

**In two years
UPA smiles
aam aadmi cries**

Bharatiya Janata Party

From the Publisher

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is the illegitimate child of opportunism and lust for power – a power denied by the electorate to the Congress and its post-election alliance partners who had fought a bitter electoral battle against each other. It is an immoral coalition without principles glued together by their common greed for grabbing political power by all means.

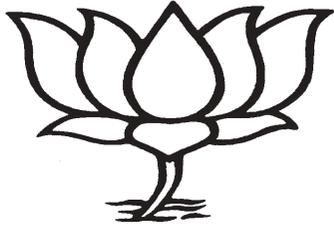
The Congress Party, though in power as head of the coalition, has failed to live up to the promises it made to the electorate before elections. The National Common Minimum Programme hastily cobbled together by the alliance afterwards remains just a piece of paper unattended, unfulfilled in true letter and spirit.

As the UPA completes two years in office, it has nothing worthwhile to claim credit for. Yet, it is customary for a ruling party or alliance to come out with a list of ‘achievements’ real or imaginary. As the facts stand, its very name is a misnomer. It is neither ‘united’, nor ‘progressive’ nor an ‘alliance’. It is equally the duty of the Opposition to present the reality before the people.

In performance of its democratic duty to play its role of an Opposition constructive, ever alert, ever vigilant, BJP has brought out this booklet ‘**In two years, UPA smiles as *aam aadmi* cries**’ to place the real picture before the people and the party workers. It will provide the *karyakartas* with solid material to put the Congress and UPA on the mat for its failures and betrayal of the *aam aadmi* by whom it swears day and night, but has done nothing for him. It has become a *sarkar* promoting the interests of the *khaas aadmi* at the cost of the *aam aadmi*.

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Price rise chart:

O b j e c t s	Price (R s . P e r K G) N D A (M a y , 2 0 0 4)	Price (R s . P e r K G) U P A (M a y , 2 0 0 6)
W h e a t	9	15
A a t a	10	17
M a i d a	12	17
R i c e	10	20
B r e a d	8	12 / P a c k e t
S u g a r	14	25
T e a	80	135
M u s t a r d O i l	40 / l t r	60 / l t r
D a l d a	40	45
D e s h i G h e e	130	170
M o o n g D a l	24	36
A r a h a r D a l	26	40
M a s o o r D a l	22	35
C h a n a D a l	25	40
R a j m a	28	40
G u r	14	20
B e s a n	20	40
M i l k	14 / l t r	20 / l t r
P a n e e r	62	100
M u t t o n	90	130
K e r o s e n e O i l	18 / l t r	28 / l t r
L P G	244 / C y l i n d e r	295 / C y l i n d e r
P e t r o l	33.15 / l t r	43.49 / l t r
D i e s e l	22.50 / l t r	30.45 / l t r
C e m e n t	125 / B a g	170 / B a g
S t e e l	23000 / T o n	28000 / T o n
B r i c k s	1800 / 1000	3000 / 1000

In two years UPA smiles as *aam aadmi* cries

The Congress-led UPA government during the last two years has failed in almost every sphere of government activity—political, administrative, economic, home and foreign affairs—to keep promises held out to people in the election manifesto and the solemn pledges made in the post-election National Common Minimum Programme.

Lack of unity in UPA

To call UPA united one will have to change the very definition of what 'united' means. If what all the constituents of UPA — the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Telangana Rashtra Samiti, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Lok Janshakti Party, Rashtriya Congress Party, Janata Dal (Secular) or the Left parties — publicly speak against each other is taken into account, it becomes difficult to discern whether they are part of a single alliance or each other's foes after each other's blood.

Equally trying is the task to keep a track of which UPA ally fought election in alliance and which in opposition to each other.

The Congress had two alliances in one year in Bihar. In February 2005 it allied with Shri Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) against Shri Laloo's RJD. In November elections same year, Congress jilted Shri Paswan and flirted with RJD this time. Interestingly, they all yet continue to be part of UPA at the Centre.

Before the February '05 elections both Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had publicly hurled accusations against each other, with the latter calling Yadav as *Chara chor* and Shri Yadav calling Shri Paswan as the most corrupt politician. The former claimed that he had official records with him of Shri Paswan's sleeper scam when he was the Railway Minister and that Shri Paswan cannot escape punishment and would spend rest of his life in jail. Since both were honourable members of Manmohan government

they could not be expected to be irresponsible to hurl false accusations against each other. Public wanted to know the reality as to who was right and who was a liar. A weak Prime Minister as Dr. Manmohan Singh is, he failed to exercise his moral authority to take action against which of the two was wrong. Instead he took the easy path to keep both in good humour to save his *gaddi*. He declared both Yadav and Pawan as the joint winners of this tug of corruption war.

In the recently held elections to the State assemblies of West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, and Assam the situation was still confusing. MDMK which is part of the UPA at the Centre was on the AIADMK bandwagon which was fighting a bitter electoral battle against DMK-led alliance supporting UPA.

Telangana peopleduped

During Vidhan Sabha elections two years back Congress and Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) entered into an electoral alliance on the promise that if they win, they will bifurcate the existing State of Andhra Pradesh to carve out a separate, full-fledged State of Telangana. Both the parties won the assembly elections but the Congress betrayed the people's mandate and during the last two years it has not fulfilled its promise. To befool the Andhra people UPA has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Defence Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to go into the question. Both the Pranab Committee and UPA government are just marking time and are not sincere to the mandate of the people. Frustrated, the TRS came out of the ministry both at the Centre and State in Andhra owing to irreconcilable basic policy differences.

We are aware of the friendly accusations of the Nationalist Congress Party against the Congress Party of each charging the other of trying to forge ahead at the cost of the other. In Karnataka JD(S) and Congress have already parted company. Friendly arrows of accusations between RJD, LJP and Congress are a part of history. Yet, all of them continue to be part of the UPA family.

Left only barks

Still stranger is the conduct of communist parties supporting Manmohan government from outside. Every other day they continue



Thanks for voting my forefathers and me all these years. Even he'll be inspired to pursue the fight for your water and power in future.

to bark at UPA and warn it that they can bite too. It is a different matter if during the last two years they have barked every time but never come true to their threat. Ironically, it has always been the fate of the Left parties to wag their tails in agreement before their political master Congress and each time to compromise with their stand.

Be it the case of increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas, power and water charges, or FDI in various fields, PSU disinvestment, the Leftists have been as brave in opposing it in the print and electronic media as they are silently submissive in letting UPA have its way in these matters. In October last they even organised an all-India strike against these measures. The moment they go wild in their denunciation of UPA policies, immediately comes an invitation either from the Prime Minister or the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi for a friendly meeting at lunch, dinner, or breakfast. The plight of the common man gets drowned in the sweet smell and flavour of the mouth-watering cuisine served at the meetings and Left leaders come out satisfied with their talks. They wave red flags, it is now being increasingly believed, in public and surreptitiously give a green signal to the UPA at these private meetings. They seem only apologetic to Manmohan government for their public conduct but explain it away as their helplessness to adopt such a public stance to survive in the politics of today.

Otherwise, how can they explain the contradiction in their words and conduct? Important CPM leaders are on record having said that UPA should not take their support for granted. "We don't only bark", they have often said very bravely in public, "but we can bite too". But on all the important issues which have directly hurt the common man they do bark but each time fail to bite whatever the provocation. It now appears that either their bark is hollow, or they don't know how to bite even when provoked and challenged. Or they don't have the teeth to bite or their teeth stand already broken.

The involvement of Left in the decision-making of UPA Government has produced major distortion in the country's governance. The Left wants best of both worlds and enjoys power without responsibility. It snarls selectively at the Government but will not bite. It is guilty of duplicity.

A circus, not an alliance

UPA and the Communists are presenting a strange phenomenon of coalition politics in which the conflicts and contradictions outsmart the unanimity of thought and action. Every other day our news media flash the report of one constituent or the other alleging

that the government is going astray on the provisions of the National Common Minimum Programme agreed to by them. The divergence of views is more prominent than the area of agreement. In a rally jointly addressed by CPM and Samajwadi party at Lucknow on November 14 last the CPM has made known that it does not trust the Congress and nor does it consider the latter as its long-term political ally. The underlying message from the Marxists is that their support to UPA government is a matter of compulsion and does not stem from any political conviction.

That speaks volumes for the political ideology of Left parties, their convictions and their principles. They have none and displayed none. All they have is a short-term strategy to promote their narrow selfish agenda and vested interests in the name of the common man, poor, farmers and working class.

It is not surprising that some people call the Manmohan government not an alliance but a circus which has many jokers. But even a circus has a ringmaster under whom different characters work in unison for a common cause of giving a good performance and entertainment to the audience. But this is not true of UPA.

Manmohan & Sonia on different wavelengths

There was a contradiction even in the language used against the Left parties by Congress supremo Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the one used by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. With an eye on the stability of his government, during electioneering in the States of Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu Prime Minister called the Left parties as "valuable colleagues". On the other hand, Smt. Sonia Gandhi was vehement in their denunciation. The Congress had to pay heavily for this duplicity and it lost heavily in West Bengal and ceded power to Left parties in Kerala. People refused to be taken for granted and cheated by the Congress.

It is a hard fact, though unbelievable, that on record Congress still supports the Samajwadi Party (SP) Government of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav in UP and the latter supports the UPA government at the Centre. But recall the language Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi have been using against Shri Mulayam Singh and his government. In the recently held by-election to Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat Smt. Sonia Gandhi contested, both Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Smt. Gandhi had virulently attacked each other. On his part, Shri Mulayam Singh and his deputy Shri Amar Singh too have been returning equal love and affection by charging the Congress supremo of having plotted against them and their government in UP and

with phone-tapping crime. Though both the parties lose no opportunity to condemn and floor each other, yet they continue to support each other's government in the State and at the Centre. Numerous times, both the parties have challenged each other to withdraw support from their respective governments. Neither of the two has yet been able to gather the courage to accept the other's challenge.

