



EDITORIAL

The results of the 16th Lok Sabha were announced on 16th May, 2014. The results have come as a major disappointment for the Congress. We believe that they are not the true reflection of the work done, programmes and achievements made by the Congress over the last ten years. In a democracy it is the verdict of the people that counts which the party accepts with humility. Evidently the achievements of the Congress were lost in the din created by the BJP propaganda which was solidly reflected in the media. The accusations of corruption and non performance which were listed as the weakness of the party were not true but we were not able to successfully counter them. Congress likes to give its message with love and not rancor. Loud angry speeches and chest thumping are not the style of the Congress. However amongst other things Congress while introspecting will have to consider whether a policy of such a nature is correct in today's 24x7 media out reach.

The Congress has a system of collective leadership. The Congress President in her statement after the electoral defeat said 'We believe winning and losing happens in a democracy. This verdict is clearly against us. We humbly accept the decision of the electorate and we honour it...' Smt Sonia Gandhi added, since I am the Party President, I accept the responsibility of its defeat. The Congress Vice President Sh. Rahul Gandhi who led the main thrust of the Congress election campaign also said that he accepted the responsibility for the defeat. But there was no let up in the effort of the Congress President and Vice President in the strenuous campaigning carried out by them which was highly appreciated by the Congress workers throughout the country.

In the meeting of the CWC the Congress leadership admitted that there were shortcomings. The Congress failed to recognize the changes in the aspirations of the electorate due to the positive performance of the UPA over the ten years. The empowerment of the people has brought about high expectations. We failed to connect to the electorate. The CWC congratulated Dr. Manmohan Singh for his dignified and sober leadership over the past decade. The CWC appreciated the massive campaigning carried out by the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Vice President. Rahul Gandhi. The Congress is a party with history and is in the DNA of the people of this country. Regardless of electoral reverses it pledges to be in the service of the people as a responsible opposition to fulfill the goals that it has set for itself.

The Congress remembers its leader the late Prime Minister Sh. Rajiv Gandhi who laid his life in the service of the nation on 21st May 1991. Rajiv ji ushered an era of liberalization and progress during his regime. The base line of all progress in the last three decades can be traced to the historic thought process and changes brought about during the tenure of his leadership. The Telecom Revolution, The IT revolution, The Empowerment of Panchayats, the Empowerment of Women through reservations in Panchayats are amongst some of the few historic achievements for which the nation will remain eternally grateful to the great leader. The nation lost the youthful leader at the hands of an assassin and history will repent at leisure for the loss. His legacy still shows the way to progress and the Congress has always tried to fulfill his ambitions for the country.

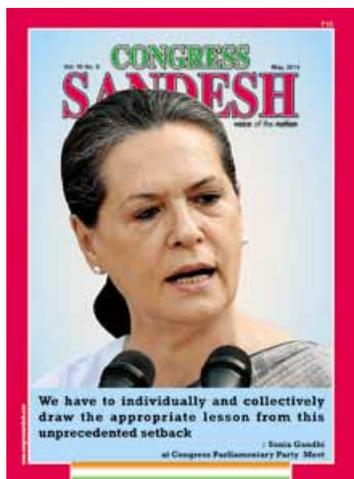
The Congress also remembers on his 153rd Birth anniversary, Pandit Motilal Nehru (6th May, 1861). Pt Motilal Nehru was a freedom fighter who worked to build the Congress at a time when it was in the formative stage. He worked for the Congress tirelessly and placed at its disposal all his available resources.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru whose 50th Death anniversary we observed this month was the first Prime Minister of Independent India. Pt. Nehru laid the foundation of a strong and vibrant India in which he inbuilt the philosophy of progressive and a pluralistic society. It was under the leadership of Pt. Nehru that we established roots of a participative democracy through elections, which system we follow till today and which has provided a voice to the people. Not only did he establish, in India, a stable democracy but he also gave to India its basic infrastructure for growth through the establishment of Public Sector enterprises. This set the road map of India's industrial progress and self reliance. In his eyes the establishment of the Bhakra Dam and the steel industry was like building temples of modern India. The country can never repay the debt to the leader who laid the true foundation of the India that is today. ❖

CONGRESS SANDESH

voice of the nation

Published in Hindi & English



EDITOR

Dr Girija Vyas

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Salman Khurshheed
Jairam Ramesh

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Ram Naresh Sinha
Rattan Francis

MANAGER

Kamal Shahu

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Congress Sandesh,
All India Congress Committee
24, Akbar Road,
New Delhi-110 011
Phone: 2301 9080 Extn: 429
Fax:2301 7047

Email: congress-sandesh@hotmail.com
Website:www.congresssandesh.com

PUBLISHER

Motilal Vora
Published every month by
Motilal Vora
on behalf of Sandesh Trust,
All India Congress Committee and
printed at Chaar Dishayen Printers,
G-40, Sector-3, Noida 201 301



The new Lok Sabha has been elected and the country is on the anvil of getting a new Government. Even though the results have been a great disappointment to the millions of our workers who worked tirelessly for conveying the message of the Congress and recounting its achievements, the message did not percolate well enough and the Congress was not able to succeed in attracting the voters in large numbers to restore its mandate.

The achievement of progress and growth in an inclusive manner, practiced by the UPA has led to enhanced aspirations of the benefitting classes. People are restless for rapid progress and have lost the patience to wait for things to happen in their own time. In addition, the opposition in a systematic and a planned manner did not allow the parliament to function so that new and progressive laws could take shape in time.

The main thrust of the opposition was to say that the state of the economy was the issue on which elections were being fought. However the facts belie this conjecture since the Indian economy under the UPA has grown in an inclusive manner. A study found that real average household incomes in rural areas had increased by almost twice the increase in towns and cities.

The UPA leaves behind a reviving economy which is clearly on a growth trajectory. The country has massive foreign exchange reserves. The price of Rupee against the US \$ is appreciating. The bourses are on a growth path and the state of the overall economy is buoyant. The new Government is inheriting a healthy state of fiscal affairs and it is up to them to build upon the foundations of growth being left behind by the UPA.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Two Years = Rs.200/- • Three Years = Rs.300/- • Five Years = Rs.500/- Outstation cheques should include Rs.25 extra towards realization charges. Cheques/Demand Draft may be sent in favour of 'Sandesh Trust', 24 Akbar Road, New Delhi-110011

Contents



Vol. XVI No. 9, May 2014

4

CPP MEET

After the election of Smt. Sonia Gandhi as the Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party, she said that there was a widespread anger against us which we failed to adequately gauge

5

CPP RESOLUTION

6

CWC MEET

The Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi in her opening remarks said, have we failed to communicate our achievements?

7

CWC RESOLUTIONS

8

PM'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Address to the nation before demitting office as the Prime Minister of India

9

SEMINAR

Congress President's address at the 50th death anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

12

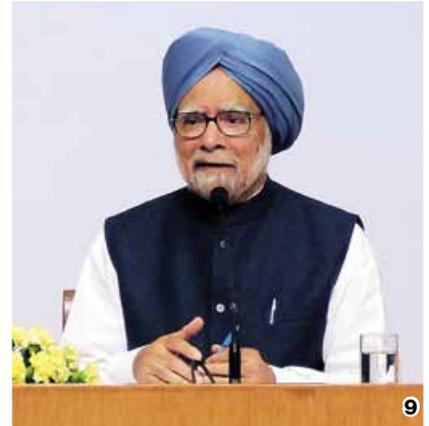
CP'S VISITS

Congress President's elections campaign visits

15

VICE-PRESIDENT'S VISITS

Congress Vice-President's visits during



the last leg of election campaign

19

VIEWPOINT

Adversity will reap opportunity, an article by former Union Minister, Shri Veerappa Moily

20

TRIBUTES

How the world adored Nehru

22

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF

RAJIV GANDHI BY FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN

24

FROM THE ARCHIVES

National Policy framework

28

STATESWATCH

31

AICC DIARY

THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD ANGER AGAINST US WHICH WE FAILED TO ADEQUATELY GAUGE IS NOW OBVIOUS: SONIA GANDHI

The congress President's address at the General Body meeting of Congress Parliamentary Party on 24th May 2014 at Central Hall, Parliament House



Iwelcome you to the first meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party on the eve of the constitution of the 16th Lok Sabha. You have been re-elected in a fiercely contested election. You deserve mine as well as the Party's praise and congratulation.

Lakhs of Congress workers have strived hard in the last few months to take the message of the Party to the people of India. They carried the Congress flag throughout the length and breadth of the country, and worked tirelessly and selflessly during the elections. I thank them all.

Naturally, all of us, even though victorious in the election, are pained about the larger defeat suffered by the Congress Party. In many States, we did not win a single seat. We have to individually and collectively draw the appropriate lessons from this unprecedented setback. At the same time, this should not be allowed to negate the very far-reaching and enduring achievements of the Congress-led UPA government over the past decade. That there was widespread anger against us which we failed to adequately gauge is now obvious. We must understand why this was so and take the necessary corrective measures.

A few days ago, the Congress Working Committee met and deliberated, briefly, on the causes leading to the electoral defeat. That meeting was only a beginning. We need to reflect more, deliberate more, debate

more and draw the right lessons. Your role in that exercise will be crucial and I invite you to participate in it in the days ahead. I have been asked by the CWC to undertake whatever steps necessary to revamp the party organization at all levels. Your inputs, your experience, and your assessment of our strengths and weakness – rather than public acrimony – will be critical to that exercise.

Let us not forget that we still have a viable support base upon which to build. The Congress Party is second with 10.69 crore votes compared to the BJP's 17.16 crore votes. Although our tally is about 62 percent of the BJP's given our system of first-past-the-post winners, our share of seats has dropped to less than 15% of the seats won by the BJP. I take this opportunity to thank every one of the 10.69 crore voters who reposed their faith in the Congress. We should take strength from the fact that these voters believe in our idea of India. They believe in the fundamental values of our Party – Parliamentary democracy, secularism, inclusive development and social justice. What we have to do now is to work hard to recapture the larger support base that the Congress has traditionally enjoyed.

Much of the business of the 16th Lok Sabha will be the unfinished business of the 15th Lok Sabha. I regret to say that the UPA-II

Government did not get the support of the principal opposition party and some other parties in passing crucial legislation. In fact, opposition to some Bills was not based on any principle or argument, but simply on cussedness and outright political opportunism. You will recall that the BJP propounded the infamous theory that 'obstructing Parliament is a legitimate parliamentary device'. The legislative agenda that we placed before the 15th Lok Sabha remain pending and cannot be ignored. We shall wait and see what will be the attitude of the new Government to the pending Bills.

Our strength in the Lok Sabha may be small, but we are still the largest party in the Rajya Sabha. Together, the CPP is still a formidable group and can function as a formidable opposition. And we can and will work together with like-minded party to strengthen the watchful role of the parliamentary opposition.

In the opposition, our role will be very different from the role we played when we were on the treasury benches. Being in the opposition means more regular attendance, more hours inside the House and more study of subjects. It means asking more questions, raising more issues, initiating more debates, and always being the vigilant watchdog, standing up for our record of achievements as well as defending the fundamental values and principles of the Congress.

I am informed that the first sitting of the Houses of Parliament is likely to be held in the first week of June 2014. This will be followed by the Budget session in July 2014. I shall therefore have more opportunities to meet you and speak to you. For the present, I once again offer you my congratulations and good wishes and look forward to working with you. ❖



RESOLUTION

Congress Parliamentary Party passed the following resolution on 24th May 2014 at Parliament House.

This meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party acknowledges with profound humility the verdict of the people in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. While congratulating those who have won, it notes with great concern the scale of the defeat and resolves to draw inspiration from its great legacy and demonstrate in no uncertain terms its inner strengths and its resilience.

The CPP is grateful to the Congress President and the Congress Vice-President for their indefatigable election campaigns across the country. Electoral setbacks cannot obscure their contributions and the CPP resolves to regroup, rebuild and revive under their leadership and regain the confidence and support of the people.

The CPP also places on record its appreciation for the yeoman services rendered to the country by Dr. Manmohan Singh who provided wise, sober and dignified leadership for a decade. It greets and offers its good wishes to the incoming Government led by Shri Narendra Modi.

The CPP recalls that the Congress has always been responsible and constructive when in Opposition. It will continue in this tradition even as it resolves to hold the incoming Government accountable to its pledges. The Congress resolves to fight with all the force at its command any attempt to abandon or subvert Constitutional principles and values, or any attempt to depart from or dilute policies, programmes and legislation introduced in the past decade to ensure inclusive growth with social justice and to deepen empowerment of the weaker sections of society.

The CPP expresses the hope that all progressive and secular forces in Parliament will coordinate their strategies effectively so as to present a united and cohesive Opposition which is the lifeblood of any democracy. The CPP assures other like-minded parties that it will extend its co-operation in this regard. ❖

HAVE WE FAILED TO COMMUNICATE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS?

Opening Remarks of Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi at CWC Meeting on 19th May, 2014 at AICC Headquarters



Iwelcome you to the meeting of the Congress Working Committee.

The result of the elections are extremely bad but we must not be disheartened. The task of the Congress goes far beyond winning elections. Lakhs of Congress workers have worked very hard in the last few months to take the message of the Party to the people of India. I thank them myself and place on record the appreciation and gratitude of the CWC. They carried the Congress flag throughout the length and breadth of the country, and worked tirelessly and selflessly during the elections.

Many candidates put in a strong effort against heavy odds. I congratulate them and especially those who have emerged victorious. I wish them the very best as they enter the 16th Lok Sabha.

The UPA Government led by the Congress was the first Government since the 1960s to be elected for two successive terms. It is but normal that after 10 years in office, any Government will face anti-incumbency. I also believe that the message of the Congress was

lost in the din and dust raised by an aggressive and polarizing campaign by our opponents, which was backed by unlimited resources and a hostile media.

The work of the party continues whether we are in office or not. Nevertheless, I feel that as a party we must introspect on the results in all seriousness and in depth. I wish to share some thought with you. First and foremost, we should try and understand why our support base has eroded to this extent. Have we fully indentified ourselves with the aspirations of our people? Are we in tune with the aspirations of the youth who today have access to education and information far greater than ever before? Have the benefits of growth really reached the people? Our society and people are evolving and changing rapidly. Is our party keeping pace with this change? We should also ask ourselves, have we failed, both as government and party, to communicate our achievements? I have asked myself these questions.

