

UPA's
three years
Aam Aadmi's
tear years

Bharatiya Janata Party

Price rise chart:

Objects	Price (Rs. Per KG) NDA (May, 2004)	Price (Rs. Per KG) UPA (May, 2007)
Wheat	9	18-24
Aatta	10	17-20
Maida	12	17
Rice	10	25-35
Bread	8	18
Sugar	14	22
Tea	80	165-210
Mustard Oil	40/ltr	60/ltr
Dalda	40	45
Desi Ghee	130	170
Moong Dal	24	50
Arahar Dal	26	50
Masoor Dal	22	48
Chana Dal	25	45
Rajma	28	60
Gur	14	20
Besan	20	55
Milk	14/ltr	22-24/ltr
Paneer	62	100
Mutton	90	130
Kerosene Oil	18/ltr	28/ltr
LPG	244/Cylinder	295/Cylinder
Petrol	33.15/ltr	43/ltr
Diesel	22.50/ltr	30/ltr
Cement	125/Bag	193-210/Bag
Steel	23000/Ton	28000/Ton
Bricks	1800/1000	3000/1000

Foreword

In the 2004 Lok Sabha elections the electorate entrusted the onerous responsibility to the BJP to keep a watchful eye on government to secure their interests. In the discharge of that duty BJP is bringing out, like previous years, the report card of UPA government. BJP has always functioned as a constructive opposition and never shirked its duty towards the nation whatever the cost.

In this publication, BJP has not levelled allegations. It has come out with a review of events that took place under the UPA government during the last three years and highlighted its failures. There is hardly anything that can make the UPA feel proud. The head of the *aam aadmi* hangs down because of this government. The standing of the nation in the world too has suffered.

Congress has duped the *aam aadmi* with the slogan “*Congress ka haath, aam aadmi ke saath*”. Uncontrolled price rise and shortages have made it difficult for the common man to make both ends meet. The greatest failure has been on the national security front. Borders are insecure. North-east is in turmoil. Crisis in J&K is deepening. Naxalites and Maoists have made a mockery of UPA. Government failed to provide 33 percent reservation to women, but is not wary of acting against the Constitution to provide reservation to Muslims on communal basis in furtherance of its appeasement policy as a part of its vote bank politics. UPA is dancing to the tunes of the Left overlooking the interests of the nation.

The list of failures is not exhaustive; it is unending. BJP raised all these issues forcefully and vociferously in both houses of Parliament during this period. In this publication we have touched the issues tormenting the mind of the *aam aadmi* to document their feelings on matters concerning the nation.

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UPA On a downward slide

UPA has completed 3 years in office and much earlier has set in motion its slide downwards. It is its count down, fast.

The last thirty-six months of its existence are just a sad story of failures and unkept promises. What it claims as achievements is not what it did, but what it had to do, willingly or unwillingly, as a matter of course – a course it could not prevent out of its helplessness and compulsions, of coalition politics. It did not perform; it did not act. It was made to perform; it was made to act by the force of circumstances under political compulsions. If it appeared to be performing, if it looked to be acting, it was only because it was left with no other alternative. Congress-led UPA government since it assumed office has established new milestones of failures. It has taken the country downhill in almost every sphere of activity – political, administrative, economic, home and foreign affairs. The worst is its record in honouring the promises held out to people in the election manifesto and the solemn pledges made in the post-election conglomeration named United Progressive Alliance (UPA) that presented to people the daydream called, “National Common Minimum Programme”

UPA -- The Uta Pulta Alliance

UPA truly is, as senior BJP leader Shri M. Venkaiah rightly calls, the *Uta Pulta Alliance*. In a way it is a circus in which every actor has a different role to play and the scene changes with every new item. The players continue to appear and disappear from the scene as per plan. Every political group forming part of the UPA has its own strategy, policy and planning, political interests, many a times, diametrically opposed to each other. It is an open-door alliance with its constituents walking in and out of it at will. Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Telangana Rashtra Samiti, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Lok Janshakti Party, Rashtriya Congress Party, Janata Dal (Secular) or the Left parties – continue to publicly speak against each other and even against the government they are part of or support from outside. In these circumstances, it

becomes difficult to discern whether they are part of the same single alliance or are each other's foes after each other's blood.

TRS has since quit the UPA

So has JD(S)

Congress too is a two-tongued political creature which speaks with one tongue in Delhi and the other in Delhi. The language it speaks at the national capital is different -- and many a times opposite and contradictory -- to the one it speaks in States, like Kerala, West Bengal, Tripura where Left Front governments are in power and the Congress is in Opposition.

In Delhi married, in Maharashtra divorced

Similar is the case with the Congress and National Congress Party led by Shri Sharad Pawar having a marriage of convenience at the Centre and a divorce in Maharashtra where both are engaged in an internecine war of attrition. There they are fighting against each other for political survival. In the local bodies elections in the State about three months back, both fought against each other. When both lost, they raised a finger of accusation against each other.

The countdown has begin

UPA may have succeeded in continuing to stick to power at the Centre despite many violent shakes, in States it continues to lose one State after the other.

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

In Maharashtra elections earlier, Congress conceded the position of being the single largest party to its partner, the Nationalist Congress Party.

Recently, BJP gave Congress a humiliating defeat in elections to Delhi Municipality Corporation elections. But in the Maharashtra local bodies elections, BJP-Shiv Sena combine retained supremacy

in Mumbai and snatched power from UPA partners in many local bodies.

BJP-SAD was able to win the post of Mayor in Chandigarh Municipal Corporation elections defeating the Congress.

UP Local Bodies Elections

Congress humbled, BJP upbeat

Till the results were out, the Congress was making tall claims to sweep the local bodies elections in Uttar Pradesh. But it was red-faced when actual results were out. BJP won 8 out of 12 mayoral elections. Congress had to content itself with just 3 and Samajwadi Party with one seat only. Congress could not save its honour even in the prestigious local bodies in Congress supremo Smt. Sonia Gandhi's constituency of Rae Bareilly and Shri Rahul Gandhi's Amethi constituency.

The UPA drift downwards started much earlier. In February 2005 it failed to retain power in Bihar assembly elections. It staged a coup by misusing the office of Governor and indulged in political infant foeticide by dissolving the Bihar House which had no yet been officially constituted and the newly elected representatives of the people had not yet taken oath. The Supreme Court of India had, later, declared this action of the Union government on the advice of the Bihar Governor, Shri Buta Singh, as "unconstitutional".

In the midterm poll, the people of Bihar gave a befitting reply to the UPA intrigues and gave an absolute majority to the JD(U)-BJP alliance.

Punjab & Uttarakhand dethrone Congress

This was followed by elections in Punjab and Uttarakhand where Congress was in power with overwhelming majority. Most of the Congress ministers there were defeated. Punjab Congress President Shri Shamsher Singh Dullu too lost the poll. SAD-BJP alliance romped home to majority with 67 seats – BJP bagging 19 out of 23 it contested.

In Uttarakhand, BJP threw out the Congress from power and gained absolute majority.

Who's the friend, who's the foe?

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

The Congress had two alliances in one year in Bihar. In February

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

Before the February '05 elections both Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had publicly hurled accusations against each other, with the latter calling Yadav as *Chara chor* and Shri Yadav calling Shri Paswan as the most corrupt politician. The former claimed that he had official records with him of Shri Paswan's sleeper scam when he was the Railway Minister and that Shri Paswan cannot escape punishment and would spend rest of his life in jail. Since both were honourable members of Manmohan government they could not be expected to be so irresponsible as to hurl false accusations against each other. Public wanted to know the reality as to who was right and who was a liar. Both could not be right or wrong. Whoever was wrong, had no moral right to continue in the Cabinet.

A weak Prime Minister as Dr. Manmohan Singh is, he failed to exercise his moral authority to take action against which of the two was wrong. Instead he took the easy path to keep both in good humour to save his *gaddi*. He declared both Yadav and Pawan as the joint winners of this tug of corruption war.

In the elections held later in the State assemblies of West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, and Assam, the situation was still more confusing with many UPA partners fighting against each other in these States.

An Ayaram Gayaram Alliance

In Karnataka JD(S) and Congress have already parted company. It also proves that Congress is insincere towards its alliance partners and is only exploiting its allies to further its own political interests. That is why one after the other, they are leaving UPA.

Friendly arrows of accusations between RJD, LJP and Congress are a part of history. Yet, all of them continue to be part of the UPA family.

In the elections to Tamil Nadu assembly, although Congress and other UPA alliance partners contested the elections together, DMK which led the alliance there refused to recognise it as a UPA victory although both Prime Minister and Smt. Sonia Gandhi claimed it so. DMK called it its own individual win.

Further, DMK has so far refused to give Congress a representation in the Ministry although latter is desperate to get its pound of flesh in the Ministry so that it can once again be in power, after three decades even if on the crutches provided by DMK. So far DMK has not obliged, although DMK has a sizeable share in UPA council of ministers at the Centre.

A circus, not an alliance

UPA and the Communists are presenting a strange phenomenon of coalition politics in which the conflicts and contradictions outsmart the unanimity of thought and action. Every other day our news media flash out the report of one constituent or the other of alleging that the government is going astray from the provisions of the National Common Minimum Programme agreed to by them. The divergence of views is more prominent than the area of agreement. CPM has made known numerous times that it does not trust the Congress and nor does it consider the latter as its long-term political ally. The underlying message from the Marxists is that their support to UPA government is a matter of compulsion and convenience; it does not stem from any political conviction inspired by public interest.

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

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

Treachery with Telangana

During 2006 Vidhan Sabha elections, Congress and Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) entered into an electoral alliance on the promise that if they win, they will carve a new State of Telangana out of the present State of Andhra Pradesh. People gave the mandate to the Congress-TRS alliance. But after both the parties won the assembly elections, the Congress betrayed the people and during the last thirty-six months it has not fulfilled its promise. To fool the Andhra people UPA has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of

the now Minister for External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to go into the question. Both the Pranab Committee and UPA government are just marking time and are not sincere to the mandate of the people. Frustrated, the TRS came out of the ministry both at the Centre and State in Andhra owing to irreconcilable basic policy differences.

Later, the Congress challenged TRS Chief Shri Chander Shekhar Rao to quit his Lok Sabha seat and seek re-election on the issue. He accepted the challenge and resigned from Lok Sabha and won the Karimnagar seat once again with a thumping majority although Congress as a political party and as a party in power did everything to defeat the TRS which had declared that the result would be a referendum on the demand for a separate State of Telangana. Shri Rao recorded an impressive win by a margin of 2,01,582 voter his Congress rival who could get only 1,76,448 votes. Since BJP also stands for a separate Telangana State, it means that people's mandate for a separate, full-fledged State of Telangana is all the more overwhelming. Yet, Congress is not ready to concede this genuine demand of the people.

This only manifests that Congress-led UPA is not only insincere towards the promises it hurls during elections, it even cheats the voters who support it.

Congress Crown Prince

The Congress 'crown prince' and heir apparent of the Congress President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, whom the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, during one of his election meetings in UP, anointed as "the future of UP" proved it otherwise for the Congress Party. This "future of UP" Congress proved a disaster and damp squib. If he is the "future", the voters of UP have eclipsed it.