Congress and SP both present a classic example of a couple who live separately and always abuse and shout at each other whenever they meet, but are not ready to seek a divorce on the plea that as per tradition and religion their marriage is indissoluble.

Tainted ministers

UPA is not an alliance of principles but of unhealthy compromises. It has no morals. It is the illegitimate child of a marriage of convenience to grab political power denied to these very parties by the electorate during elections to Lok Sabha. Different political parties with divergent political interests and ideologies fought elections against each other and when failed, they cohabitated to give birth to this child of rank opportunism. It lacks commitment to principles, canons of morality, healthy traditions and precedents. That explains why Manmohan government was born with the sin of having desecrated the august office of the Union Cabinet with such illustrious individuals who made history by standing as accused in courts facing charges as heinous as murder, dacoity, rape, attempt to murder, extortion, mafia links, corruption, amassing wealth beyond known sources of income, and the like. Prime Minister appears to be presiding over a government composed of persons accused of criminal and anti-social activities. Congress wishes to stick to power at all costs and with this objective in view it can go to any length.

Defending and fostering tainted ministers is paying rich dividends to Congress. They are so much beholden to it that they just acquiesce into putting their thumb impressions of approval on any measure Congress wants.

Issuing certificates of innocence

One of the reasons that prompted Smt. Sonia Gandhi to formulate a post-election alliance with parties against whom Congress had fought a bitter electoral battle in Lok Sabha elections, even calling each other names, seems to be her effort to use power to cleanse the dirt accumulated because of many scams, scandals and corruption

indulged in by the party. Congress was instrumental in using the CBI to promote its political purpose by getting the name of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi cleared from the courts. It got cleared the name of Capt. Satish Sharma who was involved in various cases of corruption in the notorious petrol pumps scam.

As a parting gift the retiring CBI chief, Shri U. S. Misra recommended the closure of the disproportionate assets case worth crores of rupees registered against Vincent George, private secretary to the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and later of Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Shri Misra had also been going slow on filing a charge sheet against Congress MP and former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, Shri Ajit Jogi in the cash-for-MLA case.

Sonia protégé as Election Commissioner

Another instance is that of Election Commissioner Shri Navin Chawla. He owes his present position only to the favours he earned from the Gandhi dynasty right from the time of late Smt. Indira Gandhi. Throughout his career Shri Chawla has proved himself to be more loyal than the king himself as far as the Gandhi family is concerned. During the dark days of Emergency it was the writ not of the then Lt. Governor but that of his Private Secretary Navin Chawla that ran. The Shah Commission which inquired into the excesses committed during Emergency had commented on the style of functioning of Shri Chawla saying that "the Lt. Governor was the Lieutenant and the Private Secretary was the Governor".

Before being appointed EC Shri Chawla obtained lakhs of rupees from Congress MPs out of their MPLAD funds as donation to a Trust run by Smt. Chawla and one in his own name.

A person holding the august office of Election Commissioner must be a person who should inspire confidence of the electorate. But this may not be true of Shri Navin Chawla. On the contrary, any election held under his supervision cannot instil faith among the people of its having been free, fair and impartial. Elections whether of a Panchayat, State Assembly or Parliament should not only be free and fair but should also appear to be so. With his background and unstinted commitment to Congress and Gandhi family, Shri Chawla fails on this account. Yet such a person continues to hold such a respectable office, courtesy the Gandhi family.

BJP-led NDA in these circumstances demanded action against Shri Chawla and 206 MPs submitted a memorandum to the President of India demanding his removal as Election Commissioner. Article

324(5) of the Constitution provides that action could be taken against him by the President in consultation with the Chief Election Commissioner. President Dr. Abdul Kalam sent this memorandum to the Prime Minister and being aware of the provisions of law and the procedure it was incumbent upon Dr. Manmohan Singh to have sent it to the Chief Election Commissioner for consideration and advice. In his anxiety to save Shri Navin Chawla, the Prime Minister instead of following the established practice, sought the opinion of Attorney General against the provisions of law and practice knowing fully well that the Attorney General had no role in the matter. The Attorney General has been made to give a clean chit to Shri Chawla. Why should the Manmohan Government not do it? PM is aware of Chawla's proximity to 10 Janpath and that is sufficient to make the Prime Minister work overtime in a particular direction to achieve the desired result.

A Sarkar for Khas Aadmi

Congress won whatever seats it could on the slogan "*Congress ka haath, aam aadmi ke saath*" which has proved to be a nightmare for the common man. *Aam aadmi* is the worst sufferer at the cruel hands of Congress. Rising prices and increasing shortages of essential commodities have made the life of common man miserable.

Congress has always been playing mischief with the voters. The day polling was over in Rae Bareilly Parliamentary constituency by-poll contested by Smt. Sonia Gandhi and in the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Pondichery and Tamil Nadu, press reports appeared that Union Petroleum Minister has written to CPM and CPI leaders saying that prices of petrol needed to be raised by another Rs. 9.33 per litre, diesel by 10.43 per litre, Kerosene oil by Rs. 17.16 per litre and LPG cylinders by about Rs. 114.45 per cylinder.

In view of great public resentment Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Petroleum Minister continue to hold a series of discussions about the price hike. This is the kind of honesty and sincerity the UPA government is displaying towards the people of the country. LPG supply was in surplus during NDA rule. Gas and new connections were instantly available throughout NDA's tenure. The moment UPA came into power it created an artificial scarcity to help its favourites mint money illegally through sale of cylinders in black market.

Come Congress, come blackmarketing, hoarding

Congress and the curses of blackmarketing, hoarding, shortages

seem to be the inseparable Siamese twins. During NDA regime all these evils were nowhere to be seen. But like frogs during rainy season, the hoarders and black marketeers of essential commodities jump in action the moment Congress and UPA regimes take over. They have a field day and make quick money. During the UPA rule prices of coal, sugar, tea, sarson oil, dal, milk, chillies, maida, fruits, vegetable, *chappal* etc. have gone up from 20 to 100 percent. (SEE CHART)

Neglecting poorerst of poor

The UPA may boast of being anything, but it certainly is anti-poor. The NDA government under the Antyodaya Ann Yojna had been giving 35 Kgs. of ration per month at subsidised rate of Rs.2 per Kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 for rice. But UPA ogovernment reduced it to 20 KG. per month.

PM shames war of independence

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh put the nation to shame by eulogizing the British regime in India against whom Mahatma Gandhi led a struggle for independence and thousands of our patriots even lost their lives. His words: "Consider the fact that an important slogan of India's struggle for freedom was that "Self Government is more precious than Good Government". That, of course, is the essence of democracy. But the slogan suggests that even at the height of our campaign for freedom from colonial rule, we did not entirely reject the British claim to good governance. We merely asserted our natural right to self-governance... I believe it was, undoubtedly, this recognition of the elements of fair play that characterized so much of the ways of the British in India... Our notions of the rule of law, of a Constitutional government, of a free press, of a professional civil service, of modern universities and research laboratories have all been fashioned in the crucible where an age old civilization of India met the dominant Empire of the day. These are all elements which we still value and cherish. Our judiciary, our legal system, our bureaucracy and our police are all great institutions, derived from British-Indian administration and they have served our country exceedingly well."

Surprisingly, the Prime Minister did not apologise to the nation for these remarks.

Insult to freedom fighters

During NDA regime a plaque of Veer Savarkar, the renowned freedom fighter who suffered at the hands of the British rulers for

more than 10 years in Cellular Jail, Port Blair for waging India's fight for freedom, was removed by the UPA government. If a plaque containing nationalist message of this great freedom fighter was not to be displayed, whose plaque should be displayed in that jail?

Similarly, the Mulayam Singh government, whose Samajwadi Party supports UPA at the Centre, removed the statue of Pt. Deendayalji Upadhyay at Rampur with ulterior motive.

Justice Banerjee Committee

Although Justice Nanawati Commission was already inquiring into the Godhra and post-Godhra violence in Gujarat, the UPA for narrow political considerations constituted another parallel U.C. Banerjee Committee to look into the same incidents. The Commission of Inquiry Act forbids institution of parallel enquiries into the same incident. The intentions of the UPA became more apparent when this Committee was made to submit a tailor-made interim report within just three months on the eve of Bihar elections in February last year. The Railway Minister exploited in full the questionable report, though it failed to bestow any electoral gain to Congress and RJD.

That this Committee was constituted mainly to derive political and electoral benefits was further proved by the fact that this time again on the eve of elections to five State assemblies it submitted its final report and Justice Banerjee went public with his findings although it had not so far been presented before Parliament. It was not for Justice Banerjee to divulge his report before it was presented in Parliament. This was done purely to exploit the so-called conclusions in the elections.

Ultimately, the Gujarat High Court stayed the tabling of the report in Parliament. It also observed *prima facie* that under section 3 of the Commission of Inquiries Act and Section 119 of the Railway Act, the Railway Ministry had no powers to form such a committee.

On March 8, 2006 the court had observed that the "commission had tried to override the process of law by tabling the report even before the matter was concluded before the Gujarat High Court".

Congress & Left anti-labour

UPA as also its Left allies claim to be the champions of the workers and labourers. On July 25, 2005 the newly elected Congress Government in Haryana betrayed its pro-labour boast when it brutally beat up and injured hundreds of workers in a MNC organization at Gurgaon, putting Jallianwala episode to shame.

EPF rates lowered

During NDA regime the rate of interest on the Employees Provident was 9.5 percent. The Congress and Left parties had then been agitating for its being raised to 10.5 percent. But since they assumed power in 2004, they have lowered this rate of interest to 8.5 percent. Another instance of hypocrisy and deception on the part of both the Congress and Left. According to Press reports, a proposal is under consideration of the Government to further lower it to 8 percent.

