



EDITORIAL

There can be no greater atrocity than taking the lives of innocent defenseless victims by acts of Naxalism. History is witness to the fact that all issues have always been finally resolved by negotiations and not by acts of terror. The recent attack on a convoy carrying senior stalwarts of the Congress from Chhattisgarh resulted in merciless killing of more than 25 people including security personnel and innocent bystanders. There are no words harsh enough to condemn this act of brutality and barbarianism. Congress President and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi expressing her anguish during the All Party meet held at Prime Minister's residence on 10th June said "This was nothing short of carnage, deliberately planned and mercilessly executed. This must be condemned unequivocally". She said that it was an attack on our democratic values. On the Republican Constitution and the Parliamentary system" Condemning the philosophy of the Maoists Smt. Gandhi said, 'The Maoists have chosen a different and destructive path. Their declared goal is the overthrow of Parliamentary democracy through a violent armed struggle. The Indian state cannot and will not accept the Maoist doctrine. The Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi while condemning the brutal attack said, "it is an attack on the ideals of India, founded on the bedrock of non violence' Offering his condolences he said 'I condemn, in the strongest terms the violent massacre of colleagues and security personnel who laid their lives as well as those who suffered injuries. We stand firmly by the resolute and courageous people of Chhattisgarh'. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh while addressing the Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security called upon the leaders "To build a broader national consensus on the strategy to tackle the Naxalite Challenge." Calling attention to the increase in number and intensity of incidents of Communal and sectarian violence during 2012 as compared to earlier, the Prime Minister said "I am sure all of us agree that maintenance of communal harmony in our country is critical for our continued growth and prosperity. He added, "I believe that time has now come to view the challenges of terrorism, communal violence and Left wing Extremism in a holistic manner. I think each one of us needs to be completely objective in our approach on these issues acting in the national interest rising above narrow political and ideological divides."

The tragedy at the Kedarnath Temple and other parts of Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh arising out of floods caused by heavy monsoon and incidents of cloud burst in the region was a very sad and an unfortunate incident. Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi expressing her deep grief offered her condolences to the families of the bereaved. Smt. Sonia Gandhi also issued directions for timely and prompt relief measures to be provided to the flood affected people and asked to ensure speedy rehabilitation. She also asked the State Government to undertake proper preventative measures.

The Women's Aajeevika Diwas-2013 was celebrated at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 3rd June. The National Rural Livelihood Mission is one of the key programmes of the UPA Government. It surpasses in magnitude any other such programme across the Globe. Speaking on the occasion, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi said that Empowerment of Women and weaker sections has been one of the main pillars of UPA Government. She said "I believe that, to bring about a change, women have a big capacity to do so." She reasoned that "... women are the centre point of a family or the society on whose shoulders rests the responsibility of bringing up the children. The social revolution that we want to bring is possible only through Women." She expressed her happiness and said "the Joy is about that we have joined together to find success to some extent in the Women's Empowerment Agenda. Along this we also get inspiration to move together in our way ahead." She recounted the many schemes launched and announced by the UPA Government and expressed her happiness on the success achieved till so far. ♦

CONGRESS SANDESH

voice of the nation

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The Congress President was pleased to announce a New Team for the AICC. The work allocation was done simultaneously. New In-charge have been made to oversee the work of states some of which are due for election later this year. The New team of AICC will also be of great assistance to strengthen the hands of the Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi in his endeavour to rejuvenate the party at the smallest level. It will boost the morale of the party men and give better results. We are confident we will form the governments in the election going states, as well as General Elections-2014.

Simultaneously, in the penultimate year of the completion of the term of the UPA II due to be completed in about a year's time in 2014, the Prime Minister expanded his cabinet to fill up vacancies in the Union Cabinet. The new Ministers, Four of cabinet rank and Four Ministers of State were allocated their portfolios to make the cabinet be able to fulfill its declared goals at the earliest in the coming year. The new Union Cabinet Ministers bring with them a host of Experience which will assist them to get to work in right earnest from the word go. The Ministers assumed their charge and have set about on the task presented to them in right earnest.

The UPA Government and Congress Party will work together for the declared task of working for the aam aadmi and strengthening the nation.

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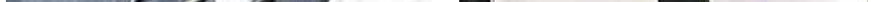
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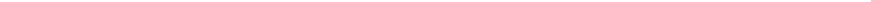
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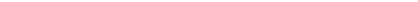
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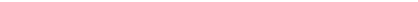
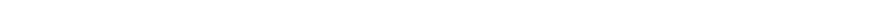


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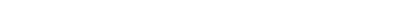
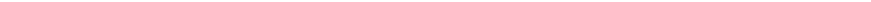
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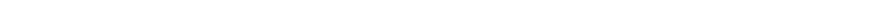
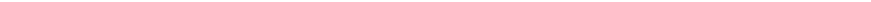
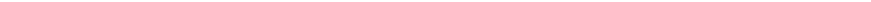
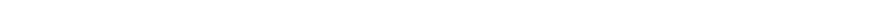
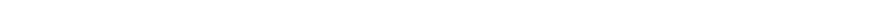
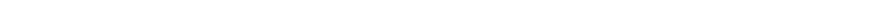
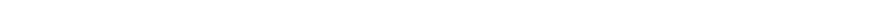
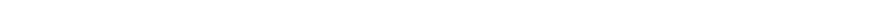
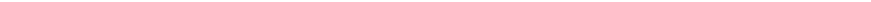
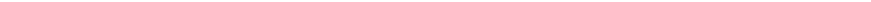
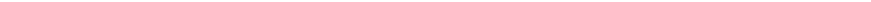
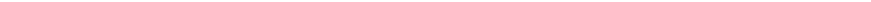
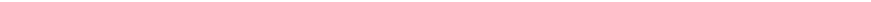
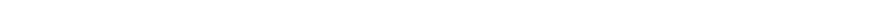
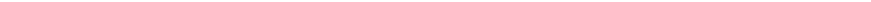
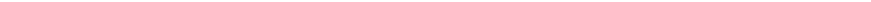
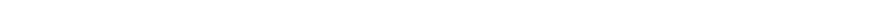
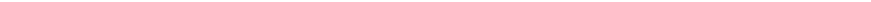
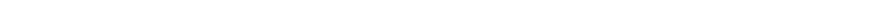
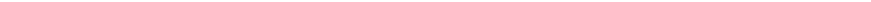
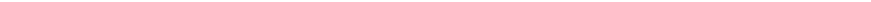
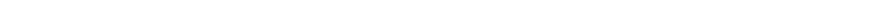
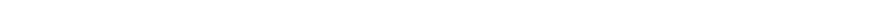
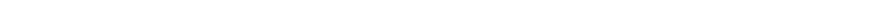
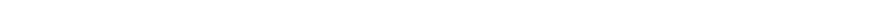
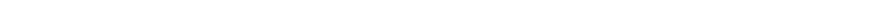
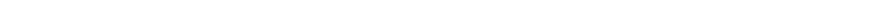
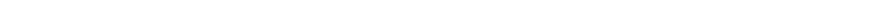
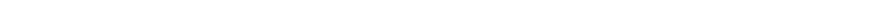
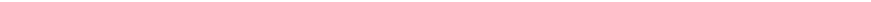
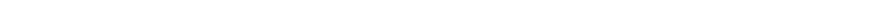
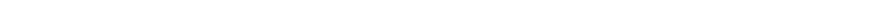
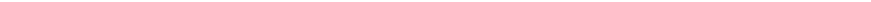
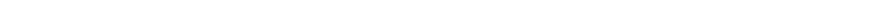
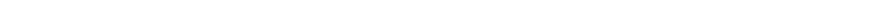
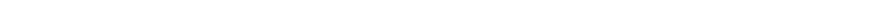
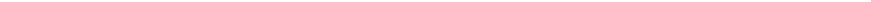
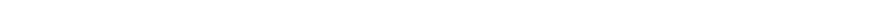
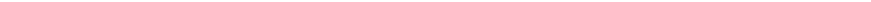
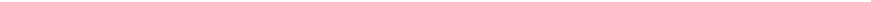
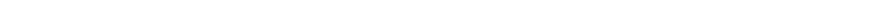
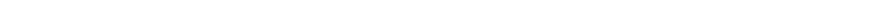
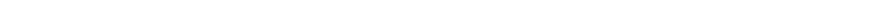
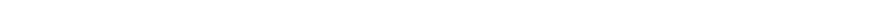
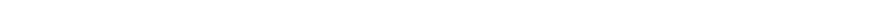
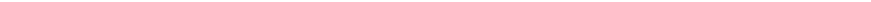
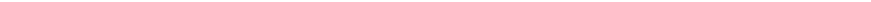
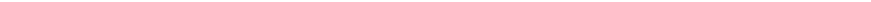
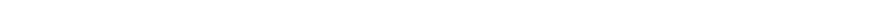
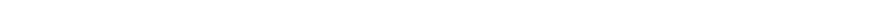
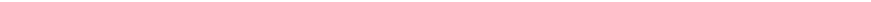
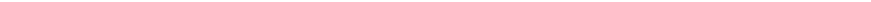
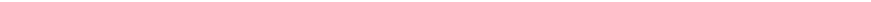
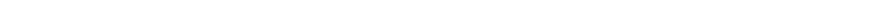
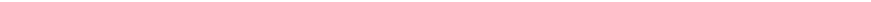
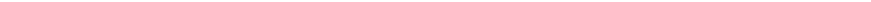
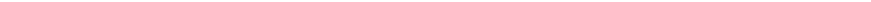
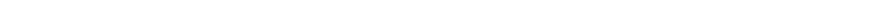
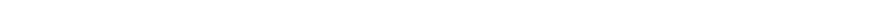
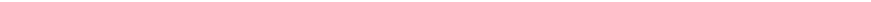
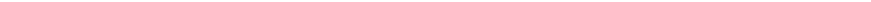
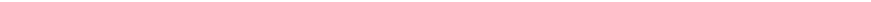
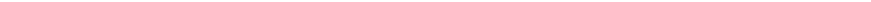
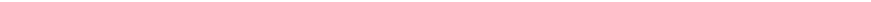
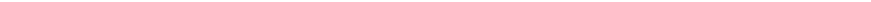
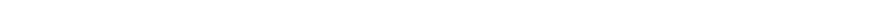
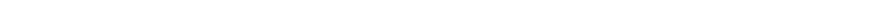
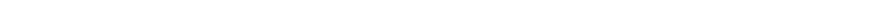
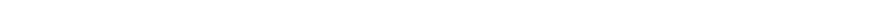
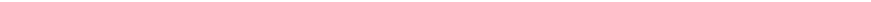
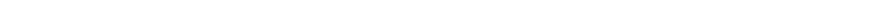
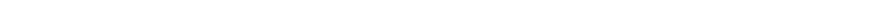
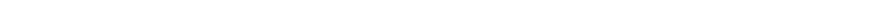
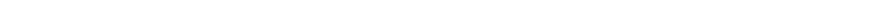
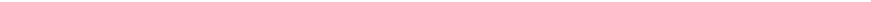
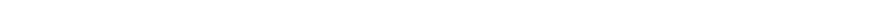
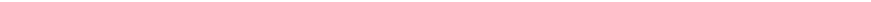
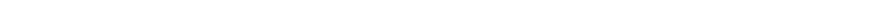
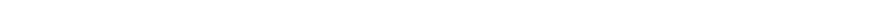
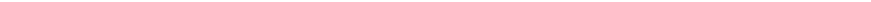
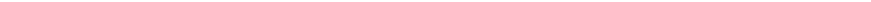
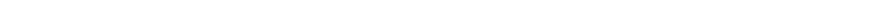
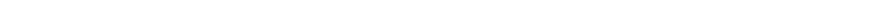
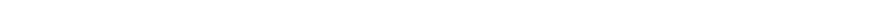
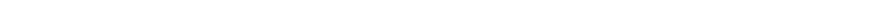
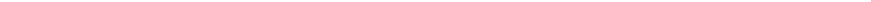
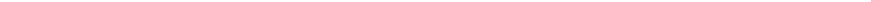
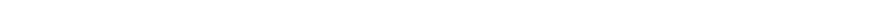
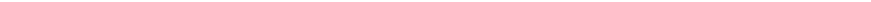
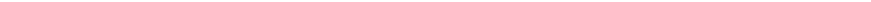
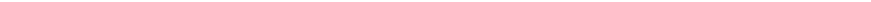
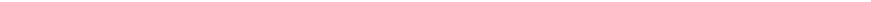
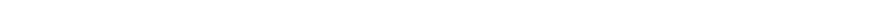
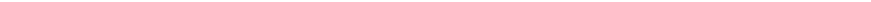
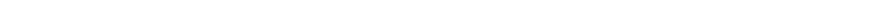
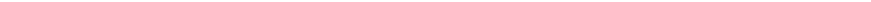
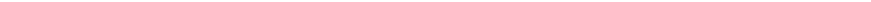
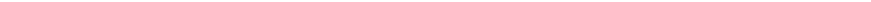
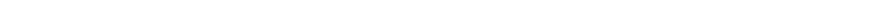
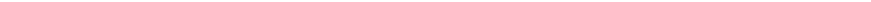
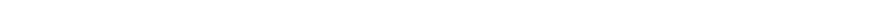
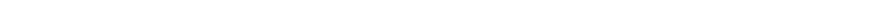
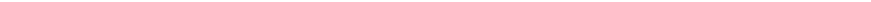
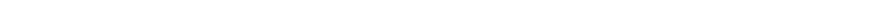
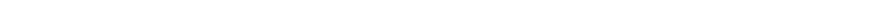
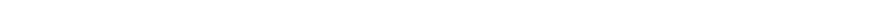
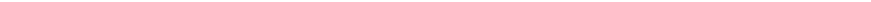
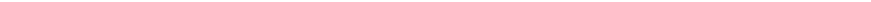
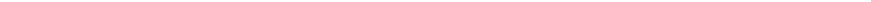
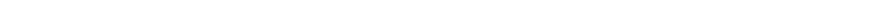
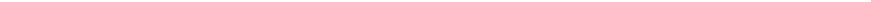
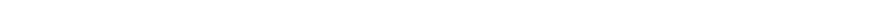
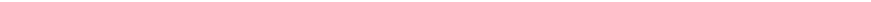
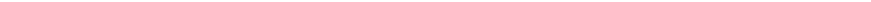
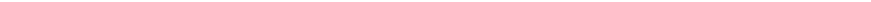
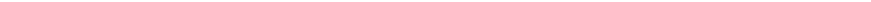
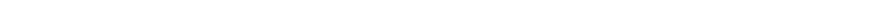
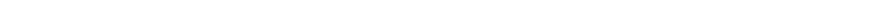
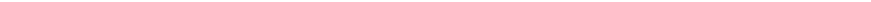
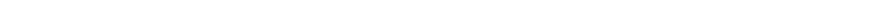
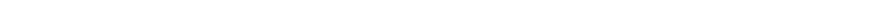
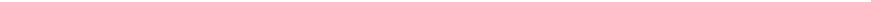
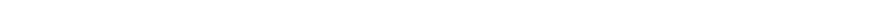
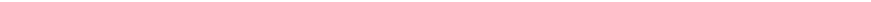
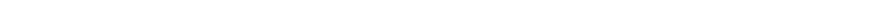
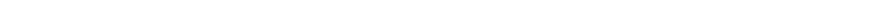
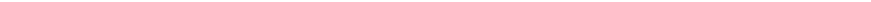
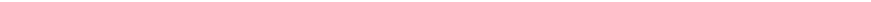
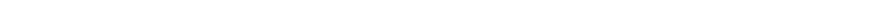
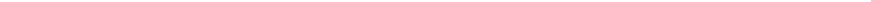
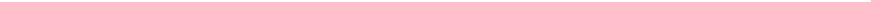
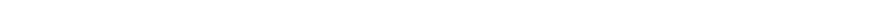
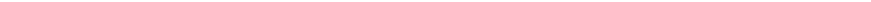
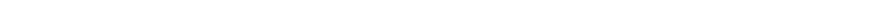
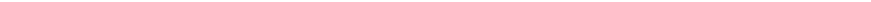
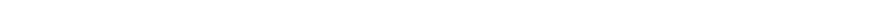
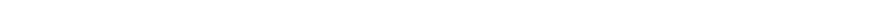
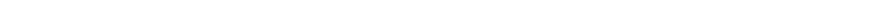
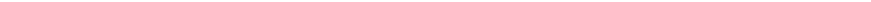
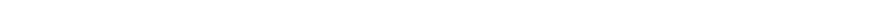
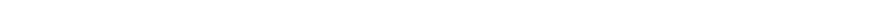
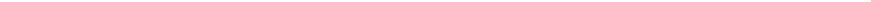
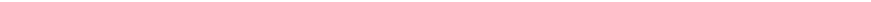
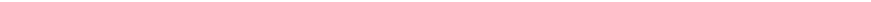
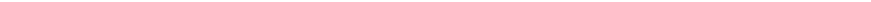
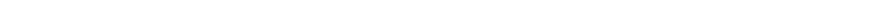
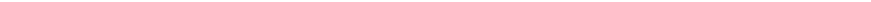
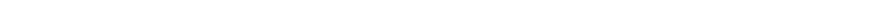
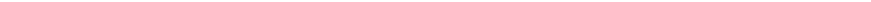
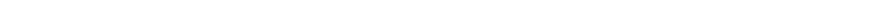
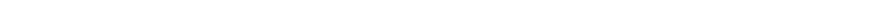
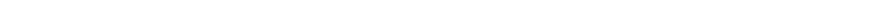
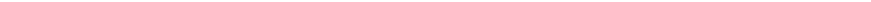
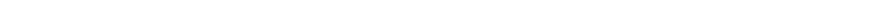
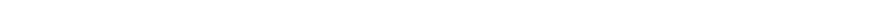
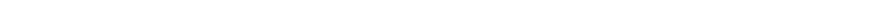
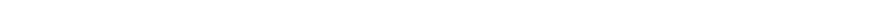
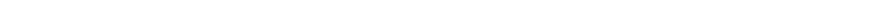
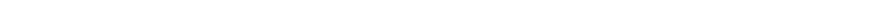
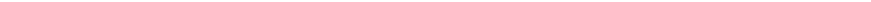
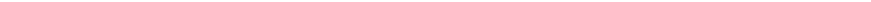
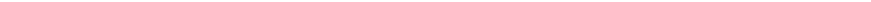
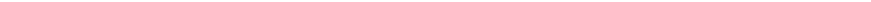
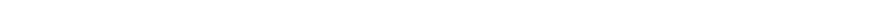
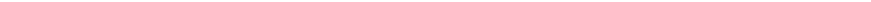
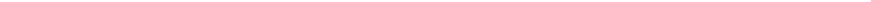
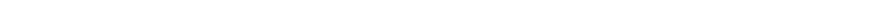
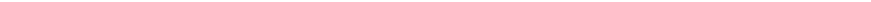
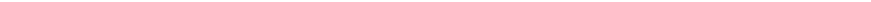
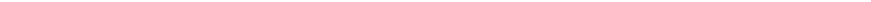
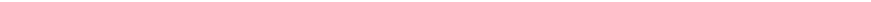
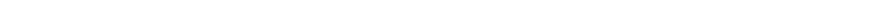
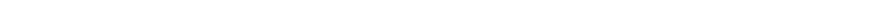
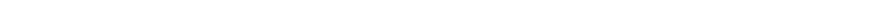
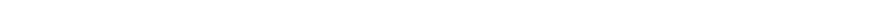
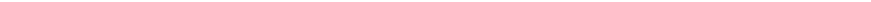
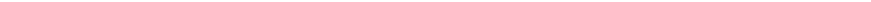
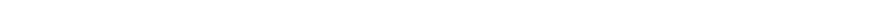
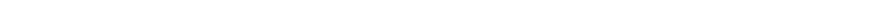
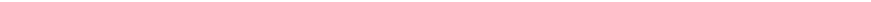
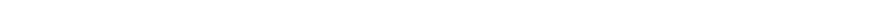
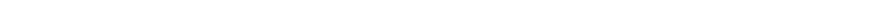
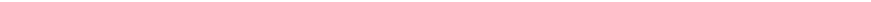
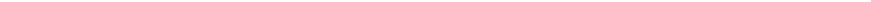
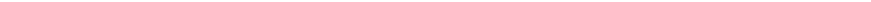
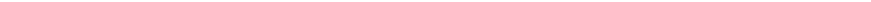
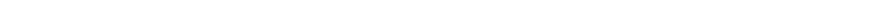
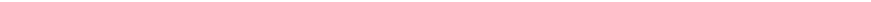
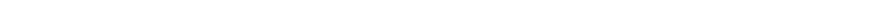
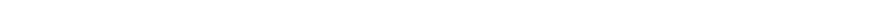
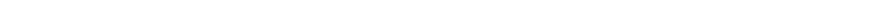
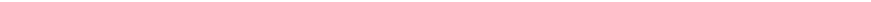
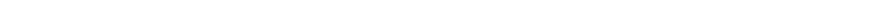
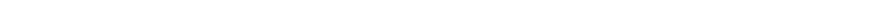
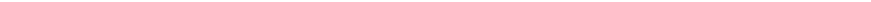
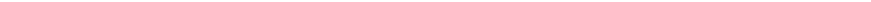
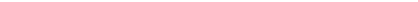
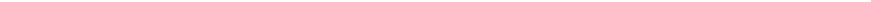
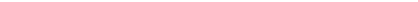
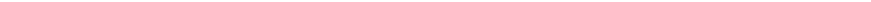
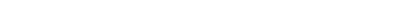
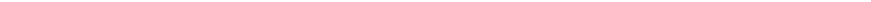
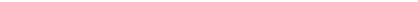
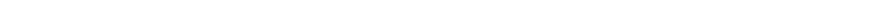
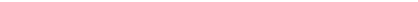
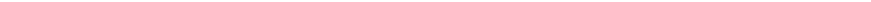
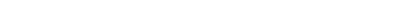
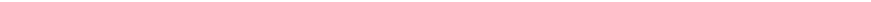
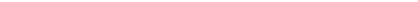
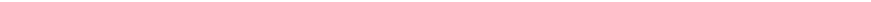
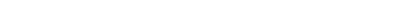
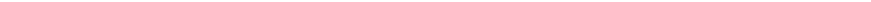
Congress Party pays tributes to its leaders killed during Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh



13

PM'S SPEECH

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh addressing Chief Ministers said that Centre and States has to work in unison to tackle terror activities





Speech of the UPA chairperson on the occasion of Livelihood Diwas-2013 at Pragati Maidan on 3rd June, 2013

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH NRLM

I have the honour to be among you on the occasion of this Aajeevika Diwas, 2013. I have seen beautiful things made by my sisters and I have also heard the experience of few of them, by which I have felt how they are still struggling hard in their life and are finding success through their hard work. The story of your success has reached every corner of this country and has become a source of inspiration for lakhs of my sisters.

