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ईश्वरः सर्वभूतानां हृद्देशेऽर्जुन तिष्ठति।

भ्रामयन्सर्वभूतानि यन्त्रास्त्र्ढानि मायया॥

Arujna, God abides in the heart of all creatures, causing them to revolve according to their Karma by His illusive power (Maya) as though mounted on a machine.

**Bhagavadgita, Chapter 18, Text 61**

**Editorial**

*A hundred failures in  
UPA's first 100 days*

*When Dr. Manmohan Singh launched upon his second inning as Prime Minister of UPA-II, a media hype was generated by setting up an agenda for 100 days of the Government. From the loud publicity, it looked as if Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi alongwith the heir apparent Shri Rahul Gandhi were going to work miracles during this period. But what was started with a loud noise has ended in a quiet whimper in the first hundred days of UPA.*

*When the UPA-II took over in May this year, the country was faced with, among numerous others, three burning problems that were eating into the vitals of the nation: the threat to national security; uncontrolled sky-rocketing prices; and the yawning recession. People thought that if not in other spheres, at least Manmohan-Sonia duo will work some wonders in these priority sectors. What has been its achievement in this period? It is nothing more than a big zero.*

*The dragon of terrorism, whether it is in the form of cross-border terrorism, naxalism, Maoism or known by some other name, its threat to the life and property of the common man continues to increase day by day. The worst hit are the Congress-ruled States and the Centrally-administered union territories. The much claimed victory in Lalgarh in West Bengal is now proving to be a humiliating defeat, as Maoists are still raising their head and threatening the life of the common man.*

*Our fight against terrorism is becoming a laughing stock of the world. We are not proving equal to the threat of terrorism in the country. Our resolve to fight terror is proving as hollow as our claims of achievements in various fields in a hundred days. UPA has failed to make its neighbours, who are nurturing and nourishing terrorism from their soil, to stop helping*

**"If you really want to do something, you will find a way. If you don't, you will find an excuse."**  
—Anonymous

these anti-national elements. During the last nine months after 26/11, India has failed to make Pakistan cooperate in its fight against terror. On the contrary, Pakistan is making a fun of our allegations and claims. Above all, Dr. Manmohan Singh has compromised India's stand and position on terrorism and in its dispute with Pakistan by issuing a joint statement with Pakistan in July this year.

UPA continues to ignore the everyday increasing threat from China, as did late Pandit Nehru when we had to suffer the ignominy of 1962 war with China.

On the price front, it is a complete failure and surrender before the profiteers, hoarders and blackmarketeers. Not to speak of bringing down the prices of essential commodities of common use by the *aam aadmi*, their rates have shot up manifold. To make both ends meet is turning a mirage for the common man.

Because of rising prices, *atta*, rice, *daal*, vegetables, milk and cooking oils are going beyond the reach of the people. Their basic and primary needs of *roti*, *kapda* and *makāan* are turning into unrealizable dreams. What used to be considered as basic minimum needs of the common man are now turning into luxuries the common man can no longer afford. The poor man prefers to die because he cannot afford hospital treatment and the cost of medicines. It has become difficult for the common

man to even afford a coffin. The UPA has made life costliest and death costlier.

According to Government's own statistics, more than 60 percent of the country's population cannot afford to spend more than Rs. 20 per day per head. How can such a person afford two meals a day with this money? Will the country's 'economist' Prime Minister, his Finance Minister and Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia frame the *aam aadmi's* budget so that he can have a stomach-full of two meals a day with this money? If they cannot look into the welfare of more than 60 percent of the country's population, that only means that they are, in reality, worried only about the *Khaas Aadmi*.

On the other hand, the Finance Minister and Agriculture Minister are proving prophets of doom. They are warning the countrymen to get ready for higher prices of common use. The prices of sugar have touched Rs. 36 a kilogram and these are further likely to shoot up in the coming festival season when demand for sugar is the highest. The sugar production has gone down. The UPA is ill-prepared to face the situation emerging because of failure of the monsoons, drought, fall in Rabi crop production etc.

The promise to put on rails the economic situation because of recession has proved empty. The crisis is deepening. The current year's budget has proved to be just a jugglery of words, facts and figures. How will the deficit in the

budget be plugged remains unexplained.

The promises on other problems confronting the nation continue to be as hollow as in other fields. A great expectation was raised about getting the Women's Reservation Bill passed in the first 100 days. It continues to remain a nightmare. What it could not do in five years of its last term, how could one expect it in this short time?

Manmohan government had taken great pride in holding out a promise to enact the Right to Food Act within this period. It continues to be in doldrums.

Starting with cleansing and beautification of Ganges and then taking in hand the work on other rivers continues to remain just on paper.

The promise of a social audit of the NREGA and inject transparency in its functioning continues to be a hallucination.

The pledge to usher in reforms in banking and postal sectors to provide better service to the common man, particularly in villages, remains unattended to.

Tens of other assurances were also held to the people in the election manifesto, budget and other bold statements of the Congress President, Ministers and other leaders. But on the plane of implementation, the end result is nil.

In short, in the first hundred days, Congress-led UPA-II has failed to come up to the hopes and aspirations of the people. ■

## Mandi, Mehngai and Swine Flu the only UPA achievements

# Rajnath threatens nationwide Jail Bharo if prices rise further

From Our Correspondents

Addressing a large gathering in a sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on August 17 as part of a call given by the BJP to observe “Mehngai Virodhi Diwas” (Anti-price rise Day) across the country, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh pulled up the central UPA Government for its failure to control price rise in the country and warned that if the

sufficient quantity to the masses at affordable prices as this was a priority area for the Government.

Shri Rajnath Singh said, “The present Government did not have any policy, strategy or will to control the sky-rocketing prices of daily-use items. We had decided not to speak against the Government and let it work for six months but the worsening situation has forced us

to come out on the roads to protest”. The BJP President alleged that the UPA Government advocates the rights of the *aam admi* but it has hit the belly of the common man by increasing the prices of pulses, rice, sugar, tea and other daily use items.

“The *Makaan* (Home) is already far away from the reach of the *aam admi* and now with the wrong policies of the Government *Roti and Kapda* is fast becoming unreachable,” Shri Singh said.



price rise is not controlled the party will launch a countrywide *Jail Bharo Andolan*.

“The UPA Government had promised to control the price rise within 100 days of its coming back to power but the Prime Minister and senior Cabinet Ministers now say that the people should prepare for more price hike,” said Shri Singh. He said the Manmohan Singh Government had given only *Mandi, Mehngai* and Swine Flu to the country.

Shri Singh said while the Government was being run by an economist Prime Minister, the economy was in a shambles. “Agricultural production is not increasing and industries are closing down,” he said, adding that due to this “people are being rendered unemployed and the economy has lost its internal strength”.

He said the kind of price rise that was being faced by the common man today was unprecedented and never before in the past several decades had people experienced such a marked increase in the prices of all commodities.

During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA regime, he said, essential commodities were made available in

WPI far from reality : Jaitley

Speaking on the occasion, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said the Government is obsessed with the data of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) but the ground reality is different and people are facing the challenge to survive amidst skyrocketing prices.

Shri Jaitley added that over 157 countries of the world have abandoned WPI as it is far from reality. “The farmers are forced to commit suicide. If the prices are not controlled it will lead to a spate of deaths due to starvation. The Government has food grains in its stock and should immediately release it in the market to control the price hike,” he said.

Shri Jaitley said while the Government was holding recession in the country responsible for the price rise, the fact was that one could understand increase in unemployment and closure of industries due to recession but this could not be the real cause for price rise. “The real cause for price rise is the directionless policy of the Government on the economic front. When the Government does not connect its economic policies with the lives of common man then it becomes difficult

to control recession,” he said. The people today are agitated because of the price rise and such strong feeling was being witnessed for the first time since Independence, Shri Jaitley said, demanding an immediate change in the economic policies of the Government.

Delhi Pradesh President Prof. OP Kohli charged that while the Government had with much fanfare announced 100 days’ agenda for various Union Ministries, it had gone back on them in many cases.

“The Government is out to provide amenities to the prosperous sections and burden the common man,” he charged, mentioning how due to low procurement price for food grains many farmers had taken to producing bio-fuel. Because of this there had been a shortfall in the production of food grains and a sharp increase in the prices of food grains and pulses, he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Prof. VK Malhotra, former Delhi Finance Minister Shri Jagdish Mukhi and former Mayor of Delhi Smt. Arti Mehra were also present at the protest.

## ANDHRA PRADESH

### Naidu, Rudy arrested Union govt's negligence responsible for price rise: Naidu



Andhra Pradesh unit of BJP took out a rally in August 17 in tune with the nationwide agitation call given by the BJP’s central leadership against price rise. Thousands of BJP activists headed by former National President of BJP Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and National Spokesperson Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy were taken into custody when they made an unsuccessful bid to enter the Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad.

Shri M Venkaiah Naidu asserted that the Government cannot stop the rising public anger by arresting those representing the people’s cause. Addressing the protestors earlier, he alleged that hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities had become rampant ever since the Congress government took over the reins in the State and at the Centre.

Shri Naidu has demanded that the Central and State governments should take immediate steps to arrest the spiralling rise in prices of essential commodities. Criticizing the ‘negligent’ attitude of the Congress government at the Centre towards pegging the prices, he has threatened to intensify the agitation if the Government failed to ‘wake up from the deep slumber.’

He said though it was necessary for the State governments to take steps to check prices, the Centre had a crucial role to play in controlling the skyrocketing prices of essentials commodities. He recalled how the National Democratic Alliance government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee succeeded in keeping prices under control despite drought, cyclone and sanctions imposed on the country in the aftermath of Pokhran II.

BJP State president Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Shri N. Indrasena Reddy, Shri K. Laxman and Shri Chinta Samba Murthy were among the arrested. They were released later.

### Karyakartas take to mock sale of vegetables as a mark of protest in Nizamabad

The Bharatiya Janata Party State Vice-President Smt Vanam Jhansi Rani alleged that the Congress-led State and the Central



governments miserably failed to control the rising prices of all essential commodities. Addressing a protest demonstration in front of the Collectorate in Nizamabad, she criticised the Congress for hoodwinking the people on coming to power. The Government failed to crack the whip on black marketers and erring traders who were hoarding essential commodities resulting in unusual price rise, she added. The prices of rice, food grains, pulses and vegetables were not within the reach of the poor and lower middle classes and they rose over 100 per cent when compared to the prices six months ago said Shri Badham Linga Reddy, BJP district president.