Militancy raising head in Punjab

As elections to the Punjab assembly are drawing near in January-February 2007, the militancy that lay extinct before Congress came to power is once again raising its head in the State. There have been stray incidents of terrorism in Punjab and two incidents of bomb blasts in Delhi cinemas.

Amrinder addresses Khalistani congregation

A few months earlier Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amrinder Singh addressed a congregation in Canada where anti-India and pro-Khalistan slogans had been prominently displayed on behind him on the dais. The Chief Minister was on an official visit.

Undermining constitutional institutions

In the last two years of its rule, the UPA government has done more damage to the democratic institutions, norms and standards of our polity than any other government in independent India's history. Emergency imposed by Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1975 remains another black spot. The fragile and artificial character of this unprincipled and opportunistic alliance has got exposed by subsequent events. Like a wall-paper the National Common Minimum Programme has miserably failed to conceal the cracks in the wall itself.

Governors removed with a design

As against the established practice, UPA removed all the governors appointed during NDA regime "because they did not subscribe to the ideology" of the new government. When it came to

power in 1998, NDA had not treated the governors appointed by earlier regimes like that. In fact, Congress did it under a well thought-out plan. It replaced old governors with pliable Congress nominees known for their commitment to sign on the dotted line and act as directed. Subsequent events proved it. The dismissal of BJP government in Goa within minutes of its having won a vote of confidence on the floor of the State assembly, administering of oath of office to Shri Shibu Soren who never had a majority and dissolution of Bihar assembly are some of the glaring instances. Later, the highest court of the country, the Supreme Court declared this action of UPA government as “unconstitutional”. Had the Supreme Court not intervened, Jharkhand Governor would have been successful in scuttling the people’s verdict which was in favour of an NDA government. The actions of the Governors of Goa, Jharkhand and Bihar have shown that their ideology is to carry out the political diktat of the Congress President.

UPA removed various chairmen and directors of Boards and Corporations appointed during NDA regime only with ulterior political motive. Notable are the Director of NCERT, Chairman of Film Censor board, Children’s film society, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies to name a few. It dispensed with the Commission that had been established for the benefit of handicapped persons.

Disrespect to courts

The way Congress openly misused Government administration to protect Shri Shibu Soren, Shri Jaiprakash Narain Yadav, Shri Shahabuddin and the like was witnessed by the whole country. Congress has openly opposed the Supreme Court and High Court verdicts on minority reservation. The public criticism by senior Congress leaders of Constitutional bodies like the Supreme Court, Election Commission and High Courts, has shocked the nation.

“Unconstitutional” dissolution of Bihar Assembly

On the recommendation of the Governor, Shri Buta Singh, the Manmohan government dissolved the Bihar Assembly. A cabinet meeting to consider his report was convened at dead of night and the recommendation faxed for instant approval to the President who was on an official tour to Russia. The Prime Minister spoke to the President and got his approval. A notification to this effect was issued at 3.30 A.M. This had been done solely under explicit directions of the supreme leader to prevent NDA led by Shri Nitish Kumar to stake claim to form a government the next morning. In

Patna, people said in disgust that “it is not Rashtrapati Raj but Rabriprati Raj in Bihar”.

The Supreme Court held this decision of Manmohan Government as “unconstitutional”, and made disparaging comments on the functioning of UPA government which could not absolve itself of the responsibility for the wrong done because, after all, it is the duty of the Union Cabinet to consider a Governor’s report. It is not bound to accept what ever report a governor submits. Even after that, Manmohan government could not give marching orders to Shri Buta Singh. It allowed the murderer of democracy and Constitution in Bihar to satisfy his whim to hoist the National Flag on Republic Day before he quit office.

Sonia Gandhi’s renunciation drama

The Congress party, which leads this coalition, with only 145 seats (just 7 seats more than the BJP) in a 543-member Lok Sabha, pretends to have secured a mandate on its own in the 2004 General Elections. It has become the victim of its own propaganda. Power has gone into its head. The arrogance of its supreme leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi knows no limits, just as the servility of the Congressmen to her knows no bounds.

The so-called, self-confessed “Great Renunciator”, placed by sycophants in the hallowed league of Lord Gautam Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi for her act of “giving up power”, has, in fact, through this masterly stroke become the Super Prime Minister in the UPA government. Smt. Gandhi who, on the one hand, claimed to have made the “supreme sacrifice”, could not have the patience to wait even for a fortnight to be without government position when she made her nominated, pliant Prime Minister to create an extra-constitutional authority styled as National Advisory Council and to appoint her as its chairperson with all the perks and privileges of a Cabinet Minister. This office was made a part of the PM’s office. She could even go through official documents and files without having taken the oath of secrecy. The advice of the NAC has virtually become a command to the Prime Minister who cannot afford to ignore it. It had an added advantage as she wields full authority

without the least responsibility.

NAC - an affront to Parliamentary system

The Prime Minister has not cared to explain why his government needs a separate advisory council, when he already has the Planning Commission with precisely the same functions. Besides, each ministry is free to appoint its own advisors. In fact, the various ministries in the UPA government have created a record of sorts by setting up as many as 52 committees for advisory purposes. Over and above these, the Prime Minister has set up his own Advisory Councils on Trade, Industry and Economy. It is obvious that the real purpose behind constitution of the NAC is not to tender advice to the government; rather it is a thinly disguised cloak to exercise real power and authority by an individual who otherwise claims to have “sacrificed power”.

Is the Prime Minister not receiving the advice from the Council of Ministers and other institutions of the Constitution that he needs an extra-constitutional authority like this and that too composed of nominated individuals and presided over by Smt. Gandhi?

Power without responsibility

Smt. Sonia Gandhi does exercise enormous political power and authority, but with the basic difference that she is responsible and accountable to none, not even to the Parliament of India.

Office of Profit Bill mocks at Sonia Gandhi

It was at the behest of Congress Party itself that a Congress leader raised the matter of violation of law by Smt. Jaya Bachchan, a Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh as she was holding the office of Chairperson of UP Film Development Council. This was obviously done because the Bachchans and Gandhis have not been on good terms for quite some time. On the report of the Election Commission, the President of India disqualified her from Rajya Sabha. But the step boomeranged on Congress which found its own leader on the wrong foot because while being an MP she was also occupying



He's superstitious. He takes the entire household, not just family, when he's filing his nomination.

the all-powerful — in some respects superior to that of the Prime Minister – post of the Chairperson of National Advisory Council with a Cabinet rank with all other perks and privileges. A petition seeking Smt. Sonia Gandhi's disqualification had also been filed with the President. Cornered from all sides and finding no other way to get out of the disqualification, the Congress-led UPA all of a sudden surprised everybody by adjourning *sine die* both Houses of Parliament on March 22 although, according to the schedule, both the Houses were to adjourn for a recess and re-assembly on May 10. This was obviously done to promulgate an Ordinance to save the Congress President from disqualification because an ordinance cannot be promulgated as long as the House is in session. The media was full of these reports.

This step was vehemently opposed by BJP-led NDA and even UPA supporter Left parties. An embarrassed Smt. Gandhi decided to come out of this ugly situation by staging another 'renunciation' drama by resigning both from Parliament and the office of chairperson of NAC. If the Congress and Smt. Sonia Gandhi felt that they had not done anything wrong, they should have faced the Parliament, Election Commission and presented their case before the President of India. She quit because she herself felt guilty and had no legal and moral defence. She felt so much scared that as the schedule for by-election to Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat was announced, she resigned from practically every office she held so that her nomination for by-election is not set aside on any technical ground.

The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, seeking to amend the 1959 Act, was passed by the Lok Sabha amid protests by NDA. The Bill provides for exempting 56 posts, including the chairpersonship of the National Advisory Council (NAC), from being considered office-of-profit. At this moment it is pertinent to recall that at the time of resigning on March 23, Smt. Sonia Gandhi stated: “For the last two days, some people have been trying to create an atmosphere as if the Government and Parliament are being used to favour me. This has hurt me very much.”. But when the Bill was presented, it only proved the NDA charge that the session had been abruptly adjourned *sine die* only to save the skin of Smt. Sonia Gandhi by proposing to bring in an Ordinance. The plan got derailed in the face of virulent opposition from NDA. And in the amendment brought forward the first office to have been exempted from disqualification is that of “the Chairperson of the National

Advisory Council” constituted vide the Government of India order “dated the 31st May 2004”. What is then left of the *tyag nautanki*? And remember everybody, including the Prime Minister, had been claiming that she had earned no disqualification. If they were right, then why this amendment?

All this made a mockery of Smt. Sonia Gandhi’s another *tyag* stage-managed drama. While participating in the debate on this Bill, an MP while taking part in the debate rightly If this type of Bill was envisaged in that situation what should the resignation of Smt. Sonia Gandhi be called—a *balidaan* or a crime?

An official amendment to the Bill exempting 10 more posts from office-of- profit definition, including chiefs of Dalit Sena and Bahujan Samaj Foundation held by Union minister Ramvilas Paswan and Mayawati, respectively, was accepted by the House. This step only exposed the hollowness of Smt. Sonia’s si-cakked *ttag* brought home the reality that the whole was nothing but aimed at saving her from disqualification.

Recent election results

In the just concluded elections to five State assemblies of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, Congress received the worst drubbing at the hands of the electorate. Smt. Gandhi campaigned in every State but her ‘renunciation’ or so-called *tyag nautanki* failed to click and befool the people. The electorate saw through her game. Congress-led UDF was dethroned in Kerala and in Assam, Congress which had overwhelming majority in the last election was humbled and relegated to the position of the single largest party having to depend upon others against whom it fought elections to form a government. In West Bengal and Tamil Nadu Congress was a loser as ever.

