

## Impasse in BJP broken

After prolonged speculation and fears of protracted stalemate, the BJP National Executive in its Goa meet anointed Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi as its Election Campaign Committee Chairman for the 2014 parliamentary elections. The formal announcement to this effect came almost at the fag end of the address of BJP Chairman to the National Executive. Though technically, elevation of Modi is still a step behind his nomination as NDA prime ministerial candidate as is also expressed by at least one NDA ally viz. JD (U), nevertheless it seems the BJP has managed to break the impasse. Personal equations apart, a message has gone across the NDA allies that they will have to make up their mind about Modi as the potential prime ministerial candidate for forthcoming parliamentary elections. Within the higher echelons of BJP, opinion about anointing the Gujarat Chief Minister has been swinging and swerving for some time. But all speculations and surmises have now been set at rest. The announcement may cause some rumbling within the party but that will be both negligible and ineffective.

Looking in retrospect, we find that Gujarat Chief Minister's triumph in three successive assembly elections was not palatable to Congress. This attitude is determined more by political reflex than by the realities on the ground. Congress' chagrin against Modi intensified when it failed to elicit any judicial censure pronouncing Modi's "criminalities" in various cases, mostly false and fabricated, that were framed against him. Congress should have ungrudgingly accepted Modi's hat trick at assembly polls as eye-catching victory of Indian democratic and secular dispensation and not made it a bilateral contentious issue for mainstream national political parties. When Deobandi Muslim religious leadership gave credit to remarkable development of Gujarat under Modi, Congress felt frustrated by dangerous dent in its unique version of secularism. For last many years, "crush Modi" became its one-point agenda in Gujarat. It was a mistake on the part of country's foremost and historic political party of great repute.

The path is cleared for Modi to take final leap to the pinnacle of political power in the country. In all probability, consensus of opinion developed in the National Executive on the basis of realization that only strong, dynamic and comparatively younger central leadership could pilot country's ship in turbulent waters. Keeping in view the current political scenario in the country, the National Executive was resolved to develop consensus of opinion, which fortunately for BJP has come at the end of the day. Senior parity leader L.K. Advani, though not reconciled to the elevation of Modi, had to fall in line with the majority decision. Perhaps time and space could not uphold his perceptions or aspirations.

Having broken the stalemate, the party has two vital tasks to address right now. One is to keep its allies in tight embrace by respecting their political sensitivities and nuances, and the second is to hammer out a convergent manifesto for 2014 Parliamentary elections. The thrust of the party naturally has to be on the areas, which it identified as the Achilles heel of Congress rule. BJP's resolution of Goa conclave has highlighted obnoxious corruption, degradation of economy and malignant assault on federal spirit of our politics as the main failures of UPA II rule. Obviously, removal of Congress rule through democratic dispensation is not only the aspiration but also the precise task before NDA. But as a responsible political party, BJP should not divert all its energy towards something like anti-Congress tirade. Its strength does not lie in doing so. At the best such an exercise is to satisfy the instinct of vengeance. The real task before BJP and NDA (if and when it forms the Government) is to lay down the roadmap for pulling the country out of present economic and political morass. Only that part of BJP's activities will infuse voters with new hope of India reviving after the hiccups of past decade of Congress rule.

Scams and corruption have done great harm to the country and the ruling coalition. Much did the UPA II try to absolve itself of the charge of advertent or inadvertent partisanship in the scandals, the stigma ticks fast. Public opinion is unprecedented in its expression of hatred to rampant corruption in our polity. BJP shall have to deal with this major crisis in the country with deft hands. It will be unwise for the party to succumb to the temptation of making profusion of promises to the voters of doing the impossible if returned to power. That will be disastrous in present circumstances. In an era of great technological advancement, it looks rather thoughtless to dote old promises or commitments that cannot be met.

With the horn-lock in BJP camp finally resolved, the party now needs to infuse new life into its state-level branches also. In particular in states where party workers have performed poorly, the structure needs overhauling and reformation.

In final analysis, it is in the larger interests of the nation that a frontline national level political party, that has also the privilege of sitting in opposition to the UPA II Government, has overcome a tricky obstacle that had been frustrating its attempt of leadership consolidation. Respect for leadership, both old and new, as the loadstar guiding the destiny of the party and the nation, has to be the foremost principle of code of conduct for party members. That will naturally have its impact on regional chapters of the party.