The National Rural Livelihood Mission is one of the main programme of the UPA Government. No country in the world has such a significant and large project for women's empowerment.

You all have proved that this programme for the women can give deliverance to the poor from the scourge of poverty – a deliverance which is based on self – employment and a stable source of livelihood and with no dependence or mercy of others.

Empowerment of women and weaker sections has been one of the main pillars of the UPA Government. Women remain highly exploited due to poverty and social exploitation – particularly women from scheduled caste,

NRLM IS SIGNIFICANT AND LARGE PROJECT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: SONIA GANDHI



scheduled tribe, backward class and minority groups.

I believe that, to bring about a change in society, women have a big capacity to do so. Women are the centre – point of a family or the society, on whose shoulders rests the responsibility of bringing – up the children. The social revolution that we want to bring, is possible only through women.

Our goal is clear. We have to make the Women's self – help groups and their organizations economically strong. In the next ten years, seven crore BPL families would get deliverance from poverty. This is no easy task, but many of the states by adopting Livelihood Mission have proven that through the women's self – help groups it is possible to bring economic and social change in the rural sector. By looking at this success, we have to implement this Livelihood Mission throughout the country in a fast manner – particularly in the North and Central parts of India.

I am particularly happy that we have started the economic and social empowerment of women in Jammu and Kashmir through self – help groups. In the next five years we hope this programme will reach 2/3rd of the families, I have been told that the results are very encouraging, and we shall soon witness the results of success. Similarly, special package is being prepared for North – East region, Himachal Pradesh and the hilly region of Uttarakhand.

The UPA government has recently taken an important decision by which the women self – help groups can take a loan of Rs. 3 lakh at an interest of seven percent and those women

groups which repay the loan on time will get additional rebate of three percent. This will give more encouragement and progress to my sisters of the self – help groups.

As you all know that the UPA government has already declared its intention of setting – up a National Women's Bank. This will be started with a fund of Rupees one thousand crores. This will be operated by women only and will give loans only to women and women self – help groups.

There are many special initiatives in the purview of the Livelihood programme. Empowerment of women farmers, skill development for rural youth and employment in Naxal affected area, will give encouragement to source of income and stable living methods and will strengthen women's movement. We have to do a lot to make women economically strong and make more loans available to increase their skills and capacity, by which they find new avenues of livelihood.

Whenever I come amongst you I feel very happy and my expectations rise. The joy is about that we have joined together to find success to some extent in the women empowerment agenda. Along with this we also get inspiration to move together in our way ahead. Now, the need is that we keep our minds on the target livelihood mission with all our determination and honesty.

I thank you all for giving me this opportunity to come here. I can only hope that Livelihood programme and self – help group movement becomes stronger day – by – day. Jai Hind! ♦



FLOOD AND CLOUD BURST TRAGEDY

As flood waters ebbed and rain's fury eased, the loss of Uttarakhand's worst natural disaster could be more than estimated. The Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Vijay Bahuguna, who described the calamity as a "Himalayan tsunami", said, "very heavy casualties are feared."

Many of those marooned are pilgrims to the Char Dhams - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. According to Char Dham Yatri Sangathan, more than 25,000 pilgrims are trapped in Damta alone since Sunday, which is 70 km from Yamunotri.

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi flew over the water-ravaged towns and mud-caked villages. The PM has announced a relief package of Rs 1,000 crore. He said what they had seen was horrifying.

Sonia Gandhi's concern over Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh floods

Hon'ble Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi spoke to the Home Minister, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Vir Bhadra Singh and Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Vijay Bahuguna and enquired about the situation arising out of floods caused by heavy monsoon rains and incidents of cloud burst. Congress President is in constant touch with these leaders.

She issued directions for timely and prompt relief measures to be provided to the flood affected people and asked them to ensure speedy rehabilitation and proper preventive measures. Congress President also asked the Chief Ministers to ensure that the arrangements for communication and travel is made for stranded tourists and visitors from other States.

Congress President has also expressed deep grief and condolences to the families of the bereaved.

Congress President, Prime Minister do aerial Survey of devastated Uttarakhand

Hon'ble Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi did an aerial survey of flood affected areas of Uttarakhand along with the Prime Minister on 19th June, 2013. She felt that a huge loss of property and lives have taken place in these areas. Many pilgrims are stranded and a large number of roads, bridges and houses have been washed away.

Congress President is in constant touch with the Chief Ministers of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. She has asked them to expedite the relief work, restore power and communication lines and speedily evacuate stranded people.

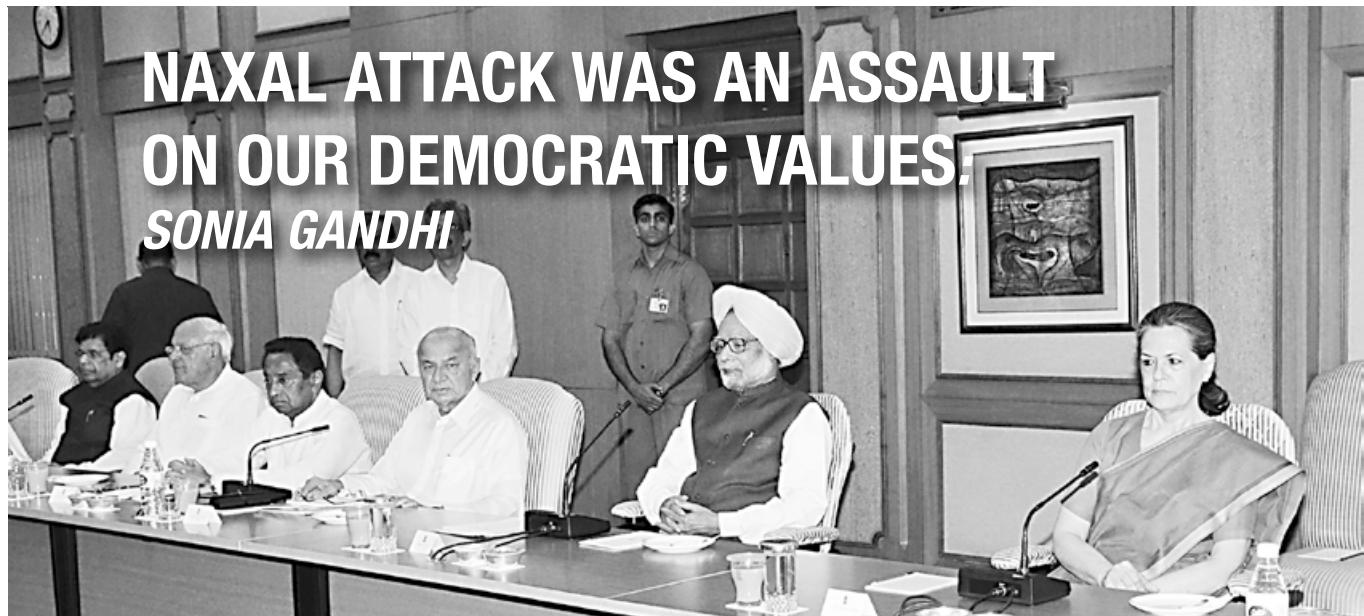
Congress President said that the Centre and the State government are together making concerned efforts to compensate this damage caused by the disaster. I would like to show my concern and condolences to those families who have lost their dear ones in this natural calamity.

One month salary for relief work

Congress president Smt Sonia Gandhi on 21st June, 2013 directed all party MPs and MLAs to donate their one month salary for relief work in the flood-ravaged Uttarakhand.

Smt. Gandhi also directed all party MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to give Rs 10 lakh each from their MPLAD fund for carrying out relief work there," ♦





NAXAL ATTACK WAS AN ASSAULT ON OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES. SONIA GANDHI

The UPA & NAC Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi addressed the All Party Meeting and Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh is meeting representatives of all political parties in an attempt to counter Naxalism.

Last month, a convoy of Congress leaders was attacked in Chhattisgarh. 25 people were killed.

The Centre wants states affected by Naxalism to forgo the focus on development in Naxal-affected areas and take more responsibility in combating Left-Wing Extremism (LWE). Specifically, it would like states to conduct thorough intelligence operations to identify and locate top local Naxal commanders, add more police stations in the worst-affected areas, empower and upgrade special state forces so that they are less dependent on central paramilitary troops, and speed up the construction of roads so that troops have better access to affected areas.

Following is the text of UPA Chairperson, Smt Sonia Gandhi at the 'All Part Meet' on 10th June, 2013 at 7, Race course Road, New Delhi.

"We are meeting in the shadow of the barbarous massacre that took place in southern Chattisgarh on the 25th of May where our Pradesh Congress Committee President and other party members were killed by the Maoists. Many were injured, our senior colleague V.C. Shukla is fighting for his life. A number of policemen and on-lookers also

perished in the murderous attack.

A detailed inquiry is taking place. While we await its findings, certain things are simply not in doubt.

This was nothing short of carnage, deliberately planned and mercilessly executed.

This must be condemned unequivocally.

This was not just an attack on the Congress Party and its leaders and workers.

It was an assault on our democratic values, on the Republican constitution and the Parliamentary system.

The Prime Minister has often described the threat from Maoists as the single most serious internal security challenge that our country faces. That is why the UPA-government has put in place a multi-dimensional strategy.

The Maoists threat is most grave in areas which have large populations of tribal communities. The Maoist claim to speak and fight for the tribal people, but this is a hollow claim.

There is, sadly, still considerable deprivation amongst these communities. The answer to poverty and backwardness is development, social inclusion and economic empowerment. These can be achieved – and indeed have been achieved in many other regions – through democratic means and good governance.

The Maoists have chosen a different and

destructive path. Their declared goal is the over-throw of parliamentary democracy through a violent armed struggle. The Indian State cannot and will not accept Maoist doctrine. The Maoist must give up the path of violence. On these, there can be no compromise.

Our democracy has proved to be hugely accommodative. There have been well-known instances of militant and insurgent groups giving up the path of violence and joining the political process.

The Centre and the States have to work together to deal with the Maoist threat.

The primary responsibility to quell insurgency lies with the State governments. The Central government is duty bound to render every possible assistance to the State governments.

The primary responsibility to provide good governance and implement development programmes, also lies with the state governments. The Central government is duty bound to supplement the resources of the States and pay special attention to the Scheduled areas.

All political parties are obliged to make appropriate laws and ensure that they are implemented in both letter and spirit. And, may I say, just as we came together to pass the historic Forest Rights Act in 2006, we must now come together quickly and enact new legislation for land acquisition and for

sharing the benefits of mining with local communities.

While my own Party has been the victim in this catastrophe, and while there have been grave security lapses, I believe that we must now rise above partisan considerations.

We must send out a clear and unambiguous signal that we are united and will remain united in dealing with the Maoist threat using all legitimate means.

We must also send out a clear and unambiguous signal that we believe that political engagement and developmental programmes are absolutely essential in Maoist affected areas. And while fulfilling their responsibilities, the security forces, the development agencies and the political workers must convince the people that the rights of the tribal communities will be fully protected and the injustices of the past will be redressed.

Friends, there are many issues on which we hold different views.

But there are issues on which we must come together, speak in once voice, and act with a sense of unified purpose and will.

We have come together in the past at crucial moments.

Let us do so today as well.

This is the very least we can do to pay tribute to our courageous colleagues, police personnel and villagers who became martyrs to the cause of Indian democracy." ♦

CONSENSUS REACHED ON TACKLING RED TERROR: PM

Prime Minister's Opening Remarks at the all-party meeting on Naxal violence on 10th June, 2013 at New Delhi

New Delhi: The Centre and the states reached consensus on best way to tackle Red terror. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh set the tone for discussion by emphasising that the Centre and state governments must work together to deal with the "very grave threat" posed by Maoists.

"I welcome you all to this meeting of political parties to review the security situation arising out of Naxalite violence, particularly in the wake of the brutal attack on Congress leadership and workers and their security personnel in Chhattisgarh on 25th May.

The ideology of the Naxalites is well known - adoption of violent means with a total disregard for human life to weaken and overthrow the democratically elected governments in our country. For many years now, they have been resorting to brutal and inhuman attacks causing serious loss of lives and injury to security personnel, political functionaries and innocent people. But I believe that the Chhattisgarh attack marks the first time that they have targeted the top leadership of a political party in a systematic manner. The strength and robustness of the democratic forces in our country would suffer if the space for political activity gets restricted because of fear or terror. Therefore, it would not be wrong to say that the Chhattisgarh attack is a frontal assault on the democratic foundations of our nation. I am sure that all of us would agree that

the State governments, and especially the Chhattisgarh government, must work to ensure that conditions become more conducive to political activity in Naxalite affected areas. The Central government is committed to supporting the States fully in this task.

The Government has been following a two-pronged strategy to deal with this challenge of Left Wing Extremism - sustained and proactive operations against Maoist extremists and addressing development and governance issues in Left Wing Extremist affected areas. We believe that there is a need to further fine tune and strengthen this strategy. We have already started work in this direction. I would not like to take your time to give details of the steps that we are taking or planning to take, but would only reaffirm that our government will not be found wanting in this regard.

We believe that there is urgency to the need to effectively deal with the Naxalite menace. Even as we take all measures that are needed to permanently root out this menace, we must immediately ensure that Naxalite violence is held in check and attacks like the one in Chhattisgarh do not recur.

Our Government looks forward to benefitting from your immense wisdom, knowledge and experience to meet a grave challenge that our country faces today." ♦



UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE ALL PARTY MEETING ON NAXAL VIOLENCE

Following is the text of the resolution unanimously passed at the all-party meeting on Naxal violence, in New Delhi on 10th June, 2013:

“ This meeting of all political parties strongly condemns the brutal killing of political leaders and workers by the CPI(Maoist) on 25.5.2013 at Jiram Ghati, District Bastar, Chhattisgarh. Twenty six persons, mostly members of the Congress party, some security persons and innocent villagers, lost their lives in this dastardly attack on a peaceful convoy returning from a political event. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and sincerely hope that the injured will recover soon.

The CPI (Maoist) is an unlawful organization. It has indulged in senseless acts of violence targeting security persons, alleged police informers, small business persons and government servants. The attack on 25.5.2013 was a pre-meditated attack on political workers with the intent to intimidate and overawe all political workers in that region and to thwart the political mobilisation of the people. It was an attack on democracy, freedom, and free speech

and expression. Nothing can be more dangerous to our Republic than the insurgency of the CPI(Maoist) in the pursuit of its misguided goal of overthrowing Parliamentary democracy and the Constitution of India through violent means. The Indian State cannot, and will not, accept the pernicious Maoist doctrine. The CPI(Maoist) must give up the path of violence and destruction. On this, there can be no compromise.

All the parties at this meeting will be resolute in the defence of the Constitution and Parliamentary democracy. There is enough room in Parliamentary democracy for dissent and differences of opinion, for redressal of grievances, and for advocacy of the cause of the poor and the downtrodden. We appeal to the youth of the affected States to abjure violence and pursue their goals through legitimate and democratic means. We assure them that the Governments will be sensitive to

their concerns and redress any sense of alienation and the injustices of the past. We will make every effort to accelerate development, social inclusion and economic empowerment.

The State Governments as well as the Central Government should adopt the two-pronged strategy of sustained operations to clear the areas of Maoist influence and pursue the objectives of effective governance and rapid development. We urge them to use all legitimate means to defend the security of the country and its institutions and quell armed insurgency and violence. We also urge the State Governments to draw upon their own resources as well as the resources provided by the Central Government to re-establish the rule of law and accelerate development activities in the affected States.

We resolve that we shall remain united and we shall speak in one voice and act with a sense of unified purpose and will.” ♦

SMT SONIA GANDHI AND PRIME MINISTER, DR. MANMOHAN SINGH VISIT RAIPUR HOSPITAL TO MEET INJURED IN THE CHHATTISGARH NAXAL ATTACK

Rahul Gandhi says it is an attack on the ideals of India, founded on the bedrock of non-violence.

New Delhi: The Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited the injured at the hospital in Raipur on Sunday, 26th May, 2013. Smt. Sonia Gandhi said that she appreciates the courage and bravery of Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh. The Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi had reached Chhattisgarh last night hours after the attack, in which 27 people have died. "First priority is that injured should get best of the facilities. We all have to come together to fight," said the Prime minister.

This morning, the body of Chhattisgarh PCC President Shri Nand Kumar Patel and his son Dinesh was found at the site of the ambush. Shri Rahul Gandhi met Patel's family members at Devendra Nagar and expressed his condolence over the demise of the senior party leader.

Among those dead are Shri Mahendra Karma, one of the Congress's main leaders in Chhattisgarh and a former legislator Uday Kumar Mudaliar. Mr Karma was a local tribal leader, who spearheaded the controversial anti-Naxalite movement Salwa Judum. He had served as the state's home minister when the Congress was in power.

Former Union Minister and Chhattisgarh Senior Congress leader, Shri Vidya Charan Shukla was injured in the attack. He is being operated upon at the Medanta Medicity Hospital in Gurgaon and is reportedly serious. The 84-year-old Congress leader has three bullet wounds in his abdomen and his lungs and liver are reportedly damaged.

Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi on Saturday (25th May) night had condemned as "despicable" the Maoist strike on her party



colleagues in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur district, and described it as an attack on the nation's democratic values. She was speaking to media after attending an emergency meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other senior Congress leaders and Ministers at Prime Minister's official residence in New Delhi. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, who was accompanied by party Vice-President, Shri Rahul Gandhi.

"Naturally we are devastated... It is despicable that ordinary people engaged in political activity were attacked," Smt. Sonia Gandhi added. Smt. Sonia Gandhi also expressed concern over the condition of senior Congress leader Shri V C Shukla, who was injured in the attack.

RAHUL GANDHI: IT IS AN ATTACK ON THE IDEALS OF INDIA, FOUNDED ON THE BEDROCK OF NON-VIOLENCE

"I condemn, in the strongest terms, the violent massacre by Naxals in Chhattisgarh. In this



time of extreme grief and tragedy, Congress workers of India stand firmly in solidarity with the families of our brave colleagues and security personnel who laid down their lives, as well as with all those who suffered injuries. We stand firmly by the resolute and courageous people of Chhattisgarh.

This is not an attack on the Congress workers or on the Congress party. It is an attack on the ideals of India, founded on the bedrock of non-violence. No force, howsoever brutal, can deter us through violent means. Our nation shall never be deterred from working for the welfare and well being of all our people through peaceful, democratic and Constitutional means".

On Saturday evening, more than 250 suspected Naxals struck a convoy of 40 cars carrying the Congress leaders and others returning from the party's 'Parivartan Rally' in Sukma. They triggered landmine blasts and then rained bullets at the convoy from vantage points on hillocks. ♦

NAXALITE ATTACK ON PARIVARTAN YATRA



A ICC Spokespersons -Shri Bhakta Charan Das briefed the media. He said that the Leaders of the Indian National Congress were carrying out a Parivartan Yatra ("Change" Rally) in Chhattisgarh state, with a convoy comprising 25 vehicles carrying around 200 Congress leaders and workers. They were returning from a meeting organised in Sukma and were headed to Keshloor nearby Jagdalpur along the National Highway 221 which connects Chhattisgarh with Naxal-hit Bhadrachalam district in the adjacent state of Andhra Pradesh. Almost all the senior state party leaders; former Union Minister Vidya Charan Shukla, former state minister Mahendra Karma, Nand Kumar Patel, MLA from Rajnandgaon Uday Mudaliyar, Kavasi Lakhma; MLA and prominent woman tribal leader Phulo Devi Netam from Bastar were also present.

As the convoy reached the deeply forested area of Dharba valley on Jagdalpur-Sukma Highway, 50 km from its destination, it was blocked by a tree that had been felled by Maoists. The so called Maoists triggered a land mine blast targeting the second vehicle in the convoy after that around hundreds of Maoists opened fire from the adjoining hill tops of the Keshkal hills. The so called Maoists, however, started firing indiscriminately when the Congress leaders emerged out of their vehicles.

Who is to be held responsible?

- Isn't it a "security lapse" on the part of the state government?
- Mahendra Karma was supposed to have Z-plus security which means that a posse of about 36 policemen should protect him. Was he actually given the Z-Plus security?
- Few days earlier in the same Bastar region, BJP had a 'Vikas Yatra' with a security cover of 3000 police personnels. Then why the required security cover was not given to the Congress leaders?
- Why this discrimination when other political party is having the same kind of democratic activity?
- The Central Government has sent a force of 30,000 paramilitary personnel in the state. Whether the State government has ensured the deployment of these security forces appropriately?
- How much of the funds granted by the Central Government for the development of such regions has been utilized so far?
- Didn't the State Government receive any intelligence output about the possibility of naxal attack?