While Prime Minister and Smt. Gandhi tried to hail the victory in Tamil Nadu as victory of UPA, the alliance partners did not toe this line of thinking.

It was a hypocrisy on the part of Congress to celebrate Smt. Sonia Gandhi’s victory in Rae Bareilly by-election. As BJP President, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the question was not that Smt. Gandhi had lost people’s mandate but that she had violated law by holding an office of profit while being an MP.

The election results have once again proved that the charisma of Smt. Gandhi failed to click in the States where elections were held. It has to be kept in mind that Rae Bareilly is only one out of the 80

parliamentary constituencies in UP. Her winning from this single seat cannot be taken to mean that she enjoys acceptability all over the country. Had Rae Bareilly been the barometer of Congress and Smt. Gandhi’s popularity in the country, Congress would have secured more than 80 percent seats in all the five State assemblies to which elections were held.

A Prime Minister not in command

Our parliamentary system of governance recognises the Prime Minister as the supreme head of the executive, whose authority straddles both political and administrative domains. The Prime Minister of India is not the CEO of India Inc. His political powers stand usurped and are exercised by some other person. This unconstitutional arrangement has imposed on the country a Prime Minister who is not the leader of his own party, who is not in command of his own government and who is more answerable to his boss at every important point to that person.

Dr. Manmohan Singh suffers from another infirmity. His ministers do not take him into confidence before publicly announcing important matters of policy. Many a times, a new policy is really a news he gets through newspapers or electronic media. That is why a year back, he had to write to his Ministers to keep PMO in touch with such policy announcements.

Who cares for PM?

Further, on the very day (May 20, 2005) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, addressing a conference of district magistrates in Delhi, promised “tenure security” for IAS/IPS officers, the Governor of Bihar gave marching orders to two DMs of Sewan and Gopalganj. Their crime? They had refused to allow two key supporters of Shri Lalu Yadav — Mohammad Shahabuddin and Sadhu Yadav, both dreaded dons — to carry on their unlawful and criminal activities in their districts.

Gagging Opposition voice

The Opposition is as important an institution of parliamentary democracy as is the government in power. Normally, in a democracy,



it is the government that is the target of attack by the opposition. But under UPA it is the other way round. It has made Opposition the target of a sustained and systematic assault. From day one, this government, under the directions of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, decided to destroy the institution of the Opposition in Parliament. It is instructive to remember that, the last time a government displayed arrogance of intolerance of the opposition was in 1975 that led to the imposition of draconian Emergency.

No collective responsibility.

The concept of the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers has been effectively destroyed during the last two years. Senior ministers of the government have freely abused and contradicted each other in public. The unseemly war of words in public between Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan during the Bihar elections is still fresh in our minds.

When UPA government decided to impose President's rule in Bihar following a hung assembly it was Shri Lalu Prasad and his RJD which abstained from Lok Sabha although Shri Yadav and his party were part of that decision. Morality demanded that that before abstaining either Shri Lalu Prasad should have resigned or he should have been dismissed by the Prime Minister after he abstained from the House.

UPA's handling of NBA protest

For 20 years Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) has opposed the

Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) and had even pressurised Central Government and World Bank to withdraw from the project. In the mid-1990s, the Supreme Court stayed project construction on an NBA petition, for 5 years.

At conservative estimates, this resulted in a loss of Rs. 6,000 crore to the public exchequer. According to other estimates, approximately Rs. 10 lakh is needed to rehabilitate each affected family. Added to that, repeated disruptions, protests, litigation and delays have resulted in the cost of the project escalating to over Rs. 27,000 crore from Rs. 2,100 crore.

In spite of claiming to follow Gandhian ideals of non-violence, NBA activists have frequently been accused of unleashing violence against Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA) officials working on rehabilitation sites, disrupting construction, attacking contractors, damaging equipment and destroying vehicles. In some cases, NBA activists have destroyed even schools and clinics at rehabilitation sites in a bid to prevent resettlement of oustees. NBA has used the dam oustees as mere tools in its overall strategy to block the project.

It has been reported that several sites are lying vacant in the Narmada valley in Madhya Pradesh because NBA activists prevented oustees from settling there, often by resorting to violent means. 217 criminal cases have been filed against NBA and its sister bodies by oustees and Government officials for blocking rehabilitation work. Forcing the people affected by SSP not to accept the rehabilitation package and using the delay on that account to stall the project is the cornerstone of Patkar's strategy.

NBA activities have come under the scanner of a pro-development NGO, the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL), which has filed a petition against the NBA in the Supreme Court. It alleges that funds from the Goldman Foundation and the McArthur Foundation were used to promote the cause of the NBA and lobby against the Narmada project in international fora.

Prompted by political considerations, UPA Government tried to stop construction work. After Shri Narendra Modi openly protested and voiced the anger of Gujarat's people, the Gujarat Congress too supported Shri Modi for the State's development.

Supreme Court rejected NBA's plea to stop the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam from being raised from 110 to 121.92 metres and instructed that the construction should go on. It has taken more

than 40 years for the dam to reach its present height of 110 metres.

When the project is completed, 18 million acre feet of water will be available to Madhya Pradesh for irrigation. In Gujarat 8,215 villages and 135 towns will receive drinking water. 14 percent of Gujarat will get water for irrigation. Every episode delays the benefits meant to reach the people of Gujarat and other States, who have been waiting for water from the dam for four decades. A developing country like India cannot neglect its people's rights and needs.

Dynastic usurpation of names of schemes and institutions

UPA government has unashamedly changed the names of schemes and places to satisfy the insatiable hunger of the "dynastic Congress family" to name everything, every scheme, every institution and every place after its family members. The following are just a few schemes and places named/renamed after only one of the members of the 'family':

- Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana
- Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission
- Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC and ST Students
- Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana
- Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami Affected Areas
- Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan (where the Civil Aviation Ministry is located)
- Rajiv Chowk in New Delhi
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards
- Rajiv Gandhi Abhyudaya Yojana (Andhra Pradesh)
- Rajiv Gandhi Education City (Haryana)
- Rajiv Gandhi Vidyarthi Suraksha Yojana (Maharashtra)
- Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation (Karnataka)
- Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana (Himachal Pradesh)
- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (Kerala)
- Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme (Pondicherry)
- Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad (earlier named after late Shri N.T. Ramarao)

Criminalisation of Governance

For the first time, in the history of our democracy, dubious persons with criminal records were appointed as ministers of

Government of India. Even today these ministers face charges as serious as murder, rape, dacoity and extortion in various courts of law. Shri Lalu Prasad and some others stand charged with serious corruption charges. He has not only been charge-sheeted by the CBI in case after case, but charges have also been framed against him in many cases by courts of law. Can a person charged under section 420 of the IPC be trusted with the treasury of the railways? The Prime Minister continues to be a helpless spectator.

Atrocities on Women increase

Atrocities against women have increased manifold since the UPA assumed power. Of particular concern is the growing number of incidents of rape in trains and in running cars and parks in the national capital New Delhi.

Instances of sexual harassment, dowry deaths and other forms of torture on women have also witnessed abnormal increase.

Appease to divide country

Majority-minority divide

The UPA has intensified its attempt to widen the majority-minority divide in the country's system of education. Its latest decision to reserve 50 percent seats for Muslims in Aligarh Muslim University is blatantly a communal decision. The NDA stands for effective governmental and societal action to promote education among the minorities. However, this worthy objective cannot be achieved by the HRD ministry's ill-conceived decisions, which are intended only to garner the minorities' votes for the Congress in elections. The Congress leadership appears to be completely indifferent to the long-term effects of such a divisive politics.

Detoxifying history books

HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh is playing with the facts of history and Indian culture in the name of detoxification of history books just to please a particular constituency of voters.

Religion based reservation

Solely motivated by vote-bank politics disregarding the national interests, the Congress government in AP reserved 5 percent seats in government jobs for Muslims solely on the basis of religion. BJP opposed the move. The High Court set aside this religion-based

reservation as “unconstitutional”, yet Congress is bent upon finding ways and means to go against the constitutional provisions disregarding court verdicts.

AMU reservation for Muslims

The worst communalist in the garb of secularism, UPA HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh, ordered 50 percent reservation for Muslims in Aligarh Muslim University. The High Court set aside this decision declaring that AMU is not a minority institution. Yet, the government has gone to the Supreme Court and although the matter is *sub judice* Shri Arjun Singh continues to declare that he is bent upon restoring the minority status to AMU despite court verdict.

Communal face of Congress

Here are two prominent examples of a communal Congress dividing India on the basis of caste and religion:

1. Immediately before the Assembly elections in Bihar during October 2005, Congress released a list of its candidates, divided on the basis of their religion and caste. The list was published in all newspapers including the *Indian Express*. It was signed by the the Congress Spokesperson Smt. Ambika Soni.

2. The Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee constituted by UPA asked the Armed Forces to give a list of all Muslims in defence services.



This chair is for the CM-designate, to prove his secular credentials... There will be plenty of rocking!

Congress afraid of Tehelka and ‘Coffingate’ truth

The reason given by the government for rejecting the Phukan Commission report was that the “Commission’s report is incomplete”. It is impossible to think of a more dishonest explanation. The report was incomplete solely because the government wound up the Commission, without giving it an opportunity to complete its work.

The same is the case with the Congress party’s approach to the truth about the so-called “Coffingate” scandal. In almost every speech during election campaign for the 14th Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi had charged the then Defence Minister and NDA Convener Shri George Fernandes with “making money in the purchase of coffins

for our martyrs”.

However, this charge has been found completely baseless in the affidavit that the Defence Ministry filed before the Supreme Court. These two episodes – the rejection of the Phukan Commission report and the two contradictory affidavits by the Defence Ministry—clearly showed that it is Smt. Gandhi who calls the shots in the UPA government. To UPA’s great discomfiture, CBI has later exonerated Shri Fernandes of any wrongdoing in the case.