Till elections, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi never stepped out of their parliamentary constituencies during their tours of UP. According to reports, Shri Rahul had 106 roadshows which gave him a bagful of just 10 assembly seats for the Congress. He visited more than 140 assembly segments.



The family trio of Smt. Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadara (she likes to be called like that instead of 'Gandhi') concentrated their might in their pocket boroughs of two Parliamentary constituencies of Rae Bareilly and Amethi and their collective charisma could give out a return of just six seats out of 10 (4 out of 5 in Rae Bareilly and 2 out of 5 in Amerthi). The UP elections proved that the present Nehru-Gandhi family never had a charisma and, if it did have, it has now failed to click.

The much hyped election campaign by the Gandhi family trio of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi supported by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh proved in dismal flop with Congress strength in UP assembly getting reduced to 21 from its earlier (2002) strength of 25 and its vote percentage dwindling to 8 percent from 9 percent. More striking is the Congress failure in its hometurf.

Left's toothless barks

Still stranger is the conduct of communist parties supporting Manmohan government from outside. Every other day they continue to bark at UPA and warn it that they could bite too. But during the last three years they did bark numerous times but could never come true to their threat whatever the provocation. Ironically, it has always been the fate of the Left parties to ultimately wag their tails in agreement before their political master Congress and each time to quietly compromise on their stand they were very loudly vocal to pretend to protest before the people.

Be it the case of increase in the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas, power and water charges, or FDI in various fields, PSU disinvestment, the Leftists have been as brave in opposing it in the print and electronic media as they are meek in silently letting UPA

have its way in all these matters. In October 2005 they even organised an all-India strike against these measures. They had another such



strike in December 2006 too.

The moment Left parties go wild in their denunciation of UPA policies, immediately comes an invitation either from the Prime Minister or the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi for a friendly meeting over lunch, dinner, or breakfast. The mouth-watering cuisine served at these meetings acts as an intoxicating drink that makes them forget the common man's plight. The Left leaders leave the meeting place smiling and satisfied. True to their nature, they wave red flags, in public, to the anti-people policies of UPA and surreptitiously give a green signal to the UPA at these private meetings. It appears that in the four walls of these meetings they only express their profound apologies for their conduct which, they explain, is their helplessness to adopt before the people to survive in the politics of today.

Otherwise, how can they explain the contradiction in their words and conduct? Important CPM leaders are on record having said that UPA should not take their support for granted. "We don't only bark", they have often said very bravely in public, "but we can bite too". It now appears that either their bark is hollow, or they have turned the pets of UPA which can only bark but never bite even if challenged. Or they don't have the teeth at all or these stand already broken.

Left parties are totally opposed to the Indo-US Nuclear deal and want it rejected outright. UPA still went ahead despite their opposition. It has finally been approved and signed by President of USA. Prime Minister has rejected their demand and shown no concern to their pleadings. The communists stand where they are -- shouting, but acquiescing into accepting the obvious.

During the 2006 winter session of Parliament, the Congress went to the extent of challenging the Left parties to withdraw their support to the UPA government. They have yet to be brave to accept it.

The involvement of Left in the decision-making of UPA Government has produced major distortions in the country's governance. The Left wants the best of both the worlds and enjoy power without responsibility. It is guilty of duplicity.

Manmohan & Sonia

One party, two voices

There was a contradiction even in the language used against the Left parties by Congress supremo Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. With an eye on the stability of

his government, during electioneering in the States of Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, Prime Minister called the Left parties as “valuable colleagues”. On the other hand, Smt. Sonia Gandhi was vehement in their denunciation. The Congress had to pay heavily for this duplicity and it lost heavily in West Bengal and ceded power to Left parties in Kerala. People refused to be taken for granted and cheated by the Congress.

Sonia and PM

Not on speaking terms?

A person doesn't have to write to the other as long as he/she live in the same town and are on good terms with each others. Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi live in Delhi, function in the same organisation and claim to be on the best of cordial terms. Then why should ever they write to each other? They can very well lift the phone and speak to each other. That is why the people felt startled when they read reports of Smt. Sonia Gandhi writing to Prime Minister on important issues, like FDI and FTA in retail trade. Prime Minister is the head of the Government and Smt. Sonia Gandhi heads the Congress organisation. It is but natural that both should keep in touch with each other on important policy matters. That she had to write occasional letters to Prime Minister instead of picking up the phone to speak to him made people wonder whether they are not on speaking terms with each other!

‘Manmohan under Sonia’

Smt. Sonia Gandhi is the supreme leader of the Congress under whom Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is working. Union Minister Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal has said, “Sonia Gandhi is the National President of the Congress and PM Manmohan Singh being a Congress member, is functioning under the Congress Party chief”.

Congress-SP befooled people

In return people befooled both

It is a hard fact, though unbelievable, that on record Congress supported the Samajwadi Party (SP) in the State and in return, SP supported UPA government at the Centre. Both continued to enjoy the fruits of power in the State and at the Centre, but kept befooled the people with outward opposition to each other. Recall the language Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Shri Rahul Gandhi had been using against Shri Mulayam Singh and his government. But it was only at the fag-end of Mulayam government's tenure in January 2007 that Congress formally withdrew its support to this government after

BJP had repeatedly been exposing this perfidy of Congress. SP withdrew support to UPA government after a month.

President's rule hype

In January-February 2007 Congress raised a great media hype about its intention to dismiss Mulayam government and impose President's rule. BJP too announced its support to UPA if it rid the people of Mulayam's jungle raj and said that it would vote for any resolution in this behalf in the Parliament. But Congress was neither sincere nor had the courage to do so.

In the elections that followed the people paid back to both the Congress and Mulayam government in the same coin. It dethroned the Mulayam government and returned Congress with a representation lesser than before- 21 against 25 earlier.

Tainted ministers

UPA is not an alliance of high principles but of unhealthy compromises. It lacks a moral ground. It is the illegitimate child of a marriage of convenience to grab political power denied to these very parties by the electorate during elections to Lok Sabha. Different political parties with divergent political interests and ideologies fought elections against each other and when the electorate refused to give its mandate, they thwarted people's verdict and celebrated a marriage of convenience to give birth to this child of rank opportunism. It lacks commitment to principles, canons of morality, healthy traditions and precedents. That explains why Manmohan government was never strong and healthy but was struck with polio from the day one. It desecrated the august office of the Union Cabinet with such illustrious individuals who made history by standing as accused in courts facing criminal charges as heinous as murder, dacoity, rape, attempt to murder, extortion, mafia links, corruption, amassing wealth beyond known sources of income, and the like. Prime Minister appears to be presiding over a government composed of persons accused of criminal and anti-social activities who should otherwise have been cooling their heels with their brethren facing similar charges in courts. Congress can go to any length to stick to power at all costs under all circumstances by hook or crook.

Shiboo Soren - The Congress hero

NDA had, from the day one, opposed the inclusion of Shiboo Soren in the Council of Ministers as he was facing charges of murder. But Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi were so much beholden to him for the favour for having made them climb to power

that they made him take the oath as minister not once, twice but thrice.

What a shame that a Cabinet Minister of Manmohan government was standing as accused as a murder in courts in Delhi and Ranchi! The stand of BJP-led NDA was vindicated when Shibboo Soren was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder. UPA made history when its minister in office was convicted of murder and sent to jail.

Similarly, Shri Syed Shahabuddin, MP belonging to Shri Lalu Yadav's RJD, who claims himself to be a great moralists, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on the charge of abduction.

Issuing certificates of innocence

One of the reasons that prompted Smt. Sonia Gandhi to formulate a post-election alliance with parties against whom Congress had fought a bitter no-holds-barred electoral battle in Lok Sabha elections, seems to be her effort to use the opportunity of power to cleanse the dirt accumulated on Congress face because of many scams, scandals and corruption indulged in by the party. Congress was instrumental in using the CBI to promote its political objective by getting the name of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi cleared from the courts. It got cleared the name of Capt. Satish Sharma who was involved in various cases of corruption in the notorious petrol pumps scam.

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



Constitutional institutions undermined

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

Governors removed with a design

As against the established practice, UPA removed all the governors appointed during NDA regime "because they did not subscribe to the ideology" of the new government. In fact, Congress did it under a well thought-out plan. It replaced old governors with pliable Congress nominees known for their commitment to sign on the dotted line and act as directed. Subsequent events have justified the apprehension. The dismissal of BJP government in Goa within minutes of its having won a vote of confidence on the floor of the State assembly, administering of oath of office to Shri Shibu Soren who never had a majority and dissolution of Bihar assembly are some of the glaring instances.

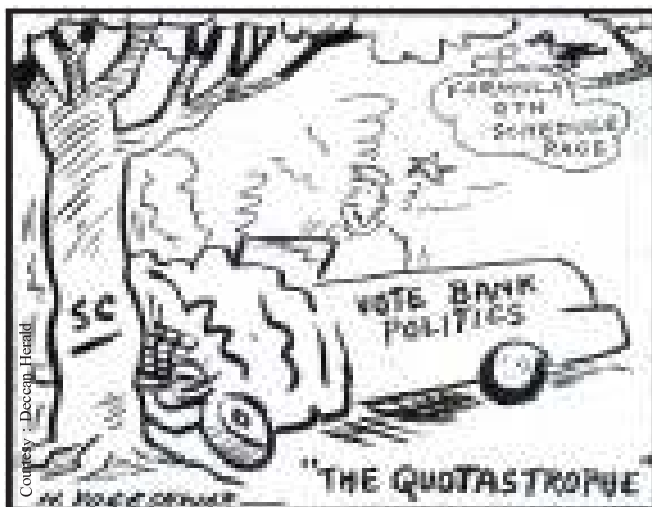
Disrespect to courts

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

Confrontation with judiciary

It was because of the failure of the executive to act and to act in

right earnest to promote and protect the people's interest that a vacuum was created in administration, which because of PILs and appeals, the judiciary had to fill. Sometimes the courts proved a stumbling block in the realisation of political whims and promotion of political and electoral interests of our politicians in power. This annoyed some of our ruling party leaders. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has dubbed it as "overreach" of the judiciary. It is because of the failure of UPA to maintain a healthy balance and liaison with judiciary that today we are witness to an unfortunate state of confrontation between the two important pillars of democracy -- the executive and the judiciary. ■



Sonia Gandhi's renunciation drama

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

The so-called, self-confessed "Great Renunciator" for her act of "giving up power", has, in fact, through this masterly stroke become the Super Prime Minister in the UPA government. Smt. Gandhi who, on the one hand, claimed to have made the "supreme sacrifice", could not have the patience to wait even for a fortnight to be without government position when she made her nominated, pliant Prime Minister to create an extra-constitutional authority styled as National Advisory Council and to appoint her as its chairperson with all the perks and privileges of a Cabinet Minister.

