkar Rally in Patna! There were live bombs going on the ground but no a single soul moved. In his address, Narendra Modi gave a message of peace and unity, saying that Hindus and Muslims should together fight poverty instead of fighting themselves. In the end he urged the crowd to disperse peacefully. This was a landmark moment and it convinced the people of Bihar and the rest of India that here is a leader who will face any adversity, even on his life, for the sake of Bharat Mata.

Temple. The Bharat Vijay rallies have spanned across over 25 states, covering 196 locations. Even reading this can shock several people!

Response to the Bharat Vijay rallies was historic to say the least. Wherever he went calls of 'Modi Modi Modi' filled the atmosphere! People cutting across all age groups, caste and creed attended.

Unlike the earlier 38 rallies these rallies were held for a fixed target area such a Lok Sabha seat and the adjoining ones so the average attendance per rally was between 1 to 2 lakhs. Even taking these

Statue of Unity with Advani ji, inaugurating the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune and addressing CAs and advocates. In a very touching gesture, he met the families of all those who lost their lives in the unfortunate blasts during the Hunkaar Rally in Patna. He also joined a programme to mark the 51st anniversary of the song 'Aye Mere Vatan Ke Logo' where none other than Lata Mangeshkar herself sang parts of the song along with ex-servicemen and the audience who joined the programme.

Interviews

In the entire campaign Shri Narendra Modi has given countless interviews to print, electronic and local media. His interviews have varied from one journalist asking questions to a panel of journalists asking him to even a "court" of people.

The list includes 'Aap Ki Adalat' on India TV, interview with Zee News, ABP Ghoshna Patra. He had an elaborate interview with ANI where he talked about politics, policy and foreign relations.

Newspapers such as Hindustan Times, Hindustan, Jagran, Economic Times have had interviews with Shri Narendra Modi. In an interview with CNBC TV-18 he listed out a comprehensive economic vision that will script India's recovery. Regional networks such as ETV, TV9 have interviewed Modi. At the same time local papers in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat among others have interviewed Modi too.

Team India

India's federal structure is an article of faith for the BJP. Sadly, the federal structure was trampled over time and again by the UPA. As a Chief Minister, Narendra Modi

understands the dangers of doing so and that is why he has given his vision of 'Team India' where the PM and CMs of the states will work together as a team for the development of the respective states and the nation. There is no question of discrimination between states. In a statesmanlike comment, Narendra Modi said it does not matter for him if a state has a NDA, UPA or any other government. Everybody will work together. Why the Modi rallies stand out?

Unparalleled Vision

Everywhere he went, Narendra Modi presented a unique vision that the people of the area could relate with. This vision connected the people to Narendra Modi and convinced them that here is a leader who can initiate good governance and development for the larger good.

Take for instance his visits to the Northeast. Considering the BJP is not very strong in that region, Narendra Modi visited the region a large number of times and addressed several rallies across the region. There, he rightly described the region as the 'Ashta Lakshmi' that will play an important role in India's development. He addressed issues such as corruption, scope for tourism, fake encounters in Manipur, illegal refugees from Bangladeshis, persecuted Bangladeshi Hindus that parties shy away from addressing. From Arunachal Pradesh he gave a stern message to China over the border issue.

Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh he became a much-needed panacea for a state that has become the prime example of Congress' divide and rule politics. He was the first leader to give a clarion call of 'Jai

Telangana and Jai Seemandhra' and reaffirmed his commitment to development of Telangana and justice to Seemandhra.

Narendra Modi showed his strong commitment to the speedy development of the hill states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh be it in developing tourism and ensuring development funds reach the people in the hills. An out of the box idea that emerged was the idea of forming councils with similar states such as a council of hill states or a council of coastal states consisting of the PM and the respective CMs. That way even the smallest issue can be addressed effectively.

In the same way Shri Narendra Modi is firm on his commitment to develop the eastern states of Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand. He has reiterated his commitment to place these states at par with others and for that the NDA will do everything possible.

Alliances

It was believed that Narendra Modi's road to Delhi would be a lonely one. One has lost count of the number of editorials, op-eds and articles written on it. All this punditry has been proven wrong by Shri Narendra Modi as today the NDA is a strong 25 party alliance that is going to the people with the agenda of development and providing India with a strong and stable leadership.