What lessons have been learnt from the past attacks?

- July 2010: A group of Maoists stormed into the house of Congress leader Avdesh Gautam in Dantewada district and brutally killed his

15-year-old brother-in-law and an associate.

- April 6, 2010: In a major and most brutal Maoist attack, about 75 Central Reserve Police Force(CRPF) and a state police personnel were killed in Mukrana forests of Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district.
- February 9, 2006: Eight Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel killed when rebels raid a warehouse of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and take away explosives from a village near Bailadila in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh.
- What measures has the state government taken so far in order to combat such brutalactivities?
- It is learnt that a MLA gave the prior information about the possibility of a big attack to the State intelligence Agencies. Why did the State Government not observe any preventive measures?
- Whether it is true that the Chief Minister of the state had ignored the advice, guidance and support of top advisors on security and also that of the Central Government? There is n-number of questions which are to be answered by the state government. Responsibility has to be fixed for this unfortunate tragedy.
- There was laxity also in discharging duty of providing security to the Congress leaders by the state security agencies.
- The state police could not reach the spot for at least four hours. And the bodies kept lying unattended for more than 16 hours.
- The audacious attack once again exposed the limitations of the government in controlling the menace.
- It seems that the Naxals had prior intelligence and came prepared to eliminate the state Congress leadership.
- The lack of a comprehensive security plan and a neglect of safety procedures allowed a large group of well-armed Maoists to massacre.
- It was just a basic security cover with no comprehensive plan.
- The police were supposed to sanitise roads and surrounding areas an hour before such an important movement.
- The law and order in these naxal affected states is a big problem but apart from this a major reason of such incidences taking place is lack of development. The Bastar region of Chhattisgarh has been victim of crony capitalism. It seems that the state government is solely concerned for the set-ups of private companies causing loss of water, forest, mines and lands to the local tribals.
- These companies/groups with vested interest are somehow encouraging naxalism in the state by funding them heavily so that the local people always live in panic. Tuesday, 28th May, 2013 ♦

APPROACH OF UPA GOVERNMENT FOR MILITANCY AFFECTED AREAS

INTERNAL SECURITY

- Internal security situation in Jammu & Kashmir improved rapidly after the UPA Government came to power and adopted a multipronged approach in the militancy affected areas.
- Militancy related incidents witnessed a ten-fold decrease as the Central and State Governments worked in close cooperation and coordination.
- The UPA Government's approach in dealing with left-wing extremism in a holistic manner in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights of local communities and good governance is showing results in declining violence in LWE affected areas.
- In the last four year, lives lost in LWE-related incidents were reduced by more than half.

MAHATMA GANDHI NREGA

- MGNREGA is the largest Social Welfare Scheme of its kind in the world started by the UPA in 2006.
- Every fifth rural household in India benefits from the Scheme which provides employment mostly to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women in villages.
- Wages given under MGNREGA per day have almost doubled from Rs. 65 to Rs. 128 since the launch of the Scheme.
- In 2012-13, the Scheme provided employment to more than 4.8 crore households, generating more than 213 crore person-days of employment at a total expenditure of more than Rs. 39,000 crore.
- MGNREGA has successfully raised the bargaining power of agricultural labour, resulting in higher agricultural wages, improved economic outcomes, and reduction in distress migration.

FOOD SECURITY

- There has been more than three-fold increase in food subsidy during UPA tenure. It reflects Government's commitment to ensure adequate food at affordable prices for all, especially the poor.
- The UPA Government is committed to the

enactment of the National Food Security Bill which legally entitles families under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AYY) for 35 kg of food-grains per month and other families for 5 kg per person at subsidized rates under Public Distribution System. Efforts in strengthening agriculture sector have led to record production of food-grains in recent years. Agriculture credit has increased five-folds to help small farmers improve productivity. Stocks were at record levels during the year.

HEALTH CARE

- Consistent investments in public health are showing better results as the Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate and Life Expectancy levels improved steadily.
- Absence of new endemic Polio cases for the last two years is an achievement that has been hailed at international forums.
- Indians are living longer and expectancy of life has increased by more than 5 years for both men and women during UPA Special Programmes for mothers and childrens have led to better longevity of the citizens during the last 9 years.
- Allocation in 12th plan for Health Sector has been increased to Rs. 3 lakh crore from the 11th plan expenditure of Rs. 90 thousand crore denoting an increase of 335%.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR SPECIAL SECTIONS

- The UPA Government have always accorded high priority to the welfare of minorities. There has been a ten-fold increase in the expenditure on minorities since 2004-05.
- Minorities are benefitting under the PM's new 15 - point programme, the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme and the various scholarship schemes for minority students.
- Fifteen percent of all priority sector lending from banks now reaches minorities to help them start and expand small businesses.
- Growth rate of the North Eastern Region

is now higher than the National Average due to the Central Government's special attention.

- It has now been mandated that all Central Government Ministries are to allocate 10% of their plan budgets for the NER.

EDUCATION

- Central Universities increased from 17 to 44 during 2004 to 2013.
- 9 IITs were added to the 7 existing IITs during the period.
- Number of IIMs more than doubled from 6 to 13 in the period. Five IISERs and 2 IIITs were also added in the period.
- More than 10 crore school students receive nutritious hot meals everyday under Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- This scheme has helped in improving the attendance in primary schools across the country.
- Allocation for Mid Day Meal has increased six times during the UPA period since 2004.
- General Enrolment Ration in Higher Educational Institutions has increased from 12% to 18% of commensurate population during the last ten years.

FARMER WELFARE

- To ensure farmer's welfare the UPA Government have been steadily enhancing the Minimum Support Price for various farm products.
- MSP for both Wheat and Paddy has more than doubled from 2004-05 to 2012-13.
- MSP for other cereals has been increased three-folds and is now better than Wheat and Rice MSP in our efforts to support marginal farmers who produce cereals.

IT AND TELECOM

- Telephone density in rural areas has increased 25 times during the tenure of the UPA Government.
- India has one of the lowest telecom prices in the world making telephones accessible to the poor.
- Broadband will reach 2.5 lakh villages by 2014.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Consumption has increased phenomenally

... continued on page 34

HOMAGE

TRIBUTES

Chattisgarh Senior leaders assassinated by naxalites on 25 May 2013 in a Maoist attack while returning from a Parivartan Rally meeting organized by the Pradesh Congress Committee in Sukma.

Vidya Charan Shukla

Vidya Charan Shukla was born at Raipur, Central Province and Berar. His father Pt. Ravishankar Shukla was a lawyer, freedom fighter, veteran Congressman, Premier of Central Provinces and Berar and the first Chief Minister of reorganized Madhya Pradesh. V.C. Shukla graduated from Morris College, Nagpur in 1951, by getting a B.A..



His brother Shyama Charan Shukla was another veteran Congressman, who had served as Chief Minister of the state.

For the general elections in 1957 the Congress Party chose him as a Lok Sabha candidate from Mahasamund constituency. He won to enter the Parliament of India as one of its youngest Parliamentarians. He returned elected to Lok Sabha 9 times in subsequent elections. When Smt. Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1966, he was chosen as a Minister in her Cabinet. In a long span of political career he has held many portfolios including Communications, Home, Defence, Finance, Planning, Information & Broadcasting, Civil Supplies, External Affairs, Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources.

On May 25, 2013, V.C. Shukla was among a convoy of senior congress party leaders travelling through Bastar District in Chhattisgarh, when the convoy was ambushed by Naxalite guerillas. Shri Shukla was shot thrice in the crossfire. He was later airlifted to New Delhi, and henceforth admitted in Medanta Medicity hospital in Gurgaon,

near New Delhi, where he remained in critical condition. He died in the hospital on 11 June 2013.

Nand Kumar Patel

Nand Kumar Patel was born on 8th November 1953. Nand Kumar Patel won the legislative election from the Kharsia Assembly Constituency five times in a row (1990, 1993, 1998, 2003 and 2008). He was a Cabinet Minister in the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. At present he was President of Chattishgarh Pradesh Congress Committee



On 25 May 2013, several Congress leaders were killed in a Naxalite attack on a Congress convoy in Darbha Valley. At first, Naxalites kidnapped Nand Kumar Patel and his son Dinesh, keeping up the hopes of their coming back alive. However, their bullet-ridden bodies were found in the Jiram valley in the Bastar district the next day.

Mahendra Karma

Mahendra Karma was born on 5th August 1950 to Daraboda Karma in the Dantewada district who was himself a powerful leader in the undivided Bastar region. Karma was an ethnic Adivasi leader from the Bastar region. He received his higher secondary education from Bastar Higher Secondary School, Jagdalpur in 1969 and completed his graduation from Danteshwary College in 1975. His elder brother Lakshman Karma had also been a Member of Parliament. Earlier, naxalites had killed his brother Podiyaram who was president of the Bhairamgad Janpad Panchayat. They had also killed around 20 of his relatives in the subsequent

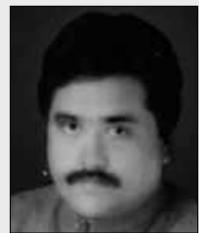
period. He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha from 2004 to 2008. In 2005, he played a top role in organising the Salwa Judum movement against Naxalites (Maoists) in Chhattisgarh. He was a Minister of Industry and Commerce in the Ajit Jogi cabinet since the state formation in 2000 to 2004.

He won the 1980 general elections on the ticket of CPI. Later on he joined the Indian National Congress. In 1996 general elections, Karma was elected to the Lok Sabha as a Member of Parliament on an independent ticket from Bastar. Later on he returned to the Congress. He was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly from Dantewada and was appointed as a Minister of Prisons in the Digvijaya Singh cabinet in the undivided Madhya Pradesh. He served as the Minister of Industry and Commerce after Chhattisgarh was carved out from its parent state Madhya Pradesh in the Ajit Jogi cabinet. He was known as "Bastar Tiger"-for making a tough stand against the Maoist militancy infesting the region.

On 25 May 2013, Karma was killed in the Maoist attack in Darbha along with several other party leaders including Nand Kumar Patel when they were returning from a political rally.

Shri Uday Mudaliar

Shri Uday Mudaliar, son of Shri V.T.P. Mudaliar born on 31st July, 1956, Rajnandgoan, Chhattisgarh was an advocate by profession. He was the executive member of the Pradesh Congress Committee and was incharge of Bastar Lok Sabha constituency. Shri Mudaliar was also the Chairman of the Pradesh Congress Political Training Department. He was elected twice as MLA from Rajnandgoan. He also remained President of the Rajnandgoan City Congress Committee.





CENTRE AND STATES TO WORK IN UNISON TO TACKLE TERROR ACTIVITIES: PM

PM's address at the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security on 5th June, 2013 at New Delhi

“ I welcome all Chief Ministers and other distinguished participants from States to this very important annual conference on internal security.

We are meeting today in the aftermath of the brutal and inhuman attack by Left Wing Extremists on Congress leaders and workers and their security personnel in Chhattisgarh a few days back. Such violence has no place in our democracy. The Centre and States need to join hands to ensure that such events do not recur. I have noted from the agenda papers that there is a separate session on Left Wing Extremism in this conference and I would urge you to make good use of this opportunity to come up with some concrete measures to deal with the very grave threat of Naxalism.

I must point out here that the challenge of Naxalism has received our serious attention for quite some time now. We have adopted a two-pronged strategy to deal with the challenge: conducting proactive and sustained operations against Maoist extremists; and, addressing development and governance issues in Left Wing Extremism affected areas. A number of measures have been taken as part of this two-track strategy. These include strengthening the security apparatus, improving road connectivity in 34 most Left Wing Extremist affected districts, relaxation of norms of various development schemes in the affected areas, and the Integrated Action Plan for 82 selected tribal and backward districts.

We have achieved some successes too. In the last couple of years there has been a substantial reduction in the number of incidents and deaths caused by Left Wing Extremist groups and an increase in the number of Naxalite surrenders. But, major violent attacks by Naxalites like the recent one in Chhattisgarh are setbacks that have occurred periodically. The Centre and States need to work together to eliminate such large-scale attacks.

The Central Government on its part has already started taking steps in this regard. The Cabinet Secretary, the Home Secretary and my office have been involved in an exercise that would lead to a further

strengthening of our defensive and offensive capabilities against Left Wing Extremists. I hope that the State Governments will cooperate fully with us and add to the effectiveness of these efforts.

I must also emphasize here that the two-pronged strategy that we have followed so far needs to be strengthened and pursued with rigour. Even as we intensify our efforts to strengthen the security and intelligence apparatus in areas affected by Maoist violence, we should be able to ensure that people residing in Left Wing Extremist affected areas are able to live in an environment of peace and security and derive full benefits of our development efforts.

To build a broader national consensus on the strategy to tackle the Naxalite challenge, Government has convened a meeting of all political parties on the 10th of this month.

The year 2012 saw a significant improvement in the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Our strategy to prevent cross-border infiltration by militants and our intelligence based counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir have resulted in a decline in the level of terrorist violence by about one-third in 2012 as compared to 2011. In fact, terrorist violence parameters in 2012 have been the lowest since the upsurge in terrorist activities two decades ago. The record inflow of tourists and pilgrims during 2012 also points to an improved security situation in the State.

The implementation of several infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir is progressing well. The Himayat and Udaan schemes which aim at providing additional gainful employment to the youth have also achieved a fair measure of success. These are all welcome developments.

The security situation in the North East continues to be complex, with insurgency, extortion and agitations being the main disruptive elements in the hands of the insurgents. However, there has been considerable progress in dialogue with several insurgent and ethnic separatist groups in the North-Eastern region. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with both factions of Dima Halam Daogah of Dima Hasao in Assam. Three Metei insurgent groups have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February 2013. Talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland are continuing.

CONFERENCE ON INTERNAL SECURITY

The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) has been set up as an autonomous body in August 2012 to administer the Gorkhaland region and ensure its all-round development. The Centre is committed to providing financial assistance of Rs 200 crore per annum for three years for projects aimed at developing the socio-economic infrastructure in the GTA areas.

We are committed to undertaking and bringing to a satisfactory conclusion dialogue with all groups and organizations which are willing to give up violence to seek solutions within the framework of our Constitution. We are equally firm in our determination to continue assisting the States of the North-East to enhance their law and order enforcement capabilities, so that the people of the North-East enjoy the normal fruits of democracy and development.

I also wish to take today's opportunity to draw your attention to two other issues relating to our internal security that require special attention. The first is the increase in number and intensity of incidents of communal and sectarian violence during 2012 as compared to the previous year. I am sure that all of us agree that maintenance of communal harmony in our country is critical for our continued growth and prosperity. It is absolutely imperative that we deal very firmly with communal forces of all types. Simultaneously, we also need to recognize and address the special needs of minorities and weaker sections of our society, particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The second issue which requires our collective action is that of crimes against women and children. We have recently enacted several laws providing stringent punishment for such crimes and more sensitive treatment of victims during investigation and trial. These include the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013; The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act, 2012.

We also need to put in place institutional mechanisms to ensure the safety and security of women and children, particularly in the urban context. Such mechanisms include sensitization of police personnel, particularly at levels with which the victim comes into contact, setting up dedicated help-lines, measures for safety at the work place, and so on. I would urge all of you to explore how these outcomes can be best

achieved.

Capacity building and modernization of State Police Forces are absolutely essential for meeting the emerging challenges to internal security which range from terrorism to urban policing. The Centre remains committed to supporting States in this regard. The scheme for modernization of State Police Forces has been extended for a further period of five years with a total outlay of about Rs. 12,000 crore. An amount of Rs. 433 crore has been additionally provided for Mega City Policing in the six cities of Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

We are also committed to improving border management and coastal security. Greater focus and priority than before is being given to the work of fencing and construction of additional Border Outposts along the India-Bangladesh border, the construction and up-gradation of roads along the India-China, India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders as well as the development of integrated check posts on the India-Pakistan and India-Nepal borders. We are also continuing implementation of the Border Area Development Programme and of Phase II of the Coastal Security Scheme.

The need for coordinated effort by Central and State agencies to deal with terrorism and other security challenges, irrespective of whether they are internal or external in origin, has been emphasized in all earlier conferences of Chief Ministers on internal security. In view of the criticality of this requirement, I would urge you once more to explore how we can achieve even better coordination between the Centre and States.

I also believe that time has now come to view the challenges of terrorism, communal violence and Left Wing Extremism in a holistic manner. I think each one of us needs to be completely objective in our approach to these issues, acting in national interest rising above narrow political and ideological divides. I would appeal to all political parties and all sections of society to work together to find effective ways and means of meeting these grave challenges.

Let me end by wishing this conference all success. I look forward to receiving your valuable suggestions on how to further strengthen the internal security of our country." ♦

रख्यमंत्रियों के साथ आन्तरिक सुरक्षा पर सम्मेलन
5 जून 2013, नई दिल्ली

CONFERENCE OF CHIEF MINISTERS ON INTERNAL SECURITY

5th June 2013, New Delhi

गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India



RAHUL GANDHI CALLS FOR UNITY, SAYS INFIGHTING WILL BE DEALT WITH A STRONG HAND



New Delhi: Congress Vice President Shri Rahul Gandhi, during his first interaction with party leadership in Delhi on 24th May, 2013 at DPCC office, made it clear that the government and the party must speak in one voice and work in tandem.

Shri Rahul Gandhi came forward to give a strong message - perform or perish. He also pointed out that his working style was in line with that of his grandmother and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Shri Rahul Gandhi also made it clear that any infighting will be dealt with a strong hand and warned that he was "very strong" like Indira Gandhi and will take action against any partyman attacking another Congress leader publicly and in the media. "The Congress president is soft but I am strong and will not tolerate any indiscipline," said Shri Rahul Gandhi in a strong message to the Congress leaders.

Shri Rahul Gandhi stressed on strengthening the grassroots and emphasizing the need for balance between the government and the party. He held focussed meetings with representatives from each of the seven parliamentary constituencies including the area MP, MLAs, district presidents and block presidents. He also asked the district and block presidents whether their opinion was sought by the senior leaders while deciding on selection of candidates for the polls. With quite a few coming forward to say that they were not consulted, the functioning of the party is likely to see some change. The first such meeting in the capital is part of a series of similar meetings held in other states by Shri Rahul Gandhi since his appointment as party

Vice President.

"Shri Rahul Gandhi told us to work unitedly and prepare for the assembly polls," said Ajay Maken, MP from New Delhi and Union Minister for Housing and Poverty Alleviation. MP from Chandni Chowk Kapil Sibal said Rahul Gandhi asked party workers to further strengthen the party at the grassroot level.

"Rahul Gandhi aims to strengthen the party," he said.

Another MP said Shri Rahul instructed the party leaders to take the achievements of Sheila Dikshit government as well as UPA government to the people. A majority of party leaders, who attended the interactions today, described their meeting with Shri Rahul Gandhi as a "morale booster". "Rahul said power should be decentralised and party should not be run by a few people. He also underlined the need for even taking views of block level party workers while recommending names for ticket aspirants in the assembly polls," said an MLA. "Shri Rahul said the government may have shortcomings. But that does not mean that you will not take its achievements to the people," the MLA quoted Rahul as saying. "We had differences. It is a family and there was nothing unusual to have differences. But today, the differences



were resolved. We will work together," Delhi PCC President Shri Aggarwal told reporters. "I am very happy about Shri Rahul Gandhi's visit to DPCC. It has enthused the party workers to work hard for the upcoming assembly polls," said Shri J.P Aggarwal.

A majority of MLAs said that in almost all interactions Rahul Gandhi asked all those present to speak about their views on various party-related issues rather than he himself making lengthy speeches. "In our meeting, he even asked one block Congress president what he thinks about his role...He was very clear in his agenda. He wanted the party to be strengthened at the grassroot level," said an MLA.

It is a great efforts indeed by the young Congress President to strengthen the party. Further, the Congress will reach new skies under Shri Rahul Gandhi's progressive and energetic leadership. ♦

CWC, LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS AND SCREENING COMMITTEES RECONSTITUTED

The Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has on 16th June, 2013 reconstituted the Congress Working Committee, list of Office – bearers alongwith Screening Committees for Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh Mizoram and Rajasthan and allocated work to office – bearers enclosed, according to AICC General Secretary, Shri Janardan Dwivedi.

WORK ALLOCATION

VICE-PRESIDENT:		
Shri Rahul Gandhi	Prabha Kishore Taviad, Suraj Hegde	Frontal Organizations
TREASURER:		
Shri Motilal Vora	Manish Chatrath	Administration

Union Cabinet Reshuffled



Sh. Sis Ram Ola



Sh Oscar Fernandes



Dr. Girija Vyas



Dr. K S Rao



Sh. Manikrao Gavit



Smt Santosh Choudhary



Sh. EMS Natchiappan



Sh JD Seelam

New Delhi: In the recent reshuffle of the UPA-II Government, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 17th June, 2013 inducted eight new ministers, four of whom are of Cabinet rank.

The Cabinet Ministers are Shri Sis Ram Ola, Minister for Labour and Employment, Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister for Road and Highways, Ms. Girija Vyas, Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation and Shri K.S. Rao, Minister for Textiles.

The other four are Minister of State. They are: Shri Manikrao Gavit, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Santosh Choudhary, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Shri EMS Natchiappan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri J.D. Seelam, Minister of Finance.