I place them to the highest body of our Party. But it is vital that we ask these questions and

more at every level, especially at the grassroots where our workers are directly in touch with the people. I would like to hear from all of you candidly and fearlessly. We all know the obvious explanations. What we need is clear-headed and fresh thinking that will help us correct our shortcomings. Most of all what we need is for our Party to accept that unless we undertake some structural changes, we will not be able to meet the serious challenges we face.

I would like to express our appreciation of the stewardship of the government by Dr. Manmohan Singh, during the past 10 years. His task has not been an easy one, especially with having to manage coalitions, the economic slowdown and a variety of other issues. And, he has done so with dignity and grace, at times in the face of hostile personal attacks.

Before I conclude I wish to say a few words about myself. I believe I have not been able to bring about the necessary changes to strengthen the Party. Therefore, I take full responsibility for this crushing defeat and I am prepared to relinquish my position. ❖

THIS VERDICT IS CLEARLY AGAINST US : SONIA GANDHI

Following is the statement of the Congress President after the results of Lok Sabha Elections-2014 were announced on 16th May, 2014

The results of the Lok Sabha elections are before us. The Congress faced the opposition in these elections on the basis of its achievements, policies and principles. But we did not get the mandate, which we were hoping for.

We believe that winning and losing happens in a democracy. This verdict is clearly against us. We humbly accept this decision of the electorate and we honour it, but we also hope that whichever government that will be formed at the centre, will not compromise with the unity of the Indian polity or with the interests of the nation. I convey my greetings to the new government.

As for the question of the Congress, the Indian National Congress will continue its struggle for its traditions, basic principles and ideals and will not make any compromise with them. I thank the voters for



whatever support they gave us and also our party workers.

Since I am the party's President, I accept the responsibility of its defeat. ❖

CWC RESOLUTIONS

The following is the resolution passed at the Congress Working Committee meeting at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on 19th May 2014.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) accepts with humility the verdict of the people in the elections to the 16th Lok Sabha.

Despite the untiring and selfless work of lacs of Congress workers, the outcome of the elections is indeed a matter of great disappointment. As the highest decision making body of the Congress, the CWC acknowledges its responsibility for the result of the elections. We place on record our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Congress workers who toiled hard in the last several months. The CWC understands their pain and promises them that we shall, collectively, take corrective steps in order to win back the support of the people.

The CWC places on record its appreciation of the untiring efforts made by the Party President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and by the Vice-President, Shri Rahul Gandhi on behalf of the Congress candidates and the Party in the elections. Both travelled and campaigned extensively throughout the length and breadth of the country.

It is obvious that there were shortcomings. It is also clear that we failed to read the profound changes that had taken place in the country during the ten years since the UPA was voted to form the government – changes that were, in large measure, due to the policies, programmes and legislation that had ushered in an era of rapid growth, empowerment of the people, and high expectations. Above all, we should introspect as to why we were unable to connect with the electorate.

Both the Government and the Party must share responsibility for the failure, and we do so. Corrective measures must be taken at the level

of the Party and at the level of the State governments formed by the Congress. The CWC authorizes the Congress President to take whatever steps necessary in order to revamp the party organization at all levels.

The CWC congratulates Dr. Manmohan Singh for his dignified and sober leadership as Prime Minister over the past decade. It is confident that history will be more objective to the accomplishments of the past decade than the 2014 electoral verdict would suggest.

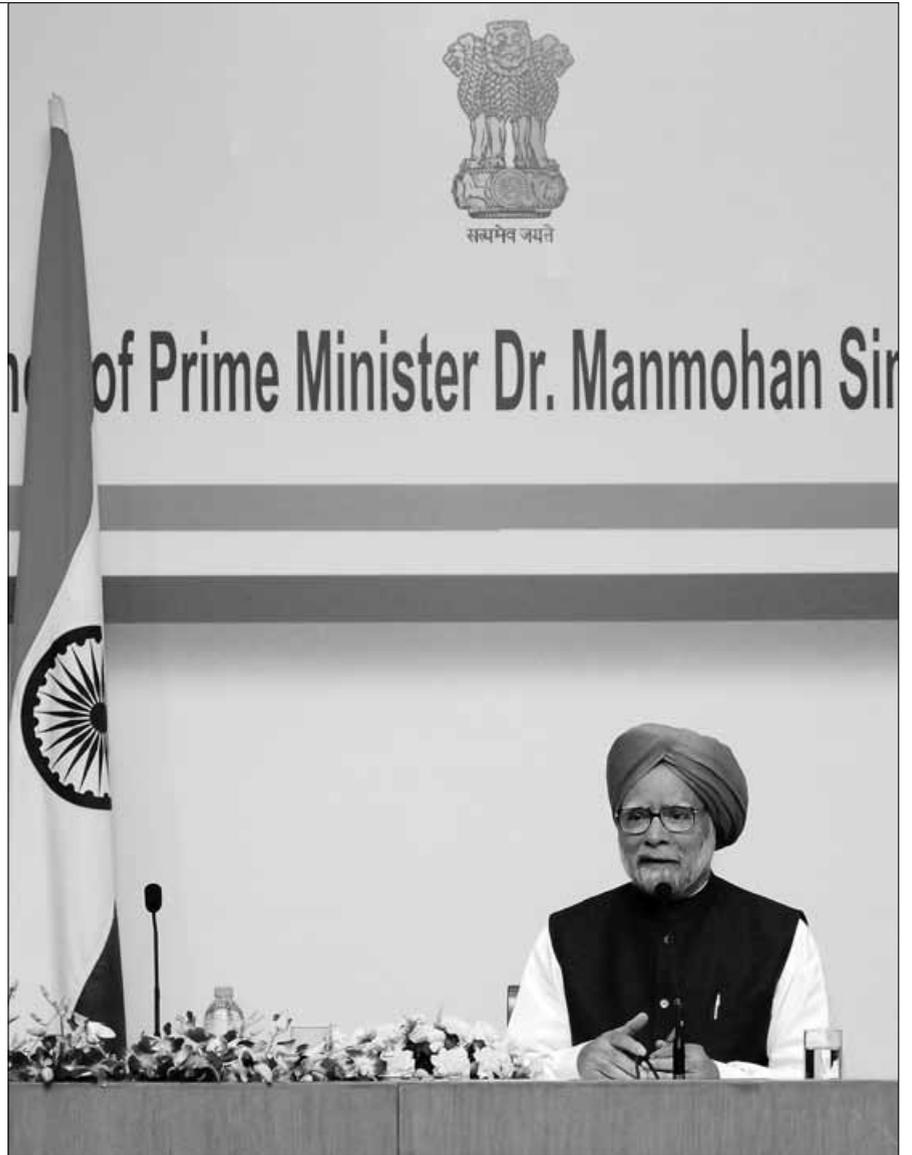
The values and ideals that were honed during the freedom struggle are reflected in the Constitution of the Indian National Congress. And it is these values and ideals that are enshrined in the Constitution of India. The CWC is absolutely clear in its mind that, whether in Government or in the Opposition, it is the bounden duty of the Congress to defend these values and ideal – the foremost among them being democracy, secularism, inclusive development and social justice.

The CWC pledges –

- to the millions of Congress workers, that it will create within the Party opportunities and structures that will pave the way for a thorough revamp of the organization at all levels, and
- to the people of India, that the Party will resolutely remain at the middle of the political spectrum, faithfully reflect the needs and aspirations of all sections of the people, and make a determined effort to regain the confidence and support of the people. ❖

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION BEFORE DEMITTING OFFICE

May 17, 2014, New Delhi



My Fellow Citizens,

I address you today for the last time as Prime Minister of India.

Ten years ago, when I was entrusted with this responsibility, I entered upon it with diligence as my tool, truth as my beacon and a prayer that I might always do the right thing.

Today, as I prepare to lay down office, I am aware that well before the final judgment that we all await from the Almighty, there is judgment in the court of public opinion that all elected officials and governments are required to submit themselves to.

Fellow citizens, each one of us should respect the judgement that you have delivered. The just concluded elections have deepened the foundations of our democratic polity.

As I have said on many occasions, my life and tenure in public office are an open book. I have always tried to do my best in serving this great Nation of ours.

In the last ten years, we as a country have seen many successes and achievements that we should be proud of. Today, India is a far stronger country in every respect than it was a decade ago. I

give credit for these successes to all of you. However, there is still vast latent development potential in our country and we must collectively work hard to realize it.

As I leave office, my abiding memory will be the love and kindness that I have always received from you. I owe everything to this country, this great land of ours where I, an underprivileged child of Partition, was empowered enough to rise and occupy high office. It is both a debt that I will never be able to repay and a decoration that I will always wear with pride.

Friends, I am confident about the future of India. I firmly believe that the emergence of India as a major powerhouse of the evolving global economy is an idea whose time has come. Blending tradition with modernity and unity with diversity, this Nation of ours can show the way forward to the world. Serving this Nation has been my privilege. There is nothing more that I could ask for.

I wish the incoming government every success as it embarks on its task and pray for even greater successes for our Nation.

Thank you. Jai Hind. ❖

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY, THE ROLE WE PLAY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND HAVING REMAINED FAITHFUL TO NEHRU'S INTERNATIONALISM : SONIA GANDHI

Congress President's address at the 50th Death Anniversary of the of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 27th May, 2014 at New Delhi



It is a pleasure to add my own welcome to all of you who have joined us today for this seminar to mark the 50th anniversary of the passing of that great son of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

This year we will also mark the 125th anniversary of his birth. By observing these two anniversaries across the country, the Indian National Congress is celebrating the extraordinary life of a giant of our freedom struggle who went on to serve as India's first Prime Minister. In that role he consolidated India's democracy and entrenched the basic values of our polity, values to which we are still proud to lay claim.

What are these values? They can be summarized as the four pillars of Nehruvianism: democratic institution-building, staunch secularism, socialist economics and a foreign policy of non-alignment – All of them were integral to a vision of Indianness that is fundamentally



challenged by some in the prevailing political climate today, but which remain at the core of our party's beliefs.

I am not suggesting that the Indian National Congress is stuck in a time-war and merely reiterating the conventional wisdom of fifty years ago. Rather, Nehru himself, as a man with an open and questing mind, would have evolved with the times, even while remaining

anchored to his core beliefs.

What do these four pillars mean to us today?

First, democracy. It was by no means axiomatic that a country like India, riven by so many internal differences and diversities, beset by acute poverty and torn apart by Partition, would be or remain democratic. Many developing countries found themselves turning in the opposite direction soon after

A REPORT

The Indian National Congress today organized a seminar on “Renewing India’s Commitment to Jawaharlal Nehru’s Vision”, to mark the 50th death anniversary of the first Prime Minister on 27th May, 2014 at Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi.

Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Vice President, Shri Rahul Gandhi, noted scholar and former Vice Chancellor of Jamia Milia Islamia, Prof. Mushirul Hassan and ex diplomat Shri Chinmay Garekhan, addressed the seminar, which had Congress persons, academics, journalists and intellectuals participating in it.

Addressing the participants, Smt. Sonia Gandhi enunciated the four pillars of Nehruvianism as 1. Democracy, 2. Secularism, 3. Socialism and 4. Non-alignment and underlined that these indeed will remain the guiding principles of the Congress Party.

These principles, Smt. Gandhi said, formed the core of Indian nationhood, and the Congress Party will do everything to defend and uphold them.

In his address, Shri Rahul Gandhi said that he considered Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as one of his political Gurus, apart from Mahatma Gandhi. Pandit Ji’s capacity to reach out to every individual cutting across all social and economic divisions, were worth emulating by any politician, he said.

Pandit Ji’s conception of recognizing every individual as an universe in himself and then bringing them together on the basis of compassion, lay at the base of the Idea of India, and this emerged as a prominent take away at the seminar.

Prof. Mushirul Hassan presented a detailed insight into Pt. Nehru’s contribution into every sphere of the ‘making of India’ and created the ‘Idea of India’, in the constituent assembly in its Objectives Resolution.

Shri Garekhan, presented a critical analysis of Nehru’s contribution to the shaping of India’s foreign policy. ❖



independence, arguing that a firm hand was necessary to promote national unity and guide development. It was Nehru who, by his scrupulous regard for both the form and the substance of democracy, instilled democratic habits in our country. He was India’s unchallenged leader and yet his reaction, when opposed, was not to overrule his rivals but rather to offer to resign. His respect for Parliament, his regard for the

independence of the judiciary, his courtesy to those of different political convictions, his commitment to free elections and his deference to institutions over individuals, all left us a precious legacy of freedom. Today, in the wake of the largest democratic elections in the history of the world, the Congress Party is proud to stand in that tradition.

Second, secularism. Nehru strived to prevent Partition but when it occurred, he never

accepted the logic that since Pakistan had ostensibly been created for India’s Muslims, what remained was a state for Hindus. He lived up to his lifelong conviction that India belonged to all who had contributed to its history and civilization, and that the majority community had a special obligation to protect the rights, and promote the well-being, of India’s minorities. In both, government policy and personal practice, Nehru stood for an idea



of India that embraced every religion, caste, ethnicity or language. The Indian National Congress remains fundamentally rooted in such a conception of India.

Third, socialism. It is fashionable today to decry Nehruvian socialism as a corrupt and inefficient system that condemned India to many years of modest growth levels. We do not deny, as Rajivji said three decades ago, that over time the socialist model as practiced in India developed many flaws. But at the core of Nehru's socialism was the conviction that

in a land of extreme poverty and inequality, the objective of government policy must be the welfare of the poorest, most deprived and most marginalized of our people. Today we refer to this as inclusive development. In his day, the best way to accomplish that was by building up structures of public ownership and state control of national resources, as well as enhancing the nation's economic capacity through government intervention. Today the Indian National Congress welcomes, indeed encourages, the involvement of the private



sector in wealth generation and economic growth, and in making possible so many new opportunities to open up for our young to succeed in a globalizing world. But we remain profoundly wedded to Nehru's concern for the weakest sections of our society.

Finally, foreign policy. Nehru was a convinced internationalist. For him, non-alignment was the logical response to the bipolar divisions of the Cold War era. In that form, it might be argued that his vision is no longer relevant in the changed circumstances of the 21st century. But in its essence, the Nehruvian vision was about safeguarding India's independence and self-respect against potential encroachments on its sovereignty. That remains at the heart of the Indian National Congress's view of the world. We are proud of our independent foreign policy, the role we play in the international community, and having remained faithful to Nehru's internationalism. In today's world, we are non-aligned in the sense that we are aligned with no one nation or bloc, and we remain free to conduct our foreign relations according to our own lights.