NDA has drawn new allies from all parts of India. In Bihar Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Upendra Khushwaha joined. In Tamil Nadu a 5 party alliance emerged with leaders like Vijaykanth, Vaiko and Dr. Ramadoss. In Seemandhra and Telangana the BJP is working with Shri Chandrababu Naidu and Shri Pawan Kalyan. In UP the Apna Dal

has pledged support. In Maharashtra Shri Ramdas Athawale joined the alliance.

At the same time relations with existing allies and old friends like the Shiv Sena and Akali Dal are very very strong.

A result of this is that the BJP is emerging as an option even in places where no one believed the Lotus could shine. In Tamil Nadu the NDA is challenging the AIADMK and DMK, in West Bengal the Left and Trinamool are seeing that there is a party that will break their monopoly. UP is looking beyond SP and BSP and Kerala is looking beyond the UDF and LDF. This has never happened in the past.

The audience

It was believed that organising

a rally was a cumbersome process. One had to “fill” crowds and make other arrangements but Narendra Modi has proven all this wrong.

If people say political parties pay people to attend rallies then they have not seen Modi rallies where people voluntarily paid to attend the rally and the proceeds went towards relief work for the Uttarakhand tragedy!

In Trichy, police caught youngsters searching for empty alcohol bottles a day after the rally but the youngsters told them that for the first time not a single bottle was found! Infact, the BJP doing a rally in Trichy was also a historic feat in itself.

In UP and Bihar the rallies were double storied! It was not uncommon to see several people

climbing on top of the polls to get a better view of Modi. Truly Modi is a ‘Pole-a-rising’ figure!

Can you recall such a wide and diverse outreach programme in India’s history? His day began at 5 AM and sometimes went past midnight but Shri Narendra Modi’s energy and his dedication only increases. These words by Shri Narendra Modi perfect sum up his routine and his determination,

“दौड़ रहा हूँ, जनता का प्यार दौड़ा रहा है। न थका हूँ, न रुका हूँ और देश विरोधी ताकतों के सामने झुकने का तो सवाल ही नहीं।”

(I am running, the affection of the people is making me run. There is no question of getting tired neither a question of stopping and bowing to anti-national forces simply does not arise.) ■

Continued from page 14

playing cricket. Switch to 2014 and things are very different! We have brought water from the Narmada and now water flows through the Sabarmati. A world class Sabarmati River Front was created, which has emerged as a popular recreation and cultural spot in Ahmedabad. With the blessings of Baba Bholenath, this is what we intend to replicate in Varanasi.

It is not only the Ganga that has become the victim of sheer negligence. We are firm in our commitment to address the issues of cleanliness in Varanasi so that we can give the citizens of Varanasi a clean and green city. We will focus on solid waste management right from collecting the waste to treating it. Similarly, the poor waste disposal practices over the years have not served the people of Varanasi well. We will leave no stone unturned to ensure that such occurrences are history within a very short period of time. Within a fixed timeframe, the problems of solid waste management, sewer and chemical waste will be successfully mitigated.

The weavers of Varanasi are an integral part of the city’s history, present and future. Unfortunately, due to apathy of the governments in Delhi and Lucknow their work has suffered. It is my firm resolve to infuse this sector with latest technology and qualitative value addition so that the weavers of Varanasi become our pride at the world level. From ensuring that they get quality raw material to better marketing of their products, it is my resolve to ensure that they stand on their own feet with pride and their future generations have a bright future.

A few days ago something very disturbing came to my light. In a village near Varanasi a high voltage line fell due to which a few people including women were injured. I was surprised and saddened to know that the injured did not receive timely medical help and the authorities showed no concern. This is a symptom of a larger decay across UP and this is the decay that we want to end.

Friends, today as I go to Varanasi, I seek your support and blessings. Bless me so that I can restore this glorious city to its prime and so that I can bring a sea of change in the lives of people of Varanasi and Poorvanchal so that this region once again becomes the focal point of our nation’s development and our proud culture.

**Yours,
Narendra Modi**

“Why PM is silent on the issue? Why has the Congress president not gone there to visit the victims?”

At least 32 Muslims were shot dead in the northeastern state of Assam on first week of May. Police blames indigenous Bodo tribesmen for the violence on 1st and 2nd May nights in the region, where illegal migrant Muslims have long been accused of grabbing land after migrating from across the Bangladesh border.



35 People killed in fresh Assam violence

spilled over into violence in the remote state that borders Bhutan and Bangladesh. In 2012 ethnic clashes in the same area claimed about 100 lives and displaced more than 400,000 people. Reacting to these developments former BJP National President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu asked, “Why is the PM silent on the issue? Why has the Congress president not gone there to visit them?”