Labour Minister, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge has been shifted to Railway Ministry.

S.No.	GENERAL SECRETARIES	SECRETARIES	
1.	Shri Ajay Maken	Smt. Priya Dutt	Communication, Publicity & Publication
2.	Smt. Ambika Soni	Smt. Geetashree Oraon Mainul Haque Sanjay Kapoor	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand & CPO
3.	Shri B.K. Hariprasad	Bhakta Charan Das Subhankar Sarkar Tarachand Bhagora	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & Odisha
4.	Dr. C.P. Joshi	Arun Yadav Avinash Pande Kishore Lal Sharma Paresh Dhanani Shakeel Ahmed Khan	Assam, Bihar, West Bengal & Andaman Nicobar Islands
5.	Shri Digvijaya Singh	Dr. A. Chella Kumar R.C. Khuntia Shantaram Naik Su. Thrunavukkarasar	Andhra Pradesh, Goa & Karnataka

6.	Shri Gurudas Kamat	Ashok Tanwar Ashwani Sekhri Mirza Irshad Baig Sajjan Kumar Verma	Gujarat, Rajasthan, Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu
7.	Shri Janardan Dwivedi		AICC Meetings, AICC Departments, CWC, Organization, Organizational Elections, Sessions & Coordination
8.	Shri Luizinho Faleiro	Bhupen Kumar Borah K. Jayakumar Dr. Vijay Laxmi Sadho	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim & Tripura
9.	Shri Madhusudan Mistry	Naseeb Singh Prakash Joshi Rana Goswami Zuber Khan	Uttar Pradesh & Central Election Committee
10.	Shri Mohan Prakash	Balram Bacchan Rakesh Kalia Sanjay Nirupam Shyoraj Jivan Valmiki	Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
11.	Shri Mukul Wasnik	Deepak Babaria Dr. G. Chinna Reddy V.D. Satheesan	Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu & Lakshadweep
12.	Shri Shakeel Ahmed	Smt. Asha Kumari Harish Choudhary Kuljit Singh Nagra	Delhi, Haryana, Punjab & Chandigarh
	Unattached	V. Hanumantha Rao Avtar Singh Bhadana	

CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Sonia Gandhi | 12. Shri Gurudas Kamat |
| 2. Dr. Manmohan Singh | 13. Smt. Hema Prova Saikia |
| 3. Shri Rahul Gandhi | 14. Shri Janardan Dwivedi |
| 4. Shri A.K. Antony | 15. Shri Luizinho Faleiro |
| 5. Shri Ahmed Patel | 16. Shri Madhusudan Mistry |
| 6. Shri Ajay Maken | 17. Shri Mohan Prakash |
| 7. Smt. Ambika Soni | 18. Shri Motilal Vora |
| 8. Shri B.K. Hariprasad | 19. Shri Mukul Wasnik |
| 9. Dr. C.P. Joshi | 20. Shri Shakeel Ahmed |
| 10. Shri Digvijay Singh | 21. Ms. Sushila Tiriya |
| 11. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad | |

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- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. Chhattisgarh | Shri B.K. Hariprasad,
Dr. C.P. Joshi | General Secretary
Chairman |
| 2. Delhi | Shri Manik Tagore
Shri Shakeel Ahmed
Shri V. Narayansamy
Shri Bhubneshwar Kalita | Member
General Secretary
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Member |
| 3. Madhya Pradesh | Shri Mohan Prakash
Shri Madhusudan Mistry
Shri Jitendra Singh | General Secretary
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Member |
| 4. Mizoram | Shri Luizinho Faleiro
Shri Mohan Prakash
Shri Ashok Tanwar | General Secretary
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Member |
| 5. Rajasthan | Shri Gurudas Kamat
Shri Ajay Maken
Shri R.C. Khuntia | General Secretary
Chairman
Member |

PERMANENT INVITEES:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Ajit Jogi | 9. Shri Murli Deora |
| 2. Capt. Amrinder Singh | 10. Shri Oscar Fernandes |
| 3. Shri Beni Prasad Verma | 11. Shri P. Chidambaram |
| 4. Shri K.S. Rao | 12. Shri R.K. Dhawan |
| 5. Dr. Karan Singh | 13. Shri S.M. Krishna |
| 6. Shri M.L. Fotedar | 14. Shri Shivajirao Deshmukh |
| 7. Shri M.V. Rajashekharan | 15. Shri Vilas Muttemwar |
| 8. Smt. Mohsina Kidwai | |

SPECIAL INVITEES:

1. Shri Anil Shastri
2. Shri G. Sanjeeva Reddy
3. Shri Mohinder Singh Kaypee
4. Shri Raj Babbar
5. Shri Rasheed Masood

We are publishing the 'Report to the People' a progressive report of the past four years of the UPA-2 in two parts. The first half will be carried in this issue of June, 2013 while the other half will be carried in the next issue.

Editor

UNITED PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE REPORT TO THE PEOPLE - 2012-13

Prime Minister

Foreword

The people of India gave the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) a landmark mandate in 2009 to serve a second term. In the four years since then we have worked hard towards the fulfillment of the promises that we had made. All our programmes, policies and initiatives have been centered on enhancing the welfare of the Aam Aadmi.

The UPA Government has been in power for 9 years now. The people therefore have an opportunity to assess what we have done for their welfare over a relatively long period of time. To facilitate such assessment, we are also releasing a Handbook with some facts and figures which reflect how the UPA government has performed in the last 9 years. The Report and Handbook taken together show with clarity the progress that has been achieved in social, economic and other spheres.

Over the last 9 years we have continuously strived not only for rapid economic growth but also for making our growth processes more inclusive. We delivered an average growth of nearly 8 percent in the first 8 years of our government. The past year has however been disappointing and our growth rate has dipped to 5 percent. But this has to be seen in the overall context of the difficulties that the global economy has faced. We must keep in mind that last year saw negative growth in the Euro zone, zero growth in Japan and less than two percent growth in the U.S.

India needs to grow at the rate of 8-9% over a sustained period so that our economic and social objectives can be met. We have delivered such growth in the past and we will do it again. In the past few months we have initiated a major drive to bolster growth by increasing investment in both the public and the private sectors. This includes the setting up of the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) to expedite decisions on statutory approvals and clearances for implementation of projects. A large number of projects in the oil and gas, power and coal sectors, which were held up for many years, have been cleared. The fiscal deficit, which was threatening to cross prudent limits, has been contained at 5.2% in 2012-13.

Throughout our nine years in office we have sought to strengthen the performance of Indian agriculture because that is the sector which provides livelihood for the majority of our population. I am happy to say that we have had success on many fronts. The Eleventh Plan saw an

acceleration in agricultural growth to 3.6 percent, up from 2.4 percent in the Tenth Plan. This is the result of determined effort to give our farmers remunerative prices and also investing in rural infrastructure including development of irrigation potential and capacity, watershed management, better seeds and provision of credit. The National Food grains Mission has led to ever increasing production of food grain which has given us the confidence to introduce the Food Security Bill. Faster growth in agriculture combined with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has generated a much faster growth in agricultural wages in the period after 2004 compared with the preceding years. Poverty has fallen faster than it did in earlier years. All these factors have helped to ensure that growth in the past several years has been much more inclusive than earlier.

Our Government has also taken several other major reform measures in areas such as Finance, Banking, Industry, Infrastructure and Taxation since last May. To increase the flow of investment into the country, the FDI policy has been further liberalized and rationalized. Foreign Direct Investment up to 51 percent has been permitted in multi-brand retail subject to certain conditions. In the financial sector, the passage of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act represents a major institutional reform which will enable the Reserve Bank of India to give licenses to new banks. The Government is also actively pursuing the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill and the Companies Bill in Parliament and also the amendment of the Constitution to facilitate introduction of Goods and Services Tax regime.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which is mandated to issue Aadhaar numbers to all residents of our country, has enrolled more than 30 crore residents till March 2013 and will enroll an additional 30 crore residents over the next 18 months. The Aadhaar system is a major reform platform which will facilitate reforms in many areas.

To address the problem of leakages, wastage, delays, poor targeting and also fraud and corruption, the Government has started shifting several beneficiary oriented schemes to a Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) mode using the Aadhaar platform. The DBT programme will have far reaching consequences in the way government benefits are delivered and monitored and will accelerate process re-engineering across government organizations. The total number of districts under DBT will reach 121 in July this year, covering almost one fifth of the

country, when the second phase of the programme rolls out.

To achieve our objective of inclusive growth, we have worked towards reducing not only poverty but also disparities of all kinds - economic, regional, social and gender. We believe that the key instrument for promoting inclusiveness and empowerment is greater investment in sectors such as education, health and skill development. The investments made by the UPA in these sectors are on a scale which was inconceivable nine years ago. We see more schools, colleges, universities, institutions of excellence, healthcare facilities and hospitals in every part of the country. There has been a manifold increase in teachers, doctors and healthcare attendants serving our people's needs. On the health front, no case of endemic Polio has been reported in the country for two consecutive years now. Six new AIIMS have started functioning in Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh. Twenty six new medical colleges have been set up, taking the total to number of medical colleges to 362. More than 3.44 crore families are today receiving health cover under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and 51.68 lakh persons have availed hospitalization benefits.

There is near universal enrolment in primary schools and a steady increase in the average number of years of schooling of the population. A new centrally sponsored scheme for pre-matric scholarship for SC students studying in class IX and X has been introduced.

The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme has been redesigned and allocated Rs. 1.23 lakh crores over the next five years so that our children can have better nutrition and care. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2013 has been passed. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 has come into force.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme now reaches every fifth household in the rural areas. Half the beneficiaries of MGNREGA are women with a large part of the allocations reaching disadvantaged sections like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

To provide a statutory framework which assures food and nutritional security for all, the National Food Security Bill has been introduced in Parliament. The Government is committed to this measure which will provide food security to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population.

There is far better infrastructure in every village as a result of Bharat Nirman. The Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission is transforming our urban spaces equipping them with better infrastructure.

While our achievements are a cause for satisfaction we also recognize that much remains to be done. We recognize that we are still in the downturn phase of growth and sustained effort is needed to boost growth in 2013-14 and beyond. We need to do a lot more to promote inclusiveness. Health and education require greater attention, both in terms of resources from the Centre and the States and most of all attention to quality. Our environment and forests need greater protection. Our major challenge continues to be providing gainful employment to a rapidly increasing young workforce.

In the areas of science and technology, space research, international affairs, defence and energy, we have assiduously pursued policies to further our national interest. The UPA Governments' initiative on nuclear energy has become more visible with nuclear-powered

electricity generation reaching a record high and a jump in installed nuclear power generation capacity on completion of the 1000 MW first reactor at Kundakulam. Measures have also been taken to ensure the highest levels of nuclear safety. The UPA Government continues to promote the exploration and use of space for societal benefit. A historic milestone of the nation's 100th space mission has been crossed during the last year.

India's defence preparedness and modernization have been further enhanced during the period. There has been significant progress in the domestic development and production of defence equipment, and in upgrading our defense forces and defense infrastructure. A National Defence University is to be launched soon. The welfare of ex-Service Personnel and their families continues to be a high priority for the Government.

On the foreign relations front we have successfully advanced our economic development goals and national security consistent with our international responsibilities and global stature. Summit meetings with neighbours have helped deepen engagement and promote our interests in our region. Our Look East Policy received a boost with the elevation of our relations with ASEAN to a strategic partnership and the conclusion of the India-ASEAN FTA in Services and Investment, to supplement the earlier one on Goods, at the historic India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in Delhi. In turbulent parts of West Asia and North Africa, we have worked hard to ensure the safety of our people and to protect our vital energy and economic interests. Our development partnership with Africa continues to grow. Engagement and cooperation with all major powers have been further strengthened. We dealt with a range of international issues as a non-permanent member of UNSC, worked with G-20 partners in addressing global economic challenges, and have made progress in promoting our energy security and advanced our position on a range of global issues, including terrorism, cyber security, climate change, international trade and sustainable development. The new Development Partnership Agency has helped make development assistance more effective and efficient.

These are turbulent times in which economic and social changes give rise to great stresses on our society and polity. These stresses are constantly presented before the public through the interaction of competitive politics, a free and vigilant media, and an active and growing civil society. Inevitably, the Government is constantly under criticism and is often blamed for whatever is wrong. There are indeed many things that are wrong and it is the responsibility of the Government to set them right. I believe we are addressing these problems to the best of our ability, but satisfactory solutions take time. Critics sometimes focus attention on problems that have surfaced and not enough on the corrective steps we are taking. The purpose of reports such as the present one is to remind the public of what has been achieved even as we work to address problems which still need resolution.

Whatever we have achieved has been made possible only by the support and cooperation of our people, who are the ultimate source of authority in a democracy. Their resilience in surmounting adversities, their hard work in trying conditions, and above all, their love for our great nation has been the bedrock of our endeavours.

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

I once again pledge that we will work with renewed vigour to carry forward our unfinished agenda to empower every Indian, to spread the light of knowledge and prosperity to every household in every corner and to pave the way for a brighter future for this land, its villages and its towns where more than a billion dreams reside. Jai Hind.

New Delhi

"Our Government has ensured that there is no shortage of funds for social welfare and human resource development programmes. During the last seven years the Centre has provided more than ninety thousand crore rupees to the States under the National Rural Health Mission. Nearly nine lakh "ASHA" workers are providing health services to rural women and children across the country under this National Mission. These volunteers have proven to be very effective and are a vital link between the rural community and the administration."

Smt. Sonia Gandhi

Chairperson



proposals with aggregate investment of Rs. 692 crore were approved, of which more than one-third was for eight high deficit States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. Nearly 200 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) with annual intake capacity of 17, L50 students were strengthened and 93 Block Institutes of Teachers' Education (BITES) were approved in SC, ST, and minority concentration districts. In addition, 29 Colleges of Teacher Education (CTE), with an annual teacher preparation capacity of 2,650 seats, have been approved. The National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) has granted permission to seven States namely Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Uttarakhand for training 6.61 lakh in-service teachers through the distance education mode for the year.

2.1.4 STRENGTHENING SECONDARY EDUCATION

The objective of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan is to universalise access to secondary education and to improve its quality. In the XIth Plan period, sanctions were issued for establishing 9,636 new secondary schools; strengthening 34,311 existing secondary schools and for creating more than 95,000 posts of teachers. Under the 'ICT @ Schools Scheme' launched in 2004, 97,007 schools, including 63 smart schools have been approved so far.

This is a major catalyst to bridge the digital divide among students of various socio-economic categories. Under the scheme 'Construction and Running of Girls' Hostels for Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools', central grant of Rs. 318 crore was released to the States in 2012-2013 for construction of Girls' Hostels.

Under the model school scheme 6,000 model schools will be setup - one for each block in the country. 338 schools were sanctioned during the year.

2.1.5 HIGHER EDUCATION

The focus in the XII Five Year Plan is on the three E's of Expansion, Equity and Excellence with greater thrust on improving the quality of higher education. Under the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), as on 31st April, 2013, connectivity to 400 universities and 20,117 colleges in the country has been provided. Moreover, 89 Virtual Laboratories have

2. ENABLING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

2.1 EDUCATION

2.1.1 Right to Education

In a historic step, the UPA Government enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, which became operative on 1st April, 2010. This legislation has far-reaching implications for elementary education in the years to come. Every child now has a right to elementary education in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

In order to support the States/UTs, 2,441 primary school buildings, 2,453 upper primary school buildings, more than 1.9 lakh additional class-rooms, 8,887 drinking water facilities, and more than 2.69 lakh toilet facilities have been sanctioned under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2012-13. During 2012-13, under SSA, an amount of Rs. 23,836 crore was released.

2.1.2 MID DAY MEAL IN SCHOOLS

More than ten crore children continued to get hot cooked meals under the Mid Day Meal Programme (MDM) across 12.12 lakh elementary schools during 2012-13. An amount of Rs. 10,868 crore was released for the MDM programme for the same period.

2.1.3 TEACHER EDUCATION

With the objective of strengthening the State Councils for Education Research & Training, Institutes for Advanced Studies in Education, Colleges of Teacher Education and District Institutes of Education and Training, the Government has approved a revised scheme for the XII Plan period. Establishment of Block Institutes of Teacher Education in 196 identified SC/ST/minority concentration districts is a new element of the scheme.

During the year 2012-13, a sum of Rs. 395 crore was released to the States/UTs for implementing the Teacher Education programme and

been launched to provide access to laboratories in various disciplines of science and engineering through internet.

A committee of experts has been constituted to prepare 'Policy Framework for Technology Based Education' to further the cause of technological education.

Faculty development is an area of critical importance for our institutions of higher education. Therefore, a National Mission on Teachers and Teaching is proposed. The proposed Mission will establish new schools of education in Central universities or redesign existing departments of education into schools of education. It is also proposed to set up four new Regional Centers of Educational Management in IIMs to conduct academic programmes in educational management for different levels of in-service practitioners.

A Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Education Loans to students belonging to economically weaker sections is in place. It is now proposed to establish a Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF) for educational loans. It is designed to address the cases of educational loan defaults which add to the burgeoning non-performing assets of the banks.

A Bill to provide for independent statutory status to the four existing centrally funded Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) at Allahabad, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Kancheepuram, as also to declare them as Institutions of National Importance, has been introduced in Parliament. Likewise, the 20 IIITs proposed to be set up in Public-Private-Partnership mode will also be established as Institutions of National Importance under the Act.

2.2 HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

2.2.1 National Rural Health Mission

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005, has made a substantial improvement in the public healthcare delivery systems in the rural areas. As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) figures, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) at the national level was 44 per 1000 live births in 2011, registering a decline of 3 points from the previous year. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) at the national level at 21.8 in 2011 declined 2 points over 2005. The Crude Death Rate during the same period declined by 0.5 points. The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) also declined by 0.1 points and stood at 2.4 points in 2011.

• MATERNAL HEALTH

The Government has introduced the concept of Delivery Points for all the States and UTs to prioritize and focus attention on facilities which are conducting deliveries or where there is demand for delivery related services. Such facilities are to be strengthened, on priority, as delivery points so that they provide comprehensive reproductive and child health services including maternal health, child health, family planning and immunization.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) is being implemented in all States and UTs since 2011. This initiative aims to benefit more than 1.2 crore pregnant women who access government health facilities for their delivery providing for 'no expenses' delivery including free drugs, free



blood, free diagnostics, free diet, and free transport from borne and drop back. Similar entitlements have been made available for neonates. During the year, a sum of 11' 2, 1 07 crore was allocated to the States for implementation of JSSK.

In addition, 418 state-of-the-art Maternal and Child Health Wings have been sanctioned in 2012-13 at District Hospitals and Medical Colleges across 11 States which would add more than 25,000 dedicated beds for mothers and children to be completed in the next three years.

• CHILD HEALTH

The concept of Facility Based New Born Care for treatment of sick new-borns through Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU), New Born Stabilization Units (NBSU) and New Born Care Corners (NBCC) was developed in 2006 and started getting operationalised in various states in 2008 under NRHM. As of March 2013, there are 418 SNCUs, 1,554 NBSUs and 13,167 NBCCs operating across the country. Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (NSSK) was launched in September, 2009 to train healthcare providers in new born resuscitation and essential new born care. Till 2013, as many as 94,901 health care providers have been trained under NSSK across the country.

A new initiative 'Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram' has been launched in 2013 for child health screening and early intervention services to provide comprehensive care to all children in the community. The purpose of these services is

418
State-of-the-art
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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

to improve the overall quality of life of children through early detection of birth defects, diseases, deficiencies, development delays including disability. An estimated 27 crore children in the age group of 0-18 years are expected to be covered in a phased manner over the next two years.

• ADOLESCENT HEALTH

The Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation Programme has been launched in 2012 to cover 13 crore adolescent girls and boys by the end of this year in order to improve the status of iron intake and decrease prevalence of anaemia.

• FAMILY PLANNING

With effect from 16th May, 2012, a new scheme has been launched to ensure the availability of contraceptives at the doorstep. This scheme is utilizing the services of around 8.89 lakh ASHAs who have started distributing contraceptives at the community level.

• POLIO

No wild polio case has been reported in the country since January, 2011 owing to our immunization efforts. This is a major public health achievement.

2.2.2 Human Resources In Health

In order to improve the availability of human resources for health, 26 new medical colleges, including 6 AIIMS were set up in 2012-13 taking the total number of medical colleges in the country to 362. During 2012-13, the intake capacity of medical colleges has increased by 3,895 seats at MBBS level and 1,443 seats at post-graduate level. The annual training capacity of nursing personnel also stood augmented by 16,000 seats during the year.

2.2.3 Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Youjana, apart from the six AIIMS at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh, where academic sessions have started in September, 2012; in the second phase AIIMS will be established in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. Upgradation of medical colleges continues under the scheme.

2.2.4 Aids Control

India has remained a low HIV prevalence country. Adult HIV prevalence decreased from 0.41% in 2001 to 0.27% in 2011. India has demonstrated an overall reduction of 57% in estimated annual new HIV infections (among adult population) from 2.74 lakhs in 2000 to 1.16 lakh in 2011, reflecting the impact of scaled up prevention interventions. Wider access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) has led to reduction in estimated annual AIDS-related deaths from 2.07 lakhs in 2007 to 1.48 lakhs in 2011.