Politicisation of CAG reports

Scores of reports of the CAG are gathering dust in CPI(M)-ruled West Bengal. They have not even been placed before the State Assembly for years. Obviously, the Left parties follow one principle in West Bengal and an entirely the opposite in Delhi.

Centre-State relations - from bad to worse

By its actions the UPA government during the last two years has proved that it does not believe in federalism. This Government has openly indulged in discriminatory treatment against non-Congress, non-UPA state governments, especially governments run by the NDA.

Shri Narendra Modi has been acknowledged as the most accomplished Chief Minister of the country by numerous prestigious organizations, including *INDIA TODAY* and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. A leading IT magazine has awarded the Dataquest E-Governance Award 2006 to Gujarat. Yet UPA loses no opportunity to harass the BJP government and thereby hindering the State’s march to progress.

Similar is the case with Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand States. All these States have been doing exceptionally well. Rajasthan has topped in various welfare projects, including implementation of Employment Guarantee Act. Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have established new milestones in development. But all these States are being starved of funds for development, solely on narrow political considerations.

Betrayal of Unemployed Youth

UPA’s Common Minimum Programme had promised to “immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act” to provide “100 days of guaranteed employment to at least one able-bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle-class household”. But the recently enacted Employment Guarantee Act

provides for an employment of 100 days at the rate of Rs. 60 per day in a year for unemployed in only 200 districts leaving out more than 400 districts out of its purview. Can an average family with five members subsist on a mere income of Rs. 6,000 per annum? What will they do during the rest of the year?

Four crore educated unemployed living in urban areas have been denied even this benefit in the Bill.

'Bharat Nirman' hoax

Recently, Prime Minister announced the launch of what is billed as a new mega-development initiative for rural India. Called 'Bharat Nirman', it is advertised to have an outlay of Rs. 1,73,000 crore over the next four years. The truth is that, there is hardly anything new in the 'Bharat Nirman' initiative. It is nothing but a repackaging of the various ambitious projects and path-breaking initiatives of the NDA Government under a new name.

Neglect of infrastructure development

Infrastructure development has clearly slowed down. The National Highway Development Programme is in utter neglect. So is the National Rail Vikas Yojana, which too was launched by the Vajpayee government. No worthwhile infrastructure project has been started in the last two years.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana launched by the Vajpayee government is the largest rural roads construction programme since Independence. Its implementation has considerably been slowed down under UPA. In two years the NDA Government had accelerated the National Highway Development Program to build 2,801 kilometres of roads. But in the last two years only 493 kilometres have been added under the UPA Government.

River-linking project abandoned

The ambitious scheme of inter-linking of rivers, like all other worthwhile schemes started by the NDA government, has been treated as a step-child by this Government and has suffered for want of attention needed motivated by political considerations.

Dark clouds over power sector reforms

The power supply situation in the country continues to deteriorate while this Government debates the amendment of the Electricity Act.

Railways development at a standstill

The Railway Minister has played havoc with the long-term interests of the railways. He has hardly any time for the ministry, busy as he is all the time with his ill-conceived politics in his State of Bihar. He has cheated the passengers by declaring 75 trains as super-fast and levying a charge of Rs. 10 on every ticket. He has imposed another surcharge on purchase of return tickets.

Many ambitious projects launched for the benefit of the people at large, like the establishment of six AIIMS in the country, inter-linking of rivers have been put on the back burners. The Golden Quadrilateral project to link the four metros with four-six lanes has been slowed down and being starved of necessary funds.

Economic Mismanagement

Since the UPA Government came to power promising more employment, eradicating poverty, keeping the prices down and accelerating economic reform, it has failed during this period to make any significant progress in any of these areas. The policy paralysis of Dr. Manmohan Singh and his team is leading to serious deterioration of the economic fundamentals. The unprecedented trade deficit of USD 30 billion (Rs.1,35,000 crores) has put pressure on the rupee which continues to fall. The price of gold has also scaled new heights making it beyond the reach of the common man.

Manmohan Proposes, CPM Disposes

The communist parties continue to dictate economic policies. Be it the disinvestment in PSUs, modernisation of airports, creation of Pension Fund Authority, restructuring of banking sector and consolidation of PSU banks, FDI in retail, EPF rate, WTO negotiations, we have the strange spectacle of cabinet decisions being put in cold storage because of communist pressure and opposition. So much so that we witness everyday the pathetic spectacle of a helpless Prime Minister giving lectures on good economics but meekly surrendering to the back seat driving by communists. Congress Party has never believed in economic reforms. In fact, it only wishes to promote a policy of Permit and Licence Raj, stifle enterprise and institutionalize corruption. It is today caught in a web of its own creation.

This dichotomy between preaching and practice, the inability of the Central Government to continue economic reforms and unleash the hidden power of the people of India has seriously affected the national economy, harming India's image and the fight against poverty.

Due to the intransigence and overbearing influence of Left parties, UPA government has failed to implement its own decisions on disinvestments in PSUs like BHEL etc. This situation is creating apprehensions in the minds of foreign investors and having adverse effect on the country's economy.

FDI in retail to open gates of unemployment

UPA has decided to introduce FDI in retail sector – a step that will render the small time trader and vendor jobless and make the life of ordinary trader miserable. According to preliminary estimates, the step will render jobless about 4 crore people already engaged in retail trade. This will expose UPA government real intentions as it had promised to provide jobs to the jobless and render already employed as jobless. BJP has decided to stoutly oppose this anti-people decision of UPA government which will swell the ranks of unemployed by making self-employed people jobless. This step will have the following adverse impact:

- ♦ It would wipe out small stores as they will not be able to match the standards, services provided by super markets
- ♦ The unorganised sector would obviously lose its place and edge in the retail market
- ♦ It would also introduce competitive pricing, forcing a lot of domestic players out of the game.
- ♦ It would reduce employment opportunities by displacing smaller retailers in the unorganised sector, like it did in Thailand
- ♦ It would mean legalising the predatory practices of these MNC retail chains
- ♦ It will promote a standardised form of foreign culture
- ♦ Imports by India will swell as MNCs will dump their products in India.
- ♦ Since very little investment is required in retailing, foreign players would end up remitting their profits out of the country.

Tax burden increases

In his last budget speech the Finance Minister assured everyone

that he was reducing taxes while in reality he was increasing them. The average tax payer, therefore, is baffled. Women tax-payers, senior citizens, salaried employees, corporate sector are all up in arms against this deceit. The cash withdrawal tax and fringe benefit tax are products of a foolish and conceited mind.

It is a budget for the *khas aadmi* wherein cars, soft drink, pasta etc. have become cheaper and essential commodities of every day use have become costlier, beyond the reach of the common man.

Savings and Capital Markets

Savings in the economy are stagnant as real returns are not available even from long-term bank deposits. This is because the Government is crowding out other players and monopolizing all the savings in the economy. Time limits imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act are not being followed. This trend in the economy needs to be arrested and the Government should show better fiscal prudence. This alone can give people an incentive to save.

Basing its assessment on the rise in share prices, UPA Government keeps claiming that the markets are healthy. But the facts are otherwise. The stock market has now come totally under the influence of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). It is a matter of concern for every Indian. Even more disturbing is the fact that even the Reserve Bank of India has warned of the dangers of the FII route being exploited by unscrupulous elements. This is happening in spite of the JPC on the last Stocks Scam recommending urgent measures to bar FIIs from being used as conduits for illegal funds.

Stock Market Crash

Ignoring warning signs on May 16, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram termed the initial steep fall in stock market as a “correction” triggered by various factors. BSE Sensex had registered a fall for the fourth successive session and gone down 438 points.

On May 18 Sensex crashed by a record 826 points, biggest in the bourse's history. Some brokers said the biggest trigger came from a vague notice in a government circular which caused fears that it could lead to higher taxes on foreign funds that invest in Indian stocks.

Shares of major companies suffered badly and FIIs off-loaded heavily. According to reports, Shri Chidambaram remained ‘unruffled’ by this crash and shrugged off his responsibility saying, “Everyday movement in the stock markets does not require a comment”. For the small investors who suffered heavy losses running

into lakhs of crores, he added, "There is a lesson for everybody... reaction to uninformed reporting is not a desirable thing".

Then on May 21 stocks recorded the highest ever intra-day crash of over 1,100 points for the first time in BSE history halting trading for an hour.

BJP accused UPA Government of manipulating Stock Market and suspected Finance Minister's involvement saying, "This unprecedented volatility and statements given by P. Chidambaram cast a shadow and question mark on the role of FM... We charge the Government with manipulating Sensex for its political gains and ignoring interests of small investors. If the UPA government fails to safeguard interests of small investors, BJP will hold the Government responsible for its acts of omission". Even CPI(M), a major UPA ally, hit out at the UPA government for the market crashes. On its part, the Finance Ministry tried to shift the blame on the brokers community.

Agriculture neglected

More than 60 percent of India's population is dependent upon agriculture but its contribution to GDP remains stagnant at slightly over 20 percent. The farmers continue to be subjected to the twin problems of drought and floods.

Rural credit structure remains lifeless and the delivery mechanism of cooperatives and rural banks as also the *kisan* credit cards are not being used effectively by the UPA Government to deliver credit in time and sufficient to the requirement. In States like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and others there are suicides by farmers on account of the immense debt burden on them.

Several studies by the Planning Commission have highlighted the need to create a national market for food grains so that farmers can get remunerative prices for their produce. It is a matter of regret that there is little headway in this direction. This, coupled with the woeful lack of storage facilities, has led to untold misery for farmers



Courtesy : The Times of India
There are no poor farmers left in our village. Year after year, they've been 'uplifted' by the Budgets.

and made the wastage of agricultural products a national shame.