The party and the people expect Narendra Modi to prove his worth as the national leader transcending all borders that divide people into compartments. India has suffered much for want of a leadership that combines vision with action. India needs leadership that will lead the nation in letter and in spirit.

# Alienated Advani

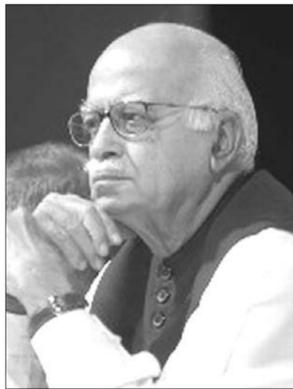
Vimal Sumbly

Lal Krishen Advani is the best Prime Minister India could never have. However, he is the last person to accept it as he seems to feel that he is still capable of becoming one even though his own party is thinking otherwise. The 85 year old Bhartiya Janata Party stalwart today stands alienated, if not isolated, within his party with most of the party rank and file finding it difficult to project him as the party's prime ministerial candidate for the 2014 General Elections and instead opting for Narendra Modi, a more stringent and radical face of Hindutva.

It goes beyond saying that the modern day BJP owes much to Advani than to anybody else. If the former Prime Minister and soft spoken Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the face of the party, Advani was its backbone. From just two seats in 1984 when the entire opposition was wiped out in the post Indira Gandhi assassination nationalistic fervour with everybody voting for the Congress, Advani got the party to power at the centre just within 13 years as the BJP formed a government leading the National Democratic Alliance at the centre.

Known for his strong views on nationalism, rather Hindu nationalism it was Advani who led the Rath Yatra for the "liberation" of the Ram Janambhoomi in Ayodhya that ultimately culminated in the demolition of the sixteenth century Babri Masjid on December 6, 1992 in his presence. He was instrumental in successfully building up a strong Hindu nationalist movement mostly in the cow belt of north India and parts of South India like Karnataka and some parts of Andhra Pradesh.

Advani's Rath Yatra was also timed to stem the sharp divisions with the Hindu community that had started erupting in the post anti-Mandal Commission riots across the country. The implementation of the



Mandal Commission Recommendations, which extended 27 per cent reservation to the Other Backward Classes within the Hindu community, had virtually divided Hindus among the upper and lower castes. The Rath Yatra, also known as Ram Janambhoomi Movement, helped in uniting the Hindu society again. Thus the Rath Yatra served the twin purpose of consolidating the Hindus, mostly in north India, into a one community besides strengthening the BJP.

When the BJP finally stormed to power in 1998, Advani had to be content with being the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister is no constitutional post in India and is just a consolatory prize for someone who ideally should have been the Prime Minister but could not become, like Advani and before him Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, a leader with whom Advani is always compared to and he also likes to be compared to, and Devi Lal.

It goes to Advani's credit that he grace-

fully accepted the number two position in the government as long as his long time friend and colleague Vajpayee was around despite his proportionately large contribution. After all faces alone do not build the parties. He always waited for his moment which finally seemed to had come in 2009. He was projected as the Prime Ministerial candidate by the BJP led National Democratic Alliance in 2009. Described as the Loh Pursh (iron man) like Sardar Patel during the entire campaign and placed against a "weak and meek", as the BJP would describe Dr Manmohan Singh, the Prime Ministerial candidate of the Congress led United Progressive Alliance, he was thought to be on the way of becoming the Prime Minister.

As bad luck would have it, the NDA lost and so did Advani. He was already over 81 years old at that time thus ruling out his options for the future in 2014. He will be nearing 87 by that time, making him it highly improbable to be named as the Prime Ministerial candidate despite his being hale and hearty and physically quite active. He probably still considers himself to be fit to lead the party hence is not able to reconcile to the fact that the party has found someone more saleable than him in Narendra Modi.

Advani still seems to have hope in the opposition to Modi's candidature by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. And that probably explains his "illness" at a crucial hour when the party is almost ready to designate the leader who will be leading its campaign for 2014 General Elections. By abstaining from the deliberations aimed at anointing Modi to the prestigious position, he has escaped being part of the process to endorse Modi's candidature for leading the campaign that may eventually lead to his being the Prime Ministerial candidate which Advani may not like, not at least at this point of time.