2.2.5 Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy Services (Ayush)

During the year 2012-13, several steps have been taken towards regulatory reforms in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs. These include Notification of Rules regarding mandatory mention of botanical names and plant parts and forms in which they are used on the labels of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines,

publication of the good clinical practice guidelines for clinical trials in Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine (GCP – ASU), updation of the Essential Drugs Lists and publication of Procedural Guidelines for Inspection of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drug Testing Laboratories to bring objectivity and uniformity in inspection procedures.

2.2.6 National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke

Since 2011, about 1.75 crore people have been screened for diabetes and hypertension in 21 States under the Programme.

2.2.7 National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP)

The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in 42 districts of 21 States during the XI Five Year Plan mainly to generate awareness among masses about the harmful effects of tobacco use. During the year, new rules and graphic warnings have been notified for packaging and labeling of tobacco products; as also for depiction of tobacco products or their use in films and television programmes. Twenty-eight States have banned the manufacture, sale and storage of gutkha and pan masala containing tobacco or nicotine.

2.2.8 Health Research

Asia's first Bio Safety Level-IV (BSL-IV) laboratory, the highest containment level to handle any infectious organism, has been established at NIV Pune and dedicated to the nation in December, 2012. This is part of a network of Viral and other Infectious Disease Diagnostic laboratories being set up in the country.

2.3 CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD RIGHTS

2.3.1 Universalisation Of ICDS

As part of ongoing universalisation, during the year I 17 new projects and about 27,000 new Anganwadi Centres have been operationalized under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. With this, cumulatively, 7,025 Projects and 13.31 lakh Anganwadi Centres have become operational providing services to 927.66 lakh beneficiaries as on 31st January, 2013. The expenditure under ICDS has increased to Rs. 15,704 crore in 2012-13 as compared to Rs. 14,272 crore in the previous year.

The Government has recently approved strengthening and restructuring of ICDS with a budget allocation of Rs. 1.23,580 crore during XII Five Year Plan. The restructured ICDS envisages greater community

participation, infrastructural improvements and enhanced financial norms. It is being implemented in a mission mode with provision for additional Anganwadi Workers in high burden districts and link workers in other districts.

The IEC Campaign against malnutrition was launched by the Honourable President of India in November, 2012. The campaign is in four stages of 34 weeks through 18 languages and various media outlets.

2.3.2 Rajiv Gandhi Scheme For Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) 'Sabla'



This centrally-sponsored Scheme introduced in the year 2010-11 on a pilot basis is being implemented by States/UTs in selected 205 districts in the country. "Sabla ' aims at all-round development of adolescent girls of 11-18 years with a focus on all out-of-school girls, focussing on their nutritional and developmental needs. During 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 503 crore was released to States/UTs benefiting 88.76 lakh adolescent girls under the scheme.

2.3.3 The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)

The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), a comprehensive centrally sponsored scheme, is being implemented from 2009-10 for providing care and protection to children. Total of 619 Child Welfare Committees and 608 Juvenile Justice Boards have now been established under the scheme. During the year, 1,195 Protection Homes, 172 Open Shelters and 232 Specialized Adoption Agencies were provided financial assistance under the scheme. 'Childline-I098', which is a 24-hour toll free emergency outreach telephone service for children in distress, has been extended to 83 new locations taking the total of locations covered to 269 cities and towns.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

"The real message of the Eleventh Five Year plan which ended in 2011-12, is that we not only grew at an average rate of 8 percent, our growth was far more inclusive than earlier. Poverty declined much faster. Our agricultural growth rate accelerated Real wages in rural areas grew much faster."

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister

3. SOCIAL INCLUSION

3.1 FOOD SECURITY

To provide a statutory basis for a framework which assures food and nutritional security for all, the National Food Security Bill was introduced in Parliament. Based on recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and further consultations with stakeholders, some amendments to the Bill have been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

3.1.1 Liberalisation of Sugar Policy

The Government has de-regulated the sugar sector in 2012-13 by removing the non levy release mechanism and the obligation of levy on sugar mills. But sugar will continue to be available through PDS. For this purpose, the Government will provide subsidy to state Governments for buying sugar from the open market. The removal of levy on sugar mills will improve the financial position of the mills and will help them to pay cane arrears to the farmers in time.

3.1.2 Consumer Welfare

Consumer welfare and protection has been one of the core concerns of the Government. So far, 632 Consumer For a have been set up for speedy disposal of consumer grievances. A National Consumer Helpline and 18 State Consumer Helplines are providing guidance to consumers in national and regional languages. Under the Packaged Commodity Rules, 19 items of daily use have been mandated to be

sold only in authorized standard packs.

3.2 EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

3.2.1 National Mission For Empowerment Of Women (NMEW)

The National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) has operationalized various institutional mechanisms at the Centre and States. The State Mission Authority headed by the State Chief Minister has been notified by 28 States while 23 States have set up State Resource Centers for women. Eleven thematic projects on various gender issues covering 17 States have been initiated. The Mission has taken initiatives to address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and has taken up convergence projects with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in 12 districts (with the worst CSR) across 7 States. The Mission in consultation with State Governments and partner Ministries is developing a National Plan of Action for addressing the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio.

3.2.2 The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013

Deeply concerned about the incidents of sexual offences against women,



the Government had constituted a Committee headed by late Justice J.S. Verma to make recommendations on amending laws to provide for speedy justice and enhanced punishment in sexual assault cases often extreme nature against women. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was enacted which provides for stringent punishment for heinous sexual offences against women.

3.2.3 Sexual Harassment Of Women At Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition And Redressal) Bill, 2013

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2013 has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and has received the assent of the President of India. It is a historic step towards gender equality. It mandates a safe work environment for women.

3.2.4 The Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012

To deal with cases of child sexual abuse in a more effective manner, a special law, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. 2012 has come into force with effect from 14th November. 2012. The Act is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting,

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

3.3 EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEAKER SECTIONS

3.3.1 Improving Access to Education

A new scheme of pre-matric scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes studying in Class IX and X has been introduced in 2012-13. Under this scheme an amount of " 931.36 crore has been released to benefit about 38.22 lakh students. A new scheme of pre-matric scholarship for students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes studying in Class IX and X has also been introduced during the year with a budget allocation of " 111.73 crore to cover approximately 20.12 lakh students. Under the scheme of pre-matric scholarship for children of those engaged in 'unclean' occupations, an amount of Rs. 9.99 crore has been released to various States to benefit about 4.5 lakh students in 2012-13.

The scheme of post-matric scholarships for students belonging to the Scheduled Castes was revised to raise the eligible income ceiling from, Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh. During the year, central assistance of Rs. 1,654.64 crore has been released under the scheme Central assistance of Rs. 730.67 crore has been released under the post - matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Tribes to cover nearly 18.62 lakh students. During the year, central assistance of Rs. 666.60 crore has also been released to States under the post - matric scholarship scheme for Other Backward Classes to cover approximately 17 lakh students. Under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Scheme, an amount of Rs. 45 crore has been provided as fellowship to 3,335 students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

3.3.2 Enhanced Outlays For Schemes Benefiting Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Safai Karmacharis And Backward Classes

The National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation, the National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation and the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation disbursed concessional loans amounting to Rs. 531.74 crore to about 2.12 lakh beneficiaries in 2012-13. The National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation has raised the annual family income eligibility criteria for concessional loans and other schemes. The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation has disbursed assistance to the tune of Rs. 132.78 crore to 49,463 beneficiaries.

3.3.3 Vesting Land Rights In Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers

Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, more than 12.80 lakh titles covering forest area of 18.80 lakh hectare have been distributed as on 28th February, 2013. During the year, the Forest Rights Rules

have been also amended and revised guidelines have been issued to streamline and give further impetus to the implementation of the Act.

3.4 AN INCLUSIVE AGENDA FOR MINORITIES

3.4.1 Prime Minister's New 15 – Point Programme For The Welfare Of Minorities

Fifteen percent of targets and outlays for schemes included in the PM's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities were earmarked during the year, and this was closely monitored.

During 2012-13, under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, more than 620 primary and upper primary schools were constructed or opened; about 25,465 additional class rooms were constructed and 6,207 teachers sanctioned in blocks and districts with a substantial minority population. During this period, 5,357 habitations with substantial minority population were covered under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme and more than Rs. 21,100 crore was sanctioned under the various components of JNNURM. In addition, over 3.30 lakh Indira Awas Yojana houses were constructed for minorities during this period. The corpus of the Maulana Azad Education Foundations now stands at Rs. 750 crore.

3.4.2. Improving Access to Education

During 2012-13, Rs. 786.19 crore was given as scholarship to 64.50 lakh children belonging to notified minority communities for pre-matric education, out of whom 51 % were girls. Under the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, an amount of Rs. 326.55 crore was awarded to 7.55 lakh students, 58% being girls. An amount of Rs. 181 crore was given under Merit-cum-Means based Scholarships scheme to 68,096 students, 35 % being girls. Under the Meritorious Scholarship Scheme for girl students in class XI and XII, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation sanctioned 25,156 scholarships for an amount of Rs. 30 crore during the year. And under the Maulana Azad National Fellowship, 754 fellowships were awarded in addition to renewal of 2,266 fellowships for an amount of Rs. 66 crore with 30% of the awardees being women scholars.

3.4.3. Multi-Sectoral District Plans for Minority Concentration Districts

The Multi Sectoral Development Programme was implemented in 90 identified minority concentration districts of 20 States and UTs during the year. Projects worth Rs. 1,109 crore were approved and an amount of Rs. 646 crore was released.

This includes approvals for construction of 3.15 lakh IAY houses, 2838 Health Centres, 29,480 Anganwadi Centres, 50,696 drinking water supply projects, 15,609 additional class rooms, 698 school buildings, 113 Industrial Training Institutes, 44 Polytechnic Institutes and 485 hostels for boys and girls. The Ministry is in the process of making the programme more effective and focused on minority concentration areas and for expanding it to 710 minority concentration blocks and 66 towns and cities during XII Five Year Plan.

3.4.4 Credit

Scholarships awarded to students from the SC/ST communities is
131.9
lakhs

₹ 1390
crore worth
scholarships
awarded to 73 lakh
minority students

Between April and December 2012, 533 public sector bank branches were opened in districts with a substantial minority population. During this period, over 175,000 crore of bank credit has been provided to the minorities. The National Minority Finance Development Corporation has disbursed 371 crore for assisting 1,02,336 minority beneficiaries during 2012-13.

3.4.5 WAQF Development

Under the centrally sponsored scheme for computerization of records of State Waqf Boards, an amount of Rs. 13.20 crore has been disbursed to 27 State Waqf Boards, the Central Waqf Council and the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. as on 31st March, 2013. Centralized Computing Facility was set up in 26 State and UT Wakf Boards. Till date, 2,09,615 wakf properties have been entered into Wakf Management System of India registration module.

3.4.6 Women Empowerment

The Ministry has started implementation of a Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women from this year with the objective of empowering and instilling confidence among minority women. During the year, an amount of Rs. 10.45 crore was released to train 36,950 women through 64 organizations in 12 States.

3.5 DISABILITY TO EMPOWERMENT

3.5.1 NEW FOCUS

A new Department of Disability Affairs was created in May, 2012 for greater focus on addressing issues confronting persons with disabilities. The Department has launched the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for Students with disabilities for M.Phil/Ph.D courses, covering 200 fellowships annually. The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India Limited turned around and achieved more than Rs. 100 crore turnover for the first year since its inception.

3.6 CARING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The pension amount under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme has been increased from Rs. 200 per month to Rs. 300 per month and assistance amount under National Family Benefit Scheme has been doubled from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000. More than 50 lakh widows and persons with disability will benefit from this increase.

3.7 WELFARE OF WORKERS

3.7.1 Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

More than 3.44 crore families are being provided health insurance cover under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and 51.68 lakh persons have availed hospitalization benefit under the scheme so far. The scheme has been extended to cover construction workers, street vendors, domestic workers, beedi workers, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act workers (who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year) and licensed railway porter and vendors.

3.7.2 Employees' Welfare

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has taken up new initiatives to improve the quality of service delivery. These include coverage of new geographical areas, implementation of an IT rollout plan and medical education projects.

As part of the effort towards the automation of work processes to achieve efficiency and improve service delivery, all offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) have been computerized, with facility for electronic submission of statutory Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) returns. The members can now get their PF balances, track claims, payment status online as well as receive SMS alerts on their mobile phones after registering on www.epfindia.gov.in.

More than
3.44 crore
families provided
health insurance
under the Rashtriya
Swasthya Bima
Yojana

3.7.3 Skill Development

With a view to creating a world – class skilled labour force, training courses are being offered through a network of 2,271 government and 8,073 private Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). These institutes cumulatively offer 14.66 lakh training seats. Under the schemes of modernization of ITIs, a total of 1,727 Government ITIs are being modernized/upgraded including 400 ITIs with World Bank assistance. During 2012-13, nearly 54.05 lakh persons were trained by various Ministries.

3.7.4 Child Labour And Other Laws

Bills to amend the Child Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1986, the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and The Building and other Construction Workers Cess Act, 1996 have been introduced in Parliament. Proposal for amendment in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 has been approved by the cabinet. The amendment in the Act would provide statutory status to the National Floor Level Minimum Wage (NFLMW).

3.8 WELFARE INITIATIVES FOR INCLUSION

3.8.1 Financial Inclusion

"Swabhimaan", the financial inclusion campaign, was launched to provide banking facilities in over 74,000 habitations using various models and technologies including branchless banking through Business Correspondents Agents (BCA).

With the introduction of Direct Benefits Transfer to beneficiaries, banks have been asked to plan for providing a banking outlet

- Branch with ATM or Business Correspondents Agents or Customer Service Centre(CSC) - for a habitation of about 1,000-1,500 households.

3.9 LAND ACQUISITION

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) Bill, 2011 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in September, 2011. The amendments proposed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee were examined and the official amendments, approved by the Cabinet, have been placed before Parliament.



3.10 CENSUS AND SURVEYS

3.10.1 National Population Register (NPR)

The house-to-house enumeration for the National Population Register (NPR) has been completed in all the States and UTs. Data digitization has been completed for more than 117 crore persons and more than 13 crore Biometric Enrolments have been completed in the year 2012-13.

3.10.2 Mother Tongue Survey Of India

A plan scheme on Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI) has been taken up in the XII Five Year Plan period with the aim to conduct linguistic surveys of about 600 classified and unclassified mother tongues. Field surveys of 83 mother tongues have been conducted. The reports of the surveyed mother tongues are being transcribed, analyzed and finalized by the linguistic experts and professors from the institutes and universities in a phased manner.

RURAL RENEWAL

"The purpose of the Direct Cash Transfer Scheme, started

by the UPA Government, is to ensure that the recipients of scholarships, pensions, social benefits or Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers all directly receive their money and that too without any leakage or delay. The scheme of direct cash transfer is based on the ideals of the Central Government - balanced development and priority to the welfare of the underprivileged people."

Smt. Sonia Gandhi
Chairperson, UPA

4. RURAL RENEWAL



4.1 BHARAT NIRMAN

The second phase of the Bharat Nirman programme commenced in 2009. The cumulative targets of creating additional irrigation potential of 1 crore hectares, providing electricity to 1 lakh villages and 1.75 crore poor households, upgrading 1.94 lakh kms of existing rural roads and providing safe drinking water to identified habitations, have been achieved well before 31st March, 2012, the targeted date.

4.1.1 Rural Housing

The target under the second phase is for construction of 120 lakh houses during a period of five years starting from 2009-10. During the first four years of this period, more than 102 lakh houses have been constructed and more than 35 lakh houses are under construction.

4.1.2 Rural Roads

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, during the year 2012-13, more than 20,100 km all-weather roads have been constructed/upgraded and an expenditure of over Rs. 6,450 crore has been incurred. Further, new connectivity has been provided to about 6,000 habitations during the year.

4.1.3 Rural Water Supply

With the target for providing access to safe drinking water to identified habitations having been achieved well before the targeted date, the focus has shifted to improving water quality in affected habitations. In the year more than 1.8 crore persons living in over 13,000 water quality affected habitations have been provided access to safe drinking water. Also, an amount of Rs. 416 crore was provided in the year for safe drinking water to habitations affected by chemical contamination and to districts with high incidence of Japanese Encephalitis or Acute

Encephalitis Syndrome cases. About 3.66 crore people in rural areas were provided with piped water supply.

4.1.4 Water Resources – Irrigation

From 2005-06 up to 31st March 2012, irrigation potential of 118.4 lakh hectare has been created under Bharat Nirman. This has been achieved by completion of on-going major and medium irrigation projects, extension, renovation and modernization of major and medium irrigation projects etc.

4.1.5 Rural Electrification

In 2012 – 13, under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, electrification of 2,292 villages has been completed and 12.24 lakh BPL connections provided. Cumulatively, since 2005 – 06, intensive electrification in 2.90 lakh already electrified villages and works in about 1.07 lakh un – electrified villages have been completed and free electricity connections have been provided to more than 2 crore rural BPL households.

4.1.6 Rural Telecommunications & IT

The Government has accelerated the expansion of telecom and IT services in rural areas. The National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) Project will take broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh villages by 2014. In all, 5,81,610 out of the total 5,93,601 inhabited villages in the country, have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). Out of 3.5 lakh targeted village Panchayats, 1.57 lakh have been connected through broadband.

4.2 RURAL EMPLOYMENT

4.2.1 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

The Scheme is in operation in 632 districts in the country. In 2012-13, the scheme provided employment to more than 4.8 crore households, generating more than 213 crore person – days of employment at a total expenditure of more than Rs. 39,000 crore. The average wage rate per day has increased from Rs. 65 in 2006-07 to Rs. 128 in 2012-13. A provision was made for additional employment over and above 100 days per household under the scheme in notified drought affected talukas and blocks.

4.2.2 National Rural Livelihood Mission

The National Rural Livelihoods Mission, renamed as ‘Aajeevika’, is a programme designed to enable the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities. It is designed to reach 7 crore BPL households across the country. This year, 1.94 lakh persons were trained and 1.53 lakh found employment through the Mission.

The Mahila Kisan Sashaktikarn Pariyojana was introduced as an independent livelihood initiative targeting women in the agriculture and allied sector and 41 projects in 12 states were sanctioned with a budget of over Rs. 574 crore during 2012-13.

4.3 FARMERS WELFARE

4.3.1 Agriculture Credit

Against the 2012-13 target of Rs. 5,75,000 crore, an amount of Rs.

4,71,600 crore was disbursed as credit as on 28th February, 2013. More than 650 lakh farmers were financed by the banking system. For the year 2013-14, the target of agriculture credit flow has been increased to Rs. 7,00,000 crore.

4.3.2 Agricultural Inputs: Fertilizers And Seeds

The overall availability of seeds in the country during 2012-13 was satisfactory. Consumption of fertilizers during 2011-12 was about 144.59 kg per hectare. The availability of certified quality seeds was 328.58 lakh quintal as against the requirement of 315.19 lakh quintal during 2012-13.

4.3.3. Food Security

Production of food grains has been at an all time record level of over 259 million tones (with production of rice and wheat at 105.31 million tones and 94.88 million tones respectively during 2011-12), production of pulses and oilseeds has been 17.09 million tones and 29.80 million tones respectively during the same period. Production of cotton has been 35.2 million bales of 170 kg each.

The National Food Security Mission has achieved its objectives of increasing production of food grains by 20 million tons by the year 2011-12. Focused and target oriented implementation of mission initiatives has resulted in increase in wheat production by nearly 19 million tones against the envisaged target of 8 million tones. Similarly, the total production of rice has increased by 11.96 million tones against the target of 10 million tones. The total production of pulse has also increased by 2.89 million tones against the envisaged target of 2.0 million tones.

4.3.4 Managing Natural Calamities

In view of deficit rainfall situation in some parts of the country during Kharif – 2012, the Government of India took several proactive measures to mitigate hardships to farmers. Notable among these are fast tracking release of funds to drought affected States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme and Integrated Watershed Management Programme, implementation of Diesel Subsidy Scheme to offset the cost of diesel used by farmers for pumping water in drought affected areas. In the wake of drought in states of Karnataka and Maharashtra, the Government has approved assistance of Rs. 1304 crore from National Disaster Response Fund and Rs. 14.20 crore from Special component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme to these States.

4.3.5 Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

An amount of Rs. 8,400 crore was released to the State Governments under the scheme during 2012-13.

4.3.6 New Fertilizer Investment Policy – 2012

The Government notified the New Investment Policy – 2012 in order to facilitate fresh investment in urea sector. It is expected that nearly 100 Lakh Metric Tones (LMT) of additional urea production capacity will be added in the country to an already existing capacity of 240 LMT with an investment of nearly Rs. 35,000 crore during XII Five Year Plan period, making the country self reliant in urea.

4.3.7 National Horticulture Mission (NHM)

The Mission aims at increasing fruit production, processing, research and marketing. An amount of Rs. 1,089.27 crore was released under

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

NHM during 2012-13 and an amount of Rs. 493.13 crore was released under the Horticulture Mission for the North East and Himalayan states with the aim of increasing fruit production, processing, research and marketing.

4.3.8 Food Processing Industries

All the 30 Mega Food Parks envisaged during the XI Plan have been approved. The main objective of the Food Parks is to increase the shelf life of food articles.

The government has also approved 63 cold chain projects to create a capacity 2,63,418 MT of Cold Storage and Deep Freezer Capacity likely to be completed by 2014-15. Over 1,227 food processing industries were assisted in 2012-13 under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation, Establishment and modernization of Food Processing Industries with an expenditure of Rs. 186 crore during 2012-13.