Office of Profit Bill mocks at Sonia

It was at the behest of Congress Party itself that a Congress leader raised the matter of violation of law by Smt. Jaya Bachchan, a Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh as she was then holding the office of Chairperson of UP Film Development Council. This was obviously done because the Bachchans and Gandhis have not been on good terms for quite some time. On the report of the Election Commission, the President of India disqualified her from Rajya Sabha. But the step boomeranged on Congress and it caught its own leader on the wrong foot because while being an MP she was also occupying the all-powerful – in some respects superior to that of the Prime Minister – post of the Chairperson of National Advisory Council with a Cabinet rank with all other perks and privileges. A petition seeking Smt. Sonia Gandhi's disqualification had also been filed with the President.

An embarrassed Smt. Gandhi decided to come out of this ugly situation by faking another 'renunciation' drama by resigning both from Parliament and the office of chairperson of NAC. If the Congress and Smt. Sonia Gandhi felt that they had not violated any law, they should have stood their ground and faced the Parliament, Election Commission and presented their case before the President of India. She quit because she had a guilty conscience and had no legal and moral defence. She felt so much scared that as the schedule for by-election to Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat was announced, she went on a resignation spree, resigning from practically every office she held so that her nomination for by-election was not set aside on any technical ground.

The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2006, seeking to amend the 1959 Act, was passed by the Lok Sabha amid protests by NDA. The Bill provides for exempting 56 posts, including the chairperson of the National Advisory Council (NAC), from being considered office-of-profit.

It is pertinent to recall that at the time of resigning on March 23, Smt. Sonia Gandhi stated: "For the last two days, some people have been trying to create an atmosphere as if the Government and Parliament are being used to favour me. This has hurt me very much.". But when the Bill was presented, it only proved the NDA charge that the session had been abruptly adjourned *sine die* only to save the skin of Smt. Sonia Gandhi by proposing to bring in an Ordinance. What is then left of the *tyag nautanki*? And remember everybody, including the Prime Minister, had been claiming that she had earned no disqualification. If they were right, then why this amendment?

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

A Prime Minister not in command

Our parliamentary system of government recognises the Prime Minister as the supreme head of the executive, whose authority straddles both political and administrative domains. But the present Prime Minister at the moment is not the CEO of India Inc. He is the head in name only while his political powers stand usurped and are exercised by some other person. This extra-constitutional arrangement has imposed on the country a Prime Minister who is not the leader of his own party, who is not in command of his own government and who at every point is more answerable to his boss than to the people.

A PM who dreads facing people

Dr. Manmohan Singh will go down in history as the only Prime Minister who never faced the people and the electorate. He is not a member of the Lower House of Parliament (Lok Sabha). By refraining to contest election to Lok Sabha even from a safe seat, he has proved that he is vary of facing the people who are the very back bone of a democracy.



PM - Nobody for Ministers

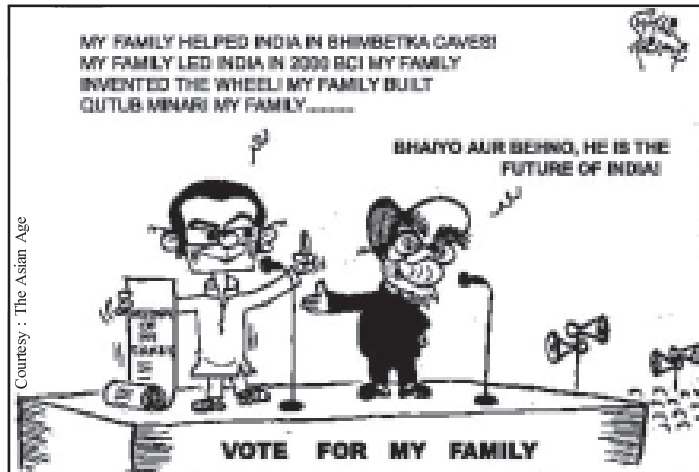
Dr. Manmohan Singh suffers from another infirmity. His ministers do not take him into confidence before publicly announcing important matters of policy. Many a times, a new policy is actually a news he gets through newspapers or electronic media. That is why in 2005, he had to write to his Ministers to keep the PMO in touch with such policy announcements.

'A Cabinet of collective irresponsibility'

The concept of the collective responsibility of the Council of Ministers has been effectively destroyed during the last three years. Senior ministers of the government have freely abused and contradicted each other in public.

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

That is why citing instances, BJP General Secretary Shri Arun Jaitley while speaking during budget debate in Rajya Sabha in May 2007 described the Manmohan Singh government as "a cabinet of collective irresponsibility". ■



Congress in Muslim League mode

Of late, the Congress (assisted and aided by its allies and the Left parties) has assumed the role which the Muslim League in pre-Independence era was performing. If it does not stop this thoughtless, shortsighted vote bank policy, it is going to lead the country to the trauma of another partition.

Disrespect to Vande Mataram

What a shame that UPA government itself decided to celebrate the centenary of Vande Mataram on September 7, 2006, yet the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh failed to join the nation in singing this National Song that inspired hundreds and thousands of countrymen to lay down their lives and make other sacrifices fighting the alien rulers. The function had been organised by his own Government. Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi too failed to participate in the function organised within the Congress office. This was purely done with an eye on the minority vote.

Majority-minority divide

It was the British who continued with their hegemony over India on the strength of their policy to 'divide and rule'. They stuck to power in India by creating a wedge between the majority Hindus and minority Muslims. When they ultimately failed; they divided the country.

That exactly seems to be the policy of the Congress which succeeded the English throne. But the present Congress leadership under Smt. Sonia Gandhi is pursuing this 'divide and rule' policy with greater vengeance. It has gone after appeasement of the minority community as a part of its votebank politics to greater lengths witnessed never before.

Sacchar Committee

With an eye on State assembly elections, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, UPA government constituted a Sacchar Committee. The recommendations of the Sacchar Committee, if implemented, will

sow the seeds of another partition of the country on communal lines.

Dividing education on communal lines

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

BJP stands for effective governmental and societal action to promote education among the minorities. However, this worthy objective cannot be achieved by the HRD ministry's ill-conceived decisions, which are intended only to garner the minorities' votes for the Congress in elections. The Congress leadership appears to be completely indifferent to the long-term effects of such a divisive politics.

Detoxifying history books

HRD Minister Shri Arjun Singh is playing with the facts of history and Indian culture in the name of detoxification of history books just to please a particular constituency of voters. But he had to cut a sorry figure when the Delhi High Court upheld the contention of a petitioner that the NCERT had played havoc with the history of the country. The High Court states: It is stated by the learned counsel for the NCERT that out of 75 objectionable passages in the text books which are pointed out by the petitioner, 45 of them have already been removed by the NCERT. It is also stated that 21 objectionable passages will be removed from the text books with effect from 1.4.2007 in view of new curriculum introduced and the remaining 8 passages shall also be taken out from the texts with effect from 1.4.2008.

In respect of one of the paragraphs on page 2 of Professor Bipan Chandra's Modern India, textbooks for class XII, the NCERT has suggested changes to the existing paragraph in view of certain objections from certain quarters. The new passage which is replacing the existing one has been set out in the letter dated 3/06.11.2006. On consideration of the contents of the new passage which would replace the existing one, we grant permission to NCERT to issue circular for bringing changes by inserting the new passages and replacing the existing one. An advisory letter to the said effect shall be

issued by the NCERT, the court said.

In these textbooks great martyrs like Sardar Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose have been described as 'terrorists'. Derogatory language has been used against Jats and Sikh Gurus

Religion based reservation

Solely motivated by vote-bank politics disregarding the national interests, the Congress government in AP reserved 5 percent seats in government jobs for Muslims solely on the basis of religion. BJP opposed the move. The High Court set aside this religion-based reservation as "unconstitutional", yet Congress is bent upon finding ways and means to go against the constitutional provisions disregarding court verdicts.

Religion based reservation for Dalit Muslims.

The BJP is amazed and disturbed by the conspicuous silence of the government particularly the Prime Minister in the regard to the repeated claims being made by senior Ministers of the Government demanding religion based reservation by including Dalit Muslims. These demands are not only unconstitutional but designed to promote the worst form of appeasement without constitutional sanction.

The BJP has always supported the economic, social and educational development of the minorities. It has always believed in the motto of justice to all and appeasement of none. The shameless vote bank politics being practiced for the last more than 50 years by the so called secular parties, has established once again that the genuine welfare of the minorities has never been their motivation. The party will always oppose any compromise on the existing benefits being given to SC, ST and Backward Castes in the country.

'Secularists' demand dreaded terrorist's release

That the Congress, UPA partners and the Left parties were hand in glove with each other in competing for minority appeasement was once again proved, beyond doubt, when the Congress-led UDF government in Kerala moved a resolution on March 16, 2006 for the release of dreaded terrorist Abdul Nasser Madani charged not only with harbouring the blasts accused, including Ooma Babu alias Majid and others allegedly involved in serial explosions that shook Coimbatore in February 1998 just ahead of the arrival of Shri L. K. Advani for an election rally killing 59 and maiming another 200

innocent persons, but also with liaisoning with Pakistan's ISI for terror training of Al Umma activists. This was done purely with an eye on the State assembly elections. The then ruling party led by Congress and the Left opposition were trying to score points over each other to earn the sympathy of Muslim voters. The resolution was passed unanimously. Nothing more needs to be said about the sincerity of UPA and the Left in fighting terrorism, particularly those having links with ISI.

Congress seeks votes in Madni and Afzal Guru's names

In the bye-elections to the Tiruvambadi Assembly Constituency in Kerala in December 2006, both the Congress and the Communists did not fight elections on national or State issues, but it was a straight contest between the two to prove who was the better champion of dreaded terrorists, rank communalists, and the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussain. CPM issued a poster seeking votes with a portrait of Madani. Congress did not lag behind in laying prostrate before the notorious 'Terror King' Abdul Nasir Madani of Coimbatore serial bomb blast fame. The Congress posters carried no portrait of Prime Minister or Smt. Sonia Gandhi. But it did seek votes in the name of Madani and Saddam Hussain. At places, Congress also sought votes in the name of Parliament case convict Afzal Guru sentenced to death by the highest court of the country. In the end, the ruling CPM scored an ignominious win by a majority of 246 votes, more so, in the face of the fact that only six months back the ruling LDF had won this very seat with an impressive lead of more than 5,000 votes. Madani had issued a fatwa to Muslims to vote for the CPM nominee. And yet the great Marxist party and the Congress continue to boast of being 'secular' and fighters against terrorism!

It is a great paradox that on the one hand, Congress and Communist hurl innuendoes on nationalists like Vir Savarkar and, on the other, pay obeisance to dreaded terrorists for the sake of votes.

M.F. Hussain versus Danish cartoons

'Secularists' exposed

Nobody, however high or low and to whichever community he/she may belong, has the right to hurt the religious sentiments of any community - minority or majority. But, surprisingly, when painter M. F. Hussain, hurt Hindu feelings by caricaturing and painting Hindu goddesses and Bharatmata in the nude, many of our 'secularists' preferred silence in the name of Hussain's freedom

of expression. But when some derogatory controversial cartoons of Prophet Mohammad were published in far away Denmark and there was furore among the community over it, the same 'secularists' in UPA, Left parties and others felt very much concerned. A senior journalist, Shri Alok Tomar, was arrested for hurting the feelings of the minority community for reproducing the cartoons in his magazines. But so far no action has been taken by the 'secular' UPA government against the painter Hussain who hurt the feelings of Hindus by his paintings. There seems to be two laws for two different communities in this country.