The BJP workers on the occasion conducted a mock show of sale and purchase of vegetables, weighing them aside gold ornaments indicating that their prices increased manifold like that of gold. The leaders later submitted a memorandum to district Collector.

In Karimnagar, district unit leaders staged a dharna in front of the Collectorate demanding the State

government take all measures to reduce the prices of all essential commodities.

BJP leaders led by Kisan Morcha State President Shri P. Sugunakar Rao, senior leader Shri Baddam Bal Reddy, BJP district leaders Shri M. Arjun Rao and others participated in the dharna. They wanted the government to announce a special package of Rs. 5,000 crore to reduce the prices of essential commodities. They called upon the government to conduct survey of crop damage and announce compensation to the farmers.

## MADHYA PRADESH

### Karyakartas demonstrate against price rise, court arrest

Thousands of BJP workers courted arrest on August 17 in Madhya Pradesh as part of the State-wide agitation against price rise in the country. Around 10,000 BJP workers including women courted arrest in New Market area of the State capital Bhopal. The workers raised slogans against the Congress-led Government at the Centre.

Similarly, sit-ins and demonstrations were staged and public meetings held in Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Ujjain, Sagar, Satna and other district headquarters.

BJP State president Shri Narendra Singh Tomar led the demonstration rally against the rising prices of essential commodities in Gwalior. Addressing the mammoth gathering on the occasion he said, "Price rise has taken the shape of epidemic and has disturbed the life of common man. The price rise is not due to adverse natural conditions but it is due to the wrong fiscal policies of the UPA Government."

In Bhopal, the BJP workers staged demonstration rally and public meeting at the Community Hall Campus in New Market and later courted arrest. Addressing the party workers on the occasion State Organisational General Secretary Shri Makhan Singh Said, "The wrong fiscal policies of the Central Government are hammering the people of the country. Rising prices have hit hard to the common man."

In Indore, the party workers carried out demonstration and public meeting at Rajwada led by local MP Smt Sumitra Mahajan. After the public meeting, tableaux showing rising prices were carried out in the city.

A demonstration was held at the Dewas Gate Square in Ujjain. Addressing the gathering on the occasion Shri Babulal Jain said, "Congress is not sensitive towards

the people. Whenever Congress talks of lowering prices, the very next day prices rise. The profiteers and Congress are hand in gloves which have made the life of common man miserable."

In Sagar, the demonstration rally was led by BJP State General Secretary and MP Shri Bhupendra Singh. Addressing the gathering he said, "Congress is silent over the economic exploitation of the people of country and silently watching the rising prices of nearly all commodities." He further said that it seemed like the Congress was out to oblige those multinational companies who had donated hefty amounts to it during the Parliamentary elections.

## ORISSA

### BJP Stages State-wide demonstrations Against Orissa mining scam & price rise

Demanding a CBI inquiry into the multi-crore mining scam in Orissa and protesting against the rise in prices of essential commodities, the State unit of the BJP on August 17 staged demonstrations across the State. However, no untoward incident was reported from any part of the State. Thousands of BJP supporters came



forward and joined the demonstrations organized before different district headquarters.

In the state capital Bhubaneswar, the BJP activists staged a road blockade near Ram Mandir Square. Holding party flags and banners in their hands, the party workers staged a demonstration and raised slogans against the Naveen Patnaik government for not handing over the mining scam to the CBI. More than a thousand workers joined the rally organised under the leadership of its district unit President Shri Ratikanta Das. Addressing the gathering the State President Shri Suresh Pujari said, "The agitation will be intensified in the coming days if the Government fails to initiate action against the culprits". He further said Vigilance does not have the necessary infrastructure to hold an inquiry into the mining issue. "The roots of corruption have gone beyond the boundaries of the State. It has reached London. The Vigilance sleuths cannot conduct the inquiry," he said, adding that the CBI has the only

expertise and necessary infrastructure to deal with the corruption issue. However, the State BJP unit also criticized the Government's failure to check rise in prices of essential commodities. "The common man has been badly hit," Shri Pujari said.

In Berhampur, the commercial hub of Orissa, thousands of karyakartas staged dharna at the strategic places of the city protesting against the price rise of essential commodities. Leaders of BJP in their speeches blamed both the UPA government at the Centre and the BJD government in the State for the present situation.

They asked the administration to immediately intervene and control the prices of essential commodities including vegetables. The Bandh affected the normal life in the city and due to the support of Berhampur Chambers of Commerce the market was closed during the maximum part of the day.

Protesting against the rise in prices of essential commodities in Balangir local BJP activists, led by Patnagarh MLA and leader of BJP in State Assembly Shri KV Singh Deo, Shri Basudev Pati and district BJP president Shri Ajay Dash held a demonstration before the Collectorate. "We submitted a memorandum to the district administration," Shri Singh Deo said, after submitting the memorandum.

"We are not satisfied with the Vigilance inquiry. Even as the Government has admitted that it is a scam of Rs 110 crore, we believe the scam involves around Rs 4,000 crore and it is a bigger scandal than the Bofors scam," Shri Deo said further.

"As Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been heading different portfolios like the forest during the last eight years, his role is also not above board. We demand an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the mining scam that has been continuing since 2001. A CBI inquiry will expose all those involved in the scam, he said.

The BJP karyakartas also staged protest marches in other cities like Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur, Raurkela, Balasore and Jaipur etc.

Similar demonstrations were held by the party at all district headquarter towns and several sub-divisional headquarter towns. The party workers also submitted a memorandum addressed to the Governor through District Collectors and other authorities seeking a CBI probe into the mining scam and measures to curb price rise.

## State BJP protests against price hike

The Himachal Pradesh BJP staged a demonstration against unprecedented price rise in the capital Shimla. State BJP secretary Shri H.N. Kashyap along with state BJP Mahila Morcha President Smt Rupa Sharma, Shimla District BJP President Shri Ganesh Dutt addressed the party workers.

Speaking on the occasion, State BJP Secretary Shri H.N. Kashyap said despite the Prime Minister being a renowned economist, he had proved to be a utter failure



when it came to controlling prices. "The UPA regime is more concerned about giving maximum profit to traders rather than sparing a thought for the poor who are finding it impossible to make both ends

meet," he said

Shimla District BJP President Shri Ganesh Dutt said the Congress-led UPA regime, which had come to power on the promise of providing subsidised ration to the common man, had forgotten about the poor. "In case the government does not take some effective measures to check price rise, the days of the UPA regime would be numbered," he warned.

In Hamirpur the district unit of the BJP held a protest demonstration against rising prices of essential commodities and the CD episode. The BJP workers marched to DC office raising slogans against the Central government and later submitted a memorandum to the Governor through the Hamirpur DC. The memorandum has criticised the Congress-led Central government for failing to check the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities. It said the prices of sugar, pulses, vegetables and other items have risen so steep making these beyond the reach of common man and demanded immediate check on price rise.

The BJP district unit also demanded resignation of Union Steel Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh after registration of a case in the CD episode.

## JAMMU & KASHMIR

### Congress is anti-poor : BJP

As part of one-day nationwide demonstration against price rise of essential commodities, BJP activists on August 17 demonstrated at Kachi Chowani Chowk



in Jammu and burnt the effigy of PM and other ministers of UPA government. Party activists led by BJP District President Shri Rajesh Gupta held a protest demonstration and criticized the

UPA Government for its failure to check the price rise of essential commodities, of the day-to-day use by common man.

Shri Gupta said that the people of the country are repenting for having voted for the Congress party in the Lok Sabha elections, which deceived the people by giving false slogans like, “*Congress ka haat, Gareeb ke saath*”. He said that after coming into power Congress party has forgotten the slogans and the situation is highly volatile; where a commoner is struggling to earn his two time meals said Shri Rajesh Gupta adding that the prices of essential commodities like vegetables, fruit, flour, rise, medicines have touched the sky.

Discrediting Congress party for the price rise, Shri Gupta further said that during 6 years of NDA government the prices remained under control and the common people had a sigh of relief.

Among others hundreds of office bearers of BJP like Shri Jaideep Sharma, Shri Kuldeep Magotra, Shri Baldev Singh, Shri Rakesh Gupta, Shri Ved Prakash, Shri Vikram Randhawa, Shri Vinay Gupta, Shri Dinesh Gupta, Shri Parduman Singh, Shri Narsingh Dass, Shri Lalit Kumar, Shri Madan Abrol, Shri Karan Singh, Shri Shubh Chander Verma, Smt. Sureshta Jamwal, Shri Balwan Singh, Shri Kuldeep Kandhari, Shri Shashikant Sapolia, Shri Vikrant Singh, Shri Arun Sethi, Shri Harbhajan Singh, Shri Ayodhya Kumar, Shri Vijay Choudhary, Shri Kuldeep Luthra, Shri Ludharmani, Shri Sat Choudhary, Shri Devinder Khajuria, Shri Bal Khajuria, Shri Beli Ram, Shri Bharat Bhushan, Shri Daleep Thakyal and Shri Balbir Singh took part in the protest demonstration.

## BIHAR

### UPA responsible for rising prices : BJP

Bharatiya Janata Party leaders in Patna on August 17, 2009 took out a rally against the UPA government holding it responsible for the cost of living and blaming it for failing to do anything about it.

Starting at the Party office in Kadam Kuan, State president Shri Radha Mohan Singh led the procession to Patna Junction roundabout where the rally turned into a public meeting,



where a number of leaders like Shri Arun Kumar Sinha, Smt. Kiran Ghai, Shri Nitin Navin and Smt Asha Sinha turn by turn highlighted the failure of the UPA government in keeping prices from going through the roof. “Congress and high prices are almost synonymous as each time the Congress has come into power, prices of essential goods have skyrocketed,” Shri Singh said.

BJP national secretary Smt. Kiran Ghai said that the nation was economically strong when the NDA was in power at the Center. “Since the UPA government assumed power, economy has taken a turn for the worst. People are unable to afford even the most basic items like food and clothing and we would launch a nationwide agitation to demand action from the Central government,” Smt. Ghai said.

## UTTAR PRADESH

### BJP Karyakartas & common man participated in huge numbers in Protest against prices rise



Alleging that the Congress-led UPA government was hand-in-glove with black-marketeers, the BJP held a statewide agitation against price rise and submitted a memorandum to the

President through the district magistrates. Common people in large number participated with the BJP

karyakartas in all over the state.

In its memorandum, the BJP claimed that Atal Behai Vajpayee government was successful in keeping prices of essential commodities under check. But during the tenure of the Congress government prices rising with out any check and the common people especially the housewives were in great distress.

