

# UNION TERRITORY INDEPENDENT

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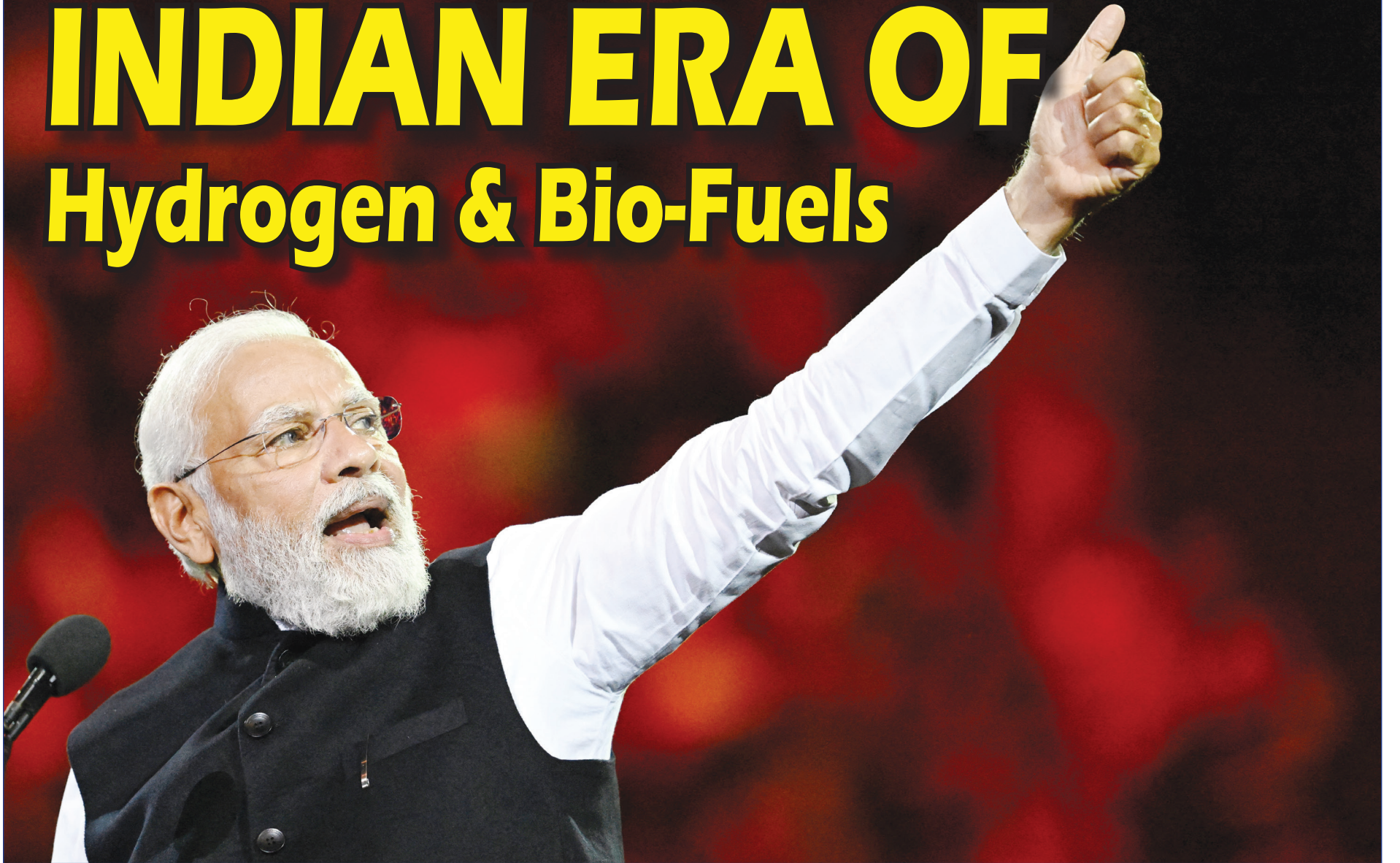
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## INDIAN ERA OF Hydrogen & Bio-Fuels