The last ten years of UPA rule have entrenched an updated version of Nehru's idea of India – one that has widened the scope of its democracy through such innovations as the Right to Information Act; one that has defended secularism in the face of vigorous threats to our nation's diversity; one that has deepened inclusiveness through the creation of a framework of rights, including the right to work, the right to food, the right to education and the right to fair compensation for land, all of which have strengthened and empowered the poorest of our people; and one that has remained a proud and independent member of the community of nations. In all this, we are upholding the legacy of the remarkable human being whose life we commemorate today.

I look forward to what the distinguished scholars and experts here will have to say in the course of this seminar. I am sure all of you will deepen our appreciation of this extraordinary man, and his continuing relevance to our world today.

Thank you, and Jai Hind! ❖

VISITS OF CONGRESS PRESIDENT DURING ELECTIONS

UTTARAKHAND

Congress President Sonia Gandhi at Roorkee

Uttarakhand has gone through a disastrous natural calamity but the confidence and faith showed by the people were quite remarkable: Sonia Gandhi

Roorkee, Uttarakhand: Congress President and UPA chairperson said at an election rally at Roorkee, Uttarakhand on 4th April, 2014. Congress president Sonia Gandhi said democracy has to be saved from fascist threat. In her address she said “We worked for every sector such as roads, health, education, employment and empowerment. Country witnessed a revolutionary change in the lives of the people,” she noted.

Smt. Sonia Gandhi also appreciated the courage of the Uttarakhand people, and said that Uttarakhand has gone through a disastrous natural calamity but the confidence and faith showed by the people were quite remarkable. I suggest Shri Harish Rawat to give his special focus for your rehabilitation as he mentioned the schemes for your betterment. I want to congratulate Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Harish Rawat and you that all three doors of Gangotri, Yamotri and Kedarnath are opened. We will keep fighting for every section of the society.

She said the party is determined to give right to free education, medical facilities, pension to widows, dwelling to the poor, safety to women and employment to youths which has been mentioned in the party manifesto.

WEST BENGAL

Congress President in Raiganj

India is a creation of hard struggle and contribution of Congress leaders, says Smt. Sonia Gandhi

The Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi addressed an election rally in Raiganj (West Bengal) on 22nd April, 2014. Smt. Sonia Gandhi said that she would like to salute and honour this land of laureates, culture, freedom fighters, patriots and revolutionaries.

As it happens in a democracy there are some political parties whose



main agenda is to heap blames on the Congress Party, said that the Congress president.

Smt. Sonia Gandhi said, it seems that they have forgotten the social, cultural and constitutional traditions of this country and have no trust in them. Just to grab power they can spread a blanket of falsehood and a concern arises in the mind if the democracy of this land is safe in the hands of such people, she wondered.

She said the creation of Indian Nation did not happen just like that. Our great Congress leaders' contribution and their hard struggle was behind it, she said.

She said that the work done during the past ten years is before you and this was done by the Congress-led UPA government led by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. She added, that when the whole world was passing through an economic recession, the growth rate of India was much better.

Smt. Gandhi said, we made programmes and acts so that all the sections of the society like the farmers, labourers, poor, weaker sections and the minorities experience progress in their lives.

Through MNRGA, people do not have to go to far off places from their families because they get employment at a nearby place, said Smt. Gandhi. She added that if this programme was implemented by the West Bengal government the people of Raiganj would not have migrated in search of employment. It is a matter of regret that the Left government and the present Trinamool government did not do anything for the progress and development and have ignored all works of development, Smt. Gandhi said.

That more and more people have democratic participation, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had therefore reduced the age of voting to 18 years, panchayati raj institutions were strengthened and for the first time women were given reservations.

Smt. Gandhi said, to take India into the 21st century, computer and Information Technology revolution was brought by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. As the result of which today, computers are in every school and every person uses a mobile. Smt. Gandhi added that development had always been the prime part of policy of the Congress.

To give relief to farmers, the Congress party had, Smt. Gandhi said waived off their loans worth more than thousand crores. The Congress party brought electricity to every village, roads were built and drinking water was made available Smt. Sonia Gandhi said. She said, the Congress brought the act to protect women against domestic crimes and made stringent laws to give them protection.

We gave the right to free education till 14 years of age to all children and crores of children are having free mid-day meals in schools, Smt. Gandhi said. That no poor person sleeps empty stomach, we gave the food security act so that people get foodgrains at very cheap rates. We also encouraged the minorities so that they prosper in their lives and thus the 15 point programme of the prime minister was introduced, said Smt. Gandhi.

To protect the Waqf properties, we brought the act so that there was no fear in the minds of minorities and that we have to do much more for their prosperity, said Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

As per our Manifesto, we have fulfilled most of our promise, we shall give right to health by giving free medicines and treatment, land will be given to landless and shelter to shelter less people. Pension will be given to elders, widows, handicapped and the needy people and this is our promise, said Smt. Gandhi.

Smt. Gandhi said that youth will be given professional training so that they get employment and small industries will be given financial help to encourage employment. To achieve all this we need your cooperation and support, added Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

PUNJAB

Congress President at Barnala

God save the country from this sort of model

Barnala, Punjab: At a rally in Punjab's Barnala district on 26th April, 2014, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi targeted Narendra Modi for his much-discussed "Gujarat model" of development.

In her speech Congress President said "This is a land of freedom fighters; this city symbolizes peace and harmony. The light of Guru Granth Sahib and Bhagwat Geeta is still present here. I salute this land. Green revolution of Punjab is a landmark for the country. Farmers had shed their sweat for this land and to provide food grains to the entire country. Punjab is the largest food grain producer in the country. The brave soldiers of the land have sacrificed their lives to protect our nation.

She further said "Our UPA govt. has raised the MSP for the farmers to the record high. I know farmers are facing problems when it comes to selling wheat in the market. But the question is what Punjab government is doing to tackle it? Are they providing any services? They promised electricity but I am told that you are not getting it. When you are not getting the electricity then what's the use of free electricity?"

"The youth of Punjab are ruining their lives because of drugs. Have Punjab govt. taken any steps to stop that? They are only good in speeches not in work. They make huge promises for getting the power. When it comes to them they forget every promise they made", she said. "UPA govt. has left no stone unturned for the upliftment of small industries. UPA has allotted huge funds under various schemes to Punjab govt. We have given the land for higher education in Bhatinda. Cancer hospital is going to open in Sangrur. There are numerous examples. The Centre sent huge amount for the state. But you must ask your govt. whether they used them properly", further said the Congress President.

"The ally of Akali Dal, BJP is boasting on so called 'Gujarat Model', thanks to Narendra Modi ji. Gujarat govt. is forcing Sikh farmers to leave the state and snatching away their lands. Akali Dal is supporting BJP instead of raising a voice against it. Drinking water is not available in many villages of Gujarat, this is Gujarat model! Every second child under the age of 5 is suffering from malnutrition. Those who are earning 12 rupees a day is not a poor. In Gujarat 45,000 acre of land is given to an industrialist at mere cost of 1 rupee per meter. We don't need this type of model. I can only say, God please save us from this kind of model" said Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

Highlighting the policies of central government, the UPA Chairperson said, "UPA govt. under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh ji has taken historic and revolutionary steps for the betterment of the masses. We have pulled out 14 crore people from poverty. We have provided huge funds for the educational institutes. We increased the number of roads, highways and rails throughout the country. We have given 1,000 crore rupees for SHG movement and 55,000 crore rupees for educational loan. These are just some examples".

On future plans Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi said "We have mentioned some promises in our manifesto. Our priority is to provide employment to the youth. We have made special schemes for employment. We have promised Right to Health and Right to Shelter for every citizen of India. We have also promised pension schemes for senior citizens and physically disabled people. We will support small

VISITS

industries. We are making industrial corridor to boost manufacturing sector in the country”.

UTTAR PRADESH

Congress President at Faizabad

Congress policies and determination works for the welfare of the masses: Sonia Gandhi

Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh): In an election campaign Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 1st May, 2014 said that “the people of Ayodhya have maintained the Ganga-Jamuna culture despite facing many difficulties. It is a land of belief and trust. It has given a message to whole country on how to maintain peace and harmony by staying away from the communal politics. But there are people who think they are greater than the God. They are telling to make “Congress Mukht Bharat”. Why do they want this? Because they fear Congress policies and determination which works for the welfare of the masses. They know that Congress won’t let them make people fight. They will struggle to do the politics of hatred”.

“Congress spreads the message of secular values; the BJP and RSS truly know this. Many Congress leaders have sacrificed their lives to maintain the brotherhood and harmony in the country. BJP and RSS have been against our secular ethos since independence. They know that as far Congress remains active they can never impose their ideology on people and that they can never take democracy in their hands. But I want to let them know the people of this country won’t let this happen”, said Smt. Sonia Gandhi

Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi pointed out that “Congress always committed to work for every section of the society. We always make sure that welfare does take place for those sections which are ignored in the path of development. This is UPA government’s main aim.

Referring to UPA achievement and Congress party future plans she said “We have implemented food security act so that every poor person will get food grains at a very low cost. To enhance further our initiatives to help the people, our manifesto offers a right to health - to provide free medicine and treatment for the poor. It also has proposals for social security and insurance measures for the people working in unorganized sector. We also will ensure pension for old-aged and disabled. Many poor don’t have a strong roof above their head and they suffer in acute weather. We therefore will give Right to shelter for them; we will provide strong laws for women to make them financially stable. We know our youth need employment; we recognize their talent and will provide them scholarship and technical training. While concluding



her speech Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi said “Congress wants to take nation on a path of financial development for all sections. Power doesn’t belong for a handful of people but everybody must have equal rights. We have a vision for independent and broad minded society”

Who dreams to become the Prime Minister of our country must know and understand its rich culture, ethos and kindness: Sonia Gandhi

Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh: “There have been several prime ministers in India including BJP’s Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He, however, always respected the dignity of his chair. But now, leaders just to fulfil his political aspirations, the BJP even insulted martyrdom of our former Prime Minister Sh. Rajiv Gandhi. The way, 23 years after Rajiv Gandhi’s martyrdom, Narendra Modi has insulted him, if we don’t call it petty, then what else should we call it? I just want to assert one fact; any person

who dreams to become the Prime Minister of our country must know and understand its rich culture, ethos and kindness. Such low-level politics and thinking suit neither the BJP-Modi nor the country,” said the Congress President.

“Indian society is pluralistic and leading this country is not a simple task. Good governance is based on ethics, devotion and commitment. It is based on brotherhood and kindness. How can those who disregard our rich Ganga-Yamuna culture, run our country” asked Sonia Gandhi and added “In a democracy, politics is to serve the people and not just to grab power. There is no justification for spreading fake development claims”.

“Today the countries of the world want to learn from us as to how we managed to keep our economy strong even at the time of recession all over the world. Today, all the world look upon India with respect. They want to know about our revolutionary projects like MGNREGS and Food Security Act. Congress-led UPA government has taken stringent steps in its fight against terrorism.”

The Congress President then took on the Modi model and said, “The reality of the much hyped Gujarat model which Sh. Modi is boasting about is something else. Good number of women and kids are malnourished there. 40 per cent of rural people do not get water for drinking and irrigation. The farmers are suffering. The most astonishing fact is that anyone who earns more than Rs. 11 a day will not be considered a poor in Gujarat. You can well imagine what one gets at Rs. 11. Even after fixing new BPL line at Rs. 11, there are 40 lakh families under the BPL line in Gujarat. Please think what if this model is replicated across the country!” ❖

VISITS OF CONGRESS VICE PRESIDENT DURING THE LAST LEG OF ELECTIONS

UTTAR PRADESH

Vice President at Hargaon

Only Congress committed for development, opposition lacks vision for it

Hargaon (Uttar Pradesh): Congress Vice President Shri Rahul



Gandhi addressed a huge election rally at Hargaon, in Uttar Pradesh on 24th April, 2014. While speaking on the occasion he lashed out the SP, BSP and BJP by saying that they lack vision for development.

“Our opposition does not have any big dreams. They do not have a far sighted vision. But Congress dreams big and designs policies accordingly” said the Congress leader. “The biggest challenge in front of our youth is the difficulty in getting jobs. Today you can see ‘made in China’ label in devices like camera, T-shirts. In future I want to see ‘Made in Hargaon’ or ‘Made in Uttar Pradesh’ or ‘Made in India’ label in those items.

“Last decade our country witnessed fastest economic growth. The money we received from this was used to give rights to the people. Our MGNREGA scheme guaranteed jobs to millions of rural poor,

without any discrimination. NDA, in their regime, had forgotten the farmers; just brought out ‘India Shining’ slogan,” argued the Congress Vice President.

Striking on NDA policy on farmers, he said, “NDA had forgotten the farmers. But we did a lot for farmers. We went to them. They told us that they face difficulties due to huge debts. The banks were not accessible for them. We therefore, waived off loans of the poor farmers worth Rs. 70000 crore and opened the doors of the banks for them. We also gave a Rs. 6000 cr package to help sugar-cane farmers in UP. But you could not get its benefits due to the misrule of your state government”.

“Earlier Mayawati govt snatched away poor farmers’ land in Uttar Pradesh and for Formula 1 tracks. It never considered about the pain of the poor. We fought against this at Bhatta-Parsaul and enacted a revised Land Acquisition policy so that no one will grab any land forcibly. Now everyone is ensured with 4 times more market price for the lands acquired” further said Rahul Gandhi and added, “We give people their rights and protect them. We connected farmers with banks. We enacted food security law to ensure food at cheap rate”.

He said “Gujarat is run by the ‘India shining’ party – the BJP. What is happening under Gujarat model? About 45000 acres of land were given for at mere Rs 300 crore to a single industrialist – Adani- by Modi government. Adani, later, sold these lands at Rs. 800 per meter and earned huge profit.

The turnover of Adani was just Rs 3000 cr. but today it is Rs. 40000 crore. We need industries and we must help them. We need them for development. But we must not help just one business man. 45000 acres land is not a small piece of land. The lands were of the poor. Modi government snatched away poor man’s lands and handed over to Adani. But did he do anything there to help the poor, or to generate jobs. No. The poor are starving there. The only job they are able to avail is through MNREGA, the central scheme.