State vice-president of BJP and party spokesman Shri HN Dixit in Lucknow said that BJP's agitation was a great success as the people were fed up with rising prices of commodities and extended their support to the Party. He said that people were also annoyed with the attitude of the SP and the BSP as both were supporting the Congress-led UPA government. Shri Dixit said people came out in large numbers in support of the BJP agitation in Lucknow, Faizabad, Barabanki, Kanpur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Jhansi, Ghaziabad and other districts.

Shri Hriday Narayan Dixit has sought clarification from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the fact that despite being an economist, why he did not act promptly to tackle the issue of price rise. Shri Dixit further added that while there was rise in prices in every Congress regime, Parties like SP and BSP were also the culprits as they had extended their unconditional support to the UPA government.

Severely criticizing the Union government, the District BJP leaders said that while the Prime Minister had expressed his concern over economic slowdown but he was least bothered about the rising prices which were directly affecting the common man.

**KARNATAKA**

**Sack UPA Government, demand BJP leaders**

District units of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Karnataka staged dharna in front of the respective Deputy Commissioner's office on August 17 to protest against the galloping prices of essential commodities.

Addressing the protesters in Bijapur Shri H.R. Utagi said that farmers and the middle class had taken a severe beating because of the rise in prices. A memorandum was submitted to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh through Deputy Commissioner.

Kodagu unit of the BJP also staged a protest against the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government at

the Centre urging the President to dismiss the Centre for allegedly failing to check the spiralling prices of essential commodities and fuel. Led by Kodagu BJP district unit president Shri M.P. Sunil Subramani and MLC Shri S.G. Medappa, the party functionaries and members of the party alleged that the UPA Government had failed to keep its election promise to the people. Prices of rice, toor dal and fuel had gone beyond the reach of the common man, Shri Medappa, who addressed the members before the Deputy Commissioner's office, said. Raising the prices of petrol and diesel immediately after the elections showed the true colours of the UPA, he said.

In Mangalore workers of the Dakshina Kannada unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's



o f f i c e . Addressing a huge gathering President of the district unit of BJP Shri K. M o n a p p a Bhandary said that common man had been hit hard by the rising prices.

He said prices of many essential commodities and vegetables had gone up by more than 100 per cent over the last few days. Women had to spend from their small savings to purchase food grains and vegetables. He said although the inflation rate was at 12.5 per cent during this period of last year, the prices of vegetables, pulses and cereals were still at affordable range of common man. But now, when the inflation rate had come down to approximately 1 per cent, people were struggling to purchase these items, he pointed out.

On that occasion senior leader Shri Bangaradkka said that as monsoon had weakened in many parts of the country this year, the production of oil seeds was likely to come down and result in short supply. The Union Government should take steps to import oil seeds by reducing the Customs Duty on imports, he said.

BJP MLAs, MLCs of that region and Councillors of the party in the Mangalore City Corporation council took part in the protest. Later, they submitted a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The party held demonstrations in different parts of the State including the state capital Bangalore, Uddappi,

Dharwade, Balgaon, Ballari, Raichure etc. in support of its demand. In every part of the state the BJP Karyakartas got enormous public support and BJP's agitation was a great success in the state.

## JHARKHAND

### Hoarding and Black-marketing rampant under UPA rule

The Jharkhand unit of Bharatiya Jananta Party (BJP) led by senior leader Shri Yashwant Sinha organized demonstrations across the state to protest the rising



prices of essential commodities. Addressing the Karyakartas earlier Shri Yashwant Sinha said we have decided to launch an unending agitation against price rise. He said "Our party members have already demonstrated in all 212 blocks, in front of the Block Development Office of the state and from today onwards we will launch agitation in district level."

Shri Sinha said in the last 2 years, the prices of essential commodities have doubled. When the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) government was ruling at the Centre and in the state, the prices of essential commodities were under control. He further said that hoarding and black-marketing of essential commodities had become rampant ever since the Congress government took over the reins in the State and at the

Centre.

Shri Sinha on that occasion demanded that the Central and State governments should take immediate steps to arrest the spiralling rise in prices of essential commodities. Criticizing the negligent attitude of the Union government towards pegging the prices, he has threatened to intensify its agitation if the Government failed to 'wake up from the deep slumber and added that "We will expose the Central government on price rise issue."

## WEST BENGAL

### Congress government doing nothing to control prices

Launching a movement in West Bengal to protest the unprecedented price hike the state BJP alleged that the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre was doing nothing to control the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities.

Talking to newsmen, BJP state president Shri Satyabrata Mukherjee said the prices of all essential commodities started skyrocketing following the Centre's decision to increase the crude oil prices. 'We expected the Centre to take serious measures to bring down the prices of essential commodities but the government did not do anything in this regard,' he said.

He said, 'The UPA government came to power for the second time, but neither the Centre nor the West Bengal government has taken any initiative to tackle the price rise'.

Shri Satyabrata Mukherjee said our district units have already held protest rallies in Malda, Uluberia, Asansol Bankura, Bardhaman and other districts to condemn price rise and now we have once again organised a protest rally against the price rise in Kolkata and other cities of the state, he said. ■

## Sugar prices skyrocket to Rs 35 a kg

Sugar prices across the country, according to *the Tribune* have hit the roof. Retail price of sugar has touched an all-time high of Rs 35 per kg since yesterday. In the past one month, the sugar prices have gone up by Rs 8 a kg. - from Rs 27 a kg to Rs 34-35 a kg. Even the wholesale prices have gone up from Rs 25 a kg in July to Rs 32 a kg. As against a consumption requirement of 23 million tonne, the total sugar output in the country is likely to be around 17 million tonne. With the area under sugarcane being diverted for wheat and paddy cultivation (because of the high minimum support price offered for these), sugar production has taken a hit for a second consecutive year. In areas, where sugarcane is cultivated, drought-like conditions are adversely affecting the sucrose content, thus bringing down sugar production.



## Param Pujyaniya Sarsanghchalak Mohan Rao Bhagwat speaks his mind

Interview with Shri. Arnab Gosvami  
of Times Now Channel on 18 Aug. 2009

**Q** Let me start by asking you when you took over as the head of the RSS, as Sarsanghchalak you emphasized change. You said that no organization can change as quickly as we do, we can even change our leaders and change is a factor in the RSS. Do you feel that the election results this year emphasize that need for change not just in the BJP but also in the RSS in your style of thinking?

As I said change is the character of RSS. We keep on changing. We changed our *Prarthna* in 1939. But there was this comment 'RSS is not changing-not changing'. I answered that. We are the organization most ready for the change. There are certain things which we have to keep fast, they can not change. Roots you don't change. Everything else you can change. In RSS we can change everything except 'Hindusthan is Hindu Rashtra'. But we have got a particular method. We create consensus and when that consensus is achieved we change immediately.

**Q** In 2004 elections the RSS explained the loss of BJP as I think, it was because of the dilution of the Hindutva ideology. Vajpayee had cited Gujarat riots as one of the possible reasons the party didn't do very well. The party at that time defended Modi. The RSS defended Modi. Vajpayee had to backtrack. My question is very simple. Hasn't that brand of Hindutva being rejected once again by the people of this country?

That is to be thought by the political party. Our Hindutva has no brand. Our Hindutva is a set of values. Unity in diversity, gratitude, austerity, simplicity and such values. They are the Hindutva. It is not concerned with politics and it is concerned with everything in your life. So it is not a particular religion or creed. It is a view, a worldview.

**Q** Hindutva is essentially today, largely in the country is understood in the political context.

You say that it is a way of life but without doubt it is a political slogan today. My question to you is : does Hindutva as a political slogan work?

As a political slogan what works and what doesn't work depends on so many factors. How you put the slogan, what is the situation prevalent then. Some times it works, some times it doesn't work and reasons are various. But we don't look to Hindutva as a political slogan or as political ideology. It is the nature of Bharat, identity of Bharat. Unity in diversity. One manifested in everything is the base. That is particular to Bharat only.

**Q** But as has been interpreted and projected fanatically by the BJP, by the large part of the BJP. Hindutva is seen today in its political interpretation and application as a form of political intolerance. You would not deny that Hindutva is used politically by the BJP.

As I said, the BJP has to think about it. When we go to the people in the course of our work we straight away approach the society. We never experience that type of perception. With open arms they come to us. Even Muslims. The other day one Muslim scholar from Nagpur came here and we had a very good exchange of views. There was no misconception about Hindutva in his mind. So this is a particular thing which should be given thought to by the political party.

**Q** Would you concede that the BJP has conceded Hindutva. The BJP today seems to be synonymous with certain themes for example Ramjanama Bhoomi, article 370, and uniform civil code. That seems to be the narrow understanding of the political Hindutva. Would you agree that interpretation of Hindutva perhaps is not as valid and perhaps doesn't have that much relevance for the people of this country?

You see, about all these issues..... 370 issue is not concerned with Hindutva. It is concerned

with the integrity of the land. We are all one. Therefore we should have one set of rules. “*Ek desh main do vidhan, do nishan, do pradhan nahi challenge*” that is the slogan. Ramjanama Bhoomi is not a question of mere Rambhakti. The temple was demolished by a foreign aggressor. And we are now independent. So we should restore the emblems of our national pride. It has nothing to do with Hindus, Muslims etc. It is national. That is why I say the set of values is particular to Bharat. Muslims of Bharat, Christian of Bharat, and so-called Hindus of Bharat; all are inheritors of that particular culture.

**Q It is precisely this kind of thinking which people say is the reason why the BJP is trapped in a dogma of its own making. It is why people say that other parties have moved forward, Congress perhaps has moved forward and has a greater connect with young India, whereas BJP has been caught in a time warp. And the general view after the election was that if the BJP wants to move forward it needs to change, it needs to be less hard liner.**

The BJP has to think about that. You are asking me about BJP. I am Sarsanghchalak of the RSS. The BJP is having its Chintan Baithak, they will think about it. How to interpret the Hindutva, whether we have really been left behind or is it a temporary matter that will have be thought by them.

**Q After the election results you alongwith two other top RSS leaders met Mr. L.K. Advani. Did you ask Mr. L.K. Advani to carry on?**

I was not there. For your information, I was on my tour for Sangh Shiksha Vargas. You can check my itinerary. Because Advani ji had resigned, three of our Adhikaris, went to meet him. He is our Swayamsevak; he is not only BJP leader. So they went to him.

**Q Did the RSS leadership tell Mr. Advani not to resign?**

No.