An amount of Rs. 183.82 crore has been spent during the year of Food Processing Infrastructure Development National Institute of Food Processing Technology & entrepreneurship Management with 'Deemed to be University' status has been set up at Kundli, Haryana having world class facilities.

The Government has launched the National Mission on Food Processing as a new centrally sponsored scheme. The decentralized approach under the Mission will help faster development of food processing sector. An amount of more than Rs. 184 crore was spent on the Scheme in 2012-13.

4.3.9. Animal Husbandry

Allocation under Accelerated Fodder Development Programme, which is a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, was increased to Rs. 200 crore in 2012-13. In order to strengthen veterinary infrastructure, funds were provided to the States and UTs for construction and renovation of 210 veterinary hospitals and 700 veterinary dispensaries during 2012-13 under the scheme 'Establishment and Strengthening of Existing Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries'.

4.3.10 Dairy Sector

An amount of Rs. 127 crore has been released from 2011-12 till 31st March, 2013 for implementation of the National Dairy Plan scheme which aims at increasing productivity of milch animals. During 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 114 crore was released to the State governments under the scheme of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding for genetic upgradation of bovine population and conservation of indigenous breeds.

4.3.11 National Mission on Protein Supplements

During 2012-13, an amount of Rs. 326 crore was released to the States under National Mission on Protein Supplements as a part of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana for dairy, fisheries, piggery and goatery development.

4.3.12 Agriculture Research

During the year 2012-13, over 90 new varieties of hybrid crops were released for different agro – climatic regions of the country. Over 10,200 tonnes of breeder seed, 13,230 tonnes of foundation seed, 20,540 tonnes of certified seed, 402 lakh planting material, 1.69 lakh tissue culture

plantlets of field crops, and 4,960 tonnes of sugarcane planting material were produced. Three new improved varieties of sugarcane catering to different regions were released.

Ninety six patents were filed whereas 13 national and two international patents granted and 125 applications filed at the Plant Variety Registry in 2012-13. Two new institutions i.e. National Institute for Biotic



Stress Management at Raipur in Chhattisgarh, and Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology at Ranchi in Jharkhand were established.

4.3.13 Integrated Watershed Management Programme

During the year, Integrated Watershed Management Programme projects, covering an area of 5 million hectares were sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 2,720 crore was released to States for implementation. These projects are to be implemented over a period of 4 to 7 years in three phases.

4.3.14 Fisheries Sector

India is the second largest producer of fish in the world. Total fish production during 2011-12 was 8.66 million tones as compared to 8.23 million tones in the previous year. The export earnings from fishery products have increased to Rs. 16,597.23 core during 2011-12, registering a growth of about 28.65% over the previous year.

4.4 PANCHAYATI RAJ

4.4.1 Backward Regions Grant Fund

During the year, an amount of Rs. 3720 crore was released under the Backward Regions Grant Fund which is being implemented through panchayats and urban local bodies.

4.4.2 E-Governance For Panchayati Raj Institutions

The Government is promoting e-Governance in Panchayats through implementation of a Mission Mode Project that addresses all aspects of functioning of the panchayats including planning, monitoring, implementation, Budgeting, accounting, social audit and delivery of citizen services like issue of certificates and licenses. The Annual Plan of over 38,400 panchayats for 2012-13 are available online on Plan Plus (www.planningonline.gov.in).

4.4.3 Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan

A new centrally sponsored scheme, the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan was launched to strengthen panchayatas. The scheme provides for administrative, technical and infrastructure support at gram Panchayat level, e-enablement of Panchayati Raj



Institutions, capacity building and training of elected representatives and functionaries, and support for innovative strategies to improve the functioning and efficiency of panchayats.

TRANSFORMING CITIES

"It is estimated that in 20 years time nearly 50 percent of our population will be living in urban areas. We have, therefore, to ensure that our towns and cities provide public services of a high quality to their residents, to that end, much greater attention has to be paid to the modernization of the processes of municipal governance."

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister

5. TRANSFORMING CITIES

5.1 THE JAWAHARLAL NEHRU NATIONAL URBAN RENEWAL MISSION (JNNURM)

During the Mission period of 2005-12, 550 projects under the Urban Infrastructure & Governance (UIG) and 807 projects under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) have been approved. Against these, 185 projects under UIG and 388 projects under UIDSSMT have been completed; out of which 55 and 231 projects, respectively were completed in 2012-13, and Rs. 2,238 crore and Rs. 1,183 crore, respectively, were released as additional central assistance.

Under the Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and the Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) components of the Mission, the focus is on providing housing and basic amenities to the urban poor, especially to the slum dwellers. As of now, 525 projects worth Rs. 29,770 crore have been approved under BSUP

and 1,083 projects worth Rs. 11,936 crore have been approved under IHSDP. A total of Rs. 22,345 crore of additional central assistance has been committed and Rs. 15,471 crore released. Out of the sanctioned 15,67,538 dwelling units under BSUP and IHSDP, a total of 6,73,229 units have been completed and 3,66,823 are at different stages of construction. Out of the completed Units, 4,46,574 have been occupied.

5.2 MASS TRANSPORT

In Delhi, 190 km long Metro Rail Network is under operation. Phase - III of Delhi MRTS Project of 136.33 km of metro network at a total estimated cost of Rs. 41,078.78 crore, is under implementation; projects worth Rs. 3342.78 crore covering 19,717 km length were sanctioned during the year 2012-13.

Also, Metro Rail Projects are being implemented in Bangalore (42.30 km), Hyderabad (71.16 km), Mumbai (42.94 km), Chennai (45.05 km) and Kolkata (East-West Metro Corridor) (14.67 km). the Bangalore Metro Rail Project of length of 6.7 km has already been commissioned. Also, 'in principle' approval as been given for Stage - 1 of the Jaipur Metro Rail Project (12.07 km) to be implemented by the State Government form its own resources. The Kochi Metro Rail Project was approved last year covering a length of 25.61 km at a completion cost of Rs. 5181.79 crore.

Against the sanction of 15,260 modern buses, enabled with Intelligent Transport System in 61 cities, 14,000 have been delivered.

5.3 HOUSING FOR THE URBAN POOR

5.3.1 Rajiv Awaas Yojana (RAY)

Aimed at creating a slum – free India, the 'Rajiv Awaas Yojana' was launched to provide financial assistance to States that are willing to assign property rights to slum dwellers. Funds have been released to 195 cities for undertaking preparatory activities and Slum Free City Planning. In addition, 41 Pilot Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of 34 cities in 13 States with a total project cost of Rs. 1803 crore for construction 32,817 dwelling units have been approved and Rs. 162 crore released to 9 States.

5.3.2 Credit Risk Guarantee Fund

With a view to providing the urban poor access to institutional finance for affordable housing the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund scheme was launched in October, 2012 and a Credit Risk Guarantee fund was established. The Trust has signed agreements and MoUs with 21 leading banks and housing finance companies. The Credit Risk Guarantee Fund is expected to catalyze credit-flow of about Rs. 20,000 crore to the low cost housing sector.

5.4 THE STREET VENDORS (PROTECTION OF LIVELIHOOD AND REGULATION OF STREET VENDING) BILL, 2012

Considering the significant contribution made by street vendors to the urban society as a whole, and to enable them to earn a decent livelihood through creation of conditions for decent work. the 'Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012' was introduced in Parliament. The Bill provides for protection of livelihoods rights, social security of street vendors and regulation of urban street vending in the country. ♦

(To be continued in subsequent issues)



INDIA AND JAPAN AGREE FOR WIDER ECONOMIC COOPERATION: PM

PM's address to Japan-India Association, Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League and International Friendship Exchange Council

I am delighted to be here in this room full of friends of India. I am particularly gratified, and honoured, by the presence here of Mori-san.

Mori-san is not only a good personal friend. He is also a great friend of India. As Prime Minister of Japan, Mori-san laid the foundation of a new phase in the ancient relationship between our two countries and our two peoples. That is why we in India were privileged to confer on him our national honour of Padma Bhushan.

Asia's resurgence began over a century ago on this island of the Rising Sun. Ever since, Japan has shown us the way forward. India and Japan have a shared vision of a rising Asia. Over the past decade, therefore, our two countries have established a new relationship based on shared values and shared interests. Japan's rise as a modern, knowledge-based industrial power was a source of inspiration to India's great national leaders. The philosopher Swami Vivekananda, the poet Rabindranath Tagore, the engineer M Vishweshwarayya, the patriot Subhas Chandra Bose and the nation builder Jawaharlal Nehru, and many more – were all inspired by Japan's great achievements in the 19th and 20th centuries.

More recently, India's gradual but sustained economic rise has created new opportunities for both our countries to cooperate and work together. India needs Japanese technology and investment. In turn, India offers increasing opportunities for the growth and globalization of Japanese companies for the overall prosperity and growth of Japan.

I was most deeply honoured by the invitation that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe extended to me to be his first guest in Tokyo this year. Unfortunately, I was unable to travel at the time due to my parliamentary commitments.

While I missed the opportunity to visit during the Cherry Blossom season, I am delighted to be here in the season of Spring, which, I am confident, signifies a great future for our relationship. I am also convinced that friendship between our peoples, partnership between our businesses and cooperation between our defence and strategic communities will blossom further under the leadership of Prime Minister Abe.

On this occasion, I am reminded of Prime Minister Abe's inspiring



and visionary address to the Indian Parliament in August 2007, when he spoke of "the confluence of the two seas" – the Pacific and the Indian Oceans – which has defined the new framework for our bilateral relationship. Prime Minister Abe and I will work together to strengthen our strategic partnership, impart new momentum to our economic cooperation and deepen our dialogue on shared regional and global interests.

The Indo-Pacific region is witnessing profound social and economic changes on a scale and at a speed rarely seen in human history. It has experienced an unprecedented rise in freedom, opportunity and prosperity over the last half century.

At the same time, this region faces multiple challenges, unresolved issues and unsettled questions. Historical differences persist despite our growing inter-dependence; prosperity has not fully eliminated disparities within and between states; and there are continuing threats to stability and security.

It is in this moment of flux and change that we also have the greatest opportunity to chart a new course for Asia in this century. With the weight of the global economy and its drivers of growth shifting to this region, its future will also shape the contours of the world in this century.

India and Japan are among the major actors in this region. Our shared religious, cultural and spiritual heritage embodies the principles of peace, co-existence and pluralism. It is our responsibility to foster a climate of peace, stability and cooperation and to lay an enduring foundation for security and prosperity. I would like to suggest three areas of cooperation in this regard.

First, we should strengthen regional mechanisms and forums that

will help develop habits of consultation and cooperation, enable us to evolve commonly accepted principles for managing differences, reinforce congruence in the region and allow us to address common challenges.

Second, we should promote wider and deeper regional economic integration and enhance regional connectivity. This will promote more balanced and broad-based economic development across the region and also contribute to a more balanced regional architecture.

Third, maritime security across the linked regions of the Indian and Pacific Oceans is essential for regional and global prosperity. We should therefore uphold the principles of freedom of navigation and unimpeded lawful commerce in accordance with international law, resolve maritime issues peacefully and work together more purposefully to harness the potential of the seas and address common sea-based challenges such as piracy.

India's own deepening engagement in the region is informed by this vision. Our Look East engagement began with a strong economic emphasis, but it has become increasingly strategic in its content. Our political relations have intensified with all countries and groupings like ASEAN. We have developed a web of trade and economic agreements.

We are emphasizing connectivity and participating actively in regional anchors of cooperation and security like the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Our relationship with Japan has been at the heart of our Look East Policy. Japan inspired Asia's surge to prosperity and it remains integral to Asia's future. The world has a huge stake in Japan's success in restoring the momentum of its growth. Your continued leadership in enterprise, technology and innovation and your ability to remain the locomotive of Asian renaissance are crucial.

India's relations with Japan are important not only for our economic development, but also because we see Japan as a natural and indispensable partner in our quest for stability and peace in the vast region in Asia that is washed by the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Our relations draw their strength from our spiritual, cultural and civilizational affinities and a shared commitment to the ideals of democracy, peace and freedom. We have increasingly convergent world views and growing stakes in each other's prosperity. We have shared interests in maritime security and we face similar challenges to our energy security. There are strong synergies between our economies, which need an open, rule-based international trading system to prosper. Together, we seek a new architecture for the United Nations Security Council.

In recent years, our political and security cooperation has gained in salience. Japan is the only partner with whom we have a 2-plus-2 Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministries. We have also begun bilateral exercises with the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force.

Japan has long been part of important milestones in India's economic development efforts.

The Maruti-Suzuki collaboration sparked off a wave of industrial development in India. The Delhi Metro is inspiring a similar revolution



in public transportation. Our two flagship infrastructure projects – the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor – are unmatched both in their size and scale. We are also exploring new projects such as an industrial corridor between Chennai and Bengaluru. Our Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was launched in 2011 and last year we signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of rare earths.

All this would suggest that ours is already a rich relationship. However, we have set for ourselves higher ambitions consistent with the vision that we have for this partnership. Going forward, therefore, we should intensify our political dialogue and expand our strategic consultations on regions and issues of mutual interest. Our defence and security dialogue, military exercises and defence technology collaboration should grow. We should consult and coordinate more closely in global and regional forums.

Our relationship should also be anchored in expanded trade and investment relations. As I told business leaders at the Keidanren function earlier today, there should be no doubt about our commitment and confidence that we will soon restore our growth to the 8%-plus levels that we experienced over the past decade.

This confidence stems from the strength of our economic fundamentals, the thriving spirit of enterprise in our country and the steps that we have taken recently to reform policies and accelerate implementation of mega projects.

Greater investment by Japanese companies in India's large market will be in our economic as well as strategic interest. This consideration should also guide closer engagement in high technology commerce, clean energy, energy security and skill development.

Prime Minister Abe and I have a rich agenda for discussion before us. Together, we had started the institution of annual summits and many initiatives that have given our relationship such extraordinary depth and diversity. We will seek not only to sustain the rising momentum of our relationship, but add new content and meaning to it, in the interest of our two countries, our region and our world.

Let me conclude by confessing that Japan has been close to my heart ever since I first visited this beautiful country in 1971. It has been my dream to see our relationship grow and prosper, and this is an objective towards which I have worked in the last nine years of my tenure as Prime Minister of India. Today, I am heartened to witness the transformation of India-Japan relations into a durable partnership. I have no doubt your efforts and initiatives will continue to be a source of great strength for the relationship. ♦

ALL STATES SHOULD LEARN FROM ANDHRA AND DEFEAT MAOISTS ON THEIR TURF: KPS GILL

As details of the Darbha massacre filter into the media, one thing is obvious: there was a comprehensive failure at every level to adhere even to the most basic security norms in the prevailing situation. There has, thereafter and much before, been a great deal of talk on strategy and tactics, on 'holistic' and 'multi-pronged' approaches. But the ground reality is that we haven't even got a basic grip on the day-to-day tasks, the most rudimentary processes, the a-b-c of policing itself.

Darbha was not an exception. How many times have errors by district police officers led to security debacles and acute political embarrassments in different states? The instances are legion and it is time that the service stands up, stops making excuses and takes responsibility.

The failures at Darbha were no small errors of 'coordination.' There was evident and tremendous disregard for the basic necessities of policing. Details of these acts of omission and commission will hopefully be uncovered by the investigations and inquiries. However, those who are painting the incident as a great 'strategic' achievement by the 'heroic Maoists' appear to have missed some details.

A relatively small and poorly armed security contingent was attacked by a well-armed force of at least 250 Maoist cadres. Despite their superiority in weapons and numbers, the shock of the initial IED attack on the convoy, and relative disadvantage of terrain against their ambushers, the security personnel held off the attackers, by various accounts, for some two hours, and were overrun only when they ran out of ammunition. The enormity of this achievement is even more remarkable, since the security personnel were armed, variously, with pistols, Sten guns and, eyewitness narratives in the media suggest, even 12-bore weapons; while the Maoists had SLRs and AK rifles.

When the shooting ended, Mahendra Karma - is said to have stood up and declared himself, asking the Maoists to spare the others. The Congress state committee chief, Nand Kumar Patel, begged only for his son's life - something any father would do. These were acts of courage that speak highly of these men, and are at odds with the picture of scam-tainted politicians we see every day on television. These are images of grassroots politicians fighting extraordinary odds.

The Maoist response was to strike down the son with an axe to the head before his father's eyes and shoot him repeatedly. Patel was himself shot and stabbed again and again. As for Karma, his body bore 78 stab and over 50 bullet wounds, and after he was killed, the Maoists danced over his body. This gratuitous and perverse violence is not the action of revolutionary warriors, but of hate-consumed butchers. There are many in the Indian establishment who have long sympathised with the

Maoist cause and constructed elaborate apologetics for their violence. It would be interesting to discover what justification they have for these acts of appalling and wanton brutality.

We must not return to business as usual. At every level, improvements are necessary and possible. The district, state and national leaderships, both political and in the security establishment, must retain focus. The delays, the prevarication, the bureaucratic inertia and the political incoherence and mischief that have undermined effective response and the strengthening of the security apparatus in the past must be forced to an end.

States whine constantly about the Centre not doing enough. But what have the states done? Promising (and failing to deliver, in more cases than not) rice at Rs 2 per kg may win elections, but it will not defeat the Maoists. Where is the steel in the administrative framework? Chief ministers of all Maoist-affected states must be called to account for what they have done or failed to do.

If Andhra Pradesh - with little outside help - can inflict total defeat on a movement that, at one point, gravely afflicted all its 23 districts, there is no reason why other states, with a lesser problem and with increasingly generous support from the Centre, should fail so spectacularly in dealing with Maoists. The truth is, the political and police establishments in Andhra were willing and even eager to learn.

In several public speeches H J Dora, who played a crucial role in turning the Andhra police around to effectively confront the Maoists, had declared that he had studied the Punjab experience, and applied it in that state. Why can't other state administrations and police officers study what has been done in Andhra and apply it to their circumstances? Why have the experiences of Punjab and Tripura, where vicious insurgencies were comprehensively defeated in police-led campaigns, with enormous support from central forces, been neglected in the training and orientation of the police leadership, and in the design of appropriate counterinsurgency strategies?

It bears repetition that it is not that the Maoists or their ideology are particularly strong; it is the state that has grown weak and abandoned its people and its territories to the depredations of lawless armed factions. Such a situation is particularly intolerable in a democracy, where the state's primary duty is to guarantee the security and welfare of its people. It is time to take back India from those who want to destroy her; and to restore to her people the freedom to live outside the shadow of fear.
(The writer is former DGP, Punjab, and president, Institute for Conflict Management)

THE SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT

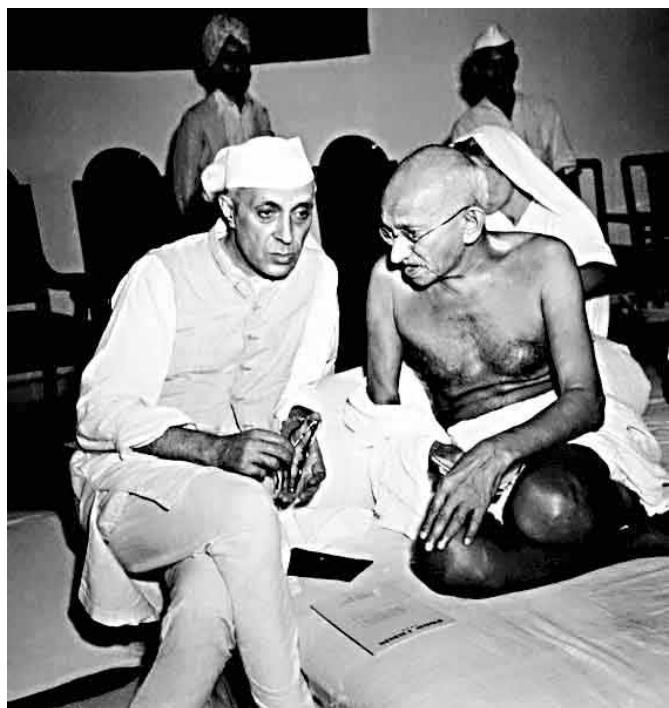
INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA

By the end of 1940, Gandhiji was asked to lead the Congress and his decision was to start individual satyagraha. This was to be a protest by chosen individuals against participation in the war. The pledge of the satyagrahi was: "It is wrong to help the British war effort with men or money." Vinobha Bhave was the first satyagrahi and Nehru the second. Gandhiji explained to the Viceroy that it was necessary to clarify that the Indian people were not participating in the war effort contrary to British claims. The motive behind offering individual satyagraha was to gear Congress organization for another mass movement. By 15 May 1941, more than 25,000 satyagrahis had been arrested. After their release from prison, Indian leaders were concerned about the security of India. The CWC passed a resolution in December 1941 offering to cooperate in the war effort if Britain promised complete independence after the war.