GUJARAT

Vice President at Amreli

Narendra Modi has spent his entire life acting against the views and thoughts of Sardar Patel

Amreli (Gujarat): Modi's worship of Sardar Patel and his promises of women empowerment are mere gimmicks to fool people during the elections, said Shri Rahul Gandhi while addressing an election rally in Amreli on 26th April, 2014.

He further said "They do not know, nor do they read about Sardar Patel and his thoughts. Modi Ji has given his entire life to RSS. Let me tell him Sardar Patel's views on RSS. Sardar Patel viewed RSS as a poisonous organization that will destroy the idea of India. Shri Modi has spent his entire life acting against the views and thoughts of Sardar Patel. Now, he wants to build a statue of him..."

Stepping up his offensive Shri Rahul Gandhi alleged that there is a "partnership" between the BJP PM candidate and Adani and accused the industrialist of "funding" the Modi marketing blitz to return "favours".

"There is partnership between Modi and Adani," he alleged saying that all senior leaders like L.K. Advani, Jaswant Singh, Yashwant Sinha and Sushma Swaraj have been sidelined for the partnership with Adani, said Shri Rahul Gandhi.

Shri Rahul Gandhi also alleged that "The money they (Modi govt.) gave to Adani is being in turn used for his marketing (election campaign). Big posters are coming up all over the country. From where is the money coming.. You tell me?" he sought to know. The Congress has earlier alleged that a massive Rs 10,000 crore was being spent on the Modi poll campaign.

Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi also attacked the Gujarat development model by saying that Modi is claiming credit for the hard work of others in the state. "This is the Gujarat Model. You give all the benefits to one industrialist. We are not against industrialization," Shri Rahul Gandhi said mocking the model. "The voice that comes from here (Gujarat) is me, me, me, me. People of Gujarat have done nothing, women of Gujarat have done nothing, teachers of Gujarat have done nothing... for the last 60 years you have done nothing," he ridiculed.

"BJP leaders can't sleep at night, unless they tell 5-6 lies in a day. He claims he made Gujarat. He would like us to believe that for 60 years the people of Gujarat did nothing. They sat idle and the state was stagnant. Then Modi Ji came to power, the state was transformed and it was shining. The sweat and blood of the people of Gujarat means nothing to him," Shri Rahul Gandhi said.

He also said "He talks about milk

(production and revolution). He says I have given milk to the entire country. Women of Amreli, women of Gujarat did not do this but (he says) Narendra Modi did this. He lined up lakhs of cow, milked them and gave it to the people of the country. He tells you that you have done nothing for the last 60 years. Modi claims that he made Gujarat stand on its feet and now he will do the same thing with the country.

"You have made me 'chowkidar' (watchman) of Gujarat now make me chowkidar of India. This is his (Modi's) campaign pitch," Shri Rahul Gandhi said continuing his tirade against the Gujarat strongman. Rahul also alleged that Modi is spreading "lies" on the issue of death of farmers in Gujarat. "6,000 farmers have committed suicide in Gujarat. He (Modi) goes all over the country and says that no farmer has committed suicide in Gujarat. However, the reality is 6,000 farmers have committed suicide here," Congress Vice President said.

He also raised the issue of alleged snooping on a woman here again. "Gujarat police tapes phone of one woman. He (Modi) asks Gujarat police to find out what the woman is doing. But, in Delhi their posters say that they will empower women. Women of the country do not need power, they are already powerful. Give them some honour," Rahul said. Former RSS Chief Golwalkar firmly believed that giving voting rights to women was a big mistake. He said it will be a big loss for India. Modi Ji has spent his entire life in this organization. He used state police machinery to spy on a woman. And then they talk of women empowerment," he said at a massive rally in Amreli.

While concluding his election speech Shri Rahul Gandhi told the people that they will now be given the right to shelter, health and free medicine and pension.

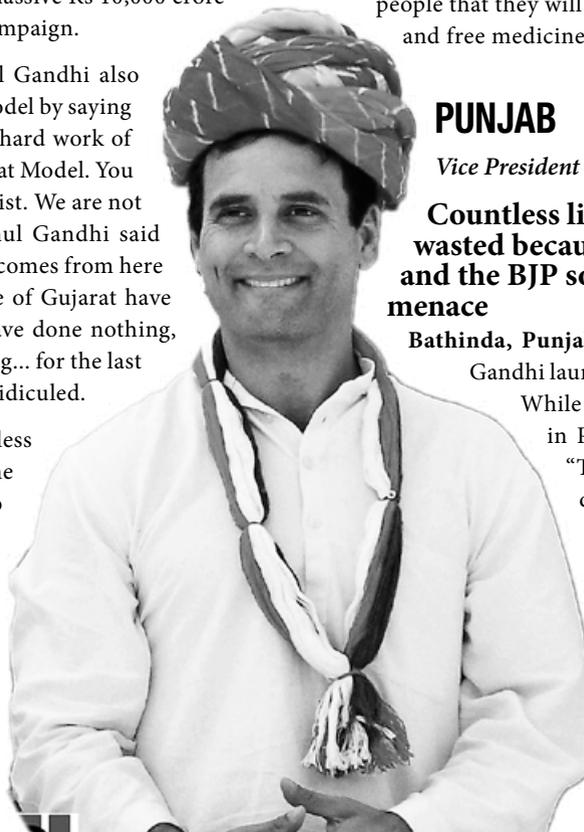
PUNJAB

Vice President at Bathinda

Countless lives in Punjab are being wasted because of drug abuse; Akali Dal and the BJP solely responsible for the menace

Bathinda, Punjab: Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi launched yet another scathing attack on BJP.

While speaking at an election rally at Bhatinda in Punjab, on 28th April, 2014. He asked "The Akali Dal and the BJP say that the drug problem is due to Pakistan. Now, we will deal strongly with what Pakistan does, but what about the responsibility of the state government? Drug abuse is a problem in the state and the opposition would like us and the people to believe that it is not the Akali Dal's mistake. Countless lives are being wasted and people are dying. What is the state government doing?"



Shri Rahul Gandhi said that these elections are a battle of two ideologies. At one end is the Congress Party that seeks to unite, is inclusive and takes everybody along the path of development and progress. At the other is the BJP, which seeks to concentrate all powers in the hands of one man, bestow privileges to a select few, make people fight among each other and silence the voice of the poor and the weaker sections of the society.

“During the NDA regime, MSP was raised by only Rs. 60. During the tenure of the UPA, the MSP has been raised thirteen times that amount. We waived off farmer loans worth Rs. 70,000 crore. Small businesses are dying here and the youth have no jobs... Gujarat government threw out thousands of Sikhs from the state. They called them outsiders. Here they form an alliance with Akali Dal and pretend to be your well-wisher. In Maharashtra, they beat people from UP and Bihar. And then go to Bihar and UP and claim to be their well-wisher. Wherever they go, they will make excuses,” he said.

“Congress is not against helping industries. We need to extend all our possible assistance and support to businessmen but it is wrong to give all facilities just to one businessman. For BJP, development means, progress of 2-3 industrialists... Congress wants all poor also to dream big. We want to uplift the weak and downtrodden. But Modi wants only Adani to have big dreams”, said the Congress leader. “In Punjab, money meant for people’s welfare, goes to some selected businessmen. But Congress wants development to reach every person” he added.

He thanked the people of Punjab for giving the country a successful Prime Minister and said that being polite, humble and respectful is in the nature of the Congress Party. He added that the Congress Party recognizes the contribution made by the people of India in helping the nation reach where it is today

Slamming Modi’s double-stance on corruption, Shri Rahul Gandhi lamented, “Modi roams around and talks big of corruption but he does not see the large scale graft in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Gujarat. He has joined hands with former Karnataka Chief Minister Yeddyurappa, who had gone to jail for corruption charges”.

He also spoke about what the Congress Party will do for the youth when it forms the government. “The manufacturing corridors that

we have created will generate millions of jobs. We need to have the tag of made in Bhatinda and made in Punjab on the back of our T-shirts... We believe in partnership between the farmers and the industries. That is the way forward,” he said.

UTTARAKHAND

Vice President at Kashipur

Rahul Gandhi tears into BJP’s record on fighting terror

Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand: Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi on 29th April, 2014 tore into BJP’s claims of being tough on terror as he raked up the ‘Kandahar hijack’ in which three terrorists were freed by the Vajpayee government and claimed that 22,000 people were killed in terror attacks during the six-year NDA rule. Taking on the opposition party which has accused the Congress government of being soft on terror, he said the then top functionaries of the BJP government, including prime minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee bowed to the wishes of hijackers while Congress always stood up to terrorists.

“Kandahar hijack happened. Their top leaders from number one to five saluted them (hijackers), asked them what do you want. Money was given to them. Terrorists were released and then External Affairs Minister Shri Jaswant Singh went with them to Pakistan,” he said addressing a public meeting here. The Congress vice president was referring to the hijack of Indian Airlines plane in December 1999 during its flight from Kathmandu to Delhi. It was taken to Kandahar in Afghanistan and three dreaded terrorists were freed in exchange of the passengers held hostage in the aircraft for about eight days.

The same terrorists carried out numerous attacks in India including the one on Parliament in 2001, Rahul Gandhi said.

He further said 22,000 people, including soldiers, lost their lives in terror violence during the Vajpayee government between 1998 and 2004 because “BJP bowed to the wishes of terrorists and it also practised the politics of anger”.

On the contrary, only 800 such deaths occurred during the five years of UPA-II regime, he said, crediting the Congress’ politics of “brotherhood and harmony” for the sharp decline.

“We need to empower people. We want to give them rights. We want to work with love. We can develop only if we realise the strength of our people”, he asserted.

In a dig at RSS, the Congress Vice President said, “Golwalker had said we made a mistake by allowing women to vote. But Congress believes that our biggest achievement was to grant women the voting rights. Women are the pillars of development. They run their homes as well as the nation. But they do not get the respect they deserve. They need no power, what they need is our respects. The women live in fear and are scared to travel during night. We must address these issues”.

“We will open 2000 dedicated women police stations for the women and 35% of the police force will be women. We will pass bill to give





33% reservation for women. We will ensure women representation in Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and in the Congress party. Country can never develop without women. We can never become a super power without empowering our women” said Rahul Gandhi striking a chord with the women.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Vice President at Bilaspur

This election is like the Mahabharata, a battle between truth and lies: Rahul Gandhi

4-RGVHPM: Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh: “This election too is a battle between the truth and untruth,” said Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi while speaking at a mammoth election rally at Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh on 1st May, 2014.

He said “on one side there is Congress party which stands for all. We treat everyone equally without any discrimination. It takes everyone along and aims at developing all. On the other side we have BJP which wants development of only a selected group. They want farmers to remain as farmers, labourers to remain as labourers’.

He further added “Now we can see BJP posters on women empowerment. BJP is closely associated with RSS. RSS leader Gowalkar had said that India did a great mistake by allowing women to vote. BJP says something but does something else. In Gujarat Modi government gave away lands worth Rs 40000 cr. to Adani for just Rs. 1/- per mtr. Same thing happened in Himachal Pradesh too under BJP regime. BJP’s politics is aimed at development of a handful of people” said the Congress leader slamming the BJP. “We

get ideas from the people. We respect the power of people and value their knowledge. That is why we frequently hold interactions with them. But BJP leaders never respect the people. They are bothered about only a selected group”

Taking a dig on BJP’s manifesto Shri Rahul Gandhi said “A delegation of ex-servicemen had come to me. They informed about their long standing demand for one-rank-one-pension. I conveyed their demand before the government. Finance Minister had talked about some financial constraints to implement it. But our Prime Minister and Congress President Sonia Gandhi asserted that this scheme must be implemented. In just three days, the Centre took a decision for the same. But, surprisingly, B JP manifesto now offers the same. Don’t they read news papers? Are they not aware that one-rank-one-pension scheme had already been in force?”

Shri Rahul Gandhi said “In Gujarat, one who earns more than Rs. 11 a day is not poor. But over the past ten years of the UPA government, we could lift 15 crore people out of poverty. This is a historical feat and we could achieve it due to our right based approach in governance. Our policies like right to job and right to food boosted people’s confidence. For the first time they felt that they also have a place in the society. Now there is a new class emerged and we want to take them also into middle class in the next five years.”

On RSS Shri Rahul Gandhi said “Modi ji now wants to build a statue of Sardar Patel ji. He worked for RSS throughout his life. He does not remember what Sardar Patel ji had said about RSS. Patel ji had said that RSS ideology is venomous. It will destroy the soul of the Country.”

“We have trust in people’s strength. We respect their knowledge and wisdom. What a leader must do is to go to the masses and gather that knowledge. But BJP never has that mentality. Just listen to the speeches by the Congress leaders. You will never hear “I” but we always say ‘We’. But BJP leader keeps on boasting ‘I, I... I” continued the Congress leader

Shri Rahul Gandhi also promised free medicine to poorer section of the society if Congress is voted back to power in the 2014 elections. ❖



ADVERSITY WILL REAP OPPORTUNITY

The Lok Sabha result of 2014 has thrown lot of challenges for the Congress party and the adversities confronted by the 130 year old party will have to be converted into opportunity to reshape itself into an alternate party of promise.

The BJP won 282 seats which, is the highest for any party since 1984, when Congress secured 49% as against BJP 31% in 2014. The BJP with 31% votes share in the polls is too low for legitimately ruling India. Congress secured 19.4% in the election to the Lok Sabha -2014 as against 39.5% in 1989, 36.2% in 1991 and 28.5% in 2009. Congress is still the largest party in the opposition and is entitled to become the official opposition party under 'The Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977'.

The election for the first time demonstrated the return of plebiscitary mode based on a personality. The said mode which disappeared after 1980 has re-surfaced again. Whether this kind of model would provide the adequate space to transform the content of politics is a question which future alone can answer. With the type of complex politics, this is going to be a challenge which the present regime should prove. But at the same time Congress party will have to pick up the opportunity to redefine what they stand for – the values of secularism, inclusiveness and governance.

Congress has to understand that the 21st Century politics and the challenges ahead, it has to unleash a major surgery to relook at itself within the turbulent environment. What we saw in the rhetoric of 2014 Lok Sabha election may not hold good for the future. It is not easy for Narendra Modi to manage the diverse stakeholders besides foreign policy, security and economy. We are yet to see how they will manage the political constituencies of support which brought him to this position. Assertion of Modi as 'his own man' may not last too long as there are other extra constitutional alliances which will haunt him and dictate their own terms.