# India going Latin American way

Dr Ashwani Mahajan

Central Statistical Organisation of Government of India announced its estimates for National Income for the year 2012-13 on 31st May 2013, according to which growth estimates for 2012-13 have been placed at 5 percent. It is notable that a year before (2011-12) growth was estimated to be 6.2 percent and for the year 2010-11, this figure was 8.3 percent. Estimates for 2012-13 are important also due to the fact that this is first year of the 12th Five Year Plan. Confusion about the actual rate of growth was continuing since beginning, as the government's original estimates for the year 2012-13 were placed at above 7 percent, which were reduced later, after international agencies like IMF and others reduced their estimates for Indian economy to 4.9 percent. However, for the year 2013-14, government has once again placed GDP growth estimate around 7 percent.

However, International Monetary Fund (IMF) is telling a different story, while explaining the deceleration in growth. IMF in its recent report shows concerns about decline in growth rate in India and has paralleled the same with South East Asian and Latin American countries' slide after reaching their peak growth. It is notable that countries like Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong etc. reached at nearly 10-12 percent growth in their respective GDPs in 1980s itself. Latin American countries had reached their peak, much earlier. Thanks to their rising GDP and per capita incomes, these countries were called emerging economies and South East Asian economies were named as Asian Tigers. Multinational companies were opening their production centers in these countries and these countries achieved modernity in their production structure. They were also attracting

significant amount of foreign investment and their exports too were rising fast.

Due to the growth sensation in these countries, real estate prices were also booming and value multiplied in a short period of time. Suddenly, something happened! Prices of real estate started receding. Exports too started declining balance of payment on current account went into negative zone and became intolerable. Foreign investors started flying away. With deepening of foreign exchange crisis and burst of real estate bubble, production also started declining, real wages declined and living standards obviously were badly hit. These countries had to forcibly devalue their respective currencies.

IMF's latest report is significant for India, also due to the reason that after achieving a significantly high average rate of growth of GDP in the last decade, rate of growth has suddenly receded to merely 5 percent annually. Western experts are terming this as 'Hindu Rate of Growth' (a derogatory term, which used to define low rate of growth in the past). Although, IMF has taken cognizance of slowdown in China too; for India, crisis seems to be even more acute. IMF has stated in its report that India is falling into the trap, which they call 'Medium Income Trap' in which first Latin American countries and then South East Asian countries fell. By 'Medium Income Trap' they mean that developing countries (called medium income countries), who are aspiring to become high income countries, face a blockade or a 'trap' and would face crisis of various types and would not be able to grow to the level of high income countries. It is notable that when South East Asian countries faced crisis in 1997, it was primarily a foreign exchange crisis, which forced these countries to devalue their respective currencies. At that time prices of real estate

declined significantly and that affected the health and existence of their banking system. Employment declined and foreigners working in there, had to leave, losing all their savings. However, India remained insulated from this crisis. Rather growth rate of GDP accelerated and India experienced an unprecedented growth since then and in the last decade, average growth rate crossed 8 percent annually.

Now is the Real Crisis Issue is not merely of reduction in growth rate in a single year. We have to understand the context of this deceleration. India could save itself from South East Asian crisis of 1997-98. Similarly India remained insulated to a great extent, even from the US economic crisis of 2007 and later even European economic crisis could not affect India much and Indian growth trajectory remained more or less unaffected. International agencies did not alter economic rating of India, through economic rating of European and even USA kept on declining.

However, in the last 2-3 years, health of Indian economy is constantly declining. After achieving a high rate of growth of 8.3 percent in 2010-11; in the year 2011-12 it decelerated to 6.2 percent and now in 2012-13 to only 5 percent. All this indicates at looming dangers on Indian economy. If we try to analyse these growth figures further, we find that rate of growth of manufacturing, which was average 9.3 percent annually between 2004-05 and 2010-11, declined to merely 2.7 percent in 2011-12 and just 1 percent in 2012-13. Though rate of growth of agriculture was maintaining low in the last four years, it has further decelerated to 1.9 percent in 2012-13. Economy had been zooming due to high rate of growth of services, which too has decelerated to only 7.1 percent in 2012-13.