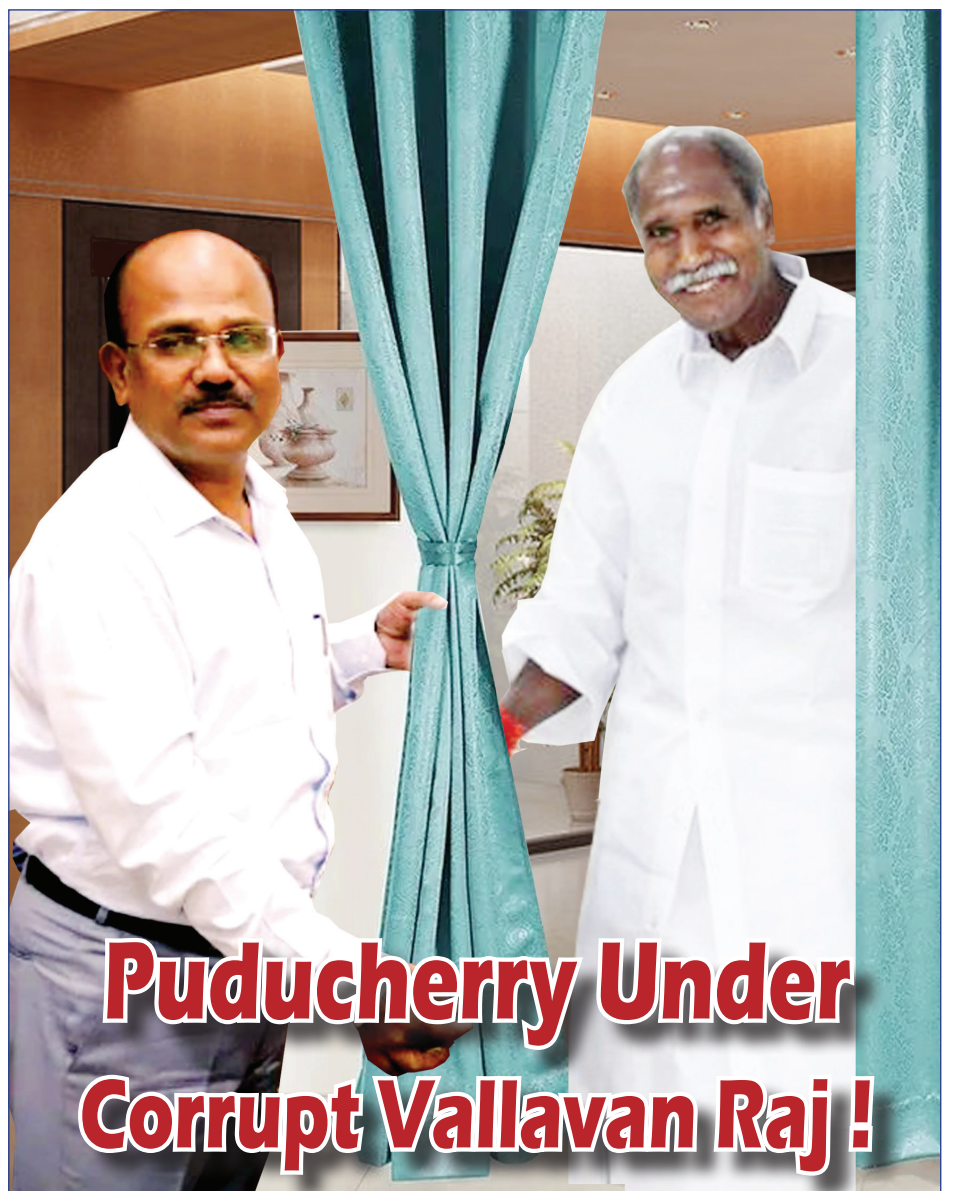
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**Mukesh The New Favourite**



**Puducherry Under  
Corrupt Vallavan Raj !**

**UNION TERRITORY  
INDEPENDENT  
MIDDLE CLASS IRONY!**

Not rich at all, neither are poor. This is the irony of the middle class, the middle income group in India. Per definition a middle-class family is a social group that consists of ordinary people who usually have comparatively decent jobs and are neither rich nor very poor.