The manner in which he picked up the team may not create the capacity to deliver what he has promised like maintaining growth, creation of jobs, containing inflation and also to unleash growth model apart from ensuring internal and external security. Minority

issues, Ram Temple and also the influence of RSS and also other Hindu parivars will be always chasing him in every step he takes.

Congress party will have to demonstrate its capability as an alternate party to look forward in 2019. We need to connect ourselves with voters of today and tomorrow. The right wing politics with divisive nature are gaping at the country. Congress has to have a vision for the future of the country to sustain the 'idea of India'. We need to have a renewed language to adopt the new idea of India today and tomorrow. Congress cannot offer to retreat into the comfort zone but has to take on the bold foray into unfamiliar and untrodden territory. We need to allow the fresh source of water or otherwise, the party will dry up. When the regional party like TMC has dismissed 3 ministers for having failed in their respective Lok Sabha constituencies and AIADMK having expelled one of its minister for having soft spoken on Modi, Congress cannot afford to brood any delay in holding people responsible both at the state and national level including the states governments ruled by Congress party. The person's in charge of states and the Chief Ministers will have to be made accountable and drastic action will have to be taken as events will not wait. We should act immediately in respect of states where we are going for election within 4 to 5 months' time.

The new government should restore social solidarity with stronger fabric of Indianness. The Iron rule of politics is that it is easier to divide than to unite. National solidarity cannot be set in order unless every citizen is protected irrespective of conflicts. The great achievement of Jawaharlal Nehru was to achieve a unified and democratic country. The model of being tolerant to various identities cannot be challenged if we want to preserve India.

BJP may be rejoicing its sweep of central, north or some parts of South India. But it may turn out to be a mirage as the major regional parties always remain potent which may emerge back again with



Dr M Veerappa Moily

continued on page 27

HOW THE WORLD ADORED NEHRU

*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.*

The above lines from a poem by Robert Frost, an American poet, were written and prominently displayed by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, at his bedside, a few months before his final sleep, 50 years ago, on May 27, 1964. This short article recapitulates the last few days of India's first Prime Minister and 'Architect of Modern India' whose historic contribution as a nation builder is matchless and beyond compare.

The year 1964, Pt. Nehru's last, began with a Congress session at Bhubaneshwar where, on January 6, the AICC passed a resolution on 'democratic socialism' modifying the 'socialist pattern of society' passed in Avadi a decade earlier. The overworked Prime Minister developed high blood pressure and was flown back to Delhi. On January 11 he decided that his additional portfolios would be dealt temporarily by his cabinet colleagues Gulzari Lal Nanda and T.T. Krishnamachari. On January 13 President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan called on him and on January 19 Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev invited him to the Soviet Union for rest which was politely declined. On Jan 21 Congress President Kamraj met Jawaharlal and discussed cabinet changes and party affairs. As a consequence Lal Bahadur Shastri was called back to the Cabinet on January 22 as Minister without Portfolio.

Republic Day saw people all along Rajpath greeting Chacha Nehru with thunderous cheers. The month of February was routine and relaxing followed by Holi celebration at Teen Murti House. In March it appeared to the people that their beloved leader had fully recovered. On March 26, the Prime Minister made a broadcast to the nation appealing for communal harmony and success of Indo-Pak talks.

Responding to the repeated question in Parliament on March 30, Pt. Nehru emphatically stated that there was no question of appointing a Deputy Prime Minister. He felt it would suggest a change of successor and create unnecessary complications. Cutting across party lines, all members of the Lok Sabha cheered when, in reply to H.V. Kamath he said, 'I think I have recovered a great deal.'

In early April Sheikh Abdullah was released from jail and invited

to Delhi for talks with the Prime Minister and other political leaders. On April 29 Sheikh Abdullah had 45 minutes talk with Jawaharlal Nehru 'in search of good will'. Earlier, the Sheikh had declared that he was not seeking a solution to Kashmir at India's cost.

The news of Sheikh Abdullah's talks with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and his senior cabinet colleagues and other political leaders dominated the news headlines. On May 8, Pt. Nehru declared that there was no harm if Sheikh Abdullah visited Pakistan. But no decision will be taken without reference to Parliament. After another round of talks with the Prime Minister the Sheikh declared that a base for Kashmir issue had been found. On May 15, an AICC session was held in Bombay in which some amendments were made in the Party's constitution. In his message Pt. Nehru said that a Kashmir solution would not be at the cost of principles. Meanwhile, Sheikh Abdullah declared that Jawaharlal alone could solve all issues. In a TV interview to the American media, on May 18, Pt. Nehru stated that a No War Pact with Pakistan will improve relations with the two countries.

At a press conference, on May 20, Jawaharlal Nehru suggested a constitutional approach to the India -Pakistan question and stressed the need for easy access of people from one country to another. To a question "After Nehru Who?", repeatedly raised in the last few years, the Prime Minister said "My life time is not ending soon." The over 200 correspondents at the packed press conference hall loudly cheered the remark, breaking a convention. On May 23 Pt. Nehru left for Dehradun for a 3 day holiday before leaving New Delhi he was photographed with Dalai Lama, Sheikh Abdullah and Mirza Afzal Beg. The same day Sheikh Abdullah left for Pakistan to find a solution to the Kashmir problem based on his talks with Jawaharlal Nehru.

On May 26 after a 3 day rest accompanied by daughter Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru flew back to Delhi. At the airport he was received by Lal Bahadur Shastri. He worked till midnight and the morning papers of 27th reported that the Prime Minister had recovered good health. But that was not to be. In the morning of May 27 he felt uneasy and too ill to get up. The news of illness spread like wild fire but there was hope that he might recover. People passionately prayed for his speedy recovery. Unfortunately



Capt. Praveen Davar

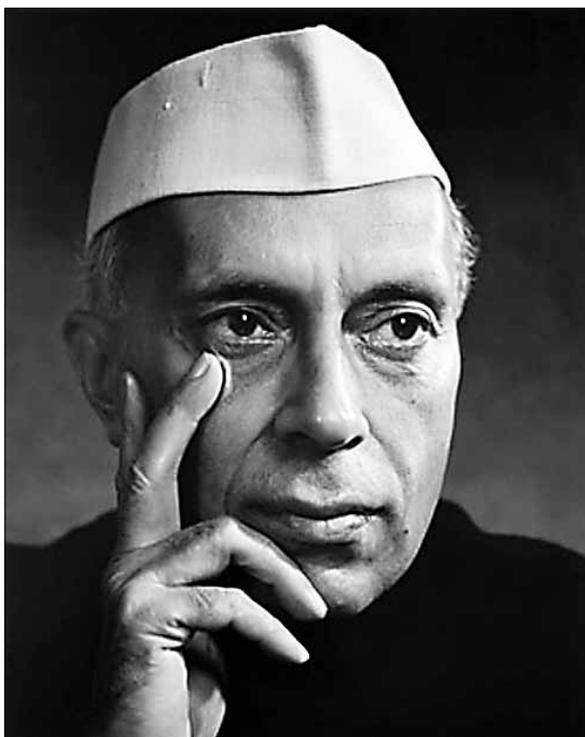
for India, and the world, he did not. India's greatest leader, second only to Gandhi, passed away leaving the nation grief stricken. The world felt bereaved and many world leaders attended his state funeral on the morning of May 28th.

A few days later Jawaharlal's last will and testament was published. In it he said "I am proud of that great inheritance that has been, and is, ours, and am conscious that I too, like all of us, am a link in the unbroken chain which goes back to the dawn of history in the immemorial past of India. That chain I would not break, for I treasure it and seek inspiration from it. And as witness of this desire of my mind and as my last homage to India's cultural inheritance, I am making this request that a handful of my ashes be thrown into the Ganga at Allahabad to be carried to the great ocean that washes India's

shores. The major portion of my ashes should, however, be disposed of otherwise. I want these to be carried high up into the air in an aeroplane and scattered from that height over the fields where the peasants of India toil so that they might mingle with the dust and soil of India and become an indistinguishable part of India."

Tributes poured in from all over the world. The American President, Lyndon B. Johnson said "History has already recorded his monumental contribution to the moulding of a strong and independent India. And yet, it is not just as a leader of India that he has served humanity. Perhaps more than any other world leader, he has given expression to man's yearning for peace. This is the issue of our age. As it was for Gandhi, peace was the ideal of Jawaharlal Nehru. It was his message to the world." The Leader of Soviet Union, Khrushchev said "I think you will share our view that the triumph of the great ideals of humanism, of social progress and peace to the service of which Jawaharlal Nehru had devoted his entire outstanding life, will be the best memory of him."

The co-founder of Nonalignment Movement with Nehru, Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt said "a great leader, distinguished thinker and politician who devoted himself to the last minute of his life to be a torch granting light to India, Asia and the whole humanity. Nehru was a leader far beyond the frontiers of countries and limits of continents." Another co-founder of NAM, Josip Broz Tito said "Nehru knew how to find time to take, besides the difficult, strenuous and responsible work as the head of his country, one of the most significant places in international development in the struggle for peace after the second world war." The President Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Sirimavo Bandaranaike said "the world has lost one of its greatest statesmen and the whole of Asia grieves the



loss of its foremost leader dedicated to the cause of peace."

India's last Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten said "He was a most magnanimous man who never showed the slightest personal resentment at being kept so many years in prison by us. He was a great fighter for Indian national freedom, and when his life's work was crowned with success he was a big enough man to grasp the hand of friendship held out to him by the British." Kenyan President, Jomo Kenyatta said "Not only India but the whole world has been deprived of an outstanding leader in the path of peace and freedom for all men. His monument will stand for ever in the eyes of the world."

According to Acharya Vinoba Bhave "Nehru had no hatred, prejudice or enmity against anyone. He placed before the country the ideal of

Poorna Swaraj. He wanted India and Indians to be completely independent and did not want the sovereignty of India to be hampered in any way." Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, said "Nehru was a great believer in secularism and was its principal pillar. He had absolutely no communal or any other parochial prejudice. He was not a man of any particular religion. As such, he was a great solace to India's minorities." Chester Bowles, the US Ambassador wrote: "One of Nehru's greatest achievements was the creation of a secular state in which forty five million Muslims, who chose not to go to Pakistan, may live peacefully and worship as they please."

Pt. Nehru's monumental contribution to the nation was, however, best summed up by the then President Dr. S Radhakrishnan: "Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the greatest figures of our generation, an outstanding statesman whose service to the cause of human freedom are unforgettable. As a fighter for freedom he was illustrious, as a maker of modern India his services were unparalleled. His life and work have had profound influence on our mental make-up, social structure and intellectual development. It will be difficult to reconcile ourselves to the image of India without Nehru's active and all-pervasive leadership. An epoch in our country's history has come to a close - - - His courage, wisdom and personality have held this country together. Our thoughts today go out to him as a great emancipator of the human race, one who has given all his life and energy to the freeing of men's minds from political bondage, economic slavery, social oppression and cultural stagnation." ❖

Author is an ex Secy. AICC, & Member, National Commission for Minorities

THE FOREIGN POLICY OF RAJIV GANDHI

“A new generation has taken over the country,” said Rajiv Gandhi on January 3, 1985 soon after he assumed charge as the Prime Minister of India, “Sixty percent of the electorate is below forty”. He was also aware that the world itself was a new place, that it had changed radically and was changing rapidly. But, he soon discovered that most of those spectacular changes were essentially in line with what the founder of India’s foreign policy, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had envisaged and endeavoured to bring into being. “So,” he added “the same ideologies have to be reapplied here. It requires

new thinking.” Thus, Rajiv Gandhi’s foreign policy came to be known as a good example- of continuity with change or originality in continuity. He followed the basic approach and policies of Jawaharlal Nehru with a freshness of mind, a newness of language and a spirit of dynamism with a conscious effort to adjust and adapt ourselves to the new world without cold war that was emerging, a new world that we had dreamt of and worked for but had not found or dealt with until then as a reality.

Rajiv Gandhi had understood like his predecessors that building up India economically and in terms of its defence, scientific and technological capabilities on the basis of the political and psychological unity of this vast and complex country was an indispensable pre-condition for playing any meaningful role on the world scene. Hence, he talked incessantly of modernising the country and taking it into the 21st century. But, he was aware as he said in his first important speech on 12 November 1984: “For nation-building the first important



KR Narayanan

requisite is peace, peace with our neighbours and peace in the world.” Throughout his brief but brilliant career peace was a theme he pursued with fervour and purposive action.

The first international conference he convened as Prime Minister, was the six Nation Five Continent summit in New Delhi

following an initiative taken by his mother, Indira Gandhi. Meeting at “a sombre juncture of history,” as Rajiv put it, the Delhi summit issued a declaration that was historic. It urged a freeze on the production and development of nuclear weapons as the first “credible and reassuring” step with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons altogether. The Six Nations when it met again in Stockholm in January 1988 suggested a 50% reduction in the strategic arsenals of the great powers during the first half of 1988 and also an integrated multilateral verification system within the UN system. The Summit also suggested a substantial reduction in the conventional weapons. It is significant that later disarmament agreements between the great powers followed basically along the lines put forward, by Rajiv Gandhi and his five other colleagues at the Six Nation Summit. It may be recalled in this context that earlier in November 1986 the Delhi Declaration issued by Rajiv Gandhi and Michail Gorbachev had added a new philosophical as well

as practical dimension to disarmament efforts. It joined, as Rajiv told the Indian Parliament, “in a common vision of a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world.” The Gandhian concept of a “a non-violent world,” thus found a place in an important international document for the first time. Rajiv claimed that “the ideals of gandhiji and Lenin have found expression in the Delhi Declaration,” and he commended it to the world community for general acceptance.

The climax of Rajiv Gandhi’s disarmament crusade was reached when he presented to the Special Session of the United Nations on Disarmament on Action Plan for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a period of 20 years. It remains, may be with some modifications, the sheet anchor of india’s policy on nuclear disarmament, and perhaps the most comprehensive and realistic Plan that anyone has advanced on the subject until now. “We propose,” he said, “in the first stage for a new treaty to replace the NPT which expired in 1995. This new Treaty should give legal effect to the binding commitment of nuclear weapon States to eliminate all nuclear weapons by the year 2010, and all the non-nuclear weapon states to not cross the nuclear weapons threshold.” This formulation meets the requirements of world nuclear disarmament and also some of the particular non-proliferation problems facing India today. Rajiv Gandhi articulated at the United Nations the Indian position when he said “we cannot accept the logic that a few nations have the right to pursue security by threatening the survival of mankind ... Nor is it acceptable that those who posses nuclear weapons are freed of all controls while those without nuclear weapons are policed against their production.”