It is unfortunate that in the recently concluded WTO negotiations, the UPA representatives have been able to achieve very little in terms of getting our farmers better access to global markets. They have also been unable to strengthen the protection that our marginal farmers require from the Government against the onslaught of subsidised imports.

Betrayal of Kisans

It is the plight of the kisans under the UPA rule which is a matter of great concern. More than 3,800 farmers have committed suicide in various parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, since the UPA government came to power. According to latest reports, on an average 10 farmers are committing suicides everyday in the country. The reason mainly is that farmers have not been able to pay back their loans.

UPA claims to be the well-wisher of farmers. It made tall promises to them during elections. But during the last 24 months it has done nothing to ameliorate their lot with the result that farmers' suicides are continuing at an accelerated pace.

Far from doing anything concrete, the current year's UPA budget does not even mention the problem of kisan suicides even in passing in the Budget 2006-07.

The Rs. 50,000 crore Jayaprakash Narayan Rural Credit Fund launched by NDA for the benefit of rural people has been scuttled by UPA government.

Kissan Channel of Doordarshan started by NDA government to help farmers has been terminated.

Budget outlay for schemes for the benefit of farmers and rural development has been slashed.

Importing Wheat to hurt Kisans

The wheat production in the country is satisfactory and the UPA government decision to import five lakh tonnes of wheat is totally wrong and anti-farmer. Over 160 lakh tonnes of wheat would be available in the market in this season (May), which has been priced at Rs 650 per quintal while the price of the imported wheat has been fixed at Rs 950 per quintal. It smacks of a major scam.

Government had granted licence to several multinational companies to import wheat. These companies purchased wheat from Indian farmers at lower prices and exported that to Bangladesh and

other countries making a huge profit. The reason for major price hike of wheat in India was purchase by multinational companies. Interests of Indian farmers were compromised and hit adversely.

Crocodile tears on FTA

It was strange that on the one hand, UPA was patting its back on the India-Asean Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and, on the other, to win undeserved sympathy of the farmers adversely affected by the Government policies, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi had written to the Prime Minister to “very carefully scrutinise” India-Asean FTA to safeguard interests of domestic farmers.

The malady lay in the absence of any clear policy on the part of the UPA government and that was the cause of woes of Indian agriculturists. Kisans are committing suicides in the Congress-ruled states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala and Punjab. The UPA government had failed to provide rural institutional credit to farmers. Going in for free trade is meaningless if the trade is not free within the country itself and problem of failing agricultural economy is not addressed immediately. Majority of the suicide victims were cotton growers because of lowering of import duty and import of cheaper cotton from USA and UK, where its production was highly subsidised.

Connectivity

Realising that connectivity was very vital for all round and rapid development of India, the NDA Government had embarked upon ambitious and time-bound programmes for building national highways (NHDP), the Rural roads programme- PMGSY. Their implementation has slowed down in most places. The development of ports and airports are also been pushed back due to policy confusion. This will seriously affect national development in the years to come.

Water Resources

The Common Minimum Programme promised that it would provide drinking water facility to all sections of people in urban and rural areas on top priority. Unfortunately, the sad truth is that chronic water shortage continues everywhere in the country including in the national capital. National rivers worshipped by Indians all over the country have been converted into poisonous waters through bad governance. Dangerous phenomenon of arsenic pollution in the water leading to major health hazards is on the increase.

Energy Sector

The UPA Government has pushed the whole country into darkness. The well-calibrated reforms of the power sector introduced by the NDA Government have been kept in abeyance by the UPA and the impact of this is for everyone to see. The performance of this crucial sector in 2005-06 has been unsatisfactory as revealed by the latest Planning Commission statistics. Power production remains stagnant even as its demand rises. The story in the field of production of oil and gas is no better and the dependence on imported oil is on the increase. The deplorable performance of the Energy sector will affect economic growth, employment and standard of life.

Ignoring health services

At present UPA government is spending only 0.9 percent of the GDP on health. The National Common Minimum Programme had promised to increase it to 3 percent. Nothing has been done so far.

Foreign Policy Mismanagement

Mortgaging national interests with US

Ignoring the interests of the nation and bypassing the authority of Parliament by signing the Indo-US Nuclear Deal UPA government mortgaged what our accomplished scientists had so far achieved in development of Nuclear technology at great perseverance and cost. Although the UPA government implemented in full its part of the agreement, the US government has so far done nothing to fulfil its part of the obligation.

Indian Parliament put its seal of approval about six months back, but the US government has so far failed to get it approved from the US Congress. There are also indications that the Bush Administration now wishes to pressurize India into revising the deal to suit the US Congress's whims and promote American interests.

Former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has rightly alleged that US is trying to impose its will on India and the country may end up giving more and more concessions. “According to this Bill (in US Congress) the waiver will be granted by the President (of USA) when India meets the seven conditions which have been mentioned in the Bill. The course of action of the Government of India, in future, will thus be determined not by laws passed by the

Parliament of India or by international covenants to which we are party, but by the law framed by the US Congress”, Shri Vajpayee apprehended.

Indo-US relations

The Clinton administration first recognized India as a “natural ally” and therefore, wanted an integrated approach on issues of ‘strategic’ policy. The NSSP, announced by the NDA Government in January 2004, aimed at increasing cooperation in civil-nuclear activities, civilian space programmes, high technology, trade and missile defence. The issues covered as important landmarks in Indo-US relations in year 2005 were already in place when the NDA Government had earlier engaged the United States. The central point of NDA Government’s policy was gradual improvement in Indo-US relations, keeping in mind the convergence as well as the contradictions in policies of the two countries.

UPA’s lack of understanding in dealing with US is worrying. With the UPA Government’s obsequious policies, there is every apprehension of Indo-US relations slipping in to an ‘asymmetry’, thus damaging the long term prospects of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The UPA Government has clearly not comprehended the abhorrence of the people of India to a subservient relationship with the United States.

Siachin

The Indian Army is not averse to vacating the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), if the nation so desires, but wants that what it secured with great effort and many sacrifices, and which it has held safely for the nation in the face of enemy action, as well as the severity of the climate and the treacherous terrain, for the last 22 years, should not be sacrificed at the altar of expediency, merely to notch up one more CBM towards the ephemeral peace process.

It is well known that the Indian Army has made immense sacrifices first to gain, and thereafter to secure, control of this strategic area in the north of the Line of Control (LoC) since 1984. All attempts by Pakistan in the past 22 years to dislodge the Indian troops from Siachen have failed. The government must not gift away on the diplomatic table what our soldiers have fought hard to gain on the battlefield.

Indeed, Siachen itself is a legacy of the Shimla Agreement, which converted the Ceasefire Line after the 1971 Indo-Pak war into the Line of Control.

If media reports are to be believed, the UPA government is considering an “innovative compromise”, in which India effects pullout from Salto Ridge without Pakistan agreeing to a mutually defined and demarcated AGPL. Several think tanks and semi-official strategic affairs experts in Washington have been urging India to accept such “innovations”. Any settlement, in the words of Shri Advani, without explicitly confirming the validity of the AGPL would be a violation of the sanctity of the LoC. In this context, India cannot forget Pakistan’s treacherous incursions into Kargil, in violation of the LoC, in 1999, leading to the fourth war between our two countries.

Any settlement on Siachen should be guided by a sound strategic consideration of India’s security and overall national interests without succumbing to any external pressure.

Suffice to say that in our quest for a modus vivendi with Pakistan we should not land in situations when we would regret at a later stage, if the peace process goes sour or does not give us the results we are looking for.

Certain factors need to be in place. One, there must be “confirmation of the AGPL as the defining line.” Two, India must get a commitment from Pakistan against reoccupation of the Siachen heights. Three, the extent of troop reduction/withdrawal must ensure no terrain advantage to Pakistan leading to any surreptitious reoccupation. Four, there should be a time-schedule for an agreement on environmental and ecological cleaning up of the glaciers with each country cleaning up the mess made by it.

Bangladesh

The Government has been equally inept in dealing with Bangladesh. Infiltration and illegal immigration from Bangladesh goes on unchecked. Pakistan’s ISI finds Bangladesh a safe haven for its activities. The Government of India has failed to deal with the situation with determination.

UPA Government lacks a policy to deal with the Bangladesh Government which continues to export terrorists to India and also shelter Indian terrorists on its soil. It has numerous times picked up India’s Border Security Force officials, beaten and even killed them brutally, but UPA has only made conciliatory noises.

Nepal

In dealing with an important neighbour like Nepal, Indian foreign policy seems to have oscillated from one end to another. The

case for promoting democracy in Nepal has been effectively articulated by BJP which has always supported the 'twin pillars policy': a stable democracy and a constitutional monarchy. The civil society in Nepal is under threat from Maoists who have been indulging in reckless violence and targeting citizens.

It is the UPA government's policy towards Nepal, however, which leaves everyone completely baffled. It is a tale of unprecedented flip-flop. There is thus complete lack of coordination between the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. Nobody knows who is in charge of the policy towards Nepal.

India and UN Security Council Reforms

On the question of India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council, the Government has been sending similar contradictory signals. It made a statement in Parliament that there was no question of accepting permanent membership without veto power. Thereafter, the Government of India appears to have changed its stand and seems to be preparing for a compromise on this issue. Nobody is taken into confidence. Such serious international issues are being dealt with in a casual manner.

Internal Security Mismanagement

What the country now faces is unchecked social and political chaos. Coalition partners of the UPA unabashedly sponsor and protect criminals, themselves indulge in criminal activities and spread lawlessness. The price for all this disorder is paid by the "am aadmi".

Internal security threatened

The greatest failure of UPA has been on the internal security front. For narrow political and electoral considerations, it repealed POTA without evolving an effective mechanism to face the threat of cross-border terrorism, Naxalite/Maoist activities and divisive forces. As a result the terrorist organizations have felt emboldened to kill 63 and injuring more than 200 innocent men, women and children in Diwali eve blasts in the nation's capital. It is a pity that no real headway has been made in catching hold of the real culprits so far, although a case has been filed against some people.