Playing politics with Afzal

Supreme Court of India upheld the conviction of Parliament attack case prime accused Afzal Guru and sentenced him to death. Immediately the Congress Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir demanded clemency for Afzal although after a month he did resile and denied that he had ever made such a demand.

The family of Afzal Guru filed a mercy petition with the President of India who forwarded the same to the Home Minister. Initially, Afzal Guru himself said that he would not seek clemency. But, after sometime, he also filed a petition with the President of India.

BJP and some other political parties have demanded that the judgment of the Supreme Court should be implemented so that justice is done to the families of security and other personnel who sacrificed their lives trying while saving the nation's top elite national leadership holed up inside Parliament House at that time because of the terrorist attack masterminded by Afzal Guru on December 13, 2001. It is worth recalling that when the accused convicted and sentenced to death for murder of late Smt. Indira Gandhi filed a mercy petition with the President of India, the then Government of India had examined and sent its recommendation to the President of India within a few days which was rejected in less than 24 hours. The convicts were executed as per law.

But, in the case of Afzal Guru the present Congress-led UPA government is adopting double standards and just trying to sit over the matter. It is a matter of shame that the UPA government is playing with the sentiments of the families of the slain security men to derive political and electoral advantage. It amounts to denial of justice to the martyrs and their bereaved families.

The families of slain security men had demanded bringing the

prime accused Afzal to justice by implementing the court orders for his execution immediately. They had threatened that if that was not done before December 13 they would return the gallantry awards and medals granted to them. Since the government failed to do justice to them, as announced, on December 13 they returned their medals and awards to the President of India. But, UPA has no regrets.

The silence of both Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi lends credence to apprehensions that the 'Save Afzal' campaign has their implied support. These are further strengthened by the UPA government's delay in taking a decision on the mercy petition filed on behalf of Afzal, which was submitted to the President and who, in turn, had passed it on to the government for its recommendation.

The perfidy and partiality of those who are supporting the 'Save Afzal' campaign stands exposed from the fact that clemency petition on behalf of the terrorist, who was convicted of the murder of General Vaidya, was dismissed within 15 hours.

Reservation for Muslims & Christians in TN

The Bharatiya Janata Party denounces the Tamil Nadu government's decision to grant exclusive reservation for Muslims and Christians in government services and educational institutions. This action will divide the society further on religious lines and is against the spirit of the Constitution and secularism.

It is worth recalling that after exhaustive deliberations in the Constituent Assembly it was decided not to allow reservations based on religion. Curiously the Tamil Nadu government is taking umbrage under the communal Government Order of 1921 and 1927. It is indeed unfortunate and surprising that a state government has made an earlier and divisive GO of the British times the basis for action in the 21st century in democratic India and that too after India has adopted the Constitution in 1950! This unfortunate decision is borne out of compulsive poor vote bank politics. It will adversely affect the national unity and will also give a fillip to conversions.

Rama Setu

Rama Setu, - the bridge - which is revered by millions of people, Hindus, Muslims and Christians, as Setu Mandir, Adisetu Adam's Bridge etc. and is a unique structure known as a symbol of Ancient Indian Heritage and an extraordinary feat of engineering skill. The

major cause of the resentment arises from the fact that the UPA government is insisting on the proposed alignment of the canal which will destroy the bridge.

The issue in question is not the Project but the alignment and the reasons for selecting it arbitrarily and starting the work without proper studies which has resulted in hurting the sentiments of not only Hindus but of other communities as well. Crores of Hindus believe that this under water bridge was constructed at the command of Sri Rama.

The project should have been designed to incorporate tsunami protection structure along India's Coast line which was impacted by the devastating tsunami.

The alignment has been determined without any serious consultation regarding environmental and security impacts.

Ignoring the concerns raised by Prof. Tad S. Murthy, world's foremost tsunami expert, who categorically stated the disastrous consequences of this alignment on Kerala coastal region (which perhaps was saved due to the existing bridge), the alignment was not changed.

The implications of the tsunami on the placer deposits and the implications of the natural radioactivity from the black thorium sands of Kerala have not been taken in to account.

The UPA government by choosing this alignment has deliberately ignored the sentiments of not only Hindus but of all communities who hold Ram Setu as a symbol of cultural heritage. The UPA government has rather considered US interests more important than the national sentiments and interests.

While the BJP is not opposed to the SSCP, the party on the other hand is certainly and seriously concerned with the preservation and protection of this most ancient cultural heritage of our India's strategic and maritime interests have been ignored.

There is nothing to show that before inaugurating the project the Indian Navy was consulted on the full implications of the present canal. ■

Internal Security

UPA's law and disorder

What the country now faces is unchecked social and political chaos. Coalition partners of the UPA unabashedly sponsor and protect criminals, themselves indulge in criminal activities and spread lawlessness. The price for all this disorder is paid by the *aam aadmi*. UPA has failed to bring to book the culprits responsible for killing of hundreds of people in the Diwali-eve Delhi bomb blasts, Red Ford, Mumbai train serial blasts, Malegaon and other blasts.

Internal security threatened

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

Nation's IT capital Bangalore was also the target of a terrorist attack in which one renowned IT professor was killed. The terrorists also attacked the Ram Mandir complex in Ayodhya and Sankatmochan temple in Varanasi.

Mumbai serial blasts

At least 200 people were killed and another 625 people injured in seven serial bomb blasts targeting the railway networks in Mumbai in the first class compartments of trains at Mira Bayandhar, Jogeshwari, Mahim, Santa Cruz, Khar, Matunga and Borivli stations on the Western Railways on July 11, 2006. Even after 11 months, the matter still remains under investigation.

Malegaon bomb blasts

Just after two months, the terrorists struck again in Maharashtra and this time at Malegaon in Nasik district on September 8. In three bomb explosions forty innocent people were killed and 65 injured.

Because of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh's sermon to the Maharashtra police not to target one particular minority for such incidents, not much headway has so far been made in bringing the culprits to book. The investigation has now been entrusted to CBI and is moving at a snail's pace.

Siliguri and Guwahati blasts

Terrorists struck again and in a bomb blast inside a compartment of the Haldibari-Siliguri Passenger train at Belacoba station in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. The death toll was 10 innocent people and another 50 injured.

On November 23, 3 people were killed and another nine injured when a bomb went off outside the Guwahati railway station in Assam.

ISI links with ULFA

BJP is concerned about the recent Indian Army intelligence report about ISI links with ULFA and other militant groups operating North East. The report says that ULFA is ultimately fighting the Jihadi war on behalf of ISI which is calling the shots and asking them to do what the ISI wants. The ULFA is outsourcing explosives and IEDs from ISI. The Home Ministry report also confirms the fact that ISI has succeeded in bringing ULFA, MULFA and MULTA together to carry out subversive activities in Assam. Earlier these groups were fighting each other.

National Security Advisor cautions

The remarks of the National Security Advisor Shri M.K. Narayanan while addressing the 43rd Conference on Security Policy in Munich attended by prominent international representatives and heads of State reaffirms the stand of the Bharatiya Janata Party that the UPA government headed by Manmohan Singh is soft-peddalling terrorism from day one. The admittance of manipulation of stock exchanges in India to fund terrorist groups through fictitious transactions consolidates BJP's assertion that there is a huge flow of funds to support terrorist and Jehadi militant organisations on Indian soil.

The assertion by the National Security Advisor that "official agencies" in Pakistan were pumping millions of dollars for mili-

tancy in India along with placement of funds by using underground and parallel banking system reflects a complete failure of the overall intelligence network including the larger economic intelligence. This confirms that the system of intelligence collection and assimilation has virtually collapsed. UPA and the Regulatory Authorities are a complete failure on the Security front.

Assam Killings

The cowardly killing of non-Assamese by ULFA in which 49 people from Bihar and Bengal lost their lives is ironical.. The Centre has once again showed its inept handling of the country's internal security. This unfortunate event is a direct result of the Congress party's and government's soft stand on terror and separatists.

It is a well-known fact that Congress had taken the help of ULFA in elections and because of this, it is unable to deal with the banned outfit firmly. The Congress government at the Centre and the State are responsible for the current state of affairs in Assam as they have always followed the policy of vote bank even at the cost of national interests. The killing of Bihari and Bengali labour is a matter of grave concern. Indecisiveness in tackling ULFA terror might unleash forces which will be injurious to inter-state cohesion and national unity.

LeT stretches wings to North-East

The arrest of two Manipuri terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) outfit from the Red Fort area in Delhi on December 19 has gone to indicate that this terrorist organisation has stretched its reach to North-East. It is time the UPA woke up from its slumber to act..

Senior Delhi Police and Intelligence Bureau officials say the arrest have revealed the presence of Lashkar units in Northeastern State for the first time ever. "This is a very serious matter as the People United Liberation Front (PULF) was only active in Manipur till now. The presence of Lashkar gives an indication of Bangladesh's support," said Delhi Joint Commissioner of Police

POTA repeal

The scrapping of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) by the UPA government to gratify Islamists and communists has not been received well in circles which mean business to fight terrorism, particularly the countries waging a relentless war against terrorism. It is getting reflected in international assessment of India's capacity to combat terrorism. The US Administration, which has been

monitoring efforts by individual countries to combat terrorism in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions post 9/11, is of the view that the Government of India lacks the legal wherewithal for an effective counter-terrorism mechanism.

UPA is getting slowly and steadily isolated on the issue. In the first week of December, 2006 President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam suggested the setting up of a dedicated police force equipped with sophisticated gadgetry to fight low-intensity warfare to combat terrorism and extremism. "In order to contain terrorism, the police force will have to create a new cadre trained in low-intensity warfare and equipped with state-of-the-art technologies," he said.

Noting that terrorists were using latest technologies in their disruptive activities, Dr. Kalam said that "very conscious" police personnel using a combination of human intelligence and connectivity across police forces in many states is the need of the hour. Such a modern police force can effectively contribute to the eradication of terror. He emphasized that the country would have to use innovative tools like mutual legal assistance treaties with other nations "to ensure that organised criminals do not defeat the law enforcement process by taking advantage of crossing national boundaries and evading prosecution". He said legal reforms like witness protection, concealing the identity of witnesses, compounding of offences and suitable protection to judges would go a long way in reducing the stress on the criminal justice system.

Attack on Samjhouta Express

The attack on the Samjhouta Express at Panipat is a grim reminder to the Indian society that the nation cannot have a Government which has done a 'Samjhouta with terrorism'. The soft policy of the UPA on terrorism is evident from the fact that despite advice of the Intelligence Agencies it refuses to legislate an anti-terror law.

The Government's response to President Musharraf's suggestions on Kashmir has been found wanting in national interest. The Government almost seems inclined to even negotiate on policies such as creation of a joint mechanism to deal with terrorism. Such a joint mechanism would only dilute our sovereign control over Kashmir. The nation needs to be taken into confidence about the 'real' progress of the talks.