They are the first and easy victims group that government targets to fill their exchequer. It is this group of people who literally run the country. It is the money sucked from this class in one form or another, majorly in the name of taxes of all kinds that makes up for the huge percentage of the government exchequer. Yet it is this class that is the target of the government to extract more of whatever little to decent income they get, of which about 30% go to the government as income tax.

In India the middle-class and middle-income group has a little variation in defining the quantum of their possible annual income, all in white, duly reflected in their income documents, no space for manipulations, in the wide glare of all and more importantly the tax sleuths. The age old Government documents define the annual income of this 'scapegoat' targeted victims as from Rs 6 Lakh to 15 Lakh. This is a huge variation. As a first step this definition needs sea change, keeping the changed scenario. All those below the 10 Lakh annual income group are the most affected, with hardly any money left to even pay the government, termed taxes.

Woes of this government target victim group are many. Monetary Problem is one of the most common to deal with. With the slumping economy and the ever-increasing costs of everything from groceries to petrol, can any expect something different? Added to this are the populist games of the government like reservations that deprives true merits of a common man who doesn't, as his ill-fate might tell on him, fall in this premium category of people. With a modest salary that can hardly even cover electricity bills and taxes, the middle-class man faces roadblocks at every step as there's just no money left, no money to save, and no money to buy anything. Education cost and Interest rates on loans are hitting the ceiling; insurance premiums are so costly. The middle-class man only finds himself knee-deep in debts, mortgages, loans and legal fees. Ironically, there is no space for this class even to dream, not of the seventh heaven, but realities in life, future, pursuing ambitions, goals to name a few. A middle class man cannot afford even to cry at his helplessness. Quality and professional education, including the new age tuitions or coaching, costs. A middle-class man cannot even afford to think about it. Not all could be lucky to get scholarships or come in the reservation class of the government. Also, there are additional expenses in terms of mandatory picnics, Industrial Visits, fees for other annual programs etc. But most middle-class children have to do with Government schools and maybe no tuition unless very cheap. In best interest of their wards, several parents even sell off their assets for their children's education thinking that he just might get out of this helpless government targeted group some day. Majority middle-class people cant even afford a medical insurance. Not every doctor is kind, not every clinic is going to waive charges. They don't go to the best hospitals and clinics, they don't get the best treatments, in short they're not in the best hands. Can one imagine the pains of person who can't get the best treatment for their loved ones? Keeping updated with growing and fast changing technology is yet another space that is eating up the income of a middle class man. People having jobs should necessarily have a smartphone, laptop and internet as it is a necessity, not luxury. For children in schools parents have to cough up costs on e-learning which requires tablet or smartphone. There are still other gadgets and things like hi-fi laptops, pads, Smart TV sets, microwaves, ovens, washing machine and the likes, though necessary, they cannot afford. All these have an adverse monetary effect on Indian Middle-class family. A middle-class family is always overlooked, ignored, sometimes even spoken to and treated badly in the society and the government. Their woes and opinions leave alone hearing, are never asked. They are always in tension to find ways to earn more. Expectations of socializing and pressure of fulfilling their parents dreams tenses the children as well, of a middle-class family. A middle-class man only faces unending disappointments, heartbreaks and ego-bruising instances to deal with. This ruins his family life and peace. Will the government ever attend to their woes, ironies in life? Unlikely. Irony will always continue in middle class. That is the Indian common man for you.

S H A Badshah

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**INDIA'S FIRST  
'HYDROGEN' TRAIN**



Indian Railways initiates "Hydrogen for Heritage" project, plans to operate 35 Hydrogen trains named 'Vande Metro' for a greener future.