Peace and disarmament was one of the central objectives of the policy of non-alignment India had pursued since independence. Rajiv had seen the relevance of that policy in the new world emerging after the end of the cold war and it was in the spirit of the Nehruvian non-alignment and peaceful co-existence that he pursued that policy with creative adjustment to the new realities and problems of a changed and changing world. At Harare and later at Belgrade the non-aligned movement was confronted with the need for following the basic objectives of the established policy and at the same time grappling boldly with the, new realities of the .new world. Both at Harare and at Belgrade Rajiv was at the very centre of discussions taking a leading part in them. At Belgrade Rajiv tried to lift the sights of the Conference to some of its broad classical goals as well as to the new problems overhanging the future of mankind. He emphasised the role of non- alignment as a moral force in world affairs, as a force working, for liberation especially of Namibia and the elimination of apartheid,. the last refuge of colonialism-cum-racialism and generally as a counterpoise to the policy of “domination and quest for dominance” that still prevailed in international politics. His emphasis on environmental problems with the specific proposal for a Planet Protection Fund was an attempt to introduce a new content into non-alignment with profound significance for the future of the planet and the human race.

Rajiv Gandhi’s struggle against apartheid deserves special mention. At Commonwealth Conferences, he took the lead in regard to the continuance of sanctions against South Africa. His negotiating skills and diplomatic finesse in dealing with the formidable personality of Margaret Thatcher earned him a new reputation. Both at Nassau, and at London “the iron lady” was isolated at the Summit Conference but he managed, through his charm and diplomatic niceties, to retain her

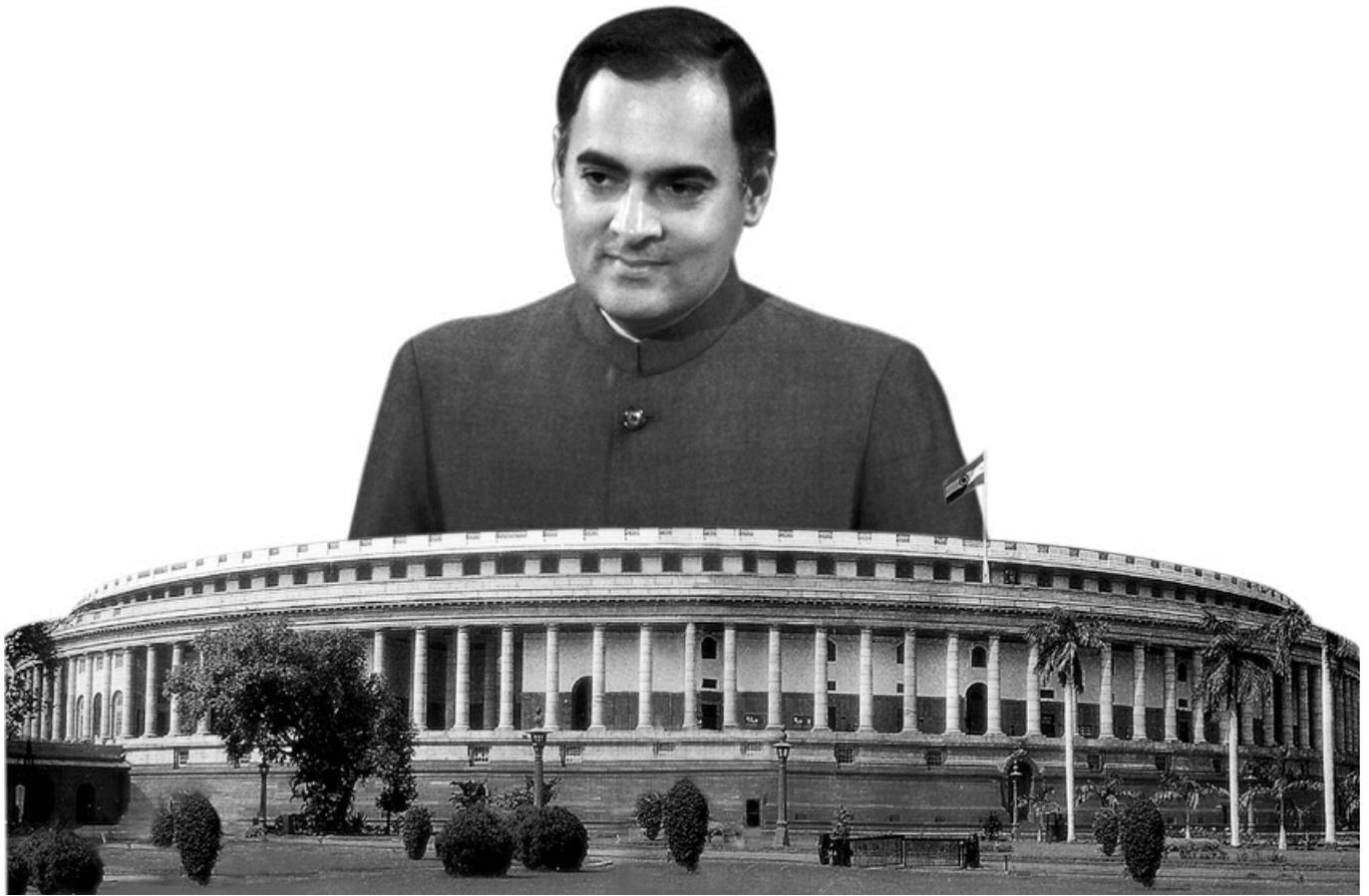
regard and good will. The part that he played at this crucial stage in the discussions on apartheid was a decisive one. The Africa fund that Rajiv thought out at Harare was another move of importance in the “struggle” against apartheid, colonialism, and racialism. On Namibia, Rajiv’s role was so important that in a memorable gesture the Namibian government invited him as a special guest at the independence day celebrations when he was only the Leader of the Opposition.

The Foreign Policy of Rajiv Gandhi was not only preoccupied with the larger affairs of the world but also with the hard and complex problems of the neighbourhood. In South Asia, without compromising on basic principles and national interests, he strove for reconciliation, friendship and cooperation. He tried to give a new impetus to SAARC. He managed to establish not only official but personal relations with both Zia-ul-Haque and. Benazir Bhutto. The agreement signed with Pakistan not to attack each other’s nuclear installations was a major confidence-building measure, and contained in it, potentialities of tackling the nuclear question bedeviling relations between the two neighbours. Above all, Rajiv Gandhi’s visit to China was a historic step that made a breakthrough in the long-deadlocked relations between the two great countries of Asia. Future relations with China are being built today on the basis of that historic visit. On Sri Lanka, notwithstanding the unhappy developments that took place, it is doubtful if the Tamils in Sri Lanka can get any greater degree of autonomy and Sri Lanka more credible guarantees of its unity and integrity than stipulated in the Rajiv Gandhi-Jayawardane Agreement.

In dealing with the great powers Rajiv showed deep understanding of the changes that have taken place in international relations. He understood that the ending of the cold war would provide opportunities for India to establish closer and more meaningful relations with both the USA and the then USSR. He offered both India’s friendship with the courage of India’s convictions and the ability to stand up for India’s interests. What is remarkable is that the young Prime Minister of India got on with ease and on terms of equality with President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Michail Gorbachev. The various agreements he signed with the USA and the USSR provided a deeper and broader relationship with those great powers. At the same time, Rajiv Gandhi did not ignore the importance of closer relations with Japan and other Asian countries as well as with EEC. He had evolved a world view of his own in accordance with the traditions of India he had inherited and the realities of the international situation as he perceived them.

At the centre of his world outlook was India itself and the need for strengthening India’s political unity and building up India’s economic, technological and military strength. Like Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi he had a special interest in promoting science and technology. He once said: “we have to fuse the wisdom of our seers with the insights and artifacts of science and technology.” He not only gave a major push to science and technology as an instrument of India’s development but introduced it as an important factor in his foreign policy and diplomacy. Scientific technological cooperation with the great powers as well as among the developing countries of the South were objective he pursued with a sense of priority in his foreign policy and diplomacy. There was, thus a healthy mix of noble and adorable principles, and of a pungently practical material and technological considerations in the foreign policy developed by Rajiv Gandhi during his brief, meteoric career as the Prime Minister of India. ❖

The author is a former President of India



NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

**BUILDING A UNITED, SECULAR
AND DYNAMIC INDIA***

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to first thank the President for his Address. I thank all the Members who participated in this debate for their contribution. Unfortunately, I was not able to spend as much time as I would have liked to here, in this House listening to the debate, because of certain issues that came up, just, during these days, and I know you will understand. But I have heard many of the speeches in my room on the loud-speaker, and I have been given notes of most of the others.

Our friends, sitting across me, have spent most of their time dwelling on the past five years. They forget that we went to the polls with the record of the past five years, and our work in those five years has been overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of this country. I will not waste my time on the past, like my friends in the Opposition. We look towards the future instead.

Some issues have been raised about the elections and all sorts of wild charges have been made. It is customary after elections to make such charges, because they make a very good excuse.

✎

...The people know what charges there are. That is why we are here

...It is not money power, muscle power or any other power that counts: it is the voter that counts in an election. When we see such a large discrepancy in the number of people sitting on this side and that side, it can only mean that.

✎

...The question is, who is in touch with the pulse of the people.

In 1977 we were not in touch with the pulse of the people and we were removed; in 1980 and in 1984, you were not in touch with the people and you were removed. You have to accept this fact. You can say what you like about percentages...

You must remember that although you pretend to speak as the voice of the people, you pretend to be the savior of the nation, the fact is that the voice of the people speaks from this side of the House.

f

The issues in this election were very clear and right through the elections my friends kept saying the Congress is not talking about issues. But the fact was that we were talking about the issues which were important to the nation and they were talking about the issues

which the nation did not think were important. We had one issue in front of us - India's unity, integrity, India's nationalism - and this is what has been won in this election.

Much as my friends in the Opposition would like to believe that they are the conscience-keepers of this nation, this election has elected the Congress to be the conscience-keepers of the nation.



During the past few days we have had one of the most serious cases of espionage being uncovered in India. I cannot say very much about this because investigations are still in process and anything I say might jeopardise further investigations. The Members from both sides of this House must understand that here we need the help of everyone. This is not a Congress versus Opposition event. This is not something that either of us should try and get political credit for. It is something that affects the whole nation. It has been uncovered because we have wanted to investigate, specific areas where things did not look right and we have taken action wherever it was necessary. I would like to clarify that although a very senior member of my staff has resigned, there is nothing against any individual. It is in the highest propriety of the Civil service that he has taken this decision. I would like to say that we are going into this in great depth, into every aspect of what has happened, how it happened, the possible damage that has occurred and when I am in a position to let you know more, I will keep you fully informed.

We have problems in Punjab and in Assam, we are looking towards solving those problems and we are hopeful that we will be able to come in front of you with some news ~ well, not in this Session, but I hope we will make progress in this and I do look forward to cooperation from all my friends in the Opposition whether they are in this House or other parties in the Opposition who are not in the House, in solving this particular problem.

Sir, the problems of the minorities in India have to be given special thought. They erupt in tension, they erupt in riots, but when we really look at it, it almost invariably goes back to economic disparity and it is this root that we must get to and our Government will be doing its best to try and start from the beginning and end this problem once and for all for a proper united India.

In a few days we are having a Summit of six nations in Delhi. This is another step in the direction of peace, in the direction of disarmament and we look forward to help relieve tensions in the world. India has been a strong supporter of the non-aligned movement, we are founder members and our policy towards this movement has not changed. We will, in fact, be taking more interest, developing more contacts, and try to improve South-South relations, South-South exchanges and see that the Third World can help itself because we have seen that where there has not been enough imagination and we have succumbed to foreign thought, it has ended in disaster, it has not ended in development. We will, in a similar way, look towards the South Asian region for better cooperation with our neighbours, better cooperation within the sub-continent.

We have been having some differences with Pakistan. On his last

visit to India I had a meeting with their President, Shri Zia, and he was very cordial, very helpful and he talked very positively. I was very hopeful, I still am very hopeful, but unfortunately in the intervening period some of the actions by the bureaucracy, by the other members of the Pakistan Government have not been conducive to better relations between the two countries and we look forward to positive response from Pakistan.

The House has been very alive to what has been happening in Sri Lanka. We are dismayed at the way the All Party Conference ended, we are dismayed that a political solution does not seem around the corner and we are unhappy about the way the security forces have been deployed and used. We look forward to a high level communication with Sri Lanka and we will do whatever we can to help solve the problems. We have to help them because we have a very large number of refugees. And we would like conditions to be such that they can return to their homes. Later, in this year, Sir, I will be visiting the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. and I will keep the House in touch with my deliberations there. We look forward to many more exchanges with other countries. We look forward to better friendship with all countries in the world.

In his speech, the President has talked about the future talks that are in front of us. Sir, this Government is committed to a clean public life. And we have started taking measures towards this end. We are committed towards electoral reforms. We will have discussions with all sections of this House on electoral reforms and we do hope to get full cooperation from you. Because, if electoral reforms are going to take 10 years of deliberations, then they are not going to be worth the discussions. So, we would like to be quick - not hurried but quick - and come to a conclusion so that the next elections could be fought under whatever reforms that we agree to.

During the past few days, we have been having talks with the Opposition and amongst ourselves on the Anti-Defection Bill. We feel that for a cleaner public life, this is essential. What we have to see, Sir, is that there are no loopholes left which allow defections under any name, under any other method to take place. We had some talks with the Opposition. Some parties want stronger Bill. Some Parties are in favour of a softer Bill. I hope we can close this gap and come to a reasonable conclusion because in any such legislation, we are really groping. It is something new that we are putting in. here are no precedents we can look at and it is for us to show the way. But that also means that we must be a little more objective, we must show a little more strength and be able to come out and have the guts to do it. That will not be lacking from our side, Sir.