**Q Are you categorical about that? Because it was interpreted.....**

We did not tell anything to Mr. Advani at that time. Mr. Advani himself has said that it was his own decision. So when a chief person of a political party who is our Swayamsevak does something like this, I think it is very fair to go and meet him.

**Q The entire media report that the RSS.....because Mr. Advani has said immediately after the election results that he doesn't want to hold any post. And after that the RSS, three top RSS leaders meet him and it was reported that the RSS leaders convinced Mr. Advani to stay on.**

This is not the subject of RSS. Advani ji told me, during my transit Advani ji met me on 1st of June in Delhi and he told me “I took all the responsibility, I resigned. But then my colleagues from party came to me and asked that, you were prepared to be Prime Minister if we had won then why are you running away from this responsibility? And I found some substance in their argument, then I gave a re-thinking and I withdrew my resignation”. That is what he told me. Was it not reported in media? He had said this publicly.

**Q You are saying that this was Mr. Advani's own decision ?**

Yes. Both decisions were his own decisions.

**Q A bitter criticism of the way the BJP handled the election campaign has come in RSS mouth pieces, and I can even quote for you what was said. It was said that the politics is fought at the grassroots and connect to the people at the grassroots and not in the air-conditioned chat rooms with reference to Advani's website and internet connect and a sort of urban way of fighting the election. That was the criticism that came in the RSS. Do you stand by that?**

You see, many persons express their views. Official view of the RSS is put forth by the Sarsanghchalak, Sarkaryavaha, and the six persons nominated to speak with the press. But our Swayamsevaks are free to express their views and there are many types of views which have been put forth. This is one type, there are another types also.

**Q So what is your explanation?**

I am not expert of politics. Our Swayamsevaks are there in politics, in BJP. They should think about this and if they find some reality in this criticism they should make amends.

**Q You are constantly distancing yourself from BJP while there is an open relationship. The link between RSS and BJP is an open fact.**

Links between RSS and BJP are the Swayamsevaks. BJP has our Swayamsevaks at very high places but as a party BJP is a separate political organization.

**Q Do you see Mr. Advani ji to carry on for five years?**

They will have to decide it. If they come and ask for our suggestion we will give it to them.

**Q What was your suggestion?**

I don't suggest anything unless I am asked. I will never suggest anything unless asked by them. I have never done it.

**Q You are the youngest - if I am not mistaken - chief of the RSS since Hedgewar. So are you happy with the situation when the top tier of the BJP's leadership varying between 70 or 75-85 where as the second tier of the BJP is between 60-70.**

The BJP has to decide about it. You see it is not the question of what we think. They have to manage their party. It is a universal rule. Young generation must be placed. But when and where that they have to decide. Today you say BJP top hierarchy is like this. But before thirty years, it was a reverse situation. Now that generation, after working for 35 years, has become old. So they will have to think how to bring up the younger generation in the party. The modus operandi, when, where and how, is their decision.

**Q But the transition is necessary?**

Not only in BJP, everywhere that transition is necessary. In RSS also after 10-15 years we will have to think.

**Q Do you think that the transition can wait till the next general election? That is my question.**

They will have to judge.

**Q No. But you are of the view that the transition is necessary. For the BJP to go into next general election they would need to transit to younger generation. Do you admit that?**

Yes, when and how to do it that is their prerogative.

**Q Have you communicated this to Mr. Advani?**

We have been saying this since 2003. Whenever they asked us how their party should be. We say you have sufficient young workers. Bring them

gradually forward. It was published also.

**Q Only at the top level of the party or across all levels of the party?**

Transition is at all levels. See there is average age group at every level, that average age group must be maintained.

**Q What should that average age be?**

I don't know about politics. But in Sangh at my level we say 60; 55-60 should be the average age group.

**Q So the next leadership of the BJP also in your view, the details can be worked out, the time place when where can be worked out, but there should be an attempt to find the next leadership within 55-60.**

55-60 is for Sangh. What age group should be in politics they are the best judge. I do not judge that. I am not a political person.

**Q But certainly not in the eighties?**

That also they will have to judge.

**Q BJP is the party with which, Mr. Bhagwat, you have had long links. You have an association with BJP. The BJP has said it is proud of its association with RSS. You had meetings with the BJP on several occasions. You are involved in politics in an advisory role, may be not a direct role. How do you view what is happening in the BJP of late? I want you to be frank with me. How do you view this factionalism?**

I have been very frank with you hiding nothing. I think BJP has received a nasty jolt, unexpectedly. So it was a bit destabilized, lost its balance. They will have to regain it. Whatever has happened was not very good. And not only am I saying it, in their national executive, ample expression of this have come out. And I know that all the leaders in BJP feel bad about it. They have to get that balance back quickly, and make amends to everything. How it happened, what was the mistake that they will have to give thought in their Chintan Baithak, and they will do it. I am sure.

**Q So it is time for all this factionalism to stop?**

It is now too much. Now it must stop immediately.

**Q Mr. Khanduri went because of this, in Bihar for Sushil Kumar Modi - there was mini rebellion**

against him. I am sure you know what is happening against Vasundhara Raje Sindia – She is asked to go, she doesn't go – she parades the party MLA's, almost parades.....

All that should be....., this is due to the imbalance, lack of procedure. All that all should be restored. And I am sure, because I meet them frequently, during my travel our transition, they expressed their angst about this. So they are keen to restore it but they should do it quickly.

**Q** When you speak about leadership are you speaking about individual leaders or general leaders, BJP top leadership?

Top leadership, not particular leaders.

**Q** I am only putting two and two together. The situation can arise, and correct me if I am wrong, out of three situations, either there is nothing like inner party democracy, secondly a weak top leadership – or thirdly there is a lack of collective leadership at the top and there is factionalism at the top. Possibly it could be all three. But which one do you think is most important.

I have not given thought to the internal situation of BJP. That is not my job. I tell them to sit together, hatch the things out and do necessary amends. .... See, their party has a mission. That mission should be kept in view and they should think where we have gone wrong. If they have gone wrong they are the best judge. I don't know anything about politics. Its actual working in day today politics, in elections. I don't know about it.

**Q** I know you will keep saying it. Because you are RSS Sarsanghachalak, you can not say that you are interested in politics in public. I completely appreciate that. But at the same time my direct question to you would be, what do you think of Rajnath Singh's leadership of the BJP? If you want to compare, you have seen several leaders of the BJP in the past. You have seen the BJP through ups and... highs and lows ...and you are fully aware that there has never been a level of open factionalism and squabble as there has been before and after the general election. Should the top leaders not take responsibility?

Instead of attributing all this to a particular person, one or the other, general condition of the party should be paid attention to, by all these persons. I do not see it as a result of Rajnathsinghji being

there, or Advaniji being there, this man being there, or that man being there. I see it ... a general debility has affected the party. They have to restore it.

**Q** There is a level of infighting among top leaders. They will have to resolve that. They have to think about the party. No leader can afford to think about himself only. Because party is supreme.

**Q** You had a meeting with Mr. Advani in August. You have been asked about it and I will ask you again, did you ask Mr. Advani to resign?

I have categorically said, I did not ask anything of Mr. Advani on that day. I did not issue any directive on that day. He came to me, he wanted to meet me, I was not in Nagpur on that day. I said I am in transit in Delhi. He said OK. One hour will be sufficient. He came there. It was lunch time so we had lunch and he described all these things. .... the same thing as I have told you. That you consider how this situation came? Because it was a disciplined party, a very good party, party with a difference, you have to restore that difference and for that you have to install the methods. In your Chintan Baithak, all should sit down together and think. Personal considerations must be kept away. That is what I told. He agreed. Actually, he told me initially that "I have been very sad about it, I have been working in Jansangh also, this was not the atmosphere that we saw there". I told Advaniji you are a very senior, experienced person. So you know what to do about it. Just together, collectively, form some way of bringing that back in party.

**Q** Do you see a role for him in bringing together this change or ... What role do you see for Mr. Advani in the BJP? A role of a mentor? As a person who guides the change?

He is a very senior person. Well respected person. If he asks something of the workers he should surely be obeyed.

**Q** Mr. Bhagwat there is also a serious speculation and I want to ask you something. The RSS wants to affect changes in the BJP at all levels. The people in the BJP are little worried about it. Some people in the BJP. But that you want to bring in talent at different levels. At the state level, at the district level, at the national level.

**Some people say it could be something like Kamraj type of overhauling plan? I am asking you this because you have two options, and I fully respect the fact that you are saying that I am not involved in politics but you can influence this party at least, the principal opposition party. What would you see your role in this process in the BJP?**

We have been asking our Swayamsevaks in BJP 4 -5 things. He should be reasonably sound and articulate about the ideology. Secondly a collective work pattern, team working. Thirdly you should have dialogue with all the... say fellow travelers. There are many well wishers, there are many other organizations where Swayamsevaks are working, there are many others who are not Swayamsevaks but they agree with BJP, they should have a system of continuous dialogue with them, there should not be any disconnect. Fourth, they should *be* a party with a difference.

Actually I will put this on second. And fifth, gradually they should bring the young generation forth. These are the things which I have been asking of the Swayamsevaks in BJP. BJP as a party has to do it. BJP as a party is not run by RSS. They have to find the way. They have to agree to this or disagree. They are free. But our Swayamsevaks always belong to us. We are telling them this.

**Q That's almost like as if the BJP disagrees. I see from what you are saying that the RSS will be more politically involved, or more involved, at least in guiding the BJP. Do you see any resistance from the BJP?**

No.

**Q You don't see it?**

Until now that has not happened. And I don't see that it will happen in future also. Because we have very good relations with non- Swayamsevaks also in BJP.

**Q This is very interesting. Because I do see from what you are saying a greater exercise of influence. Before I wrap up this interview, Mr. Bhagwat let me take the opportunity of asking you a few direct questions today. You know that 55 percent of this country is below the age of 35. And I think a much higher number will be below the age of forty. Do you think this population identifies with what Varun Gandhi said? It is a straight question. The Varun Gandhi kind of**

**speech, is that kind of political speech which young India will associate or identify with strongly in the future?**

My experience with the young generation, when we go to them with our appeal of Hindutva, patriotism and service is that these have the highest appeal in the young generation now. We get very good response. What Varun Gandhi said I have not examined in details. What actually he intended ... 2 or 3 sentences of him were projected. What was the reference, I have not studied. So I don't know this brand. Those 2 sentences or 3 sentences that were projected, of course, we don't agree with them. But if there is any Varun Gandhi brand, what is that brand I don't know. I know the RSS brand and we go to college students with it.

**Q I said that was my last question, but I have one more question. My last question to you is who is the next BJP president?**

They will have to decide.