In March 1942, Stafford Cripps came to India to obtain the cooperation of Indians for the war. This was partly a response to the pressure of the US and Chinese leaders. The Cripps offer promised India Dominion Status and a Constituent Assembly after the war. It conceded the essentials of Pakistan by allowing provinces to have separate agreements with Britain. Defence of the country continued to be under the control of the British, indicating the lack of any desire to part with authority in the present. Even Nehru who considered Cripps to be a friend was dismayed by the proposals. The offer of Dominion Status rather than full independence was not acceptable to the Congress. Dominion Status would have entailed membership of the British Commonwealth of Nations and allegiance to the British Queen. The Congress also objected to the fact that the representatives of the states would be nominated by the rulers and not elected by the people. Last of all, they opposed the right of the provinces to secede from the Centre because they saw it as an attempt to divide the country.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

The failure of the Cripps Mission convinced Gandhiji and Nehru that there was no point in looking towards Britain for any substantive political settlement during and after the war. The reluctance to start a mass movement at a time when Hitler was knocking at Britain's door



was at an end. Gandhiji proposed a resolution for the CWC in July 1942 which called for the British to 'Quit India' and for the Indian people to fight the Japanese invasion non-violently.

On 8 August 1942, 'Quit India' resolution was passed at the AICC meeting at Gowalia Tank in Bombay. Gandhiji made it clear that the Congress demand was not for anything specific like ministries or abolition of the salt tax but for nothing less than freedom. He exhorted them to 'do or die' in the struggle for independence. He said, "We shall either free India or die in the attempt; we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery." Gandhiji laid down specific tasks for different groups: soldiers were told to refuse to fire on their own people, officials to declare allegiance to the Congress, Princes to accept sovereignty of their own people, peasants, "who have the courage and are prepared to risk their all", not to pay land revenue.

FROM ARCHIVES

The next day on 9 August Congress leaders including Gandhiji, Nehru, Patel and Maulana Azad were arrested. In reaction, lakhs of people reached the scene of the 8 August meeting at Gowalia Tank in Bombay, and clashed with the authorities. The next few days saw hartals, public demonstrations, processions and defiance of the law. The major storm-centres were UP and Bihar. A mass upsurge took place all over the country. Forms of protest were many: police stations, courts, post offices, railway stations and other symbols of authority were attacked by huge crowds. Satyagrahis offered arrest in large numbers. Crowds numbering a few thousand removed railway tracks while smaller groups disrupted communications. Strikes in schools and colleges were rampant. Hundreds of news sheets or patrikas mushroomed all over the country. Workers went on strike in Ahmedabad, Bombay, Jamshedpur, Ahmednagar and Poona. Bihar and East UP witnessed a virtual rebellion. The initial message was taken to the villages by students of Banaras Hindu University who hijacked trains and took them inside villages, raised slogans and mobilized people. Tirhoot division in Bihar was cut off from the rest of the country for two weeks. It is estimated that in 10 districts of north and central Bihar, 80 per cent of police stations were captured or temporarily evacuated.

Government repression took the form of imposing collective fines, whipping of suspects, burning of entire villages and even firing and machine-gunning from low-flying aircrafts. Over 10,000 people were killed in police and military firing. Sixty thousand were arrested by the end of 1942. Such brutal and large scale repression was not seen since the revolt of 1857. An underground movement also

emerged during this period. The important leaders of this movement were Achyut Patwardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Ram Manohar Lohia, Sucheta Kripalani, Jayaprakash Narayan and others. They were active in different parts of Bombay Presidency, Kerala, Andhra, UP, Bihar and Delhi.

An unusual feature of the movement was the parallel governments which came up in some parts of the country. The most famous was in Ballia in east UP where Chittu Pandey asked the Collector to hand over power to him. However, it lasted only for a week. Another parallel government came up in Tamluk in Midnapore district of Bengal. Known as the Jatiya Sarkar, this lasted almost two years from December 1942 to September 1944. Satara in Maharashtra saw a parallel government known as the Prati Sarkar with Nana Patil as its leader. Here, peoples' courts were set up, prohibition was enforced, and village libraries set up. The Prati Sarkar continued till 1945.

GANDHI-JINNAH TALKS

Gandhiji was released in May 1944 on medical grounds. On the part of the Congress, at Rajaji's initiative, Gandhiji entered into talks with Jinnah. Gandhiji gave his support to Rajaji's proposals, which envisaged setting up of a Union with India and Pakistan forming two regions in it and pursuing a common policy on Defence, Commerce, Communications and other essential purposes. It also envisaged Muslim League endorsing the demand for independence and cooperating with the Congress in the formation of a provisional government. Further, a Commission would be appointed after the war to demarcate Muslim majority areas in north-west and eastern India. A plebiscite would be held in these areas to

determine the issue of separation from India. Gandhiji and Jinnah met in September but this scheme did not commend itself to Jinnah, who insisted on Gandhiji agreeing to the two-nation theory and partition without plebiscite. Gandhiji now busied himself with constructive work which was to help the reorganization of the Congress party through activities like membership drives, training programmes and fund collection. ♦

Extracts from the book "The Congress and the Making of Indian Nation" Chapter 8.

continued from page 11

APPROACH OF UPA GOVERNMENT FOR MILITANCY AFFECTED AREAS

in India both in urban and rural areas as fruits of economic growth reached the people.

- Due to the UPA Government's pro-poor policies, consumption in rural areas registered an increase of 3.4% which was only 0.8% during 1999 to 2004.
- This established the fact that the economic growth during the U.E.A. is both inclusive and widespread.
- Credit and loan facilities to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises have been more than doubled during the last five years.

CITY WELFARE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- There has been nearly a ten-fold increase in investment in road construction in rural areas under UPA Government.
- More than 20,100 km all-weather roads have been constructed/upgraded and an expenditure of over Rs. 6,450 crore has been incurred during 2012-13.
- Connectivity in rural areas has helped small farmers in carrying their agricultural goods to markets where they get improved return for their products.

TOURISM

- India has become an important global tourism destination during the UPA period through the 'Incredible India' campaign.
- Tourist inflow has increased 300% and Foreign Exchange Revenues have doubled during the last 9 years.
- The state of Jammu and Kashmir has also witnessed phenomenal increase in tourism during this time as more people are travelling there for recreation and religious tourism. ♦



STATESWATCH

ANDHRA PRADESH *Tributes to Rajiv Gandhi*

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, observed the 22nd Death Anniversary of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhiji, former Prime Minister of India, on 21st



May, 2013. A meeting was convened on this occasion which was presided by APCC President Shri Botcha Satyanarayana and attended by Shri N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chief Minister. Two minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed leader and pledge was administered by APCC President.

Workers' Convention

Hyderabad: State level convention of Block, Mandal, Town & Division Congress Committee Presidents was held on 22nd May, 2013 at Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad under the Chairmanship of Shri Botcha Satyanarayana, President, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee to discuss about strengthening of Party Organization, preparation for local bodies elections, membership drive and campaigning of congress – led UPA Government welfare schemes and developmental activities taken up by State and Central Governments which was attended by more than 2000



delegates from throughout the State.

S/Shri N. Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chief Minister, K.B. Krishna Murthy, AICC Secretary I/C of Andhra Pradesh affairs, V. Hanumantha Rao, P. Sudhakar Reddy, AICC Secretaries, DCC/CCC Presidents & APCC Coordinators also took part in the Convention.

Naxal attack condemned

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee convened a condolence meeting on Sunday 26th May, 2013 at its Party Headquarters Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad with regard to brutal attack of Maoists on Shri Nanda Kumar Patel,



President, Chattisgarh PCC, Shri Mahendra Karma, Popular Tribal Leader and other dedicated Congress leaders who lost their precious lives, in Chattisgarh. Senior Congress leader Shri V.C. Shukla has also received serious injuries on 25th May, 2013. This brutal attack on the activists of Congress Party who were campaigning for Parivarthan in the State is condemned. Shri Botcha Satyanarayana, president, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, presided over the meeting.

Tributes to Rajivji

Hyderabad: The Andhra Pradesh Congress Linguistic Minority Cell paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhiji here on 21st May, 2013 in a function presided by its president, Shri Murali Mohan Ashok Singh.



He garlanded the photograph of Rajivji and recalled his services to the nation. Also present were Shri Ajay Shukla, Shri Dinesh Kumar, Sardar Tara Singh, Shri Shivprasad and Syed Afsar Ali with Shri Sanjeev and others.

BIHAR

Tributes to Hardikar

Patna: Shri Ashok Chaudhary took charge of the Bihar Pradesh Congress Sewadal here on 3rd May, 2013.

Shri Ashok Chaudhary was given honour and salute at the Sadaqat Ashram where he met the office – bearers of the Sewa Dal.

Later, on 7th May, 2013, Shri Chaudhary attended the 125th birth anniversary of Sewa Dal founder, Shri Narayan Sabha Rao Hardikar. He then attended workers' meeting in Gopalganj and discussed the posting of Sewa Dal workers at the polling booths during the coming Lok Sabha elections.

NEWS

Worker's meeting held

Muzzafarpur: The Bihar Pradesh Congress Sewa Dal organized worker's meeting in Meenapur and Katra Blocks on 12th May, 2013.

The meetings were addressed by District president, Shri Sanjay Kumar who said that the Congress cares for the dalits, backward, women and minorities and people from these groups will be selected for booth committees. Shri Kumar also asked the Sewa Dal workers to tell the people about the achievements of the Congress-led UPA Government and to back Congress in the General elections.

CHHATTISGARH *Tributes to Rajivji*

Champa: The District Congress Committee of Chhattisgarh paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary here on 21st May, 2013.

The Congressmen garlanded the photo of Rajivji at the Champa Railway Station and lit candles at the station round – about.

The function was attended by former MLA, Shri Motilal Devgun, Shri Anif Ansari, Shri Bajrang Sharma, Shri Kishan Soni, Md. Ibrahimi Memon, Shri Iqbal Ansari with many others.

DELHI *Tributes paid to Rajiv Gandhiji*

New Delhi: The Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary at the Rajiv Bhawan here on 21st May, 2013.

DPCC president, Shri Jai Prakash Aggarwal, while paying tribute said that because of his foresightedness, India saw the computer



revolution and the nation moved into the 21st century and into the modern era.

A 30 – minute documentary film was also screened on the political life of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Others who paid tributes included Shri Ramesh Kumar, MP, AICC secretary, Maj. Ved Prakash, former MLA, Shri Bhisham Sharma, former Deputy Speaker of Vidhan Sabha, Shri Amrish Singh Gautam, Shri Malaram Gangwal, MLA, Shri Neeraj Basoya, Shri Aarvinder Singh Lovely and Veer Singh, Shri Dhirender Tyagi, Shri Harikishan Jindal with others.

Teachers condemn Naxal attack

New Delhi: Hundreds of women teachers of Federation of Public Schools today observed a two – minute silence in the memory of the senior Congress leaders and



others killed by Maoists in Chhattisgarh, at the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) office here on 28th May, 2013 and presented two condolence resolutions to DPCC president, Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal, MP.

Shri Agarwal said people from all walks of life in the society should join hands to counter the Naxal violence. He said the Naxal attack on the Congress leaders and others was an attack on the democratic setup of the country.

The chairman of the Federation of Public School teachers, Dr. R.P. Malik said violence and killings were no solutions to any problem, and all the members of the federation expressed their deep sorrow at the Maoist killings in Chhattisgarh.

GUJARAT *Career book released*

Ahmedabad: A book titled, "At the career threshold" – what after standard 12? Was released here on 17th May, 2013 by the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee.



The book was released to the public by the national spokesperson of the Congress Party, Shri Mohan Prakashji who is also the incharge of Gujarat affairs alongwith Gujarat PCC president, Shri Arjun Modhwadia, former Union minister, Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela and Shri Shaktisinh Gohil.

The book guides students to select best subject for their future career and this is being published by the Gujarat Congress for the eighth successive year and is available with every District and City Congress office free of cost.

HARYANA *Convention Held*

Gurgaon: The Haryana Pradesh Congress



Committee organized a convention here on 20th May, 2013 as a tribute to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Maj. Dalbir Singh of AICC was the chief guest who spoke on the life of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

People from all walks of life including youth, women, farmers, intellectuals and from minorities participated in the convention. The convention was organized by Haryana PCC Spokesperson, Shri Khazan Singh to educate the people about the importance of Panchayati Raj and people from six districts of Haryana participated in it.

Tributes paid to Nehruji

Sonepat: Congressmen paid tributes to the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on his 49th death anniversary here on 27th May, 2013.



They garlanded the photograph of Nehruji and maintained two – minute silence. On this occasion tributes were also paid to those Congress leaders who were killed by Naxals in Chhattisgarh.

Those who paid tributes included former MLA and Parliamentary secretary, Shri Anil Thakkar, Shri Surendra Sharma, Shri Ashok Chhabra, Shri Bhaleram Jhangda, Shri Anil Kumar Binny, Shri Pramod Sharma, Shri Satnarayan Saroha, Pt. Sitaram Sharma with others.

HIMACHAL PRADESH **Tributes to Dr. Hardikar**

Solan: The Sewa Dal workers of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee paid tributes to the founder of the Sewa Dal, Dr. Narayan Subbarao Hardikar on his 124th birth anniversary here on 7th May, 2013.

Sewa Dal workers garlanded the photo of Dr. Hardikar. Pradesh chief organizer, Shri



Harimohan Sharma recalled the services of Dr. Hardikar. Office – bearers of HPCC also participated in the function.

JAMMU & KASHMIR **Prof. Soz visits Udhampur**

Udhampur: President JKPCC & former Union Minister, Prof. Saifuddin Soz – MP has said that Congress party will emerge as the largest party in 2014 assembly election in the state.

Addressing a largely attended public meeting at Udhampur on 25th May, 2013, Prof. Soz said that coalition era in the state is going to stay but asserted that Congress would emerge as the single largest party in 2014 elections. He said that people of all the three regions have realized that only Congress can serve them better and the mood of the people is to support the Congress party. He added that Congress will be number one party in 2014 elections and no coalition would be formed without the Congress party. He said that Congress has to accept the challenge of coming up to the expectations and aspirations of the people and adopt more effective modes of service to them in view of growing needs. He referred to the plight of a family whose only son is suffering from kidney failure and the mother of the son has pleaded before him yesterday for financial assistance for treatment of her only son. He



said that seeking help from the government would have been time consuming, so he looked for other options instead of taking up with the government to arrange for timely financial assistance for the treatment and to save the precious life. In this way the Congressmen have various ways to serve the people. He said that Congress has always looks towards Mahatma Gandhi philosophy of the service of people and politics is another name of serving the people as Smt. Sonia Gandhi told the party workers time and again.

Prof. Soz was on a two day tour of remote areas of Udhampur district to address public meetings and interact with party workers to understand the problems of people.

Earlier, he was profusely welcomed in the way to Udhampur right from Tikkri upto Udhampur City. Senior leaders of the District Congress Committee Shri Bupinder Singh Pathania, Anil Pachiala, Sardari Lal Dubey, Ashok Bakshi, Surinder Kumar – Advocate, Ashwani Khajuria, Manav Upadhyaya, Sanjeev Dubey, Om Prakash, Vijay Manhas welcomed PCC President and put forth various demands of the area.

Prof. Soz while responding to the demands of the people assured that he will refer their demands to the concerned. He also sanctioned rupees 10 lakh from his MPLAD fund for the development works at Udhampur.

Rich tributes paid to Rajiv Gandhiji

Srinagar: The J&K Pradesh Congress Committee held a meeting of Prominent Leaders and workers on the occasion of 22nd Death Anniversary of Former Prime Minister of India Late Shri Rajiv



Gandhiji at Party Headquarters at Srinagar on 21st May, 2013. Rajivji fell victim to Terrorism on this day. Those who spoke and addressed the meeting included Mohd. Muzaffar Paray, Senior Vice – President, Gulam Nabi Monga MLC, Vice – President, Sham Lal Sharma Minister for PHE, Irri & FC, Shabir Ahmad Khan Minister for Health, Khem Lata Wakhloo, Gulam Nabi Mir Lasjan, Mohd. Anwar Bhat, General Secretaries, Peer Nazir Ahmad, Abdul Gani Khan Districts Presidents, Farooq Andrabi, Shameema Sopori, Habla Kar, Nissar Ahmad Khan and others.

Sham Lal Sharma Minister for PHE, Flood Control & Irri was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

The speakers paid floral tributes to Rajivji on his 22nd death anniversary and remembered his contribution towards Nation building, upliftment of poor and down-trodden, Implementation of Panchayat Raj, Computer Education, Empowerment to Panchayats, were the main contribution of Former Prime Minister, which can never be forgotten by the people of the nation.

Women's Convention held

Jammu: A one – day convention for women was held here on 30th May, 2013 to educate the women of J&K.

The convention was organized by the Pradesh Mahila Congress president, Smt. Indu Pawar. Similar meeting was also held in Kashmir. All India Mahila Congress president, Smt. Anita Verma addressed the convention. She exhorted the women to actively participate in political activities as the Congress is the only party which is committed to give equal share to women in all spheres of life, including politics.

Smt. Verma said that the Congress president, Smt. Sonia Gandhi has many a time reiterated that her party is committed



to give equal representation to women in politics. She said it was only during the UPA tenure that a woman was made the President of India. Similarly, a women is also the speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Smt. Indu Pawar said that the aim of organizing this convention is to make the women of the state aware of their rights and the Pradesh Mahila Congress was organizing such meetings for the last two years at Block levels to educate the women to avail benefits of various welfare schemes launched by the Congress – led UPA government for their upliftment and development.

Similarly, Minister for PHE, Flood Control and Irrigation, Shri Sham Lal Sharma also addressed the convention and said that education of women was must for the growth and development of the society.

MADHYA PRADESH Misguiding people in Madhya Pradesh

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee president, Shri Kantilal Bhuria, MP has revealed that he has received reports from District office-bearers that the ruling party workers of the BJP were misleading the people about achievements in the state to garner votes during the

coming elections.

Shri Manoj Seth, general secretary of the Jabalpur district Congress has alleged that the cheques given to the parents of a girl child under the 'Ladli' scheme will not be encashed if the BJP will not be in power in state in the next elections, so they should vote the BJP if they want the cheque to be encashed.

The ruling party workers are already making claim over the people welfare programmes of the UPA government that are implemented in the state. The BJP workers are creating doubt and confusion in the minds of the people before the elections.

Illegal felling of trees

Bhopal: Former Union Minister and Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee president, Shri Kantilal Bhuria has alleged that around 800 trees have been illegally cut down in the jungles of Chhatarpur district and the local tribal people are being involved in this act.

Shri Bhuria disclosed this here on 29th May, 2013 that show cause notice are being sent to local tribal people whereas the real culprits is a foreign company "Rio Tinto Company" which has cut down so many trees.

The local tribal people have sent a joint memorandum to the State Governor, the chief minister and the district collector to take action against this company.

Less purchase due to bungling

Bhopal: Because of the bungling last year in the purchase of wheat, the quantity this year is less by at least 61 lakh tons and this was stated by the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ajay Singh who asked for a CBI inquiry into this.

Shri Singh said that because of fraudulent purchase and subsequent sale by the middlemen in the mandis because they have the protection of the chief minister, Shivraj Singh who is also their patron. Because of this fact, the farmers are not selling their produce at the purchase centers. This also indicates the anti -

farmers' face of the chief minister. This case should be handed over to the CBI for thorough enquiry so that the truth comes out.

Women's Conference Held

Indore: Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress Committee organized a one day Mahila Shakti Sammelan to politically empower the women here on 5th May, 2013. The convention was organized by MPMC president, Smt. Archana Jaiswal.



AICC general secretary, Shri Vilas Muttamvar, MP from Nagpur was the chief guest. The convention was conducted by the joint director of Jawaharlal Nehru Leadership Institute, Delhi, Shri (Dr.) Suresh Sharma.

Shri Muttamvar while addressing said that the honour and respect which the Congress Party has given to women has not been given by any other party. Others who spoke were Shri Vivek Sharan, Shri R.D. Sharma and Shri Govind Aggarwal.

Tributes to Rajiv Gandhiji

Indore: Tributes were paid to former Prime



Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary here on 21st May, 2013.

National Secretary of the Congress Party Shri Pankaj Sharma, who attended various programmes in Indore and Dewas, garlanded the statue of Rajivji at the Ring Road here.

Others who paid tributes included Indore City Congress president, Shri Pramod Tondon, Madhya Pradesh Congress general secretary, Shri P.D. Aggarwal, Pradesh Congress Secretary, Shri Raghu Parmar, former minister, Shri Chandraprabhash Sekhar and senior leader, Shri Kripa Shankar Shukla who also addressed the Congress workers party office – bearers, MLAs and office – bearers of the party's frontal organizations were also present.

Shri Sharma gave Rajiv Gandhi memorial Lecture in the City Congress office in Dewas and which was attended by many people including the Mayor of Dewas, Smt. Rekha Verma.

Rally against corruption

Indore: The City Congress Committee took out the Parivartan Yatra against the growing corruption, crime and exploitation of the minorities and the poor by the BJP in Madhya Pradesh here on 22nd May, 2013.



The rally started from Yadav Nagar and converged into a meeting at Mukhakhedi chowk where congress leaders addressed the gathering. City Congress president, Shri Pramod Tondon spoke about the BJP ministers and MLA who were indulging in corrupt practices.

ODISHA Tributes to Rajiv Gandhiji

Bhubaneshwar: The Odisha Rajiv Gandhi



Student's Forum paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary here on 21st May, 2013. The function was presided over by the Forums State President, Shri Satyabrata Nayak.

On this occasion the student's Forum also honoured students by giving away Rajiv Gandhi Prativa Puraskar which were given by Shri Shrikant Jena, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers. Shri Jayadev Jena President, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee was the chief guest.

RAJASTHAN Sandesh Yatra in Rajasthan

Jaipur: The Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Conducted the Sandesh Yatra and recounted the development works that were done in the past four years.