Due to the absence of prompt action and callousness of Assam government Thousands of families have fled their homes since masked gunmen went on the rampage in Baksa and neighbouring Kokrajhar district.

Home Minister, Government of India put the death toll at 32. However, State police officials said two more bodies were discovered on 4th May while a teenager died of her injuries overnight a day before, taking the number killed to 35.

Noteworthy, the migrated Muslims community has long been locked in land disputes with indigenous tribal Bodos that have

BJP Blames Congress' Divide & Rule Policy for repeated Assam Violence

The BJP blamed the Congress practice of “harvesting politics of divisiveness and blood” for the killings in Assam. BJP National Spokesperson Shri MJ Akbar said those affected by the violence have refused to bury their dead demanding that Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi must come to the site of the incidents. “Why? Because they (victims) know that it is an abject failure of the Government... It is the politics of divisiveness and blood on which the Congress has harvested too many votes for too long,” he said to media persons. Akbar said there was a history of bloody violence in the State and many refugee camps have been made before as well. “For 14-15 years, the Congress is ruling in the State. They have not tried to bring out a solution to this problem so far, because in politics of divide and rule, they get electoral benefit,” he said.

Life of minorities not safe under Congress rule in Assam : Shahnawaz

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Shahnawaz Hussain hitting out at the Congress for “failing to protect the minorities” in Assam, after 32 people were killed in just over 24 hours in the districts of Kokrajhar, Baksa and Chirang said, “In Assam, ... people have been killed. The life of minorities is not safe under Congress rule in Assam”. He demanded that the Congress reply to “what has happened in Assam today”. ■

Ayurveda—Although Ancient It Can Be Ever New

By Sri Swami Sivananda

Source of Knowledge

In addition to the methods of experiment and observation, which are the sources of knowledge in the Modern Sciences, Ayurveda accepts concentrated meditation and intuition (Yoga) as a method of acquiring knowledge. He who relies solely on observation, thinks more of differences than of similarities. The methods of investigation in Ayurveda are more synthetic leading to oneness, Adwaita, whereas the tendency in Modern Medicine is more analytical leading to dissipation of ideas.

The mechanistic view of man prevailed progressively during the last two or three centuries, and any disease was considered to be a breakdown in the machine, which should be set right by adjusting or repairing the damaged parts. The attention to the part or organ assumes greater importance than the consideration of the whole man. Ayurveda considers man as a complex and inseparable combination of the material body, the senses, the mind and the soul. Happiness in life depends upon the control of the senses and contentment. (Charaka Sutra-I)

The Factor of Personality

Unlike the machine, man has mind, Manas. Manava is one who has a mind. He has the power of thinking and deciding his future conduct. The decision depends upon the personality of every individual, which is unborn in all living creatures

and persists as long as the organism lives. It is often transmitted to the offspring.

Triguna Theory

Constitutional traits or inborn tendencies or qualities are classified in Ayurveda into three



categories called Trigunas. The constitutional factors leading to emotions are due to Rajoguna. The constitutional factors leading to inertia are due to Tamoguna. The constitutional factors leading to equilibrium or harmony are due to Sattwaguna. The mental and physical characteristics of every individual in health and disease are determined by the predominance of one or the other of these three qualities, Trigunas.

Tridosha Theory

Vata, Pitta and Kapha are the nutritive fluids that feed the living organisms through the nervous, digestive and lymphatic systems respectively. Vata is constituted predominantly of Rajas, Pitta of Sattwa and Kapha of Tamas. Their equilibrium is health and

imbalance is disease.

Clinically, these theories are very helpful to the diagnosis and successful treatment of the multifarious diseases of the mind and the body. These theories represent the synthetic psychosomatic conception of man, which deals with his mental and physical states including the effects of the vitamins, hormones, toxins, antibodies and all factors relating to the self and the environments of time and place. The physiology of Ayurveda begins where the physiology of Modern Science ends. This means that the Ayurveda deals with both the known and the unknown as well, through its philosophy.

The theories of Ayurveda have not been so far verified by modern research, because the instruments of Science have their own limitations, when they have to deal with living matter. Further research is sure to establish the truth of these assumptions, which are like axioms as Ayurveda is concerned. Even the illiterate people and particularly women in India understand theories which they apply in their daily life. The practitioner of Modern Medicine refuses to understand them, because he has lost his moorings in the Indian Culture on account of the bias that he has been taught to acquire by his new education.

To be continued

(Courtesy: *The Divine Life Society*)