India's economy, Sir, is very largely that of farmers. We will be doing, many things for the farmers in the coming years. We have to see that our agricultural output increases substantially. We have to see that the inputs to the farmers have proper prices. We have to see that the procurement prices are correct. It is only then that we will be able to get the growth that we are wanting. We will look toward this end and I hope we will see a sharp increase in our agricultural production.

We will be looking, like the President said, Sir, at the textile

industry. Over the years, the textile industry has deteriorated very substantially and where I talk about the textile industry I include the handlooms, the weavers from the lowest level to the higher mechanized level of industry. We have to develop a new policy which does not throw anybody out of a job but we must remember that our textile policy is not targeted at producing jobs but at producing cloth, and producing cloth at rates which are acceptable to the poor people, to the masses in our country. We will try and achieve this.

We are looking at a new industrial policy. We have to realise that industry in the past 35 years has progressed tremendously in spite of everything our friends across the room say. We have made tremendous progress and now we must look ahead to a bright future. If our industry is to progress, if our industry is to keep up with the industry in the rest of the world, it must operate under similar conditions. We will look towards this end. We have to see towards employment. Industry is not necessarily the best place for employment. Sometimes it is the most inefficient place for employment. We have to look how we can increase employment even more than industry can give us. I am not advocating closing down industry or a radical change in all the industries that we have.

What I am saying is that our education policy, our industrial policy and our trade policy must be such that it looks ahead to taking India into the future with the rest of the world. We cannot pretend to be equal to other countries when we are operating systems which are 10 years or 20 years out of date. The world today is moving very fast and, towards this end, we will introduce a new education policy which will be targeted at a more modern type of employment. We will have a new industrial policy which will generate this employment and we will have to have a trade policy which dovetails with this. We will be trying to do this by the next session.

One of the most difficult points to handle has always been the judicial system. The judicial system is there to give justice and, if justice is delayed, justice is denied. We will look into this to see how quicker and speedier justice can be given at all levels.

While every section of our society has been progressing we find that one section which cuts across all religions, caste and regional barriers gets left behind. That is why we have taken up special programmes for women. We will see that special programmes for the social, economic and cultural development of women are made and put in front of you. We have already announced that we will be giving free education to girls up to the secondary level.



...In this work for women, we would like that voluntary organisations are specially involved and they take a major role.

This election really showed the world the power of youth of India and that is why there is such an age difference between the two sides of the House. We will be looking into very special programmes for the youth, for the employment of the youth and for the involvement of the youth in building this great nation of ours.

Vast areas in our country are devoid of forestation are waste lands. We are going to develop these and we are going to set up a Waste Land Development Board to look into this. This will be aimed not just at forestry but it will be designed in such a manner that the produce from his reclaimed land is given back to the people who are living in the neighbourhood. It will be for the benefit of the local people.

We are also looking at cleaning up the air and the water in our country. We have seen the recent tragic accident in Bhopal where many people died and many more may be injured or are maimed. I am told that some effects of this terrible tragedy might not even be known for another six months. We are looking at the location policy for such factories and we are looking at how we can stop any factories polluting

TRIBUTES

Nation pays tribute to our freedom fighters and distinguished leaders.



(1897-1969)

**Dr. Zakir Hussain
Death Anniversary
3rd May**



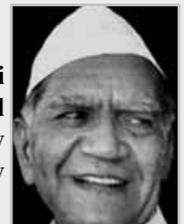
(1861-1931)

**Shri Motilal Nehru
Birth Anniversary
6th May**



(1866-1915)

**Shri Gopal Krishna
Gokhale
Birth Anniversary
9th May**



(1905-1977)

**Shri Fakhruddin Ali
Ahmed
Birth Anniversary
13th May**



(1907-1931)

**Sukhdev
Birth Anniversary
15th May**

our rivers and our air. Our rivers have become extremely polluted. The first river that we are attempting to clean up is the Ganges. I will not say purify, because nobody can purify the Ganga. But we will try to clean it.

✶

It is a Herculean task. But we have already identified the areas and we feel that we are up to it.

...We have set up the Central Ganga Authority to clean the Ganga ...Out of the pollution in the Ganga, only 20 per cent of the pollution is chemical pollution and 80 per cent is sewage and other excreta and we will be able to clean this up with a time-bound programme.

From this Government, you will see results.

This Government is looking deeply into our cultural heritage. Not only looking into our cultural heritage, to preserve it, to save it but, we are also going to look ahead into how to develop the culture of every region, of every group, in our country. We will be taking this up as a major programme.

To do all these things, we will need a fast administration, a clean administration, a responsive administration and we will be giving you this.

To take India ahead, we have to look towards the optimum utilisation of our resources. Our biggest resource is the human resource and we will look towards how to develop this. We will develop our natural resources and we will utilise our industrial and capital resources to the best benefit.

To do this, we will need technology. We will need a new education and we will need to look after the health of our people so that they are up to this. But, most of all, it will need managerial skill and it will need political will and we will give you both. But whenever one tightens one's belt to move ahead faster, one does feel the pinch. And this pinch is going to come in discipline. We will have to have discipline. We will have to respect institutions, and we will have to think again, about not our freedom but the country's freedom.

Sir, in the coming years, we will build a united, secular, free India where a person's worth is not measured by his caste, creed, region or religion. We will build an India which is dynamic, an India which can move ahead with the rest of the world.

Once again, I thank all the members who have participated and I commend the President's Address for adoption. ✶

- Replying to the debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address; L.S. Deb., 22 January 1985. c.c. 310-320.

continued from page 19

ADVERSITY WILL REAP OPPORTUNITY

revenge. Modi may ride over the aspirations of the middle class created by the achievements of UPA 1 and 2. The last 10 year saw the Indian economy grow by an average of 7.6% a year. Rate of poverty fell from 37.2% to 21.9% which was much sharper than the decline from 45.3 % to 37.2% over a larger period of 1993- 2004-05. Agricultural wages rose by 5% per annum in real terms after adjusting for inflation. The GDP on agriculture has unprecedented upswing with 5%.

Reforms in education, literacy, growth and also increase in purchasing power in urban and rural areas have created humongous growth in the middle class. Inflation, lack of job growth will create discontent in the middle class and youth and also dampen the aspiration and this will turn out to be a volcano to Modi as he will not be in a position to ride over the wave of aspiration too long. May be the Congress which created the mass of middle class may look back to the regime which was responsible for creating them. Congress need not become panicky from the present results as they have the opportunity to prove and take over the responsibility and aspirations of the citizens by deploying new phraseology, language and also providing the way forward which has to be distinct and different.

India rising will be of a demographic challenge and there are only sharp edges of demographic dividend or demographic disaster. If appropriate challenges are not met by governing regime within 6-12 months, Modi will have to face a demographic disaster in the

precipice of conflicts. Narendra Modi has hit the ground running but the potential of impact is yet to be seen.

Even though there are various complexities at the micro level, the main reason for propelling success of Narendra Modi is the large scale polarisation of Indian population consequent on the upsurge of communal apartheid of Muzaffarnagar riots when post Godhra experts were deployed into the psyche by deputing Amit Shah to Uttar Pradesh. The regional and Congress party could not match the craftsmanship of Modimen. One Muzaffarnagar district temporarily massacred secular India. The Congress party should reinvent itself with appropriate craftsmanship and it should not wait for regional outfits to take up this gigantic task of building a secular India.

Next important reason is the state of art of social media concept deployed by Modi through middlemen. Their tactical art of rhetoric, dangerous dynamics and the language deployed by BJP and its wings out manoeuvred the tactic adopted by Congress party. This is a sector we have to reckon with for the future with vigour and imagination.

Congress has the potential to bounce back within 2 years provided it keeps up to the expectations and aspirations of the young population. The attitude of status quoists will blur future of Congress and also secular India. ✶

(The author is a Senior Congress Leader and MP, Lok Sabha)

STATESWATCH

BIHAR

Tributes paid to Dr. Ambedkar

Patna: The Congressmen paid tributes to the author of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on his 123rd birth anniversary here on 14th April, 2014.

The meeting was presided over by Bihar Pradesh Kisan and Khet Mazdoor Congress Vice-President, Shri Pramod Kumar Rai.

Others who paid tributes included Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Shri Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha, Shri Ashok Yadav, Shri Ashok Chaudhary, Shri Dev Kumar Singh, Shri Jalil Mohammad, Shri Gajendra Chaudhary, Shri Rajendra Ojha, Shri Virendra Mishra, Shri Vijay Singh, Shri Markendey Singh, Shri Ravindra Nath Singh, Shri Shiv Shankar Chaubey with others.

CHHATTISGARH

Rising crimes in the State

Raipur: District Congress spokespersons Shri Vikas Upadhaya has alleged in his press statement here on 19th April, 2014 that Chhattisgarh is far ahead of UP and Bihar in the field of crime.

Shri Upadhaya who led the Congressmen in ghearing the Raipur police station against the event of decoity here added that the crime rate was rising day by day and murder, loot and decoity were common crimes in the state but the state police were not taking any strong steps to control these crimes. He said that there was no check on people coming from outside.

Tributes paid to Pt. Motilal Nehru

Raipur: The City Congress Committee president, Shri Vikas Upadhaya paid tributes to freedom fighter Pandit Motilal Nehru on his 153rd birth anniversary at the Congress Bhawan on 6th May, 2014.

Shri Vikas Upadhaya said that Shri Motilalji was born in 1861 in Delhi and he was renowned lawyer. Shri Motilal Nehru also presided an all-party meeting in 1927 against the Simon Commission.

Others who paid tributes were Hassan Khan, Ashok Raj Ahuja, Sirish Awasthi, Satish Jain, Souin Akhtar, Saman Chatterji, Divya Kishore with others.



Raipur is in ten most polluted cities of the world

Raipur: District Congress Committee president, Shri Vikas Upadhaya condemned the work of the State Chief Minister and his ministers as the city of Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, has been declared as the tenth most polluted cities of the world by the World Health Organization here on 9th May, 2014.

Shri Upadhaya said that the Chief Minister has done nothing in the field of health and education and instead of taking the state in the top ten position has pushed the city in the worst ten cities of the



world for which he should be honoured and welcomed.

City water supply polluted

Raipur: City Congress Committee president, Shri Vikas Upadhaya said that the city water supply is polluted because of which there is rising cases of jaundice in the city.



Shri Upadhaya said on 11th May, 2014 that the Congress Party has decided to give free of cost 20-litre bottled water to each family every day till the state administration makes arrangements to supply clean and pure water. This scheme will be started in sector II and Sector IV of the D.D. Nagar colony.

Jaundice epidemic rising

Raipur: With the rising incidents of jaundice in the city, which has spread to all 70 wards, the District Congress Vice-President, Shri Vikas Upadhaya called upon all the Congress workers at the Congress Bhawan here on 13th May, 2014 and asked them to get into action and work against this dreaded disease.



Shri Upadhaya said despite the deaths happening every day, the Raman government was not responding as they were busy celebrating Modi's victory, the Congress action committees have been formed in all the 70 wards which will help the people fight against jaundice.

HARYANA

Farmers thank Haryana Chief Minister

Sonipat: City Congress Committee organized a meeting at the Aanaj Mandi which was presided over by Pradhan Pradeep Singh.



The office-bearers of the District Congress Traders Department under its organizer, Shri Ajay Kumar Goel with Shri Ashok Chhabra, Shri Bhaleram Jhagda, Shri Sanjiv Dahiya, Shri Pramod Sharma, Smt. Kaushaliya Devi Jain and others thanked the Haryana Chief Minister, Shri Bhupender Singh Hooda for buying the grains from the farmers at the proper time and giving the price of the grains to the farmers.

MADHYA PRADESH

Bungling in wheat purchase centers

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee president, Shri Arun Yadav, MP has alleged that there is lot of bungling going on in the purchase centers of wheat in the state. Shri Yadav said that the government officials are in collusion and are doing all illegal acts to give maximum benefit to the businessmen for their own benefit.

Shri Yadav said that according to available report from all over the state, it has been found that mischief is being played by the officials of the purchase centers as this deed will also get them a cut from

the dealers. This act is done by under weighing the wheat of the farmers and the difference of the actual weight is shared between the officials and the dealers.

NSUI Foundation Day held

Bhopal: The 44th Foundation Day of the National Students Union of India was celebrated by all the district units of the Congress in the state.

During the celebrations here on 8th April, 2014 the function was presided by District Congress President, Shri Virendra Mishra. Other who participated included office-bearers of the Congress Committee, Senior Congress leaders and the NSUI officer-bearers.

Shri Mishra said that the NSUI was formed on 9th April, 1970 by late Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

Purpose of job opportunities defeated

Bhopal: Pradesh Congress Media incharge and Vice-President, Shri Manik Aggarwal said on 8th April, 2014 that the BJP state government in the past five years has only got 784 MoU signed by which the state government has given thousands of hectares of land to 120 companies. Only 48 have set-up industries and started production while 44 companies are still erecting buildings for their industries.

Shri Aggarwal said that the state government was still unaware about the fate of these 34 of the 44 companies as they have not started any industry and have just grabbed the land at nominal rate in the name of setting up industry. The state government is least bothered about it and the purpose of giving cheap land for industries that would have created job opportunities for the youth has been defeated.

Crime against women rising in MP

Bhopal: Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ajay Singh has said on 21st April, 2014 that the tall claims of giving security to women has been proved wrong after an ugly incident happened with a young girl in Singreilly.

Shri Singh said that there is a rise in crimes against women in the state and claimed that according to National Crime Bureau, Madhya Pradesh was far ahead in crimes against women in the country but the BJP claims that there are less crimes in the states ruled by them. Shri Singh claimed that more than nine incidents of rape alone are reported every day in the state which also indicates the crime graph of the state.

Some replies asked from MP CM

Bhopal: Pradesh Congress President, Shri Arun Yadav, MP asked ten questions related to the welfare of the people and particularly the farmers from the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in a Press Conference here on 10th May, 2014.

The questions related to waiving of debts and recovery of loans of farmers whose crops were destroyed by rains and hailstorms, proper survey should be made in such cases, unusual power cuts, and other related issues.

RAJASTHAN

BPL Welfare Schemes discontinued

Hanumangarh: The monthly meeting of the District Congress was held here recently and which was presided over by DCC President, Shri Surendra Dadri.



The meeting asked the Congress workers to maintain their mental balance and continue their work in true earnest for the welfare of the poor people as before.