More disturbing is the fact

that manufacturing growth has been roaming around one percent in the last at least 7 quarters. Economy, which was saved from earlier shocks of international upheavals, is no longer in good health. Foreign debt, which was merely US\$ 224.5 billion in March 2009 has zoomed to US\$ 374 billion in December 2012. During 2011-12, a whopping sum of US\$ 31.5 billion was paid out as repayment of interest and principal. Foreign investors too are not behind in transferring money abroad and a huge sum of US\$ 26 billion was sent abroad in the form of interest, dividends, royalties etc. Despite mammoth inflow of foreign exchange due to remittances from non-resident Indian and software exports, our current account deficit (CAD) is going to surpass US\$ 100 billion in 2012-13. This trend is destined to reduce foreign exchange reserves and weaken our rupee. It is notable that in the last one month rupee has slide by more than 5 percent and it may weaken even further. This may worsen our trade deficit and accentuate inflationary tendencies. Declining incomes in the country is affecting demand and thereby weakening the possibilities of reviving manufacturing sector. Under these circumstances, IMF's warning assumes special significance. Economic mismanagement, corruption and misdirected policy of globalization (unbridled imports, blind policy of foreign investment) are behind this slowdown. Policy makers will have to mend these policies. We need to restrict imports especially from China - consumer goods, power plants, telecom equipments; and imports of gold and silver also need to be curbed. Restriction on foreign institutional investors (FFIs) including lock-in-period of at least 3 years may also be useful. Failure to make policy corrections may deepen foreign exchange crisis and may prove IMF's, warning right.

## Admission to PG courses

Prof.Saleem Ayaz Rather

The selection process for admission to various Post graduate as well as diploma courses shall be on the basis of merit in the Entrance Test and on the basis of the Academic performance of the aspirants in qualifying examination. A notification issued by the University of Jammu reads as "Admission to PG Departments of the university of Jammu; Jammu/ campuses/Affiliated Colleges shall be made on the basis of Entrance Test and the academic performance in the qualifying examination respectively. The final merit of the candidates out of 100 shall be calculated by giving a weightage of 40 i.e. marks obtained in the Entrance Test and a weightage of 60 marks to the Percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination- the 60 shall be calculated by giving the weightage of 20% each to the percentage of marks in part I, II, and III. But during the last two years the final merit of a candidate out of 100 was calculated by giving a weightage of 70 i.e marks obtained in the entrance test and a weightage of 30 to the percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination. The 30 shall be calculated by giving the weightage of 10% each to the percentage of marks in part I,II&III separately. Earlier the candidates applying for Masters degree programmes were less than the no. of seats available and in some departments seats used to remain vacant due to non availability of candidates but with the passage of time the no. of candidates applying for post-graduate courses unfolded an increase and selection of candidates for admission to various post- graduate courses was made on basis of merit in the qualifying examination. The academic merit was determined as under. For example a candidate who applied for admission in M.A. sociology, his academic merit was determined by adding the marks obtained by the candidate in the concerned subject in part I, II, & III to the

**If a candidate feels that his/ her answer sheet has not been evaluated carefully and he/ she was sure to be in the merit list but could not find the name in selection list, a provision be introduced in which Xerox copies of the Answer Sheet/detailed result can be provided to the candidates after charging some amount of fee as may be fixed by the university.**

total marks obtained by the candidate in the qualifying examination. For example if a candidate had 102 marks in part I in sociology 100 in part II and 105 in part III, their total became 307 these marks were added to the total marks obtained by the candidate in the qualifying examination which is for example 930 then the final merit of the candidate becomes 1237 out of 2100. Thus the select-list would be released on the basis of this final merit and the candidates were given one or two day-time to join their respective departments and if any candidate failed to join within the stipulated period, the candidate next in position of merit used to be considered for admission. Now since Entrance Test has been introduced in order to make the admission process more transparent and there is no doubt that lot has been done in making the university a seat of excellence. The academic calendar and examinations are being conducted in time and timely announcement of results have added one more feather to the successful functioning of the University that has sent across a great relief to the deserving students especially hailing from the far-off areas of the state. The pattern of admission has been added as one of the most positive contribution to the medication process of the University Calendar. An other step taken by Jammu University is that the Question- Booklets are retained by the candidates after the examination is over, this will help the candidates to maintain the record of correct answers marked by them and thus they will be pre-disposed to expect and accept their fate. Not only this, the university authorities have also decided to publish the answer key in all disciplines that will again also help the students to know their merit in the entrance test.

Some suggestions that need considerations are as under It would be better if the entrance test were of 100marks-80 marks allotted to the concerned subject and 20 marks for the general questions without giving any weightage to the Academic performance since in most of the universities where entrance test are conducted, the merit of the candidate is determined on the basis of Entrance Test whereas in some universities Entrance Test is followed by the Viva-voce/ interview which is the most controversial part of the selection where, as per the general perception, the favoritism-factor plays its ugly role in the selection but university of Jammu has done a marvelous job by substituting the Viva-voce part by giving 60% weight age to the Academic merit leaving no room for any favoritism as the candidate can easily calculate the 60% weightage given to their academic merit.