The Sandesh Yatra passed through Karouli, Keladevi, Gangapur City where Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot and PCC president, Dr. Chandrabhan addressed the gathering. They were also given a rousing welcome wherever they passed through.

Shri Gehlot said that most of the promises before the elections have been fulfilled and whatever has been left will also be completed next year. He strongly criticized the former BJP Chief Minister for not doing any work for the state. Shri Gehlot said that a person who cannot remain of the party, how can she be of the people? This was in context to when Leader of the Opposition, Shri Gulabchand Kataria

wanted to take a padyatra in Udaipur, but Smt. Vasundhra Raje opposed it and even threatened to leave the party. Shri Gehlot said that the steel plant in Kairoli will be commissioned as soon clearance was received from Central government.

Tributes to Nehruji

Hanumangarh: Congressmen of the District, Block and City Congress paid tributes to the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary here on 27th May, 2013.



Congressmen garlanded the photo of Nehruji and District general secretary while paying tributes recalled the services of Nehruji because of which India has made it mark in the world.

Present on the occasion were Block President, Shri Manoj Saini, Advocate Udaypal Sarswat, secretary, Shri Rameshwar Chabaria, DCC member, Shri Sanjay Bishnoy with others.

TAMILNADU

Tributes to Rajiv Gandhiji

Trichy: The Congressmen here, led by Shri B. Balasubramanian, state secretary, Tamilnadu Congress Trade Union, paid tributes to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary here on 21st May, 2013.



The Congressmen garlanded the photo of Rajiv Gandhi and prayed for peace of his soul and later served free food to the people. Congressmen also took oath against terrorism on this occasion.

Tributes to Nehruji

Trichy: Congressmen here paid floral tributes to the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on his 49th death anniversary on 27th May, 2013.



The function was led by state PCC General Council Member, Shri B. Balasubramanian with other office – bearers and they all garlanded the photograph of Nehruji, the architect of modern India.

UTTARAKHAND

Tributes to Rajiv Gandhiji

Dehradun: The Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee paid tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhiji on his 22nd death anniversary and celebrated the day as 'Sankalp Diwas' here on 21st May, 2013.

Party spokesperson, Shri Dhirendra Pratap said that the Congress organized various activities like debates, padyatras, cycle rallies and blood donation camp throughout the state.

State Chief Minister, Shri Vijay Bahuguna inaugurated the life – size statue of Rajiv Gandhi and garlanded it in the presence of Pradesh PCC president, Shri Yashpal Arya. The function was attended by all the ministers, MLAs and party functionaries.

UTTAR PRADESH

Tributes paid to Shri Rajiv Gandhi

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his



22nd death anniversary at the Congress Headquarters here on 21st May, 2013.

The condolence meeting started by offering garlands to the statue of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, thereafter all – faith prayer meeting was held. Pt. Mohit Shukla recited the verses from Geeta, Kazi Mohammed recited verses from Quran, Bhante Nagarjuna recited verses from Bodh religion, Father Samuel recited verses from the Bible and verses from Guru Granth Sahib were also recited while the students sang other religious hymns.

UPCC president, Dr. Nirmal Khatri, MP paid tributes by recalling the services of Rajivji. Shri Khatri talked about his life and his quality of sensitivity because of which he could resolve any problem.

Thereafter, Dr. Khatri and Dr. Rita



Bahuguna Joshi joined the Youth Congress and participated in the blood donation camp. Many MLAs, office – bearers and Congressmen participated in the function.

Tributes paid to Pt. Nehruji

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee paid tributes to our First Prime Minister and the architect of modern India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary here on 28th May, 2013.

UPCC president, Dr. Nirmal Khatri, MP paid tribute by garlanding the photo of Nehruji and also organizing an all – faith

prayer meeting. The function was organized by former MLA, Shri Harish Bajpayee.

Dr. Nirmal Khatri recalled the services of Pt. Nehru also tributes were paid by former minister, Ammor Rizvi and former minister, Shri Ramkrishna Dwivedi who spoke on the life of Pt. Nehru.

Many others including MLAs, office – bearers of frontal organizations and Congressmen also paid tributes to Nehruji.

Mortal remains immersed

Allahabad: The mortal remains of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress president, Shri Nand Kumar Patel, his son, Shri Dinesh Patel and Shri Mudliar, who were killed in Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh, arrived here on 30th May.

Thousands of Congressmen, led by Pradesh Congress president, Dr. Nirmal Khatri, MP received the mortal remains of the Congress leaders and which were immersed in the Sangam, the confluence of rivers Ganga, Jamuna and Saraswati with the chanting of Vedic rites.

Tributes to Rajiv Gandhi

New Delhi: The Babarpur District Mahila Congress paid tributes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary here on 21st May, 2013. The function was held at the Victor Public School, Maujpur and which was presided over by District Mahila Congress president and Municipal Councillor, Smt. Savita Sharma.

Chief Guest at the function was All-India Mahila Congress secretary, Smt. Sushma Yadav. Others present were Pradesh Mahila Congress president, Smt. Abha Chaudhary with District and Block office – bearers.



EX-SERVICEMEN EXPRESS FAITH IN CONGRESS



During most of the month, from the first to third week of June, Ex-Servicemen associated with Himachal PCC Ex-Servicemen Department, campaigned extensively in Mandi parliamentary constituency where by election was held on June 23, 2013.

The Ex-Servicemen canvassing for the Congress candidate, Smt. Prathibha Singh were led by Col. Bidhi Chand Lagwal, Chairman HPCC Ex-Servicemen Department and Vice Chairman, Brig. T.S. Thakur, campaigned amongst Ex-Servicemen at the village and block levels. While Brig. T.S. Thakur, who is also the Chairman of Kullu District Ex-Servicemen League canvassed in Kullu Mandi and Lahul Spiti areas, Col. B.C. Lagwal campaigned in Mandi sadar and other densely Ex-Servicemen populated pockets of the constituency. The places covered by the Chairman and his associates were Balh, Sarkaghat Karog, Nackhan, Surender Nagar, Jodidernagar, Seraj and Darang. Other office bearers of HPCC Ex-Servicemen Department who actively participated in the campaign were Smt. Anupama Sharma, Brig. Rajender Rana, Smt. Chaman Lal Saklani, Capt. Chand, and Brijender Thakur. Brig Thakur accompanied Smt. Prathibha Singh during her campaign in Kullu district.

Earlier, on May 26th, a meeting participated by Ex-Servicemen, Vir Naaris (widows/war widows), physically challenged and aged, was held in Dodai village of Bijjari Panchayat (Barsar Assembly) of District Hamirpur. The 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' Seva Sangthan led by Ex-Servicemen Sitaram Bhardawaj organized the function in which fans, sewing machines and shawls were distributed to the poor, vir naaris, aged and the disabled. Thakur Kaul Singh, senior Minister in HP Cabinet, and former PCC President, who was the Chief Guest, complimented the

organizers Sitaram Bhardawaj for taking up a noble social cause.

Thakur Kaul Singh condemned the BJP for misusing religion in politics during election time and gave details of various welfare schemes of HP govt. launched under the Chief Ministership of Shri Virbhadr Singh. Col. B.C. Lagwal, Chairman HPCC Ex-Servicemen Dept. thanked the UPA govt. and Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh for various steps taken for welfare of Ex-Servicemen widows and physically challenged Ex-Servicemen in particular.

In a message, Capt. Praveen Davar, Secretary AICC Ex-Servicemen Dept. who could not attend the meeting, due to last minute physical inability, thanked the Ex-Servicemen of Himachal Pradesh for whole heartedly supporting the Congress in the last Assembly elections. He also expressed his gratitude to Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and UPA-1 and UPA-2 govts. for the substantial hike in pensions of Ex-Servicemen, Vir Naaris and also for expansion of medical facilities for Ex-Servicemen. Capt. Davar strongly condemned the BJP for not providing adequate security to Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh which resulted in the avoidable ghastly tragedy in the Naxal affected state. Amongst those who participated were Col. Patyal, Capt. J.R. Sharma, Capt. S.K. Soni, Amit Bhardawaj, Vimal Bhardawaj and Subedar Major Kewal Krishan.

The Kerala PCC Ex-Servicemen Dept. Capt. P.K.R. Nain organized two meetings in Alleppy on May 13 and in Trichur on June 3. The Alleppy meeting was inaugurated by Sh. K. Suresh, Union MoS for Labour and the Trichur meeting had KPCC General Secretary, K.M.I. Mether as the Chief Guest. Amongst those who attended the meetings were Capt. Ahivanandan, Sh. H.G.K. Pillai, Sh. H.K. Vergese and Sh. Prabhakaran. ♦

MAHILA CONGRESS ACTIVITIES



AIMC President Smt. Anita Verma went to Patna to participate in Election campaign of a bi-election from 23rd May 26th May 2013 from where she left for Jammu & Kashmir to address Mahila Congress Meetings in Srinagar and Jammu on 27th & 30th May 2013, respectively as a Chief Guest. In both the meetings more than 1000 women were present. Smt. Lalit Joshi, Vice-President, AIMC & Incharge J&K Mahila Congress was also present in both the meetings alongwith local leaders of the region.

Death Anniversary of our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi was observed by Mahila Congress units across the country by organizing various kinds of programmes as a tribute to our late Prime Minister. Smt. Kamal Vyavhare, President Maharashtra PMC organized a talk on Information Technology

and its use in the Politics with special reference to Shri Rajiv Gandhi's contribution, on 21st May in Pune. Smt. Kanchana D. Joshi, President, Dadra Nagar & Haveli Mahila Congress paid a floral tribute alongwith her office bearers at Congress Bhawan in Silvassa. Reports from other States are also coming to the headquarters.

The AIMC office bearers are regularly visiting the States under their charge. Few of them have submitted their reports in the Headquarters. Dr. Shobhna Shah, Vice-President & Incharge Maharashtra addressed a meeting of Mumbai Mahila Congress to assess the activities of the organization. Later she attended a programme organized by Maharashtra PMC President in Pune to pay homage to Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji. Dr. Anita Babbar, General Secretary, AIMC & Incharge Punjab PMC, Smt. Parminder Kaur,

General Secretary, AIMC Incharge Delhi PMC also visited Punjab and Delhi, respectively and addressed block-level organizational meetings. Smt. Asha Sharma, General Secretary, AIMC & Incharge Western UP went to Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar and Prabuddha Nagar and addressed the meetings of Mahila Congress office bearers. Smt. Parinita Azad, Secretary, AIMC & Incharge Rajasthan addressed meetings in Jaipur, Dausa and Churu districts of Rajasthan.

Smt. Archana Jaiswal, President, Madhya Pradesh PMC organized a booth Contact Workshop in Indore in association with JNLI Delhi. Madhya Pradesh Mahila Congress staged a demonstration against deteriorating law and order situation in the State and burnt the effigy of Chief Minister.

(Anita Verma)



AICC DIARY

INHUMAN ATTACK

Spokesperson Shri Sandeep Dikshit : I like to express deep sense of anguish and sorrow at the passing away of Sarabjit Singh following an inhuman attack on him in the Pakistani jail in Lahore. We condemn the attacks and urge the government of India and Pakistan to ensure the guilty are brought to justice and it is speedily done and whatever happened comes to light.

Thursday, 2nd May 2013

INDO-CHINA TIES

Spokesperson Shri Sandeep Dikshit : He said we must appreciate that China has adhered to what India has defined and it is good to keep happy neighbors. So, that is something that many people without understanding or acknowledging the need for temperance advocated many things of how to deal with but we should accept and agree that things have worked out agreeably and the foreign ministry dealt with it very adeptly and the situation is back to normal. Monday, 6th May 2013

DISRUPTING THE PROCEEDINGS

Spokesperson Shri Sandeep Dikshit : He said I would like to draw your attention to the stalemate which is continuing in the Lok Sabha and it is very unfortunate that the two very important Bills i.e. Food Security Bill and Land Acquisition Bill are pending passing before the House. Both the Bills are for the welfare of the poor and also farmers of the country. Both these Bills are pro-poor and pro-farmers. Both these bills have been pending before the House for some time. These were placed before the House after valuable suggestions were invited from different parties and organizations. These have been prepared after taking into account the suggestions received by the respective committees from different political parties and organizations. The main opposition party BJP is finding excuses on one pretext or the other for disrupting the proceedings and not allowing discussions on both the Bills. Their behavior is condemnable and we hope that they will come forward and help passage of these two Bills so that welfare schemes are taken forward. It is also unfortunate to some extent that our brothers from the Left are inadvertently helping the BJP in their cause. I appeal them also to come forward and help in passing these two Bills.

Tuesday, 7th May 2013

The Two Major Bills

Spokesperson Shri Bhakta Charan Das said that I welcome everybody and it's my pleasure being in Indian politics for more than two decades. I would like to draw your attention to a serious challenge that the nation is facing. You might have gone through various newspapers and opinions of the people of academic class that how because of the want of food millions are losing their lives. In India, around 3 lakh new born babies die each year. Recently, academia has expressed its concerns about how destitute, homeless, pregnant and lactating mothers are facing death and losing their capacity to sustain. For children from 6 months to 6 years, the drop out and the mental growth are reducing day by day. People are asking who is responsible for these deaths and responsibilities must be fixed. The law has to be made to stop this and a nation like India should come out of it. That is why the Food Security Bill was tabled and it has to be passed. We were hopeful that the BJP would express their serious concern on the issue. This issue is no less than any issue in the nation. Corruption is a big challenge but this is also a warranted issue that the nation has to address as early as possible. In Parliament, 92 hours and 45 minutes were wasted because of disruptions and similar bills like Land Acquisition and many others couldn't be passed. We are very serious on this issue and people who are not serious should be held responsible and also those who are not contributing to the idea of formulation of policies to get rid of these perennial diseases and to bring about the growth of the children. The negligence towards the food is a great negligence to the nation. Therefore, this cannot be tolerated and we are trying our best to see that the Bill gets passed in future. This is an issue on which there should be a dialogue and we are hopeful that the deliberations and discussions would take place. You are a forum as a fourth pillar of the Constitution and I think you should initiate this debate and let the Bill be passed. Friday, 10th May 2013

CONGRATULATIONS

Spokesperson Shri Meem Afzal Das : Today is an important day as our friendly neighbor Pakistan has witnessed a new dawn of democracy after they successfully finished five years of democracy. After five years, a new democratic process has begun and a new party is getting a chance to lead the country. It is almost certain that Shri Nawaz Sharif would be the new prime minister of Pakistan and on behalf of my party I would like to give my heartiest congratulations to the people of people of Pakistan that they participated in an electoral process that led to

a new democratic government to take over. Our best wishes are with Pakistan and its new government. Monday, 13th May 2013

TERRORISM AGAINST INDIA

Spokesperson Shri Shakeel Ahmed said that the major political parties in India have congratulated Shri Nawaz Sharif on his party's victory in the recently held elections in Pakistan and have also welcomed his decision to improve relations with India. The Congress Party also welcomes Shri Nawaz Sharif's statement that he and his government would not allow Pakistan to be used for terror activities directed against India. We hope that when he takes over as the Prime Minister then he would try and fulfill whatever promises he has made. There are forces in Pakistan that don't want the relation between the two countries to get any better and we hope Shri Sharif and his government would address those elements that are giving support to terror related activities. Wednesday, 15th May 2013

9TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPA GOVERNMENT

Spokesperson Shri P.C. Chacko : The UPA government is due to celebrate its 9th anniversary on 22nd May. India led under the UPA government at the Centre in the last 9 years made tremendous advances in the economic front and took the growth rate to 9.3 per cent. In midst of a global crisis and confluence of adverse global economic factors it came down to 6.7 % in 2012-13, but we still remained as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. India's per capita is estimated to go up by 11.7% during this period. To Rs 5, 729 per month in 2012-13 at current prices compared with Rs 5,130 in the previous fiscal. The Congress-led UPA government can take credit for an array of key legislations like the Right to Information, Free and Compulsory Education, FDI in multi brand retail, FDI in insurance, Civil Aviation, MGNREGS and introducing Food Security and Land Acquisition Bill, the Lok Pal Bill and direct cash transfer scheme. These are the major milestones achieved in the last 9 years. I have only mentioned some of the reforms undertaken by the government. Under MGNREGS, an estimated 1.28 lakh crores of money has been distributed directly as cash payments to rural households in 2006-07. In this year, Rs 1.28 lakh crore has been given for wages alone and about 5 crore households have been provided employment each year since 2008. A provision to provide education by the government has provided support to nearly 20 crore children in about 14 lakh schools in the country. A boost has been given to the health security through NRHM. Introduction of micro credit schemes for the minorities including all

PRESS BRIEFINGS

these major changes, the UPA progress report card would be published on 22 May. In a difficult environment, like the global recession when the country is making progress compared to any other country in the world. India is making tremendous progress. Obstruction is the only slogan of the opposition and they are ever ready to spoke the functioning of the Parliament. They allege corruption and policy paralysis, but Congress is of the opinion that corruption cannot be eradicated by shouting slogans and trooping to the well of the house. It requires discussion and consensus on the legislation but opposition is not willing to discuss. They display the least inclination towards passing the pro-people Bills like the Food Security and Land Acquisition Bill. These are two of the most important Bills that are in the agenda of the Parliament. The leader of BJP in Lok Sabha has the audacity of making a statement that they will not attend any meeting even if it is called by the Speaker to end the logjam of Parliament. The main opposition party has shown utter disregard for the Parliamentary system in their anxiety to fight against the government. The UPA government realised that there are problems but we are ready to discuss any issue in the Parliament or outside with the opposition. The Congress Party heading the UPA feels very confident and satisfied that for the last 4 years we could continue with the achievements of UPA1. And the nine years that completes on 22, we have the satisfaction that we could provide a functioning government providing people friendly programmes and reforms and effective functioning. The remaining period of the second UPA term, we will see that the two Bills and the Lok Pal Bill will be passed by the Parliament. The disruption tactic of the opposition will be met by the country and we are going to take it up with the people. There are no disputes in the opposition on the two bills and there may be suggestions. I am not saying that everybody is unanimous on this. But, some of these legislations the opposition cannot even oppose like the Land Acquisition Bill, an archaic bill that was passed in 1856. This new act which provides two time the value of land in urban areas and four times in rural areas and it also has a rehabilitation and resettlement schemes. We all know that fundamental right is being violated when land is today sold for public purpose. It is high time that the opposition and the ruling

party put their heads together for a new act. We have made a model legislation which is before the Parliament and we all know that we have gone out of the way and even Soniaji spoke directly to the leader of opposition. We wanted the opposition to realise the benefits of this bill. We are not against an early discussion and passing of the Bill and it depends on the attitude of the opposition.

He said that even before their making demands for the resignation of the two ministers, the leader of the opposition said that they will not attend any meeting convened by the speaker. I can understand the opposition saying that we will not attend the meeting called by the government or ministers. But they said that speakers meeting will not be attended shows that everything is taken as an excuse. We never closed the option and never said that the ministers will not resign. The question is that under some pretext or other they want to stop the functioning of the House. We made our requests fervently to all the opposition parties that these two Bills come together. We are in discussions with them, we want discussions and we want their cooperation and we feel that it is their responsibility of all the parties in the Parliament to pass these pro-people legislations.

Saturday, 18th May 2013

OPPOSITION HAS FORGOTTEN ITS ROLE

Shri Raj Babbar addressed the media today.

Shri Raj Babbar said that though there is nothing important to mention about but still, when I have got an opportunity to meet you for the first time, so let us have some talk with open heart.

Shri Babbar said that 22nd May, 2013 is not far away and nine year of UPA rule is related to it. The UPA government had made some promise, there were some commitments, which it fulfilled and created a feeling of trust. And in this direction promised to the people of this country, the poor people get their rights lawfully. And fulfilled it through the Right to Information, Right to Education and through Right to Work. It has created a base for the future where a person's right, his

authorized right in the field of education, field of work, in the field of information and other such commitments. The UPA chairperson, like a Dean of project, wanted a relationship with the Congress youth leaders, and with the commitment with the grassroot people, so that the hungry gets his right to food, legally. The farmer gets his right over his land so that he gets proper compensation but unfortunately the phase is passing through a time where the Opposition do not have any option. The Opposition were given a responsibility which they do not understand and instead of giving some solution, do not allow the House to work and just believe in stalling the proceedings, created an undebatable situation. Had they indulged in debate, a solution would have come out, our fault would have been pointed out, and what is right, we would have come to know. But instead of talking, they created a situation that no discussion takes place. These are the past achievements of the UPA government which they are facing and instead of replying are getting answers from the public. The people have given their blessings for the achievements of the UPA government, be it in the shape of Himachal, Uttarakhand or Karnataka. The people have played the role of the Opposition. But the opposition has forgotten one thing, that they are indulging in opposing and whom are they opposing to, it would have been proper if they were opposing the ruling party. They are opposing the poor, they are opposing the hungry for whom the Food Security Bill was introduced. They are opposing that farmer who felt deprived by the 1896 old British law. He wanted to see a change in independent India which came in the time of Indiraji. But that change needed some more changes which would have come through the Land Acquisition Bill that would have given the farmers not just a law but given him the right to decide over his land. I would appeal to you and the people that at the moment the country is in need of all of you, all those constructive people, all those constructive intellectuals, all constructive activists who are willing to feed the hungry, who would help the people to run the House with wisdom. This is a word of advice from the heart.

Tom Vadakkan,

Media Secretary, AICC