India will get its first hydrogen train by December 2023 or early 2024 which will be completely indigenously manufactured. Meanwhile, Vande Metro will enable people living around big cities to travel to and fro in comfort between their place of work and hometowns. The first Vnde Metro is to undergo field trials on the Jind-Sonipat section of Northern Railway, to start with which would be expanded to other sections of the railway network. Through the implementation of hydrogen-powered trains, the railway network in India has the potential to become a role model for environmentally conscious transportation worldwide, making significant strides towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly future. Initially estimated at an

expenditure of Rs 80 crores per train and Rs 70 crores per route for ground infrastructure, the project marks a significant investment in sustainable transportation.

Union Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw revealed that Indian Railways has awarded a pilot project worth Rs 111.83 crores for the retrofit of a hydrogen fuel cell on an existing Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) rake, in addition to the associated ground infrastructure. This pilot project is scheduled to operate on the Jind-Sonipat section of the Northern Railway. The Hydrogen for Heritage project aims to revolutionise the railway industry by incorporating hydrogen fuel cells as an alternative to diesel engines. The project also promotes clean energy sources with the aim of minimising harmful pollutants. India would be only next to Germany to operate its Hydrogen Train Network.

By utilizing hydrogen fuel cells instead of diesel engines, these trains emit zero carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter, making them a far more environmentally friendly option. The introduction of hydrogen-powered trains will pave the way for a cleaner greener future.

With the "Hydrogen for Heritage" initiative, Indian Railways is taking a significant stride towards embracing innovative and eco-friendly technologies. By adopting hydrogen fuel cells in their operations, the railways not only promote a greener environment but also set a precedent for sustainable transportation across the country.

Indian Railways has taken the lead. It is for others like the car other manufacturers to taken this forward. Tata Motors and Ashok Leyland are said to have already started their research and work on Hydrogen-driven vehicles. More should soon follow.

**AAI CAUTIONS ON JOB FRAUDS**

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued a caution notice to the public, addressing the youth in particular, on fraudulent job offers.

AAI has said that numerous complaints have been reported through emails, social media, and other channels on fraudulent offers of jobs with the aviation ministry and related departments, especially in exchange for money. Misinformation includes details about the number of vacancies, key exam questions, exam dates, result publication dates, and false promises of jobs in exchange for payment. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has issued a press release cautioning the public about fraudulent job offers circulating across the country. AAI emphasized that all application fees are payable only during online registra-



tion, and no other payments are solicited at any recruitment stage.

This caution by AAI is intended that people not fall victim to such falsehood. However, it is to be noted that job for cash is not new. This has been going on for decades in some way or the

other. Fraudsters always find ways to circumvent the government guidelines to achieve their goals of illicit income, looting the youth who are desperate to get a regular income source. If a government job, more better it is for these innocent youth. But nothing of this sort happens without the connivance of the unscrupulous government servants.

It is important that not only the people are educated against tricksters and fraudsters and their ways but the governments with the intelligence agencies should fast check on these and detect loopholes in the recruitment rules and plug them for good and forever. It is also necessary to form such stern laws to punish such scamsters so hard that none dare to even think of committing such crimes.

# DIPLOMAT Par Excellence

Indian Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar undeniably is the outstanding and best ever Foreign Ministers India ever could boast of. There was no one like him before. He is undisputedly the Foreign Minister par excellence. He is the Foreign Minister who made India stand its ground strong, clear and respectful telling the world that this is New India cannot be bullied and or taken for granted.