The setting of Question Booklets followed by evaluation of answer Sheets should be handed over to some independent Agency outside J&K state so as to maintain secrecy throughout the entire process.

3) If a candidate feels that his/ her answer sheet has not been evaluated carefully and he/ she was sure to be in the merit list but could not find the name in selection list, a provision be introduced in which Xerox copies of the Answer Sheet/detailed result can be provided to the candidates after charging some amount of fee as may be fixed by the university. By doing so more and more transparency will be maintained.

The entrance Test centers be Setup at District headquarters as has been done during the last two years so that students from far flung areas may not feel any problem since mercury reaches its climax during these months.

(The author is HoD Zoology Govt College Thannamandi)

## Constituting JK Minority Commission

Sir,

It is reported that the Chairman, Minority Commission, Government of India, has suggested to the Jammu and Kashmir Government to constitute a Minority Commission, it is also reported that the JK Government has reacted positively to the suggestion. In this context I recall to my mind April 17,2007 when the then Chief Minister of the Jammu and Kashmir State, Ghulam Nabi Azad, had promised at the Easter function organized by the All Jammu and Kashmir Catholic Sabha that his Government was contemplating setting up of a Minority Commission in the State. Unfortunately, the promise has not been translated into reality till date.

Minority rights have gained greater visibility and relevance all over the country. The Jammu and Kashmir State is no exception to it being a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society. Diversity of all types is the very soul of the State. It is in this context that minority rights have assumed added significance in post-independence Jammu and Kashmir State. Though the State is predominantly Muslim, Hindus, Kashmiri Pandits,

Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists are the minorities. The Constitution of India has given recognition to a number of languages in the Eighth Schedule and there are five religious groups which have been given the official status of National Minorities, namely, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsees. The framers of the Constitution bestowed considerable thought and attention upon the minority problem in all its facets and provided constitutional safeguards. Nothing of this nature is provided in the Constitution of the Jammu and Kashmir State. It is of interest to note that even the term "Secular" is absent from the Preamble of the JK State Constitution though every political leader parrots the term in his day to day utterances. Consequently, the progress of minorities in the State is beset with problems including those of prejudice and discrimination.

Therefore, for safeguarding the Minority Rights the Minority Commission for the State is a must.

Yours etc.....

Predhman K Joseph Dhar,  
Chief Spokesperson,  
All JK Catholic Sabha,  
Jammu .

## Initiative for tourism

Sir,

Tourism in the State has led to the development of the whole service industry including transportation, hospitality, camping, retail, horticulture, and in the SME (small and medium enterprises). The State is having three distinct regions, and these regions have to be looked distinctively. Each region has different perspectives, culture, language, people, tourist spots, etc.

It is quite essential to keep this in mind while formulating the policies, plans, etc. Tourism is the backbone of the State of Jammu & Kashmir as almost half of the economy depends upon tourism but there are no solid policies to engage the tourism professionals under different programs undertaken by the State Tourism Department, JK TDC and different district development authorities. Moreover, the Government has been indifferent towards creating awareness among the people about significance of tourism as an important subject to be a part of the education at the high secondary and colleges level.

No necessary measure has been taken by the State Government till date in this connection. Even the subject is not in the list of competitive examination such as KAS and JK PSC. Therefore, due to these circumstances tourism professionals have got demoralized.

Yours etc....

Shah Nawaz Choudhary  
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New Delhi

## Readers Write

### Media and women

Sir,

This has reference to the article 'Media's growing concern about women DE June. There is no doubt that media has played an important role towards empowerment of India. The way media handled the case of Nirbhaya-the girl who was molested by goons in crime capital of India some three months back is praiseworthy.

It was because of media pressure that the Government was forced to enact a new legislation for protecting the interests of women.

However, role of media does not end here. It has to be proactive to bring attention of the Government towards issues faced by women in rural areas where they remain unheeded.

Even after six decades of independence women in villages live a wretched life. They do not have a voice in policy making at home or village level. Though many women Sarpanches have come to the forefront and are playing a key role in socio-economic development of the village. But women in villages have to surmount numerous odds to live a dignified and respected life.

Yours etc....

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Jammu