Nation's IT capital Bangalore was also the target of a terrorist

attack in which one renowned IT professor was killed. The terrorists also attacked the Ram Mandir complex in Ayodhya and Sankatmochan temple in Varanasi.

POTA repeal

The scrapping of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) by the UPA Government to gratify Islamists and Communists has not been received well in circles which mean business to fight terrorism, particularly the countries waging a relentless war against terrorism. It has begun to reflect in international assessment of India's capacity to combat terrorism. The US Administration, which has been monitoring efforts by individual countries to combat terrorism in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions post-9/11, is of the view that the Government of India lacks the legal wherewithal for an effective counter-terrorism mechanism.

Naxals/Maoists

Because of politico-electoral considerations the UPA government has been adopting a soft line against the menace of Naxal/Maoist elements. In exchange for electoral support to it during AP assembly elections State Congress promised to lift the ban on PWG imposed by the then TDP government. On being voted to power, Congress did lift the ban and entered into a dialogue with these elements. Their leaders armed with guns and ammunition shared the conference table with Congress ministers. The people of this country will not be able to forget the spectacle of the fully armed Naxalites marching through the streets of Hyderabad the day Union Home Minister was holding a meeting there with the Chief Ministers of Naxalite-affected states. The policy boomeranged on the Congress and the State government had, ultimately, to re-impose ban on the PWG. In the meantime, these naxal groups utilized this golden period to regroup and strengthen themselves, and to establish wider contact with other terrorist groups in the country.

Because of the weak-kneed policies of UPA the Naxal menace has increased unchecked.

The Naxalite threat pervades in 40 per cent of the country's geographical area and 35 per cent of its population covering 170 districts in 15 States stretching from Nepal to Sri Lanka. In contrast, the insurgency in Kashmir and the North-East covers only 11 per cent of the country's area and 4.5 per cent of its population.

A status paper presented in Parliament last month by the Home

Minister reveals that the total number of people killed by Naxalite violence rose by 30 per cent between 2003 and 2005. The number of policemen killed jumped at an astonishing 53 per cent between 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, naxal violence has been reported from 509 police stations in 11 States which works out to 5.8% of the total number of police station in these States..

The past two years have witnessed shameful attempts by the UPA Government to compromise national interest for partisan gains. Its incompetence in upholding national security has led to the phenomenal increase in ultra-Left violence throughout the country. The jailbreak in Jehanabad and the incident in the Madhuban block in Bihar show that Naxalite groups are operating with reckless impunity. The Naxalites aim at establishing a “red corridor” from Nepal to Andhra Pradesh. The UPA lacks any consistent policy to deal with the extremist menace. The Government even flirts with the Maoists in neighbouring Nepal.

Nepal Maoists

The UPA government failed to take a stand on the Maoist revolt in Nepal because of the sympathy its Left alliance partners entertained for Maoists. The steps the UPA government took against the Nepal government indirectly helped the Maoists who, for all intents and purposes, are militants. This situation helped China. It is no secret that the Nepalese Maoists have established their nexus with Indian Maoists and Naxalites creating havoc in various parts of the country.

Shy to name Pakistan

Cross-border terrorism is on the increase because Manmohan Singh government has failed take a strong principled stand. It is an undisputed fact that Pakistan has had a hand in every terrorist attack be it in J&K, Ayodhya, New Delhi, Bangalore or elsewhere, in the country. But, surprisingly, UPA ministers each time feel shy of mentioning Pakistan by name. After every terrorist attack the Prime Minister says that they cannot deflect the country from its resolve to fight terrorism and, at the same time, UPA repeats like a parrot that talks with Pakistan will go on. This stand further emboldens Pakistan and Pak-supported terror.

By reiterating endlessly that the “peace process is irreversible”, that “acts of terrorism” will not make India abandon this path, what in reality India has abandoned is the issue of ‘cross border

terrorism’— an issue that is of critical importance to our national security. This helps Pakistan, as its infrastructure of terrorism continues intact, ready to strike at will. UPA and the Congress need to note that abandoning national interests cannot buy peace.

In the joint statement issued in January 2004 by NDA Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee and Pakistan President Shri Pervez Musharraf it had been clearly stipulated that Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used for cross-border terrorism. But in the joint statement issued by Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and General Pervez Musharraf no mention was made of cross-border terrorism as if for UPA this menace did not exist at all.

BJP was the initiator of the peace process with Pakistan. It stands for its positive and purposeful continuation, also for constantly expanding the “constituency of peace”, but certainly not at the cost of India. What is totally confusing is UPA’s approach to a continuing challenge. This is yet again, an approach displaying a complete lack of co-ordination, total confusion and a drift in policy management. This is destructive of national will. The UPA Government must recognize that the Pakistan peace process has had no discouraging impact on *Jihadi* terrorists; that Pakistan has not fulfilled its promise as stated in the joint statement of January 6, 2004.

While the Defence Ministry confirms that terrorism from Pakistan is continuing, that terrorist training camps and the infrastructure of terrorism remain intact, other ministers of the UPA government speak differently. We have thus a spectacle of complete lack of coordination, total confusion and lack of direction within the UPA government. This is proving destructive to the national will. Pakistan must act “against the infrastructure of terrorism” and that is the very minimum that our government has to assert.

Situation in North-East deteriorates

From the situation as it prevails in the north-eastern State of Manipur, it looks the writ of the UPA government does not run there. The situation last year so much worsened that after the rape of Manorma, Manipuri women had stripped themselves in public as a matter of protest – an incident unheard of in India. The Home Minister visited the State two months after the incident. Because of blockade by Naga students the situation worsened so much last year that essential commodities failed to reach Manipur for two months causing untold misery to the people. The terrorist organizations also threatened people against contesting and

exercising their franchise in the municipal elections with the result that both the candidates and the voters were wary of taking part in the elections.

This short-sightedness is proving costly for the nation. In Assam, the Congress Government is turning a blind eye to a sinister bid to create tension between Karbis and Dimasas in Karbi Anglong who have lived in peace and amity for centuries. The Congress Government in Assam has colluded with the perpetrators of these assaults on the nation's integrity.

IMDT ACT

The Supreme Court on July 7, 2005 declared the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 as "unconstitutional" but the UPA government has as yet to take any concrete steps to respect the court verdict. To mark time and delay implementation of SC directions, it has constituted a Group of Ministers and during the last more than ten months nothing has moved. This was done deliberately in view of elections to Assam Assembly because Congress did not wish to lose the votes of illegal migrants. On the eve of Assam elections, UPA Government issued a notification under the Foreigners Act that puts the onus of proving a particular person as a foreigner on the complainant. This was done just to help the illegal migrants on whose electoral support UPA, particularly the Congress, is banking.

Deceiving nation on Bangladeshi infiltration

UPA government has adopted myopic and selfish approach towards the grave problem of 'Demographic Invasion' of Bangladeshi infiltrators giving no thought to the long-term harm that this can do to India's security, unity and integrity. Assam Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi has described Governor Shri Ajai Singh's report on illegal migrants as being "totally baseless". Earlier Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had challenged the figures presented in Parliament by his own minister of State for home affairs, Shri Sri Prakash Jaiswal.

Pakistan violates understanding

It was during NDA regime that as a Confidence Building Measure it was proposed to start Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service, but the proposal did not materialize because NDA insisted that the passengers should travel on passport issued by Government of India while Pakistan wanted it on permits. On coming into power the UPA allowed passengers to travel on permits

with the result that Hurriyat leaders who went to Muzaffarabad without passport visited Pakistan and met Pakistan President. It is for the first time in the history of the world, and at least in the history of India, that natives have visited a foreign country, Pakistan, without passports. When BJP raised the issue, UPA admitted that it was violation of the understanding between the two countries at the hands of Pakistan, but it had no courage to take action for this violation.

Conspiracy on Kashmir

In recent days a preposterous concept has been floated by certain American think-tanks. They propose the establishment of something called the "United States of Kashmir" whose sovereignty shall be shared between India and Pakistan.

The UPA Government tacitly gives an impression that it is not averse to discussing these matters. This is destructive for the unity of India. The unity and integrity of India is non-negotiable. The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Any compromise with this fundamental tenet of India's nationhood will never be allowed. Improving ties with Pakistan and strengthening people-to-people relations between the two countries is one thing and bartering away Kashmir or even agreeing to discuss the State's future status is altogether different matter.

Dastardly Hindu Killings

The internal security of the country has never been under greater threat than at present. The Central government is guilty of complacency and laxity. Dastardly killing of 35 Hindus in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on the last day of April, 2006 and killing of two BJP workers, Shri Bharat Bhushan of Doda and Shri Munshi Ram of Batote on May 13 when hand grenades were thrown at a peaceful BJP procession is a pointer to that direction.

It was Jana Sangh under the leadership of late Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee which led the agitation for integration of J&K with the rest of India. His slogan was that Jana Sangh and the nation will never tolerate *do nishan, do vidhan, do pradhan* in the same country. He attained martyrdom for fighting for this cause. BJP is continuing with his legacy and is on the forefront for protecting Kashmir which is an integral part of India like any other State of the country. The martyrdom of these two BJP workers is in furtherance of that very cause.

This shows that the situation is getting out of the control of both the State and the Central governments. Through a definite plan Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir were being targeted by militants to force “ethnic cleansing” by forcing their exodus from Jammu, particularly Doda and Udhampur districts. It is an attack on the entire political system and also a challenge to the Indian nation.

Communal riots

Apart from attacks on Ram Mandir complex in Ayodhya and Sankatmochan temple in Varanasi, the UPA Government has failed to check communal violence. On April 5, Ram Navmi day, riots started in Aligarh after a few members of Muslim community objected to overnight celebrations of Ram Navmi and removed some temple decorations. In the riots that followed 6 persons were killed.