IB Chief for Special Law

Even the security agencies fighting militancy are feeling peeved and handicapped at facing the increasing threat of terrorism both

from within and across the country. The Intelligence Bureau chief Shri E S L Narasimhan on November 23, 2006 strongly articulated the need for special laws to deal with the ever growing terror threat. He also took up another long-held grievance of police personnel – the harassment they have to endure in courts for alleged human rights violations. Tapping into the angst of the intelligence and police community on this score, he asked for adequate legal protection for cops in counter-terrorism operations. He lamented the fact that officers responsible for neutralising *fidayeen* attacks are subjected to legal and extra-legal campaigns by activists. “We need to find answers to these issues as national counter-terrorism strategy suffers immensely when officers and men who put at stake everything in protecting society, find themselves helpless facing legal and extra-legal campaigns when the threats have receded,” Shri Narasimhan said.

Naxal/Maoist threat

It would be no exaggeration to say that in its lust for power and votes, Congress has gone to the extent of striking an alliance with terrorists groups, like the Maoists and Naxalites without caring for the consequences to the nation. In the process, these anti-national elements got a further boost to their activities and got recognition. During the period government entered into negotiations with them, they availed themselves of this opportunity to regroup, re-arm, strengthen their cadres and recruiting more people.

Because of politico-electoral considerations the UPA government has been adopting a soft line against the menace of Naxal/Maoist elements. In exchange for electoral support to it during AP assembly elections, the State Congress promised to lift the ban on PWG imposed by the then TDP government. On being voted to power, Congress lifted the ban and entered into a dialogue with these elements. Their leaders armed with guns and ammunition shared the conference table with Congress ministers. The people of this country cannot forget the spectacle of the fully armed Naxalites marching through the streets of Hyderabad the day Union Home Minister was holding a meeting there with the Chief Ministers of Naxalite-affected States. The policy boomeranged on the Congress and the State government had, ultimately, to reimpose ban on the PWG.

The same story was repeated in Assam. With the help of ULFA elements, Congress was able to save itself of the ignomy of defeat and came out as the single largest party after elections. Seeking

alliance with other groups, it was able to remain in power.

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

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

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

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

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

Nepal Maoists

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

Situation in North-East deteriorates

From the situation as it prevails in the north-eastern State of Manipur, it looks the writ of the UPA government does not run there.

In December 2006 Prime Minister visited Manipur for the first time. He was greeted with a total bandh on that day. With elections in the State round the corner, Dr. Manmohan Singh made a number

of alluring announcements but the situation does not seem to have improved even a bit.

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

IMDT ACT unconstitutional

The Supreme Court on July 7, 2005 declared the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 as "unconstitutional". In view of elections to Assam Assembly UPA government did nothing to implement the Supreme Court order because Congress did not wish to lose the votes of illegal migrants. On the eve of Assam elections, UPA Government issued a notification under the Foreigners Act that puts the onus of proving a particular person as a foreigner on the complainant. This was done just to help the illegal migrants on whose electoral support UPA, particularly the Congress, was banking.

Another legal blow

SC strikes down Foreigners Act amendment too

The Supreme Court on November 5, 2006 dealt a severe blow to UPA Government's attempts to create a separate regime for identifying illegal migrants in Assam. Striking down two Government notifications amending the Foreigners Act, the court nipped the Centre's move to re-introduce the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act through the backdoor.

Taking a dig at the Centre, the Bench of Mr. Justice Shri SB Sinha and Mr. Justice Markandeya Katju said, "There is a lack of will in the matter of ensuring that illegal immigrants are sent out of the country," and gave a four-month ultimatum to the Centre to implement its orders. The two notifications issued in February 2006 had effected amendments in the prevailing Foreigners Act in the Assam, by which the burden of proving whether a person is an illegal migrant or not rested upon a tribunal and the complainant, who has to satisfy the tribunal. In the parent Act, the onus of proving that an individual was an illegal migrant or not rested on him.

The Bench, while striking down the IMDT Act, had observed that by introducing the new notifications the Government failed to provide any reasonable explanation. The Bench noted with concern

that "it appears that the 2006 Order has been issued just as a cover up for non-implementation of the directions of this court issued in July 2005".

Holding such exercise of power as violative of Article 14 of the Constitution, the Bench commented, "it is also seen to be attempt by way of a piece of subordinate legislation to nullify the mandamus issued by this court." The court accepted the contentions of the petitioner who raised fears that the notification is nothing but a reincarnation of the IMDT Act, since the burden of identifying an illegal migrant will be on the tribunal.

What has UPA done in compliance with Supreme Court orders, remains a mystery.

Misguiding nation on Bangladeshi infiltration

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

Madarsas

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

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

Economy in chaos

UPA Government had promised more employment, eradication of poverty, keeping the prices down and accelerating the pace of economic reforms, but it has so far utterly failed to make any significant progress in any of these areas. The policy paralysis of Dr. Manmohan Singh and his team is leading to serious deterioration in the economic fundamentals. The unprecedented trade deficit of \$30 billion (Rs. 1,35,000 crores) has put pressure on the rupee.

Manmohan Proposes, CPM Disposes

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

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

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

adverse impact on the country's economy.

DMK threatens, Manmohan retraces

In July 2006 after a meeting of the Council of Ministers the Manmohan Government announced its decision to disinvest in Neyveli Lignite Corporation. This decision was taken when DMK ministers and Shri Lalu Yadav himself were present in the cabinet meeting. But the DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Shri M. Karunanidhi put his foot down and threatened to pull down the government if the decision was not withdrawn. Meekly, the Prime Minister withdrew his own government's decision. Surprisingly, even Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav supported the stand of Shri Karunanidhi. Congress can go to any length to compromise to save its government.

FDI in retail to open gates of unemployment

UPA has decided to introduce FDI in retail sector – a step that will render the small-time trader and vendor jobless and make the life of ordinary trader miserable. According to preliminary estimates, the step will render jobless about 4 crore people already engaged in retail trade. This will expose UPA government's real intentions. It had promised to provide jobs to the jobless but this policy is going to render already employed as unemployed. BJP has decided to stoutly oppose this anti-people decision of UPA government which will swell the ranks of unemployed by rendering even self-employed people as jobless.

A Sarkar for Khas Aadmi

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

Congress has always been playing mischief with the voters. Since it came to power, seven times has it raised the prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas. The petrol which was available at Rs. 33 per litre in May 2004 is costing Rs. 43 today to the consumer. So is the story with diesel and cooking gas. Price of diesel has gone up from Rs. 22 per litre to Rs. 30 and LPG from Rs. 244 per cylinder to Rs. 295.

Come Congress, come blackmarketing, hoarding

Congress and the curses of blackmarketing, hoarding, shortages

and profiteering seem to be the inseparable Siamese twins. During NDA regime all these evils had vanished. But, like frogs during rainy season, the profiteers, hoarders and black marketeers of essential commodities jump in action the moment Congress regimes take over. They have a field day and make quick buck. During NDA regime cooking gas cylinders and LPG connections were available at much lower prices and that too on demand. So about new telephone connections. The moment UPA assumed power, all these essential commodities disappeared from open market. During the UPA rule prices of coal, sugar, tea, sarson oil, dal, milk, chillies, maida, fruits, vegetable, *chappal* etc. have gone up from 20 to 150 percent. (SEE CHART)

We have a Prime Minister who himself is an economist. So is his Finance Minister, P. C. Chidambaram and Deputy Chairman, Planning Commissioner, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. But the trio has let down the nation completely. The increasing cost of living is making it costlier to live and cheaper to die.

Neglecting poorerst of poor

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

Betrayal of Unemployed Youth

UPA's Common Minimum Programme had promised to "immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act" to provide "100 days of guaranteed employment to at least one able-bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle-class household". But the recently enacted Employment Guarantee Act provides for an employment of 100 days at the rate of Rs. 60 per day in a year for the unemployed in only 200 districts leaving out more than 400 districts out of its purview. Can an average family with five members subsist on a mere income of Rs. 6,000 per annum? What will they do during the rest of the year? It is nothing but a cruel joke on the unemployed poor youth.

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

'Bharat Nirman' hoax

Recently, Prime Minister announced the launch of what is billed as a new mega-development initiative for rural India. Called

'*Bharat Nirman*', it is advertised to have an outlay of Rs. 1,73,000 crore over the next four years. The truth of the matter is that there is hardly anything new in the '*Bharat Nirman*' initiative. It is nothing but a repackaging of the various ambitious projects and path-breaking initiatives launched by the NDA Government under a new name.

Neglect of infrastructure development

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

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

The *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* launched by the Vajpayee government is the largest rural roads construction programme since Independence. Its implementation has considerably been slowed down under UPA. NDA Government had decided to accelerate the National Highway Development Programme to build 2,801 kilometres of roads. But in the last three years only about 500 kilometres have been added under the UPA Government.

The Golden Quadrilateral project to link the four metros with four/six lanes has been slowed down and being starved of necessary funds.

River-linking project abandoned

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

Dark clouds over power sector reforms

The power supply situation in the country continues to worsen each day while this Government debates the amendment to the Electricity Act.

Many prestigious projects discarded

Many ambitious projects launched for the benefit of the people at large, like the establishment of six AIIMS in the country, have been put on the back burner.

EPF rates lowered

During NDA regime the rate of interest on the Employees

Provident Fund (EPF) was 9.5 percent. The Congress and Left parties had then been agitating for its being raised to 10.5 percent. But since they assumed power in 2004, they have further lowered this rate of interest to 8.5 percent. Another instance of hypocrisy and deception on the part of both the Congress and Left. According to Press reports, there is a proposal is under consideration of the Government to further lower it to 8 percent. During the last three years, it has done nothing to help the labour class in this connection.

Savings and Capital Markets

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

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

PDS Bungling

It seems that our fears are unfortunately coming true regarding inadequate measures by the UPA Government in tackling present economic crisis. Ultimately Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar had to admit failure of the government to procure enough quantity of wheat and other staples for PDS and for creation of adequate buffer stock. On 17 April last year government was able to procure 56 lakh tones of wheat, which now stands abysmally low at 36 lakh tones this year. BJP wants to remind that even the quantity procured last year was not sufficient to feed the poor and hence imports were required after a gap of 8 years. This year's procurement will increase dependence on high cost imports, which will create distortions of sorts where you pay more to the

foreign farmers than Indian farmers.

The situation this season is still worse and food prices are likely to shoot up further.

Housing Sector worst sufferer

Finance Minister Chidambaram's call to temper credit growth and moderate credit growth for realty sector is bound to affect the housing sector adversely. Already housing loan interest rates have zoomed from 6% during NDA regime to 12%, resulting in slum in loan demand as it has gone out of common man's reach. His call for keeping interest rates low for home loans upto 10 lakh is hollow if rates for provisioning are not reduced. The sector, which became the growth engine of employment and wealth generation besides providing much needed accommodation to millions stands already hit. FM's new diktat will only worsen the situation and will burden the common man more.

Indian growth story paradox

The great paradox of Indian growth story has come to the fore. It is an irony that on one hand the economy is growing at 9%, on the other hand essential commodity prices are rising by 19%. The irony gets further reinforced, when on one hand Sensex crosses 14,000 points and on the other hand, more than 14,000 farmers commit suicides during 3 year old UPA regime.