**Q OK. Let me ... I was prepared for that answer. I will follow it with a question. Is the next BJP president limited only to the four? Arun Jaitely, Venkaiyya Naidu, Sushama Swaraj, Narendra Modi? Can there be a fifth, or the sixth or the seventh or the eighth?**

That also depends on the BJP. If BJP wishes to look beyond these four, I do not think they will lack able persons in party. If they want to choose from these four, then it will be one of them. It depends how they take it.

**Q If there are so many Swayamsevaks in BJP, is the talent limited to the four?**

No, no. That is what I am telling you. If they choose to see beyond these four, for some reason if they think these four should be kept in their own places, we want someone else, they don't have dearth of proper persons.

**Q You have anyone in mind?**

I will have to quote 75 to 80! So that will take long time!

**Mr. Arnab Goswami :-** It has been a pleasure talking to you. You have spoken very frankly and I am glad that you gave us time. Thank you so much. ■

## Cells expanding Party's reach : Rajnath Singh

From Our Correspondent

The various Cells of the Bharatiya Janata Party have expanded the reach of the Party in various sections of the society in the country. This was stated by BJP National President, Shri Rajnath Singh while inaugurating a meeting of the National Conveners and Co-conveners of Party's various Cells held at Party's national headquarters in 11, Ashok Road, New Delhi on August 8.

The meeting had been organized by Party's National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal who also conducted

the proceedings. The meeting concluded with an inspiring address by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley. Former Governor Shri Kedar Nath Sahni was present throughout and he thanked all those present with his own words of advice.

Shri Rajnath Singh said the performance of BJP in both Houses of Parliament during the just



concluded Budget session had been praiseworthy. The Party raised the issues affecting the *aam aadmi* and those of national importance. He said BJP played the role of an effective and vigilant opposition and its contribution had been constructive.

Shri Rajnath Singh said that the future belongs to BJP. The Party had been successful in cornering the UPA government on rising prices, Indo-Pak joint statement and other national issues.

Setting the tone of discussions in the meeting attended by almost all the National Conveners and Co-conveners of the Cells, Shri Ram Lal said when the Cells will equip themselves admirably in their respective fields, it is but natural that more and more people will get attracted towards it. He said in States where BJP is in power on its own or in alliance, there should be greater coordination between the Cells and the Government so that people's welfare is promoted in a greater measure and the organization also gets a boost.

He welcomed the Cells to come out with their suggestions but, at the same time, stressed that these should be implemented too. He sought a report of the work done by each Cell during the last over two years and their plans for future. ■

## Today's politics is a clash of ideas : Jaitley

Addressing the concluding session, Shri Arun Jaitley said that today's politics involves a clash of ideas and in this struggle BJP has to forge ahead of all others. He said every government has a long period of honeymoon



after it comes into power but UPA-II is a government which had no honeymoon period at all. It has commenced

its second innings on a very disappointing note, he said.

Shri Jaitley said that BJP has a definite ideology and direction. It has to devote itself to the service of the people and promoting their cause, he said.

BJP Headquarters In-charge Shri Shyam Jaju also addressed the meeting and discussed how best the Central Party office could generate greater cooperation and coordination with the Cells. Everybody present was satisfied with the quantum of help received by the Cells from Party headquarters in expanding the activities of the Cells. ■

## BJP committed to welfare of every community : Shivraj Singh

Inaugurating a meeting of National Executive Committee of Minority Cell in Bhopal (MP) on August 12, State Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan said “The Bharatiya Janata Party stands committed to the welfare of every community. It never divided the Indian society into Hindus and Muslims. It is the Congress that is indulging in creating divisions within the society in the name of religion. Congress did gain power through vote bank politics and as a result our society and country have suffered a lot. Minorities have been misled and could not join the mainstream of development.” He appealed to the Minority Morcha to work together to win the heart of the community. We will have to convey the message that BJP is a well wisher of all. “In BJP everyone is evaluated by his work and conduct and not through minorityism and appeasement which divide society”, Shri Chauhan said.

Shri Chauhan added “Congress says that the first right the country’s natural resources belongs to Muslims. But question is that if Congress has such a stand, then why is it that Muslims have lagged behind in progress. The government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee never discriminated in governmental plans and schemes on the basis of religion. All were treated equally. In Madhya Pradesh, BJP government is giving equal opportunity and treatment to Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs” he said.

The meeting was conducted by BJP National Minority Morcha President Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, MP. ■



### BJP strongly against human rights of terrorist : Sushma

Deputy Leader of BJP Parliamentary Party in Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, speaking at the meeting, said the BJP has been painted as anti-minority party by vested interests through persistent propaganda for electoral purposes. This was fueled largely by BJP’s refusal to compromise with anti-national elements. The BJP was strongly against those who advocated the “human rights” of terrorists, opposed the singing of the Vande Mataram, or branded the Batla House encounter “fake” — all in the name of secularism. In reality, they were the real anti-nationals, she said

The Sachar Committee report, she said, reflected the mindset of those who had all along played politics with Muslim sentiment. “It is high time the Muslims saw who was responsible for their present plight.” The answer to that lay no further than in the dusty plains of UP and Bihar where the condition of Muslims was the worst. Everyone knows who ruled these states since Independence, she said. ■

### Minorities inclined towards BJP : Najma Heptullah

Addressing the meeting, former Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Smt. Najma Heptullah said, BJP does not adopt double standards, it does what it says. This has been proved during the NDA Government led by Shri Vajpayee, she said. Smt. Heptullah said that Congress does not do what it promises. Now minority community has started getting inclined towards BJP. When I felt that Congress had not given respect and honor to freedom fighters, like Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, the way it should have, I felt compelled to leave the Congress. She said that Shri Advaniji is a very liberal and kind- hearted man. He is a nationalist to the core and is known as iron man. He has respect for all religions. Shri Advani believes that progress of the country depends upon the progress both of Hindus and Muslims, she said. ■

## Modi criticizes Centre for rejecting anti-terror bill GUJCOC

*In the recent 'Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts on Internal Security' in New Delhi, convened by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, BJP and NDA CMs presented their views and the problems forcefully. Here are excerpts:*

Hitting out at the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 17 accused it of playing politics while dealing with terrorism and said 'I fail to understand why it returned the anti-terror bill proposed by Gujarat'. "When it comes to dealing with terrorists, we must draw a clear line between those who are on their side and those who are on the side of society," he said referring to the Centre rejecting State government's Gujarat Control of Organized Crime (GUJCOC) Act. Shri Modi said the anti-terror bill which

had been pending with the Central government for a long time was returned to the state assembly recently with the directions to delete certain provisions. "...I fail to understand why the central government should oppose provisions which are already part of the similar Acts in Karnataka and Maharashtra," he said while speaking at the Chief Minister's conference on Internal Security in New Delhi.

He said, "even the so-called liberal democracies and proclaimed

upholders of human rights like USA, Canada, Australia etc have enacted laws having more stringent provisions than the proposed GUJCOC Act."

Making a strong case for the proposed law, he said the need for such a legislation was not only for



punishing the "perpetrators of terrorism" but also to prevent educated youth from being drawn into terrorist ideology.

Shri Modi said it was shocking and unfathomable to understand the opposition from the Centre to the proposed bill, especially when the terrorists are getting support from across the border and working hand-in-glove with organized crime syndicates. He also said "de-linking" the cases of convicted terrorists in death row from criminals involved in other crimes while considering

their amnesty applications. "Though I am of firm opinion that no such procedure of 'first in first out' need be followed in such cases, yet I would urge the Central Government to at least de-link the cases of such convicted persons who are involved in offences relating to anti-national, terrorist and subversive activities," he said.

This is the least that the sufferers of such terrorist attacks would expect from us as representatives of the States, Shri Modi added.

Shri Modi also criticized the amendments by the Centre in the Criminal

Procedure Code and alleged that these have tilted the balance in the favour of the "offenders and guilty".

"...The intention to carry out amendments may be noble to protect the innocent from harassment and to uphold the human rights, these amendments have somehow tilted the balance in favour of offenders and guilty," he said.

He also said it should be mandatory for the National Investigation Agency to seek consent of the state government before beginning the probe in any

case.

Speaking on the left wing extremism threat in the country, Shri Narendra Modi said some cadres from Naxal-affected states like Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa may be taking shelter in Gujarat. He further said the state was developing its own Marine Reserve Police Battalion equipped with latest weapons like American assault rifles and sniper rifles for strengthening coastal security. It will be led by a Deputy Superintendent of Police-rank officer.

The Chief Minister suggested a number of measures like training the fishermen so that they could be used as informers, implementing vessel traffic monitoring system and improving security systems at ports and the 1600-km coastline in the state which lies in proximity with Pakistan.

Shri Modi said the state has taken several steps to check terrorist activities which include raising its own Industrial Security Force, networking of the police stations, raising a separate cadre for state intelligence officers as well as modernization of police force. ■

## Centre & Supreme Court should assess judicial impact on society

Addressing the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts in New Delhi on August 16 Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "The Centre, while taking cue from any other development or infrastructure project, should develop a system to set up certain parameters or benchmarks to assess the impact of judicial pronouncements."

Making a parallel between judicial verdicts and developmental initiatives, Shri Modi asked for mootng a "judicial impact assessment" system. The Centre, along with the Supreme Court of India, should embark upon assessing the impact of select rulings by the courts on the society, he said.

He said that the Centre and the Supreme Court should take up a pilot project under which 100 judgements at taluka level, 50 at district level, 25 judgements of high court and 10 of the Supreme Court should be selected for assessment "as to how these have impacted the society". He said that it should also be seen whether the court judgments have adversely affected the interests of the society and the state.

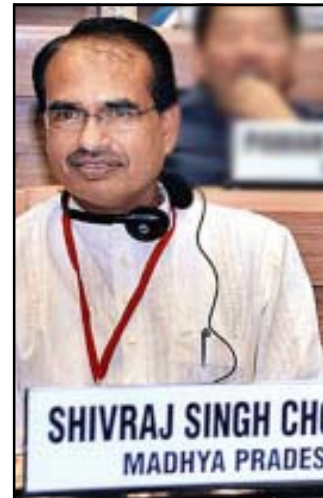
Referring to judicial reforms, he said, "The CJI of India Fellowship Programme" should be considered in law universities for grooming young lawyers and future jurists. ■

## MP firmly stands by Centre against war on terror : Chauhan

**M**adhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan assured the Centre that the State firmly stands by it in its war on terror and demanded reimbursement of expenses incurred on fighting terrorism.