Reservation

UPA Government is neither honest nor sincere about reservation. It is deliberately playing with the lives and sentiments of students simply for gaining electoral advantage. The conflicting and contradictory stands taken by individual ministers has ignited the anger of student community and left them apprehensive about their future. The present strife and unrest among the students has been fuelled by the Government's deceptive stand. The UPA is not clarifying its position on the issue and is creating confusion to fish in troubled waters.

Madarasas

According to an Intelligence Bureau report, in April 2002 there were as many as 23,098 madarasas in 12 Indian States with Kerala having the largest number of 9,975 of them, followed by Madhya Pradesh 6,000 and Maharashtra with 2,435. The border States of West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat and Rajasthan had 2116, 2002, 1875 and 1780 of them, respectively.

The first requisite is to control their growth through compulsory registration and regulate their functioning and curricula to ensure that they do not breed Islamic terrorism. As terrorism raised its head and, particularly after 9/11, madarasas have become hot news as progenitors of jihadi terrorism. In Pakistan, General Musharraf put them under surveillance. He ordered many foreign students to leave the country. He also ordered certain restrictions on their activities but regrettably, India failed to take even the first preliminary step.

UPA scandals and scams

Quattrocchi, the friend

Latest is the de-freezing of the personal accounts of the Bofors middleman Ottavio Quattrocchi, courtesy UPA Law Minister Shri H. R. Bhardwaj and as an English daily headlined “On money, this guy will be richer by \$4.2 million (about Rs. 21 crores)”, an action which according to CBI sources, amounts to weakening of the case against him. In a party where not a leaf can swing without the nod of the supreme leader, the conclusions are obvious. Law Minister Shri H. R. Bhardwaj could not have dared to do what he did to help Quattrocchi without the implicit nod of the supreme leader. He couldn't have the courage unless he was sure that it will only gladden her heart. That she was too happy was proved when Congress, instead of removing him for the wrong done, not only defended him but also awarded him with a nomination for Rajya Sabha for a record sixth time.

It is worth recalling that Quattrocchi's personal relations with Smt. Sonia Gandhi are too well-known and, according to some sources, date back much earlier. Quattrocchi had claimed closeness of relations with Gandhis in various interviews which have not been contradicted by anybody. The UPA government was kind enough to Quattrocchi although a Red Corner Notice against him still stands and so does the case against him in India. He is still an absconder wanted by the police and the courts. Whom is UPA then kidding?

Scorpene Deal

On March 20 the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) blasted “the biggest defence scandal so far, one far bigger than the Bofors scam”, accusing the Congress-led UPA government of an underhand Rs 18,798 crore Scorpene submarine deal with a French firm and demanded that it be immediately scrapped and a “credible” judicial probe instituted to bring out the truth. It alleged that four per cent commission had been paid to middleman Abhishek Verma and his associates, making this “the biggest defence scandal so far” A demand was made for the immediate arrest of Shri Verma and his associates as also of those foreigners involved in the leak of classified information from the Indian Navy's War Room. But efforts are being

made to hush up this scam.

Mitrokhin disclosures

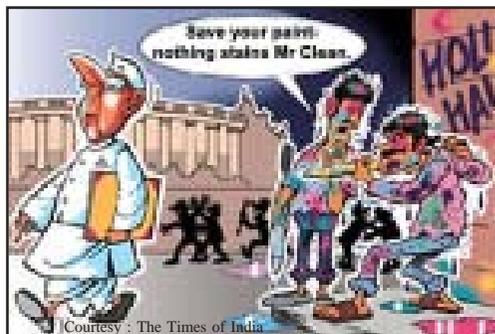
Publication of the book *Mitrokhin Archive II* earlier last year exposed the shameful history of Congress and Communist sell-out of national security for money. According to the book, this national betrayal started from the times of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru when the then Soviet secret agency, KGB, allegedly purchased the loyalty of Krishna Menon who later became the Defence Minister of India.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, former US ambassador in Delhi, reportedly revealed at least two occasions when CIA gave money to Congress which had asked for it during elections against communists. Once the money was given to Smt. Indira Gandhi herself when she was a party official during Shri Nehru's tenure as Prime Minister.

According to the book, during 1975, the black year of Smt. Indira Gandhi's dictatorial Emergency, more than one crore rubles were spent by KGB to support Smt. Gandhi and undermine her political opponents. It is also alleged that KGB files identify by name, the 21 non-communist politicians, including four ministers in Government, whose campaigns in 1977 elections were funded by KGB. The list of KGB funds paid to Congress is long and has been detailed thoroughly in the book.

Records also state that between 1975 and early 1977 KGB had paid more than 80 lakh rupees directly to CPI in various instalments. Apart from this CPI entered into an agreement with KGB to start an import-export business with Russia. By 1972, this business had contributed more than 1 crore rupees to CPI funds. KGB also regularly funded CPI election campaigns and gave substantial funds to its sister organisations like AICTU.

Till date, neither Congress nor the Communist parties have apologised to the nation. They have also failed to give an honest reply to the revelations in *Mitrokhin Archive II*.



Volcker report stigma

The Oil-for-Food scandal is another example of subversion of national interests. Another feather in Congress's list of failures is the disclosures made by the UN Committee headed by Paul Volcker naming the Congress and then External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh among the non-contractual beneficiaries in the Iraqi oil sales in 2001.

As a first reaction, after meeting Shri Natwar Singh, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said the facts mentioned in the UN inquiry into Iraq's Oil-for-Food programme were "insufficient" to arrive at any "adverse conclusion" against him. His media advisor, Shri Sanjay Baru said: "The Prime Minister agreed that the facts mentioned in Table-3 of the report of the Independent Inquiry Committee are insufficient to arrive at any adverse conclusion against the External Affairs and stands by him,"

Later, the Congress and Prime Minister had to eat their own words when Shri Natwar Singh was made to quit, obviously to save the skin of Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi because Congress Party was equally involved in the scandal and this could not have happened without her consent and knowledge.

The investigations so far have zeroed in on Shri Natwar Singh and, surprisingly, the UPA government is keeping an intriguing silence on that part of the scandal in which Congress is involved.

A Justice RS Pathak Authority has been constituted by government to inquire into the Volcker scandal. The Authority seems to be moving at a snail's pace. Its six month tenure has since expired and it has been given an extension.

Probe needed in Boeing deal

The manner in which UPA Government has gone about acquiring aircrafts for Air India has raised many eyebrows in India and abroad. The procedure adopted has been far from transparent.

Imrana fatwa

Some Muslim organizations, like Deoband Muslim Seminary, are running a system of justice parallel to the one provided under the Constitution. Last year, unfortunate Imrana who was raped by her own father-in-law, was punished for the latter's crime by declaring that her marriage to her husband stood dissolved and she should take her husband as her son. The UPA government failed to take note of this inhuman *fatwa* and take corrective steps. On the

other hand, UP Congress President Shri Salman Khursheed and others supported the fatwa.

UPA continues to perpetrate exploitation of Muslim women in the 21st century in the name of person law of certain communities.

'Secularists' demand dreaded terrorist's release

That the Congress, UPA partners and the Left parties were hand in glove with each other in competing for minority appeasement was once again proved, beyond doubt, when the Congress-led UDF government in Kerala moved a resolution on March 16, 2006 for the release of dreaded terrorist Abdul Nasser Madani not only charged with harbouring the blasts accused, including Ooma Babu alias Majid and others allegedly involved in serial explosions that shook Coimbatore in February 1998 just ahead of the arrival of Shri L. K. Advani for an election rally killing 59 and maiming another 200 innocent persons, but also with liaisoning with Pakistan's ISI for terror training of Al Umma activists. With an eye on the State assembly elections after about two months, the ruling party and the Left opposition vied with each other to earn the sympathy of Muslim voters. The resolution was passed unanimously. Nothing more needs to be said about the sincerity of UPA and the Left in fighting terrorism, particularly those having links with ISI.

M.F. Hussain versus Danish cartoons

Nobody, however high or low and to whichever community he/she may belong, has the right to hurt the religious sentiments of any community – minority or majority. But, surprisingly, when painter M. F. Hussain, hurt Hindu feelings by caricaturing and painting Hindu goddesses and Bharatmata in the nude, many of our present 'secularists' preferred silence in the name of Hussain's freedom of expression. But when some derogatory controversial cartoons of Prophet Mohammad were published in far away Denmark and there was furore among the community over it, the same 'secularists' in UPA, Left parties and others felt very much concerned. A senior journalist, Shri Alok Tomar, was arrested for hurting the feelings of the minority community by reproducing the cartoons in his magazines. But so far no action has been taken by the 'secular' UPA government against the painter Hussain who hurt the feelings of Hindus by his paintings. There seems to be two laws for two different communities in this country.

Conclusion

Citizens of a country elect a government for national prosperity, financial stability and social security. People need representatives who usher in good governance, create a strong administration which extends protection to the life and property of citizens, provides employment, food, shelter and safeguards the society. The Congress-led UPA Government has failed on all these fronts and has left the people feeling cheated.

Congress has not fulfilled the promises it made to the people in its manifesto. The UPA Government has deviated from the Common Minimum Programme so often that it has been reduced to a "Minimum Programme" and exposed the UPA as an "Unholy Political Alliance".

The short-sighted policies of UPA have divided the country on the basis of caste, religion and region. A weak Government has left the countrymen insecure and in constant fear. Battered by an indifferent Government which does not care for them, the future of the India-the youth-are restless, hurt and angry.

An India which was taking its place on the world stage has now been reduced to a nation plunged in the darkness of despair. In the short span of 2 years, UPA has pushed our country towards instability, chaos and anarchy.