Connectivity

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

Water Resources

The Common Minimum Programme promised that it would provide drinking water facility to every section of people in urban and rural areas on top priority. Unfortunately, the sad truth is that chronic water shortage continues to plague everywhere in the country, the national capital included. National rivers worshipped by Indians all over the country have been converted into poisonous

streams of water on account of bad governance. Dangerous phenomenon of arsenic pollution in the water leading to major health hazards is on the increase.

Energy Sector

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



Farmers betrayed

Agriculture neglected

About 70 percent of India's population is dependent upon agriculture. It is the Kissan who feeds the country. It is he who has brought the country out of the unfortunate abyss of perennial food shortages when every now and then our ministers were visiting foreign lands with a begging bowl for the alms of food grains. It is his zeal and labour that turned the nation self-sufficient in food production and made it raise its head with pride. He is our hero who ushered in the Green and White Revolutions in the country. But today he himself is in distress. Agriculture was once a thriving and respectable vocation. It has now become a source of curse for those who engaged themselves in it. Kissan today is a miserable being himself. He is unable to make both ends meet. Not to speak of feeding the nation, he is unable to feed his own family. He is under a burden of debt unbearable for him. He is unable to redeem his debts. The situation has worsened to such an extent that about 25,000 kissans have been forced to commit suicides during the last over 5-6 years.

The malady lies deep and the Congress has failed to fathom and diagnose it. For unexplained reasons the UPA government has not released any economic package for the benefit of farmers in other States.

It is ironical that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh issued a call to them to usher in the Second Green Revolution in the country. How ironical the call appears in the present situation!

The prosperity of the nation is interwoven with that of the farmers. As long as the kissan was happy and contented, there was a regime of surpluses in food. During its rule NDA was faced with the problem of plenty and was hard put to make arrangements for proper storage of the food grains. In just less than 15 months, the country under UPA has been thrown to the position of food shortages with food production having gone down. Since last year the Government

had to import wheat at exorbitant rates from Australia and other countries at rates much higher than given to Indian farmers.

NDA had constituted a National Farmers Commission which has since submitted its report to the Prime Minister. The Commission is reported to have made many constructive and useful suggestions. BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh wrote to the Prime Minister suggesting that he convene an all-party meeting to consider the Commission recommendations so that a comprehensive policy could be formulated with a national consensus. But the Prime Minister has still to do anything in the matter although more than six months have elapsed in between.

Credit sector lifeless

Rural credit structure remains lifeless and the delivery mechanism of cooperatives and rural banks as also the *kisan* credit cards are not being used effectively by the UPA Government to deliver credit in time and adequate to the requirement of farmers.

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

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

Betrayal of Kisans

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

UPA claims to be the well-wisher of farmers. It made tall promises to them during elections. But during the last 36 months it has done nothing to ameliorate their lot with the result that farmers' suicides are continuing at an accelerated pace.

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

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

PM's hoax of a Package

On 1st July, 2006 Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh visited the farmer's graveyard, that is, Vidarbha region in Maharashtra and declared a special package of some Rs. 2500 crores giving interest waiver and rescheduling of loans. Yet suicides continued unabated. More than 425 farmers committed suicide in the first four months after the announcement of package. Thus, PM's package failed completely. This has happened because government is not hitting the main cause of agrarian crisis.

Wheat imports hurt Kisans

The decision to import wheat has been taken just to hurt the kisans. In May 2006 the price of wheat being given to Indian farmer was put at Rs 650 per quintal while the price of the imported wheat has been fixed at Rs 950 per quintal. It smacks of a major scam.

Government had granted licence to several multinational companies to import wheat. These companies purchased wheat from Indian farmers at lower prices and exported that to Bangladesh and other countries making a huge profit. The reason for major price hike of wheat in India was purchase by multinational companies. Interests of Indian farmers were compromised and hit adversely.

Crocodile tears on FTA

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

The UPA government had failed to provide rural institutional credit to farmers. Going in for free trade is meaningless if the trade is not free within the country itself and problem of failing agricultural economy is not addressed immediately. Majority of the suicide victims were cotton growers because of lowering of import duty and import of cheaper cotton from USA and UK, where its production was highly subsidised. ■

Kashmir Imbroglia

Kashmir problem is the gift of Pandit Nehru to the nation. The country continues to pay heavily for his blunders and those of his daughter, Smt. Indira Gandhi who lost the golden opportunity in 1971 to strike a settlement of Kashmir issue on India's terms.

The country has so far lost more than 80,000 innocent lives in the terror incidents during the last about 18 years, more than the country lost in the three wars with Pakistan and China. There is no ray of hope of a settlement in the near future.

Talks on Kashmir

Something fishy seems to be brewing up in UPA's talks with Pakistan on Kashmir.

The nation has expressed its resolve through numerous unanimous resolutions in Parliament reiterating that Jammu & Kashmir is an integral, inalienable part, like any other State of the country. Successive Prime Ministers have declared that the only point of dispute between India and Pakistan is the liberation of about one-third of Kashmir, known as Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, that is under illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan. The present Prime Minister too reiterated this resolve of the nation in one of his addresses to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the Independence Day. India believes that the aggressor (Pakistan) cannot be allowed to get away with the fruits of aggression.

Surprisingly, the UPA is not taking the Parliament and people into confidence on this vital issue involving the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. Nobody knows what is brewing up between UPA government and Pakistan on matters of discord between the two countries. It continues with its dialogue despite Pakistan not honouring its part of commitment not to allow its territory to be used for terrorist activities against India. Some times there is talk of reducing the army strength in J&K. At others, there is talk of withdrawal of forces from Siachin glacier. Then we hear news that noth-

ing like that is contemplated.

Protest march carrying pro Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba flags

Protest march carrying pro Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba flags, shouting slogans in favour of Pakistan in Kashmir Valley by LeT militants is a serious development and Government of India should take immediate action against the protestors. This is a direct challenge to national security.

Pro-Pakistani Militant action is the result of a soft policy adopted by the Prime Minister and UPA government, towards the challenge of terrorism. Raising pro-Pakistani slogans is a threat to national security. BJP always stands for policy of zero tolerance for matters concerning danger to national security.

Troops reduction

Troop reduction particularly from hilly areas of the Jammu region is continuing unabated. The whole 27th division consisting of 10,000 troops is ordered out of Rajouri. More serious is the development in Hilkaka region. Hilkaka, which was a strong base of militants and which was destroyed through "Operation Sarpvishay" by Army in 2003, was fortified by many big and small pickets. Even from this region many small posts have been vacated and number of troops in main posts are also reduced. The work of building up a road to Hilkaka launched by NDA was halted after Mufti Mohammed Syed assumed the power. Troops have been removed from Mendhar, which is a strong centre of militants and notorious route for infiltration and which has recently witnessed a tension arising out of militant's efforts to forcefully acquire a private land for erection of Madarssa. Mamonkot, Ichni, Bagobas, Nemoch, Batter, Kalaband, Hosodtap in Riyasi and Mahor tehsils of Udhampur and Marah in Poonch have also witnessed troops vacating the pickets. The same is the story for Dhar, Gular, Bhela, Keb and Dasui in Budhal tehsil of Rajouri district. The timing of reduction of troops from this sensitive area is more serious as infiltration increases in the summer.

The situation is becoming extremely sensitive given the divergent signals emanating from various corners when read together. On the one hand the Defence Minister assures of non-reduction of forces, while the hilly areas of Jammu region are actually experiencing the reduction. Similarly while Gulam Nabi Azad calls for consensus on reduction of forces, the PDP is claiming that the centre has agreed for removal of troops immediately from public places

and removal of the Governor Lt. Gen. S.K. Sinha. The Army sources are quoted as describing the ground situation as a routine relocation exercise. However, the question arises as to where is the new relocation and fortification taking place in the hilly areas? Moreover, daily political sermons of “zero tolerance” in the current backdrop are having a serious demoralising effect on the troops of our armed forces. Given the continuing efforts to change the demography in the Jammu region, confusion on such a vital matter of national security is worrisome.

Troops pull out

Bharatiya Janata Party denounces the troop pull out from boundary districts of Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts of Jammu region. It seems that Manmohan Singh government has buckled under the pressure of Mufti Mohammad Sayed of PDP. The whole brigade has been ordered to pull out from Budhal in Rajouri district. Without declaring officially the work of troop pull out has begun in full swing in many areas of the region.

Troops are being pulled out even from Kulhand of Doda district, where only last year 19 Hindus were massacred. Military pickets have been removed from Shatru, Daschan, Pader, Balesa, Martam, Dharmshala, Puranu beyond Kulhand. Military pickets are reported to have been asked to vacate from Tanna Manchi, Manjakot, Khwas, Shahdra Sharif, Kalakot, Tarihat, Dalhori beyond Budhal in Rajouri district. Even in Poonch area the troop pull out is visible, where Military pickets are being vacated from Biji, Swarnkot, Gundi, Mandi, Chandiman, Krishnaghata, Chilas. Even from the vicinity of Poonch city the troops are being moved out.

This exercise commenced as the stand off between Congress and PDP threatened the stability of Gulam Nabi Azad government. For UPA security of Congress government in J&K is more important than the security of the country.

Pullout not viable, feels Governor

Whatever may be the intentions of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who seems to be succumbing to PDP pressure (as also of Pakistan) to reduce Army presence in Jammu and Kashmir, the State Governor Lt Gen (Retd.) SK Sinha, according to the Press reports feels otherwise. He has declared that he was opposed to complete troop reduction in the State, as it was not possible to do in a sensitive border State “even if the situation returned to normalcy.”

He, however, said that troops deployed for maintaining internal secu-

rity could be withdrawn, as there was an improvement in the situation. “I agree that the situation in the State has improved. But it is not practical to withdraw the army from States, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan, which share borders with neighbouring country (Pakistan),” he said at a seminar jointly organized by the New Delhi based Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies and J&K Police at Srinagar.



The Governor rejected Pakistan President Gen Parvez Musharraf’s much-hyped 4-point formula that advocates joint management of Jammu & Kashmir by India and Pakistan. “The joint management will be an infringement of the country’s integrity and sovereignty”, he said. He appreciated the role of troops in bringing about peace in the troubled State saying that they (troops) could be called off from the combat when peace was regained in the region.

Qayyum gives lie to Musharraf claims

Former POK President admits terrorist training camps

Former POK President and Kashmiri leader Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, according to Press reports, has stuck to his guns, saying the truth about cross-border militant training camps could not be hidden, nor could anyone find fault with his desire for peace in Kashmir, and that the United Nations resolutions were “obsolete.”

On return from New Delhi Sardar Qayyum Khan also known as the First Mujahid, said it was “a fact that there were training camps [for militants] in Pakistan and in Azad Kashmir [Pakistan Occupied Kashmir].”

“It was in the open. We cannot keep something like this under wraps. The Americans can give you all the details about these camps. These things cannot be kept hidden in this day and age. We should speak the truth, or we will be exposed as liars,” Mr. Khan said.