He was addressing the conference of Chief Ministers on internal security in New Delhi.

Shri Chauhan said terrorism is an inter-State and international problem and the State government could not mobilize the resources to fight this menace on its own. The Centre should, therefore, reimburse the expenditure incurred by the State for deploying special forces, intelligence and investigation units, establishment of special units to effectively counter terrorism and strengthening these units for a period of five years and subsequently the expenses could be shared by the Centre and the State, he said. Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan also blamed the Centre for not sanctioning enough grants to the State. The Madhya Pradesh government, he said, had forwarded proposals worth Rs.120 crore to the Union Home Ministry for modernization of the State police force. While the State has promised to provide its share immediately, only Rs.50 crore has been sanctioned by the Centre, he said. ■



## Yeddyurappa demands apex court bench



**O**n August 16 Karnataka demanded a Supreme Court bench at Bangalore to meet the needs of litigants in south India.

The demand for an apex court bench at Bangalore was raised by Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa during daylong annual conference of the chief ministers and chief justices of states in New Delhi.

“I take this opportunity to draw the attentions of Chief Justice K.G.Balakrishnan and Union Law Minister Veerappa Moily that the people hailing from the southern states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and Kerala are facing considerable hardship in coming to Delhi to pursue their cases in the Supreme Court,” said Shri Yeddyurappa.

“The phrase ‘Delhi door hai (Delhi is still far away) is still valid for the common people from these places,” he added.

“The Law Commission too, in one of its reports, has recommended setting up an apex court bench at Banagalore,” said the Karnataka chief minister, adding: “I request both the law minister and the chief justice of India to establish a Supreme Court bench at Bangalore, which is equidistant from all the southern states.” ■

## Make judiciary accessible to common man : Badal

**R**epresenting the SAD- BJP coalition government in Punjab, Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal in his address at the All-India Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts, which was presided over by the Prime Minister on August 16 called for making judiciary accessible to the common man. He called for a meaningful legal and constitutional streamlining of the system to ensure that justice was brought within the reach of the poor and the downtrodden and also underlined the need for sweeping administrative and judicial reforms to make the delivery of justice and services easy and simple for the common man. Shri Badal said there is a widespread perception in the country that our legal processes are too cumbersome and costly for common man to secure timely justice which is dangerous. As it leads to sense of alienation and encourages tendency among aggrieved to take resort to illegal, uncivilised and even violent means to secure justice, steps must be taken to address the problem immediately, he added.



Referring to the common impression about judiciary in India, he said, “Under the present dispensation, justice is not only delayed and denied but had actually gone out of reckoning as a civilised option. This calls for a drastic recasting of attitudes, re-working of constitutional mechanisms as well as strengthening of the judicial infrastructure especially in the form of enhanced manpower strength.” We all must resolve to work jointly to ensure that justice is made available to everyone, especially the poor, he said and also appealed to the judiciary to discourage the tendency for filing of public interest litigation (PIL) to stall important Government projects for development and economic growth of the region.

Outlining the steps taken by his Government to streamline the justice delivery system as a follow up measure to the resolutions adopted at the last meeting, Shri Badal said 36 additional districts and sessions judges and 50 civil judges of junior division have been appointed besides creating 18 posts of superior judicial officers. He said the SAD- BJP Government has spent Rs 35 crore for the up-gradation of judicial infrastructure during 2008-09 and a provision for an equal amount had been made for the current fiscal. But, unfortunately, the Central Government released just Rs 1.34 crore out of its share of Rs 35 crore for 2008-09, Shri Badal said. ■

# No compromise on Hindutva : Rajnath

From Our Correspondent

**B**haratiya Janata Party National President Shri Rajnath Singh has declared that there is no question of the party compromising on “Hindutva Ideology” or its “original political thinking”, just because it could not reach the expected figure in the recent Lok Sabha Elections, addressing the inaugural session of a two day Karnataka State BJP’s executive committee meeting on August 12, Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that the party ideology is “morally and constitutionally correct”, adding that Hindutva ideology is as important to BJP as is the constitution for the country.

Disagreeing with the view of some political analysts, who said that BJP should rethink its ideology and political thinking in the wake of the parliamentary poll debacle, Shri Singh said, these elections were not a referendum on our ideology. National President also spoke at length on the co-ordination between party and government and also on the need to maintain discussion at all level.

## Nation building responsibility

“The BJP is not in politics just for the sake of getting votes. We have nation building responsibility” Shri Rajnath Singh said. “Our ideology of Hindutva and cultural nationalism is a message of universal brotherhood and co-existence, hence, we are opposing religion based discrimination and

reservation” he said. The BJP had never seen any vertical split in its organization due to its commitment to its ideology, while other parties had witnessed such a split he said. He suggested that Chief Minister and ministers should spend a night in different villages on a regular basis which would help them in formulation of development schemes. Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa speaking on the occasion claimed that the BJP



Government in the state is managing the state’s finances “prudently”. He said that Kanataka’s fiscal management had been appreciated not only by the 13<sup>th</sup> finance commission, which visited Bangalore, but also by the Governor of Reserve Bank of India in May 2009.

State BJP president Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda MP asked the members to see that the membership drive is taken vigorously by the state unit and be monitored intensively.

Shri V. Sathish BJP National

Secretary (Organisation) gave hints about conducting membership drive even at booth level effectively, so that the organisation gets a strong base even in the areas where the party is still growing.

Former BJP National President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu criticized the UPA Government at the centre for its anti-people policies and for its ineffective rule.

BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar stressed on the importance of co-ordination between the ministers and the party workers. He said people are expecting reforms in the administration. Shri Suresh Kumar, Minister for Law, Urban Development and Municipal and Civic Administration also highlighted the need for coordination between the government and the organization.

As part of the meeting, a separate session was arranged for legislators and ministers. Both the sessions were addressed by Sri Rajnath Singh. Two resolutions, one on the prevailing political scenario and the other on the financial situation in the country were passed in the meeting. Shri Prahlad Joshi, MP, and Dr. Mangala Sridhar both State BJP General Secretaries proposed the resolutions.

Shri Srivastva, Director State Krishi Mission, conducted a session on organic farming and its advantages over agriculture based on chemical fertilizer and

insecticides. In another session Shri V. Manjunath explained the proposed “Vishwa Mangala Go-Grama Yatra” and about the importance of cow in our Indian way of life. Shri V. Nagaraj elaborated on the piece of history involving Vijayanagar Kingdom and coronation of Emperor Shri Krishnadevaraya which is going to celebrate its 500<sup>th</sup> year in the coming September.

The two-day executive committee meeting acted as a boost to the party workers in effectively conducting membership drive and in facing forthcoming elections.

Shri Shashil Namoshi, State General Secretary, Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Minister for Major Irrigation, Shri B.N. Vijaya Kumar, MLA and Bangalore City BJP President and Shri Gopinath Reddy, Bangaore Dist. BJP President spoke about these topics. Shri Krishna Reddy, Co-convenor, state BJP co-operative cell, gave details about the success of BJP candidates in the recently held elections in the co-operative sector in the state. ■

**Cartoon Corner**



Courtesy : Nai Duniya

# ‘Inflation’ dips, but prices skyrocket

## Huge variation in Consumer Price Index and Wholesale Price Index figures

Wondering if inflation is as low as -1.53 per cent, why should you feel the pinch of high prices? In an ideal situation, prices also should be low if inflation is low. But then why is the current scenario otherwise? The reason is simple. According to the *Pioneer* report India calculates its official inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) rather than on consumer price index (CPI). WPI can't be an indication of inflation because consumers do not buy from wholesale markets, and hence it does not reflect the true picture.

While inflation for the week ending August 8, as per WPI, declined to a record 30-year low at -1.53 per cent, inflation based on CPI (agricultural labourers and rural labourers) increased from 11.52 per cent and 11.26 per cent in June 2009 to 12.90 per cent and 12.67 per cent respectively in July 2009.

A consumer price index (CPI) is a measure estimating the average price of consumer goods and services purchased by households and the per cent change in the CPI is a measure of assessing the

inflation percentage. Primary items — including food and non-food items like fruits — turned expensive by 2.6 per cent; bajra and urad by 2 per cent each; and condiments, spices and arhar by 1 per cent each. The price of raw rubber moved up 2 per cent.

If one looks at year-on-year comparison, the prices of food items rose much more exorbitantly. For example, prices of vegetables rose nearly 40 per cent, cereals 11.6 per cent, pulses 17.6 per cent, condiments and spice 4.7 per cent. The all-India CPI numbers for agricultural

labourers and rural labourers for July increased by 15 and 14 points respectively, to stand at 499 points for agricultural labourers and 498 points for rural labourers.

As per the CPI data, Maharashtra witnessed the highest increase of 27 points each for agricultural labourers and rural labourers, mainly due to the increase in the prices of jowar, pulses, fish (fresh/dry), milk, onion, chillies (green/dry), vegetables and fruits, sugar, gur, tea leaf, tobacco leaf, firewood and shirting cloth. ■



**NUMBER GAME**

Inflation at -1.53% as per WPI, but CPI is accurate measure  
 WPI can't be indication of inflation as consumers do not buy from wholesale markets  
 Inflation based on CPI (agricultural labourers and rural labourers) increased from 11.52% and 11.26% in June 2009 to 12.9% and 12.67% in July 2009  
 Primary items like fruits turned expensive by 2.6%; bajra and urad by 2% each  
 Prices of vegetables rose nearly 40%, cereals 11.6%, pulses 17.6%, condiments and spice 4.7%

# How to feed the hungry poor

By Devinder Sharma

Indian agriculture faces limitations like lack of long-term investment in creating requisite infrastructure and the federal structure of governance.

Most state governments have little funds to invest in the agricultural sector, reducing the impact of Central schemes to improve the situation. An issue that still remains unresolved is the percentage of population that needs to be covered under the proposed National Food Security Act. There exist village clusters which have set up traditional foodgrain banks. Setting up of such foodgrain banks at the village or taluka level, entirely managed and run by the village samaj,

should form the major plank of a zero hunger programme. An issue that still remains unresolved is the percentage of population that needs to be covered under the proposed National Food Security Act

In the mid-1980s, the sale of Banita, a minor girl from Kalahandi in Orissa, had shocked the nation. The then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, had made efforts to ensure that the poverty-stricken families do not resort to this extreme measure. More than three decades later, as the nation celebrates the 63rd Independence Day, the news report of five people succumbing to hunger in the past two weeks in Bihar is unlikely to shock anymore.