The Congress workers also protested against the discontinuance of welfare schemes started by the UPA government for the BPL families. Providing irrigation water supply to the farmers before seeding process has also been stopped and there are undeclared power cuts for hours.

UTTAR PRADESH

'Shaheed Diwas'

Meerut: District Congress president, Mohd. Imran appealed to the people to maintain peace here on 11th May, 2014 and condemned whatever happened.

Shri Imran said that enemy of peace are trying to destroy peace in the city but people should be aware and not to fall in their trap. Meerut has been in history as being the city of martyrs and has been referred as a city of peace and amity.

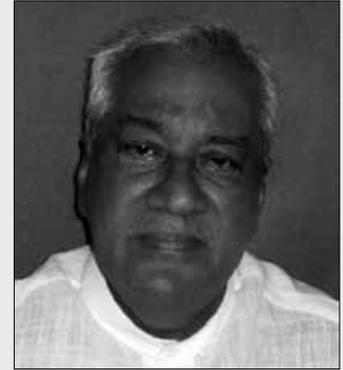
Mohd. Imran added that in 1857, the first bugle of freedom was blown from this city. Therefore, we should live in peace and brotherhood like one family. Mohd. Imran said that I appeal to you all to maintain peace on this occasion of 'Shaheed Diwas.'



TRIBUTE

FORMER AP CHIEF MINISTER JANARDHANA REDDY PASSES AWAY

Hyderabad: Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Nedurumilli Janardhan Reddy passed away in the early hours on 9th May 2014 after brief illness. He was 80 and is survived by wife and four sons.



The end came around 5.50 am in the Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) hospital in Hyderabad, where he was admitted for treatment of his ailments.

His body was shifted to his residence in Somajiguda area and the last rites will be performed at his native village in Wakadu of Nellore district on Saturday, (10th May, 2014).

Late Janardhan Reddy was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh between 1990 and 1992. Before that he was a minister in the Cabinets of Jalagam Vengal Rao, T. Anjaiah, B. Venkatram, K. Vijayabhaskara Reddy and Marri Channa Reddy. Entered politics in 1972, he went on to become close to the family members of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after he was made a Rajya Sabha member.

He was elected to the AP Legislative Council for 1978-84 period and was a minister under different Chief Ministers during 1978-83. He went on to become the Chief Minister in 1990 after Marri Channa Reddy had quit following the communal clashes in Hyderabad.

Late Janardhan Reddy was the Chief Minister for about two years. He was elected to Lok Sabha from Bapatla, Narasaraopeta and Visakhapatnam three times in 1998, 1999 and 2004. He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 2009 and continues to be a member of the Upper House till death.

Born on Feb 20, 1935 at Wakadu, Janardhan Reddy was a school teacher before taking a plunge into politics. He was made the AP Congress Committee president in 1988 and was replaced by Marri Channa Reddy in 1989.

He holds the distinctive record of representing the Upper and Lower Houses in AP and at the Centre as he was also elected to the State Assembly from Venkatagiri in 1989. His wife N. Rajyalakshmi also worked as a minister in the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy cabinet from 2004 to 2009. Late Janardhan Reddy escaped a bid on his life by naxalites in 2007. ❖

AICC DIARY

FACTS THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED

Spokesperson: Shri Abhishek Manu Singhvi: He said that people can lie and distort but facts cannot be ignored. Objective figures and facts indisputably establish that there is one supreme irony from which the BJP and Mr. Modi are always running away. The irony is that the competition on good governance based on facts is only between UPA-I and UPA-II. It is not between NDA and UPA-I and not between NDA and UPA-II and I will demonstrate this to you from facts. My senior colleague did so yesterday with similar but a different set of facts and that is why you have to ask yourself the question. That rhetoric, polemics, slogans supposed oratory skills as we are now told lack of oratory skills cannot make up for facts and figures. It is a very interesting irony as I said that the competition if at all is not between NDA and UPA-I but only between UPA-I and UPA-II and I am going to demonstrate and share you a little more in continuation of the facts and figures given yesterday by my senior colleague.

Let us take NDA - 6 years, UPA-I - 5 years and UPA-II - 4 years. There is no trickery here. The years are known, I am taking 6, 5 and 4 and we have also got a similar chart on this which the AICC has which you can collect later on. Let us take 5, 10, and 12 major indicators - 6 years for NDA, 5 years for UPA-I and 4 years for UPA-II. This is in a real debate. It is not confusing; it is not running away with facts. Annual GDP growth percentage per year 6.08 NDA, 8.4 UPA-I and 7.3 for UPA-II. It shows that our lowest worst average rate of growth per year is higher than the NDA's highest best. Tuesday, 1st April, 2014.

MODI HAS STARTED POSING AS PM

Spokesperson: Shri Anand Sharma: He said that during the discussion during elections many issues come out. Congress Party has already said earlier that the main issue is of about thinking, about thought, and about the achievements of which party and what are their policies about the future. It is also well-known that during this election campaign the main opposition party BJP has brought some unique issues to the fore. In the history of the country, it has happened for the first time in elections that a person has been crowned and nominated nine months ahead of the election. This raises a question for the democratic process. There are around 81 crore voters in this country who by their conscious and

thinking take a decision together which will be beneficial for the majority people. If this had been limited till campaigning, it would have been under standable, but the BJP candidate Narendra Modi has started addressing in public meetings as the future Prime Minister of the country and this he started speaking at a meeting in Chandigarh. The question is, this is a big country, the thinking is big, it has guided the world in the field of science. There is capability in this country and a thought that can a person can be bigger than the country, on whose face there is a voice of hatred, with no kindness but full of pride, the BJP should think and remember that the people of Indian Society had crushed the pride and ego of Aurangzeb to the Britishers and gave them no respect. In this democracy, this itself is a kind of challenge about which we have to make the people aware as this is our responsibility. But this general elections is a decisive elections, it is an election of two thoughts of two different ideologies. Wednesday, 2nd April, 2014.

BJP HAS NO IDEA OR IDEOLOGY

Spokesperson: Shri Randeep Surjewala: He said that the BJP has been keeping people of India as also the friends of media in the dark qua the most important document in the democratic process that is the manifesto of BJP. Absence of incapacity to incompetence in bringing a manifesto even three days prior to the date of polling has exposed the BJP for the fact that it has ceased to be either an organization or a cohesive political party. It has in fact become an accumulation of individual collected to sing the swan song of Shri Narendra Modi. While complete absence of reflects lack of leadership or a thought process in a party that is asking people of this country for their mandate. It is per se insult to India's democracy and nearly 75 crore voters. It also establishes that the only manifesto that the BJP has is neither founded upon an idea nor ideology but blind lust of one individual to anoint himself to power in this country. Friday, 4th April, 2014.

INDIVIDUAL CENTRIC POLITICS DISASTROUS

Spokesperson: Shri Manish Tewari: He said it is a privilege to be back again in familiar surroundings among friends though unfortunately in some strange circumstances to say the least. However, as we stand on the crust of the first phase of the 2014 general elections. There is need to step back and for people of this country to think and analyze as to what is this election all about? What is the 2014 election all about and essentially the 20-14 election is a more than anything else a clash

between two competing visions of India. A plural, secular and inclusive vision represented by the Indian National Congress and a theocratic majoritarian vision represented essentially by the BJP and its various front organizations. The events which have played out over the past two days - the sting done by a news web portal the statements which have been attributed to the former Home Minister of Gujarat and the Congress party has taken that up, I am instructed, with the Election Commission only goes to reinforce the apprehensions that we have been articulating and expressing that in the BJP you have a political party which is prepared to go to any extent in the quest for power. So, the first thing that we would like to appeal to the people of India and since the north East of India goes to polls first, that what is the kind of India that you want over the next five years - a pluralistic or a theocratic India - that is the first question which people of India need to reflect upon. Saturday, 5th April, 2014.

PREACHING POLITICS OF HATE

Spokesperson: Shri Randeep Surjewala: He said the BJP does not need manifesto any longer. Shri Narendra Modi Ji and his conscious keeper Shri Amit Shah by their hate and divisive speeches have already released the real manifesto of BJP which is to divide, to destruct, to kill, to take revenge. That is the real manifesto of BJP as unleashed by Shri Amit Shah in Uttar Pradesh yesterday. About 40 Kms from Muzaffarnagar Shri Amit Shah addressed many gatherings of three different communities exhorting them to take revenge, to an insinuating that division, destruction and revenge is the mode and manner to carry the agenda forward. Today when the festival of 'Navratras' is being celebrated across India which itself stands for brotherhood and peace, principally the language of hatred, language of revenge. Saturday, 5th April, 2014

CONCEALING FACTS

Spokesperson: Shri Kapil Sibal: He said I want to at the outset state that the Congress Party does not believe in raising personal issues against any candidate or any aspirant of the office of the Prime Minister and that is not the purpose of this press conference. The purpose of this press conference is only to bring facts to the notice of the people of India through you that in 2001 Narendra Modi Ji was a candidate from Rajkot for the Gujarat assembly, in 2002, 2007 and 2012 he was candidate from Mani Nagar and he also became the Chief Minister of Gujarat and under Form 26 Rule A for the conduct of the election rules, he was required to disclose all material facts to the Election

PRESS BRIEFINGS

Commission about his marital status and about the status of the properties owned by his spouse which fact he disclosed by not filling in a column which was required to be filled in about his marital status. He left it blank. Friday, 11th April, 2014.

ANTI-DALIT REMARKS MADE BY MODI

1. In November, 2007; Shri Narendra Modi authored a book titled 'Karamyog'. 5000 copies of this 101 pages book were got printed by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation. In the Chapter titled 'Sadhna Parva' on pages 48 and 49, Shri Modi stated as follows:-

"I do not believe that they (Valmikis) have been doing this job to sustain their livelihood. Had this been so, they would not have continued with this type of work generation after generation. At some point of time, somebody must have got the enlightenment that it is their (Valmiki's) duty to work for the happiness of the entire society and the gods; that they would have to do this job bestowed upon them by gods; and that this job of cleaning up could continue as an unintentional spiritual activity for centuries. This should have continued generation after generation. It is impossible to believe that their ancestors did not have the choice of adopting any other work or job." Monday, 14th April, 2014.

HORRENDOUS MALNUTRITION FIGURES

Spokesperson: Shri Shashi Tharoor: He said last time was before I went to campaign in my constituency and after that I have been running around little bit in other parts of the country. I had a chance to do some campaigning in Mumbai and Chennai and I can tell you that coming from Tamil Nadu, it is a great feeling that the Congress is back in Tamil Nadu. We are contesting on our own and that has totally motivated the party workers. There is a sense that those who are at one point anxious to vote for us but not for some of the people we were allied with, now once again come out and I saw a lot of enthusiasm on my own road show for the candidate in Chennai South from Delhi Mr. Ramani. We are looking at an interesting time there. As Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji has been in Amethi today and has spoken very strongly about Mr. Modi and his so-called growth model. I am really struck that Mr. Modi said today that he is not going to look for votes

in the name of any caste or community or religion that he was only looking for votes in the name of development. I must say that is not terribly surprising because it will be very inconvenient for Mr. Modi to start having to look for votes from a very specific section of our society where is he going to get vote from the Muslim community. We know what he has done for them. Where is he going to get votes from dalit community? We have a very interesting revelation that 27,000 posts in Gujarat reserved for SC/ST are still lying vacant because Mr. Modi's government has not been able to fill them. 40% of the people in Gujarat are deprived of drinking water. How can he ask for votes from the poor? Saturday, 19th April, 2014.

NATION NEEDS SOME ANSWERS

Spokesperson: Shri Abhishek Manu Singhvi: He said I am going to be asking some questions today and I hope we will get some answers and if they are very busy in taunting, abusing during election campaign and perhaps can answer by tomorrow or even perhaps day after tomorrow but we need some answers. The nation needs some answers. The Janta to whom you are lecturing wants some answers and this set of questions relate to examples of crony capitalism, examples of squandering of State largesse as if it is your private feudal estate and it demands answers in the public interest. There are many questions, may be I will reduce little bit. Let us see how many they can answer. Wednesday, 23rd April, 2014.

GOOD SIGNS OF ECONOMY

Spokesperson: Shri Chidambaram: He said I just thought I will start with a few points on the economy. Thanks to the avenues, more or less as expected on direct taxes, income tax, corporate tax, we have collected approximately Rs. 5,500 crore more than the revised estimate. Indirect tax - we have achieved a target for customs, about central excise and service tax, there has been a shortfall resulting in a net shortfall of indirect taxes of about Rs. 70,000 crore. So net direct tax shortfall is about Rs. 12,000 crore but after accounting for the share of states and the tax net to centre will be down by Rs. 8,400 crore or so which has more than been made up by non-tax revenues of SEBI.

The conclusion is that we will achieve the fiscal deficit target.

In terms of percentage to GDP, in the previous year it was 4.7%, in the year that ended it will be only 1.7%. Not only have we contained the Current Account Deficit of 32 Billion US Dollars, we have fully financed it and this is the most important point that we have added to Reserves of about 28.5 Billion US Dollars. So not only as the Current Account Deficit been fully and safely financed, we have also added to the Reserves of 28.5 Billion US Dollars. So these are good signs and as I said the economy moving forward can only become stronger. Saturday, 26th April, 2014.

FRUSTRATION AND DESPERATION OF BJP

Spokesperson: Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala: He said Reacting to completely false and defamatory allegations by BJP in a press conference today, Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, Spokesperson of AICC has issued following statement to the press:-

"Shri Narendra Modi and BJP are panicking due to Smt Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's popular campaign in Rai Bareli and Amethi. Also, placing of solid and hard truth and facts in public realm by Shri Rahul Gandhi and Smt. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has mentally un-nerved BJP as also Modi and company.

Further, negative reports of polling successively from UP, Bihar and other States; Shri Narendra Modi and company have left them completely frustrated. Sunday, 27th April, 2014.

Hand in glove with hawala racket king

Spokesperson: Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala: He said Shri Narendra Modi's overt relationship, protection and friendship with one of the biggest Hawala racket unearthed a few days back is writ large raising serious questions that both BJP and Shri Narendra Modi needs to answer. Before I take you to the detailed pictures that we have circulated to you, there are some important facts that I want to place for your consideration and for consideration of people of this country that Shri Narendra Modi and BJP needs to answer. Monday, 28th April, 2014.

Tom Vadakkan,
Media Secretary, AICC