Havana Surrender

The guilty and victim on same footings

Havana Joint Statement of September 16, 2006 issued by Prime

Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf is an unprecedented capitulation of India before Pakistan on the issue of cross-border terrorism. It has wiped out, in one stroke, all that had been achieved by India in its war against terror through years of hard work with the international community, and bilaterally with Pakistan.

According to the Prime Minister, President Musharraf had assured him that Pakistan had no hand in perpetuating terrorism and the former has accepted this statement of Musharraf implicitly and without challenge. Dr. Manmohan Singh's statement that Pakistan is also a victim of terrorism is baffling, to say the least. The perpetrator of cross-border terrorism has been co-opted through this Joint Statement as a partner in the fight against terrorism. The distinction between the aggressor and the victim of aggression has been done away with.

What is in the non-paper, Mr. PM?

According to reports, India has, through back channels, given a non-paper to Pakistan, making suggestions for the resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue. The Government of India has not taken Parliament and the people of India into confidence on the contents of this non-paper. However, according to Pakistani sources, this contains suggestions for joint control over Jammu and Kashmir. Is this joint mechanism suggested by India at Havana the first step towards that joint control? Are unseen powers pushing India towards a solution of Jammu and Kashmir that India has rejected all along? Is the Prime Minister of India acting under the pressure of the Left parties in India, who seem to have made common cause with these unseen powers on this issue? Or is it petty vote bank politics which has persuaded the Prime Minister to negate all that India, even under his own government, has said and stood for on the question of cross-border terrorism?

Conspiracy on Kashmir

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

The UPA Government tacitly gives an impression that it is not averse to discussing these matters. This is destructive for the country's unity and integrity which is not negotiable under any circumstances. The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral

part of India and this has been reiterated by the nation through unanimous resolutions passed in Parliament.

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

Dastardly Hindu Killings

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

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

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

Musharraf's four-point formula

In the first week of December 2006, Gen Musharraf told NDTV that he had a "four-point solution" to ending the impasse in the disputed region. Apart from a phased withdrawal of troops and self-governance for Kashmiris, he said there would be no changes in the borders of Kashmir and a joint supervision mechanism involving India, Pakistan and Kashmir.

Reacting to the Pakistani President's proposals, Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs, Shri Anand Sharma told reporters: "The Indian prime minister's position is to make the borders irrelevant, [that] we cannot redraw the map." India did "not want to remain in conflict" with Pakistan, he added.

The antics of the UPA inspire no confidence in the minds of the people. In the aftermath of serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, first the Prime Minister and other ministers accused Pakistan of its involvement in the crime and Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan were cancelled. Yet, these were held later on. Later, Dr. Manmohan Singh gave a surprise to the Indian people by agreeing to a joint mechanism with Pakistan to investigate cases of terror. Our Prime Minister declared that Pakistan too was a victim of terror.

BJP has rightly said that the perpetrator of cross-border terrorism has been co-opted through this Joint Statement as a partner in the fight against terrorism.

Nobody, not perhaps the Prime Minister himself, knows what is the next in store for the country on the issue. ■



Foreign Policy fiasco

The worst has been the score of UPA on foreign affairs. NDA had made the nation raise its head high in the comity of nations in the world. India could face even a mighty country, like USA, on equal terms.

But this is not so since UPA stepped in power. Our standing in the world has suffered a lot. Our claim to permanent membership of Security Council seems to have been forgotten by UPA. Our relations with our neighbours were not as worse as today.

Indo-US nuclear deal

Mortgaging national interests with US

The Act passed by the US legislature leaves no one in doubt that the purpose of the deal is to impose on India, bilaterally, conditionalities which are worse than those incorporated in the NPT and the CTBT, in perpetuity and without an exit clause. The fact is that ever since July 2005, the US has been shifting the goalposts and the Government of India has not only been acquiescing in it, but adopting them as the latest benchmark.

The deal is more unequal than ever before. The principle of parity, on which the Prime Minister had placed so much emphasis, stands abandoned. Reciprocity and sequencing of the various steps, again something on which the Prime Minister had placed so much emphasis, have been given a go by.

Worse, in spite of the assurances of the Prime Minister to Parliament, the US Act seriously compromises the independence of our foreign policy. India is not just to toe the line of the US in regard to Iran, it is being afforded this cooperation on the ground, among others, that its foreign policy will be "congruent" with that of the US.

Furthermore, the Act aims at capping, rolling back and eventually eliminating India's nuclear weapons capability. There is an absolute ban on further tests - including sub-critical tests and those

for peaceful purposes. This will completely stymie India's technical advancement in this vital sphere. By going in for agreement under this legislation, the Government is binding India's future – in security as well as technical advancement.

It should be noted that nuclear scientists have, by and large, opposed the deal and its intrusive and restrictive provisions.

Indo-US nuclear deal is a “slave charter”

The Indo-US nuclear deal has no benefit to India. It is a “secret deals” between UPA and American government which will be against the country's interests. It is a “slave charter” which impinged “national sovereignty. All information concerning India's atomic plants would be at the hands of the US. Therefore it would no longer be possible to maintain any secrecy with regard to the researches undertaken by the scientists in the atomic power sector.

Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Shri Anil Kakodkar, (on December 15, 2006) met India's former nuclear heads on the Bill and told them that he would convey their concern to Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh. Shri Kakodkar met the scientists including Shri M R Srinivasan, Shri Homi Sethna, Shri A N Prasad, Shri Y S R Prasad, Shri P K Iyengar and Shri A R Gopalakrishnan at the Nuclear Power Corporation, Mumbai on December 15. Their stand was that the Bill will not serve the interests of Indian nuclear establishment since it had considerably deviated from the original July 18, 2005 agreement.

In August 2006, these scientists had met the PM and expressed reservations about the nuke deal even before it was passed by the US Senate and the Senate and House of Representative versions were subsequently merged to become the Hyde Bill. Though the scientists were hoping that the Bill would be India-friendly, but that was not happened. Shri A N Prasad said that they were clear that the Hyde Bill had departed from the original agreement and even from the promises made by the PM.

The deal continues to linger or with US continuing to make crawl, nobody knows it's fate.

Indo-US relations

The Clinton administration first recognized India as a “natural ally” and therefore, wanted an integrated approach on issues of ‘strategic’ policy. The NSSP, announced by the NDA Government in January 2004, aimed at increasing cooperation in civil-nuclear activities, civilian space programmes, high technology, trade and

missile defence. The issues covered as important landmarks in Indo-US relations in year 2005 were already in place when the NDA Government had earlier engaged the United States. The central point of NDA Government's policy was gradual improvement in Indo-US relations, keeping in mind the convergence as well as the contradictions in policies of the two countries.

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

Siachin

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

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

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

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

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

Certain factors need to be in place. One, there must be

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

Bangladesh

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

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

The main cause of our troubles is that UPA is not dealing this problem from the angle of national interest, but confining it how best can it derive political and electoral benefit.

Nepal

In dealing with an important neighbour like Nepal, Indian foreign policy seems to have oscillated from one end to another. It is an instance where India lost the initiative and drive towards facing the situation as it developed in Nepal. The case for promoting democracy in Nepal has been effectively articulated by BJP which has always supported the ‘twin pillars policy’: a stable democracy and a **constitutional monarchy**. The civil society in Nepal is under threat from Maoists who have been indulging in reckless violence and targetting citizens.

It is the UPA government’s policy towards Nepal, however, which leaves everyone completely baffled. This is mainly because of the unhealthy influence of Left parties on UPA as the former enjoy greater affinity with the Maoists than with the Indian interests. It is a tale of unprecedented flip-flop. There is thus complete lack of coordination between the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. Nobody knows who is in charge of the policy towards Nepal.

India and UN Security Council Reforms

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



Dithering on China

UPA seems to be groping in the dark on China. It has no definite policy. That is why it has been found lacking many a times. The progress towards solving the boundary dispute is moving at a snail's pace.

Arunachal is ours

Just a week ahead of Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to India, Beijing's envoy in New Delhi Sun Yuxi claimed that Arunachal Pradesh is a Chinese territory. On November 13, 2006 he said "In our position, the whole of the state of Arunachal Pradesh is Chinese territory. And Tawang is only one of the places in it. We are claiming all of that. That is our position."

BJP was quick to denounce this undiplomatic statement of the Chinese ambassador. It reiterated the country's resolve that Arunachal Pradesh was an integral and inseparable part of India. The Chinese ambassador's claim put the UPA government in a very awkward position. Although government was quick to reiterate India's position, yet it failed to muster courage to call him to convey India's displeasure at his pronouncements, the way it did in the case of US Ambassador.

It is worth recalling that when US Ambassador had threatened India of some adverse consequences if the deal with USA was not honoured, UPA government was quick to summon him and convey its displeasure at his averments. The government had obviously felt handicapped in stretching its hands on Chinese ambassador because of the left parties which had refused to stand by the nation's stand on the issue. This had provoked the BJP spokesman to challenge the CPM to choose between India and China.

CPM should choose between India and China

The double standards of Left parties are worth recalling. When US Ambassador took the liberty to state US government's position, the Left parties had taken affront to his statement and demanded his

recall even. But when Chinese Ambassador took the umbrage to state his country's position, they turned dumb, apologetic and condescending.

BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh and Leader of Opposition, Shri L. K. Advani also demanded that Parliament pass a resolution reiterating India's position. Although Foreign Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, did emphasise that Arunachal Pradesh was integral part of India, yet the UPA government because of pulls from behind by the Left parties on whose support it is dependant for its survival, did not concede BJP's demand for a resolution by Parliament saying that India's position was clear. It is beyond comprehension what was the harm if Parliament had passed a resolution reiterating nation's resolve. "Let us not create a situation by unnecessarily heightening the tension", stated Shri Mukherjee trying to downplay the issue. "Let us allow the process to continue. As far as Arunachal Pradesh is concerned, I think I have made it quiet clear that it is a critical part of India and is going to remain so."

"Not a single senior member of the government" Shri LK Advani lamented in Parliament, "raised the issue with the Chinese Premier and neither was the Chinese Ambassador reprimanded by the government for his statement on Arunachal Pradesh."

Shri Pranab Mukherjee on December 14, 2006 accepted in Rajya Sabha that China was illegally in occupation of land in J&K, Arunachal Pradesh and said. "China is illegally occupying approximately 38,000 sq km in Jammu and Kashmir."

The Chinese Ambassador could take the liberty of saying so on the sacred soil of India because China knows that it has to deal with a very soft government which is incapable of taking a strong stand. After India stating the country's position Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu on December 3 did say in Beijing. "China's stand is clear and consistent on the Sino-Indian border issue. China is for seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the issue, through friendly consultations" But a few days afterwards, the Chinese Ambassador contradicted Shri Mukherjee when on December 10 at Chandigarh he claimed that "some area" of the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh was being negotiated between the two countries".

"How can India possibly be negotiating a deal with China that involves bartering away even a portion of Arunachal in view of its stated position on the issue," asked strategic affairs analyst Brahma Chellaney. "If the Chinese envoy is making false claims, Beijing

should be politely told to recall him," he added. But can the UPA gather so much courage to demand it?