So when President Pratibha Patil reiterated the UPA-2 government's resolve to bring in a National Food Security Act in a bid to provide every hungry family with 25 kg of

foodgrains priced at Rs 3 a kilo, it was heartening news.

Although the government has for the time being deferred the introduction of the proposed National Food Security Act in view of the gathering drought, the proposal that is being talked about primarily relates to a revamped Public Distribution System (PDS). However, redefining the "below the poverty line" (BPL) population and making sure that each family receives 25 kg foodgrain at a fixed

and at a price of Rs 2 per kg. An issue that still remains unresolved is the percentage of population that needs to be covered under the proposed National Food Security Act. At present, the PDS officially caters to 180.4 million families (including the "above the poverty line" category), which means it is supposed to reach 900 million people in this country (considering each family comprises an average of five people). If that is so, hunger should have long been banished.

But the Arjun Sengupta committee report tells us that 77 per cent of the population or 836 million people are able to spend not more than Rs 20 a day. With Rs 20 a day, it is not possible to buy

two square meals. Therefore, instead of catering only to the BPL category, the proposed act should extend its reach to every eligible person.

As Amartya Sen opines, there is need to universalise the food distribution system.

Merely repackaging the defunct PDS with the hope to provide food doles to the hungry will not be the right approach.

Hunger is the result of faulty policies. Ensuring food for all without first making adequate corrections in the policy framework will only saddle the government with an unmanageable task.

Despite the stupendous economic growth witnessed in the past few years, a pervasive gloom prevails in the countryside. Hunger, and equally worse hidden hunger, is throwing its tentacles far and wide. This is happening at a time

***Hunger is the result of faulty policies. Ensuring food for all without first making adequate corrections in the policy framework will only saddle the government with an unmanageable task.***

price of Rs 3 per kg actually dilutes the underlying objective of the programme.

First of all, already some states — Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa — have enlarged the scope of the PDS to include all vulnerable categories and are making food available to them at Rs 2 per kg (except for Tamil Nadu where the price is Re 1 per kg). Second, under the existing PDS norms, each BPL family is provided 35 kilos of foodgrains per month. On both price and the quantity, the food allocations for the BPL families are thus proposed to be brought down under the Centre's thinking. This does not augur well for the hungry population.

There is, therefore, a need to enhance the food ration to at least 50 kg per family to be made available

when Indian agriculture is bleeding. The spiral of death that began some 15 years ago in Andhra Pradesh and has since taken a huge human toll — an estimated 2 lakh farmers have committed suicide since 1993 — has now spread to every nook and corner of the country.

Every hour two farmers are committing suicide somewhere in the country. The gathering drought is pushing more and more farmers towards further marginalisation. In Andhra Pradesh alone, suffering from one of the worst droughts in living memory, nearly 60 farmers committed suicide in the month of July. By August 12, another 16 had taken their own lives. The death spiral has begun once again in the Vidharba region of Maharashtra.

If 62 years after Independence more than 40 per cent of the 60 crore Indian farmers want to quit farming if given an alternative, there is something seriously wrong with our agriculture. And once agriculture is in disarray, hunger is bound to multiply. The NREGS cannot be a substitute for a viable farming system. It can only compliment farming practices, and if properly tuned can build up a strong foundation for sustainable agriculture.

However, the structural reasons for hunger are not at all being discussed under the proposed National Food Security Act, which does provide a unique opportunity to look beyond PDS and formulate a multi-pronged strategy to combat hunger.

While the PDS may be required to reach food to the Antyodaya families and other marginalised sections of the society, there is urgent need to revive the traditional system of sharing and caring on the lines of the gola system of traditional food security that existed in Bihar

and eastern India.

In several parts of the country, there exist village clusters where hunger has not been witnessed for over two to three decades.

These villages have set up traditional foodgrain banks where the grain surplus from the village is bought and stored, and then distributed among the poor families. This is perhaps the way to feed the hungry on a long-term basis. Setting up of such foodgrain banks at the village or taluka level, entirely managed and run by the village samaj, should form the major plank of a zero hunger programme. This should be accompanied by the following policy imperatives: a) Revival of agriculture by restoring soil health, groundwater and the

natural resource base.

Encourage low-external input sustainable farming practices to keep cultivable land alive.

b) Provide farmers with a fixed monthly income, incorporating minimum support price. For the poorest of the poor household receiving micro-finance, ensure that the interest rate is reduced from the existing 18-48 per cent to a maximum of 4 per cent.

c) Export of foodgrains be allowed only when the country's total population is adequately fed. International trade, including Free Trade Agreements, should not be allowed to play havoc with domestic agriculture and food security. ■

*(Devinder Sharma is a food policy analyst)  
(Courtesy : The Asian Age)*

## US satellites unlock secret to north India's vanishing water

Unsustainable use of water, according to the *Pioneer*, in India's northern states threatens farm output and can fuel the spectre of a major water crisis, distressing 114 million people living there, warns a new study. Human activity like irrigation has pushed groundwater levels in India's north down by as much as one foot per year over the past seven years, says the study by scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

More than 26 cubic miles of groundwater vanished from aquifers in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and the National Capital Territory of Delhi since 2002, says the study that has used NASA's satellite data.

"The amount lost is double the capacity of India's largest surface-water reservoir, the Upper Wainganga and almost three times the capacity of Lake Mead in Nevada, the largest reservoir in the US," says the study, which has been published in the *Nature* magazine.

The team of hydrologists found that the underground water supply was being pumped and consumed by human activities such as irrigating cropland and was draining the aquifers faster than natural processes can replenish them. The finding is based on data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (Grace) twin satellites, which sense changes in the distribution of Earth's mass and gravity field distribution. "As the twin satellites orbit 300 miles above Earth's surface, their positions change relative to each other in response to variations in the pull of gravity," said the magazine. The scientists said data provided by India's ministry of water resources for the study suggested groundwater use across India was far exceeding natural replenishment, but the regional rate of depletion was unknown. ■

## State's finances are sound, better than ever : Yeddyurappa

\* *'Fiscal management is of the highest order in Karnataka'*

\* *'We have managed to keep fiscal deficit at 3.29 per cent'*

From Our Correspondent

**K**arnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa has claimed that the State's financial condition was sound and better managed than ever. He refuted the allegations of the Congress that the State's finances were in doldrums and that the State was heading towards a debt trap.

On August 11 in Gulbarga Shri Yeddyurappa told presspersons that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor had given a certificate which said that Karnataka was one of the best managed States as far finances were concerned.

Giving facts and figures to strengthen his argument Shri Yeddyurappa said

- ♦ That Karnataka was one of the States where fiscal management was of the highest order despite

***In the last five years there was no revenue deficit in the State, and during 2008-09, the State had a revenue surplus of Rs. 1,570 crore. The total debts of the State now were 24.77 per cent of the total revenue when compared to the debts of 32.99 per cent during 2003-04, he said.***

recession taking its toll on finances and resource mobilization. "Although the Union Government had permitted the States to increase fiscal deficit to 3.5 per year in 2008-09 due to recession, the State Government had managed

to keep fiscal deficit at 3.29 per cent during 2008-09," he said.

- ♦ In the last five years there was no revenue deficit in the State, and during 2008-09, the State had a revenue surplus of Rs. 1,570 crore. The total debts of the State now were 24.77 per cent of the total revenue when compared to the debts of 32.99 per cent during 2003-04, he said.
- ♦ The interest repayment from revenue receipts had come down during 2008-09 when compared to the situation in 2002-03.
- ♦ The Chief Minister said that interest repayment had now come down to 10.46 per cent of the total revenue receipts which was 20.36 per cent of the revenue receipts in 2002-03.
- ♦ S h r i Yeddyurappa said that one of the major achievements of the Government was to reduce non-plan expenditure and increase plan expenditure to put the State on the path of development.
- ♦ The plan expenditure during 2008-09 was Rs. 21,819 crore as



against the plan expenditure of Rs. 17,227 crore during 2007-08 registering an increase of 27 per cent. "Karnataka stands second after Uttar Pradesh in the country in achieving the highest plan expenditure during 2008-09 despite

recession and reduction in mobilization of revenues," he said.

- ♦ Similarly, the non plan expenditure which ranged from 11 per cent to 18 per cent in the last five years had been brought down to 6 per cent during 2008-09 due to the prudent management of the State's finances.

Claiming that the State's financial situation was on a firm footing, the Chief Minister said, "We wanted to present all these facts and figures in the Assembly during the last session, but the Opposition parties did not allow us to present these facts by disrupting the proceedings continuously."

He said that the revenue expenditure proposed during 2009-10 in the budget was Rs. 47,237 crore and the capital expenditure was Rs. 11,662 crore, and apart from this a supplementary budget of Rs. 1,740 crore had also been approved. ■

## KARNATAKA

## State Govt. to light up 3,900 villages through solar power

BJP Government led by Chief Minister Shri B S Yeddyurappa plans to launch an ambitious self-sustaining solar technology programme in 3,900 villages in 39 most backward blocks to cater to the energy needs of 50 lakh people.

As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, the State-owned Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL) has invited bids from solar technology providers to design, finance, build, operate and maintain solar/hybrid power plants and collect user fee to provide solar energy on a sustainable basis for the requirement of village clusters.

These plants provide power either through a local mini-grid or stand-alone or make it available at a charging station, enabling residents to charge their electrical appliances.

Solar power is to be provided for street-lights, household consumption, entertainment/ educational purposes, water-lifting for irrigation, drinking water supply, purification/ desalination plants, deflourination, milk pasteurisation and local cottage industrial applications.

Solar power would be metered and made available at a fee determined in advance. Under the project, KPTCL and local distribution companies would allow use of existing village grids as per feasibility or provide new grids, if necessary, for the projects. The project would initially have a concession period of ten years.

KREDL would be the facilitator along with the respective electricity supply companies in village clusters and would be coordinated by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayatiraj. Panchayatiraj institutions and Karnataka government would jointly stand guarantee for the user fee collection.

## UTTARAKHAND

## State to become destination for herbal export zones

Uttarakhand can become an ideal destination for setting up Herbal Export Zones (HEZs) and herbal farm clusters resulting to boost up annual turnover of India's herbal industry to Rs.16,000 crore by end of 2010. According to Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) India's current annual

turnover of herbal industry is over Rs 12,000 crore.

In its recommendation paper submitted to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank following conclusion of recent ASSOCHAM herbal fair, it was revealed that these export zones and farm clusters would also create employment opportunities for 1.20 lakh skilled workforce and farmers. ASSOCHAM president Shri Sajjan Jindal, demanded that the State Government should provide tax holiday to the proposed HEZs and Farm Clusters and ensure easy availability of loans with affordable prices of land, water, electricity and other infrastructural facilities.

It has also suggested that on the lines of Herbal Research and Development Institute, Gopeshwar (Uttarakhand), there is an urgent need to set up at least 2-3 more Herbal R&D Institutes in the State for the optimal use of medical and herbal plants. By setting up of these institutes, not only the farmers will be benefited in terms of employment in the herbal industry but will become new area for the students to look for avenues in this field also.

The Chamber informed the Chief Minister that the demand for herbal medicines is increasing and it is estimated that the production of herbal drugs will increase many fold. There are 1650 herbal formulations in Indian market and number of major plants involved in their formulations is 540.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

## State roadmap for large-scale herb cultivation

With a view to promoting Himachal Pradesh as a 'Herbal State' of the country, the State government has prepared a roadmap for large-scale cultivation of medicinal plants. The State Medicinal Plant Board has prepared the roadmap and sent it to the National Medicinal Plant board for approval, Health minister Shri Rajeev Bindal said, adding it comprises 67 varieties of medicinal plants which could be cultivated in the State.

According to the roadmap, State's Horticulture, Forest and Ayurveda departments would encourage farmers to grow herbs on their own lands, forests and herbal gardens of Ayurveda, Shri Bindal had told the State Assembly last week.

Eleven training programmes and 104 awareness camps in different parts of the state have been organized for farmers since last year. The board had on August 4 inked an agreement with Yoga Guru Swami Shri Ramdev's 'Patanjali yogapeeth' according to which the

latter would purchase herbs in bulk from authorized centres of the board.

## Himachal passes Anti-ragging bill

A legislation to curb ragging in educational institutions was passed by the Himachal Pradesh assembly on August 17. The Himachal Pradesh Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Ragging) Act, 2009, makes ragging a cognizable and non-bailable offence.

Students caught ragging will not only be expelled and be ineligible for admission to any other institution for three years, but may also be jailed and fined Rs.50,000.

Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal said, "The government has taken a lot of reformatory steps (after the death of Aman Kachru of the Rajendra Prasad Medical College at Tanda town due to ragging) like setting up of Parent-Teacher Associations in educational institutions and interactions between senior and junior students. The act is the right step to check the menace."

He said if the opposition was still apprehensive about certain clauses, these could be later amended. The assembly passed the bill with a voice vote.

The act says that whenever a complaint of ragging is made in writing, the head of the educational institution will be required to conduct an inquiry within 24 hours. The institution heads have been made fully accountable

for preventing ragging. Their failure to do so or act on complaints will amount to culpable negligence and attract provisions of the law.

## JAMMU & KASHMIR

### Jammu bandh hits normal life, J-K BJP chief among 25 held

Normal life was affected in J&K on August 10 due to Jammu bandh called by Central University Andolan Samiti (CUAS) supported by BJP, demanding location for the proposed Central University in Jammu. 25 BJP leaders including state BJP President Shri Ashok Khajuria were arrested on that occasion.

The arrests were made after the BJP activists tried to take out a rally in violation of prohibitory orders under section 144 CrPC, police said. The rally was being taken out against the autocratic decision of the NC-Congress coalition govt. of the state to shift the proposed CU in Jammu to Shrinagar.

Most of the shops and business establishments remained closed and public transport was off the roads in Jammu city. Hardly a few vehicles plied on the roads. There was limited attendance in the government offices, schools and banks due to strike, officials said.

"The bandh was peaceful. There were no reports of any untoward incident reported from anywhere in the city," police said. ■

## Ex- NCERT chief Rajput finally receives UN award



Former NCERT Director Shri J. S. Rajput has finally received a prestigious UNESCO award that was given to him five years ago.

The award had been "held in abeyance" since 2004 as the human resource development (HRD) ministry at the behest of the then Minister Shri Arjun Singh had initiated several inquiries against Shri Rajput on charges ranging from financial irregularities to irregular appointments.

Shri Rajput was to be awarded the Jan Amos Comenius medal on September 10, 2004 for "educational research and innovation". But the ministry conveyed to UNESCO in August to keep the award in abeyance.

In a U- turn, however, the then HRD minister Shri Arjun Singh "dropped all charges" against Rajput a month before demitting office earlier this year. According to reports Shri Arjun Singh ordered in April that the charges against Shri Rajput be dropped and recommended to UNESCO to release the award.

Shri Rajput had been appointed NCERT Director in 1999 by the NDA and retired in July 2004.

On receiving the award, Shri Rajput expressed his "gratitude to UNESCO" and ascribed "the chain of events from 2004 to 2009 to Communists and their coterie of likeminded academics". ■

(Agencies)

## Fake encounters stir the conscience of Manipur : BJP

In a statement issued at Manipur BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekarji has on August 20 stated that Manipur State is on boil. Broad daylight fake encounter and killing of Sanjeet Singh and Rabina Devi by Police Commandos in the market in presence of hundreds of onlookers, has stirred the conscience of the state. Continuous and spontaneous protests for last 15 days, has crippled the state. The situation is serious and must be addressed immediately.

BJP delegation comprising Shri Prakash Javadekar, MP, Mrs. Vijaya Chakravarty, MP, Shri Rajan Guhain, MP and Shri Raman Deka, MP visited Imphal on 18th August and held discussions with all opposition parties, NGOs, Civil Activists, SHRC, and visited families of victims. The delegation called on the Governor.

Police killed Sanjeet Singh and Rabina Devi on 23rd July just 1 km away from state legislature, which was in session. The CM informed the house that police killed the militant, who was on killing spree. But the photo expose and an account by witnesses and those, who were injured before the state human right commission has exposed the Govt. and the Chief Minister.

More than 219 people are killed by police in last seven months of which many are innocent and are killed in fake encounters. Recently dean of the University Shri

Islamuddin was killed by Indian Reserve Battalion cop



The anger is against the Chief Minister Shri Ibibo Singh, who is guilty of misleading the state and legislature, guilty of patronizing some militant groups, guilty of corrupting the police and administration, guilty of deliberately keeping state human rights commission under staffed.

The constitutional mechanism has failed completely as state is

experiencing lack of power, no development, failed medical facilities, unemployment, non-existing PDS and rampant corruption.

BJP demands;

- Impose president rule in the state
- Sack the Chief Minister Shri Ibibo Singh
- Book commandos involved in 23rd July fake encounter under IPC 302 and arrest them immediately.

A Delegation comprising of all opposition parties from Manipur will meet the Prime Minister and the Home Minister soon. ■ (FOC)

### BJP won two seats in Karnataka

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the byelections won two of the five Assembly constituencies in Karnataka.

In the byelections to five Assembly seats held on August 18, the results of which were announced on August 22. The BJP won two reserved constituencies — Chitapur (Shri Valmiki Naik), and Kollegal (Shri G N Nanjundaswamy).

The BJP, which won 110 seats in the 225-member Legislative Assembly in May 2008 elections, has now raised its strength to a comfortable 117, including the Speaker.

### Haryana Assembly dissolved Election likely in October

Haryana state cabinet on August 21 recommended dissolution of the 90-member house, paving the way for early polls in the state. The elections which were scheduled by March next year, are now likely to be held along with some other states later this year. Governor Shri Jagannath Pahadia has accepted the recommendation and dissolved the Haryana Assembly. Welcoming the decision, BJP expressed confidence that his party will form the next government and said the early polls will not favour Congress.(Agencies).

# Jaswant Singh expelled from primary membership of BJP

From Our Correspondent

**S**hri Jaswant Singh, who is a BJP MP from Darjeeling, was on August 19 expelled from the primary membership of the Party. Interacting with media persons BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh announced this decision of the party before the commencement of BJP's *Chintan Baithak* in Shimla. Shri Rajnath said, "I called him yesterday to inform him not to come to for *Chintan Baithak* but he had left for Shimla."

I had already told the media that party completely dissociates itself with the views of Jaswant Singh. Today I informed Jaswant Singh not to attend *Chintan Baithak*. The issue was raised in the Parliamentary Board and it was decided that Jaswant Singh be expelled from the party. He is no longer a member in any forum of the BJP," the BJP President said.

## Jaswant's book doesn't represent the views of BJP : Rajnath

*In a Press statement on Shri Jaswant Singh's book "Jinnah – India, Partition, Independence" on 18 August 2009, BJP National President, Shri Rajnath Singh stated:*

"The Book "Jinnah – India, Partition, Independence" authored by Shri Jaswant Singh does not represent the views of the Bharatiya Janata Party. In fact the Party completely dissociates itself from the contents of the book. The important role of M.A. Jinnah in the division of India, which led to a lot of dislocation and destabilization of millions of people, is too well-known. We cannot wish away this painful part of our history. Sardar Patel played a historic role in the unification and consolidation of India amidst serious threats to its unity and integrity. The entire country remains indebted and proud of the profound vision, courage and leadership of Sardar Patel."

## Issue is not the book, but its contents : Jaitley

Justifying the action against Shri Jaswant Singh for writing a book on the life and times of Pakistan founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley told reporters in Shimla on August 20 that Shri Jaswant committed "grave indiscipline" and went against the "party's core ideology" in espousal of his views on Jinnah and more particularly, Sardar Patel. "The issue is not your right to author a book, but the issue is what you say and what you write. The basic issue that remains is what you say and what you write and the contents of the book. No political party can allow any member, more so a frontline leader, to write and express views against its core ideology," Shri Arun Jaitley said.

Replying to a question, whether Jaswant's views on Jinnah led to his expulsion or were it his views on Patel that contributed to it, Shri Jaitley said, "It is accumulative effect of both." He further added, "Sardar Patel's contribution in unifying India can be undermined by none."

Defending, taking the action without issuing a show-cause notice, Shri Jaitley said, "Considering the gravity of the situation, the party's parliamentary board has all the powers to summarily expel a member."

Shri Jaitley further said many independent observers have questioned the disciplinary action (against Shri Jaswant Singh) taken by the BJP's parliamentary board, of which Shri LK Advani is a member. He also said, "There is a basic difference between what the two leaders have said. What Shri Advani said was a tactical reference to Jinnah's speech in Pakistan's Constituent Assembly to tell the people of Pakistan what situation they have come to. But to say that Jinnah was demonised in India, that Indian Muslims feel like aliens in the country and to denigrate Sardar Patel goes against the national consensus and party's core beliefs," Shri Jaitley maintained.

He recalled that the party, in a resolution in 2005 (after Advani's Pakistan trip), had made its position clear on Jinnah that he was the principal architect of Partition ■