China intrudes into Sikkim?

BJP MPs Shri Tapir Gao and Shri Khiren Rijju from Sikkim have alleged that the Chinese army has intruded into 20 Km inside Indian territory at Sanchong-chu in Tawang district of the State. They said it was not an overnight development and demanded that the Centre should come out with a clarification as it was a serious matter.

They claimed that parts of Tawang valley and Subansiri district had been captured by China and alleged that the China refused to give visa even to the state's Chief Minister and Assembly Speaker.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has, however, dismissed the reports as "baseless"

Though India has denied that China has occupied territory, West Arunachal MP Kiren Rijju has said he received word from the ministries of external affairs and defence that they were aware of China's inroads.

Rijju said the areas under foreign occupation include the Sumdorong Chu valley, the Asapila and Lungar camps, large portions of grazing lands and other strategic points. A helipad in Sumdorong Chu is also under Chinese control.

According to local MLA Lokam Tassar, the Chinese are now 20 km inside Taksin and have taken over several camps belonging to the Indian Army.

BJP has demanded that a joint parliamentary party should visit the spot to verify the situation, but UPA government has so far not taken any steps to clear the mist. ■

UPA scandals and scams

Quattrocchi, the friend

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

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

For obvious reasons, nothing has so far been done to undo the wrong that has been done because the UPA government does not wish to do anything that should annoy the supreme leader of the Congress.

Quattrochi arrested in Argentina

Quattrochi was arrested in Argentina on February 20, 2007 as a red corner notice for his arrest was on. As per the Argentine law, Government of India was required to file a case for his extradition

within 30 days, but for over 20 days the UPA government kept this information secret from the people, till it was blasted off by media. It appeared as if the UPA was trying to keep the information in wraps to let the 30 days period expire to let Quattrochi have a free passage once again. The UPA government was trying to shield itself from the claim that there was no extradition treaty between the two countries, although sources claimed that an extradition treaty was in operation since the days of the British which had not so far been terminated by either of the two.

On the other hand, veteran jurist and BJP General Secretary, Shri Arun Jaitley, pointed out that UPA was taking a wrong stand. Absence of a treaty, he says, is not fatal to extradition. Abu Salem was extradited even when there was no extradition treaty with Portugal.

Scorpene Deal

It goes to the credit of the NDA that on March 20, 2005 it blasted “the biggest defence scandal so far, one far bigger than the Bofors scam”, accusing the Congress-led UPA government of an underhand Rs 18,798 crore Scorpene submarine deal with a French firm and demanded that it be immediately scrapped and a “credible” judicial probe instituted to bring out the truth. It alleged that four per cent commission had been paid to middleman Abhishek Verma and his associates, making this “the biggest defence scandal so far” A demand was made for the immediate arrest of Shri Verma and his associates as also of those foreigners involved in the leak of classified information from the Indian Navy’s War Room.

Initially the UPA denied the allegations and did its best to hush up this scam. But later many heads rolled and a number of arrests, including that of Shri Abhishek Verma have been made. But complete reality is still not out.

Mitrokhin disclosures

Publication of the book *Mitrokhin Archive II* in 2005 exposed the shameful history of the Congress and the Communists indulging in sell-out of national security for money. According to the book, this national betrayal commenced from the times of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru when the then Soviet secret agency, KGB, allegedly purchased the loyalty of Krishna Menon who later became the Defence Minister of India.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, former US ambassador in Delhi, reportedly revealed that at least on two occasions CIA gave money

to Congress which had asked for it during elections against communists. At one time, the money was given to Smt. Indira Gandhi herself when she was a party official during Shri Nehru’s tenure as Prime Minister.

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

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

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

Volcker report stigma

The Oil-for-Food scandal is another example of subversion of national interests. It is a new addition in the long list of Congress failures. The disclosures made by the UN Committee headed by Paul Volcker named the Congress and then External Affairs Minister Shri Natwar Singh among the non-contractual beneficiaries in the Iraqi oil sales in 2001.

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

Later, the Congress and Prime Minister had to eat their own words when Shri Natwar Singh was made to quit, obviously to save the skin of Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi because Congress

Party was equally involved in the scandal and this could not have happened without her consent and knowledge.

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

Pathak Authority Report

A 'save Sonia' operation

The report of Justice RS Pathak Authority has proved to be a deft attempt at getting a clean chit to the Congress whose name had appeared as a beneficiary. Although the charges against both the Congress and Shri Natwar Singh were the same as both had been issued one oil voucher each, yet to present a semblance of being fair, impartial and independent, the Authority held that:

The question remains: When charges against both Congress and Shri Natwar Singh were the same, how did the Authority conclude that there is "absolutely no evidence whatsoever" against Congress? It is nothing but a clandestine operation to save the skin of Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi with whose letter Shri Natwar Singh had gone to meet the then Iraq President Saddam Hussein.

SEZs scandals

One of the major UPA government scandals is the manner in which it has permitted mushrooming of over 400 proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs) all over the country. By distorting a sound SEZ policy formulated by the NDA government, it has allowed many promoters to turn SEZs into the biggest land-grab rackets in the history of independent India.

This is evident from the fact that, under the UPA government's framework of SEZs, the promoters are allowed to retain as much as 65%-75% of the acquired land for non-processing purposes, that is, for purposes other than the industries and services for which the SEZ is sought to be established. All the attractive incentives available to the processing zone will also be available to the land under the much larger non-processing zone. The current legal framework of SEZs also creates a huge disadvantage to industries and business in the Domestic Trading Area (DTA) with the distinct possibility of many of them turning sick.

Not surprisingly, many real estate companies, which have no track record in manufacturing or export business, have overnight

become SEZ promoters. It is one of the worst-kept secrets of the UPA government that granting permission to establish SEZs has become a huge source of corruption for the ruling party. This is a repeat of what happened in one of the biggest corruption scandals that rocked the Congress government in the early 1990s, when telecom licences were issued to all and sundry on considerations other than merit. Experts have already warned that many of the proposed SEZs will either not come up, or will not be successful. Nevertheless, they will have succeeded in dispossessing *kisans*, *khetmazdoors* (farm labour) and other allied rural workers of their traditional source of livelihood.

Singur land grabbing

Singur land grabbing case (West Bengal) has resulted in a flare up between people and the Communist regime because of the insensitive and neo-capitalist mindset of the present leadership in West Bengal. The State government seems to be so much worried about big industries that it is playing with the lives of hundreds of farmers by snatching away their fertile lands in the name of industrialisation. Those who took to the streets were brutally beaten up and put behind bars. Trinamul Congress President Ms Mamta Banerjee vociferously opposing the Tata Project in Singur was physically and mentally tortured by Communist parties in every possible way to force her to withdraw the agitation. But she is not the person to submit so easily. Her agitation has managed to grab the attention of every pro-farmer activist and leader in the country. The Singur issue hit national headlines when BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh decided to lend moral support to this agitation of farmers. He immediately rushed to Kolkata on the evening of December 3 after getting the news of three protestors having been killed in police firing. He met Sushri Mamta Banerjee and assured full support to her cause.



Nandigram

The Sangram CPM lost despite Stalinist brutalities

In a shocking display of strong-arm tactics adopted by the Marxist government of West Bengal, thousands of State Policemen, backed by

CPM cadre, opened fire on the farmers of Nandigram protesting against forcible acquisition of their agricultural land by the State Government for a Special Economic Zone Project. This utterly shameful, seemingly pre-planned act which killed many and left many more injured took place in broad daylight on March 13, turning the green fields of Nandigram into killer fields.

As the police and CPM cadres were jointly perpetuating their orgy of violence and mayhem, the media was barred from entering Nandigram reviving memories of the Emergency Era

This act of brutality unparalleled in independent India shocked the whole country generating widespread protest in Kolkata and calls of bandh from Trinamul and BJP. Both houses of Parliament were rocked as agitated BJP and Trinamul Congress members forced an adjournment in the Rajya Sabha and staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha. The BJP and Trinamul MPs stormed the well of the House and shouted slogans alleging that the Nandigram incident was a repeat of the "Jallianwala Bagh" outrage perpetrated by colonial British rulers.

The BJP took a very strong stand against this State sponsored atrocity. Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K.Advani spoke to Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil requesting them to seek a report from the West Bengal Governor on this violence. Shri Advani called it one of the most unfortunate events since Independence. BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh demanded a judicial or parliamentary probe into the police firing. He said the State Government had lost the moral authority to continue in office.

Governor shocked, CPM not

WB Governor Shri Gopal Krishan Gandhi said the use of force in Nandigram could have been avoided. In a statement, he asked: "Was this spilling of human blood not avoidable? What is the public purpose served by the use of force that we have witnessed today?" Expressing "a sense of cold horror" at the incident, he said: "Force against anti-national elements, terrorists, extremists is one thing. The receiving end of the force used today does not belong to that order".

Later, CPM itself admitted that their own cadre were involved in the carnage. ■

General

There is no sphere of political and administrative activity where UPA has not faulted. The list is unending.

Centre-State relations - bad to worse

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

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

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

Befooling women on reservation

Time and again Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the UPA chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi had been reiterating that the Women Reservation Bill will be presented to Parliament and got through. But each time this has not happened.

Before the commencement of winter session of Parliament in November 2006, Smt. Sonia Gandhi announced that she will strive to strike consensus for passage of the Women Reservation Bill which had been hanging fire since UPA government took office. There were

repeated reports that the Bill will be presented this week or that week. She has failed to marshal unanimity even within the UPA itself and the government has finally decided to dump the bill once again. BJP and some other parties have repeatedly declared their support to the Bill. Three years are already over and, as the things stand today, it appears hardly likely that the bill will ever be passed as long the present government is there.

Atrocities on Women increase

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

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

Delhi sealing

The worst failure of the UPA government at the Centre and the Congress Government in Delhi has been the bungling in the matter of sealing of unauthorized commercial establishments and demolition of unauthorized construction. According to a rough estimate, more than 65,000 establishments are affected by the Delhi government's plan to demolish illegal construction and seal commercial establishments functioning in residential areas.

The irony of the situation is that these illegal multi-storeyed buildings did not sprout out overnight. These rose right under the nose and before the eyes of the administration. They got power, water supply, sewerage and telephone connections. They paid taxes to the municipal authorities and the government.

Similar is the fate of the commercial establishments functioning within the residential areas.

Despite solemn pledges and promises made to the affected people, nothing has so far been done to solve the problem to the satisfaction of all. The State Congress government of Delhi and UPA government at the Centre have failed to rise to the occasion. It is interesting to note that the Urban Development Minister at the Centre too belongs to the Congress.

The future of lakhs of people and their employees subsisting on these commercial establishments has been rendered bleak and uncertain. Besides the legal problems, the Delhi sealing also has a social and human aspect towards which the present government

has so far paid no attention and displayed no sympathy.

On its part, BJP has resolved to stand by the affected people in this hour of their need and to make any sacrifice to prevent their harassment and torture.

UPA and the Congress have failed to display honesty of purpose and determination to work out a solution that is acceptable to all. ■

Conclusion

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

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

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

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