EOM Jaishankar is one of the best picks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his inner circle team. No one could have ever suited better than Jaishankar for the most sensitive and all important job he is entrusted with. In the turbulent times, when international relations had been turned upside down by the world super powers, Modi had picked someone who not only is a keen analyst of this global flux, but also who understands PM Modi's mindset, his vision for India in this new global order and the games of the global superpowers to maintain their dominance in one way or the other. Prime Minister Narendra Modi sprang a surprise over when he appointed Subrahmanyam Jaishankar as External Affairs Minister in his second term in late May 2019. None else could have been most suitable than Jaishankar to head the foreign ministry given his illustrious career in the Indian Foreign Service, having held prestigious assignments like that of foreign secretary and served as Ambassador to China and the US earlier. Perhaps the ministerial assignment came as a surprise to him, too. After retiring from foreign service, Jaishankar had started writing his book *The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World*, which was released in 2020, which surprisingly had several references to great Indian real life documented epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata.

A career and scholar-diplomat carrying a clean image personally enjoys close rapport with majority of his counterparts globally, naturally is also the most trusted minister of PM Modi cabinet. Soft spoken, but an extremely effective speaker, spells calculated but never minces words. This is the reason why the global media finds him a tough nut to crack as he talks strong with pride of New India, while the world was still seeing from the age old broken and shattered prisms. When EOM Jaishankar began his polit-

ical career, he carried with him the unmatched and outstanding credentials of rich professional experience to guide the nation's foreign policy at a time when spectacular changes were taking place in an "uncertain world". He has taken pains to emphasise India's long-held belief in the advocacy of multilateralism, working as close, dependable and strong partners, in the conduct of international relations. Needless to say that India's first Prime Minister Pt Jawaharlal Nehru was the architect of Indian foreign policy who emphasised the need for multipolarity and multilateralism, which led to the non-alignment policy then that still continues. EOM Jaishankar knows the ins and outs and the nitty-gritty of foreign policy drivers of every country, and hence is aware who is what and how to deal with them, respectfully and at the same time strongly standing on our own grounds on our own strength that is second to none globally. A career and scholar-diplomat with wide global experience has taught the world that this is New India and cannot be lectured anymore. EOM is strongly committed to a rule-based international order, along with his emphasis on the need to get out of the Cold War prism, indirectly attacking the opposition parties, sections of the media and academia whom he sees as prisoners of that mindset still.

One of the bold moves was to disband the United Nations Military Observer Group to demonstrate and tell the world India is stronger now and pursues its own policies with total clarity, more so to tell all India does not need interventions and it is time for them to leave. Jaishankar played key role on this bold and important move. India buying oil and gas from Russia despite the West sanctions owing to their military intervention in Ukraine, speaks of stronger India with independent policies and philosophies and that the world cannot dictate or lecture us anymore. Europe is called a 'Normative Power' were they tend to create norms and systems and make the world believe, in fact convince, that they are correct and the best. They will tell you how the countries have to conduct themselves and their affairs. They will tell you whether your system is good and or transparent or not. They will tell you if you are liber-

al or not. Surprisingly many in the world believed and still majority are convinced, out of faltered foreign policies or a possible fear. In fact Europe and West have the same mindset, imposing on other countries what they want and is beneficial to them. They are not bothered about the world. West has been intervening everywhere in the world. They do things that suit them, even if it is to bypass their own created systems. They created United Nations. But it is only for the world. They will bypass all if it does not suit them. They in fact create new alliances and bodies to intervene, like they did in Iraq and Afghanistan saying they are doing so to bring democracy and good rule there. EOM Jaishankar has stood strong and clear and has told the world that India is not a country to intervene. It is not in Bharat's strategic culture and will do what best suits India and its interests and the people.

EOM Jaishankar turned their table. Who are they to dictate terms on us? Who made them the head of the power? They neither have the economic or military power when counted as individual countries. It was our EOM Jaishankar who mirrored their fault lines that their thinking 'their problems are world's problems and world's problems are not theirs' is wrong and that this has to change instantly. He made sure to push through this reality to them. Our Foreign Minister Jaishankar is making his point that Barat has changed. You cannot take India for granted any more. Undoubtedly, we are standing on our strong grounds. It has taken a very long time, but is happening. EOM Jaishankar has indeed changed the world thinking in such a short time. Indian foreign policy outlook and dealing with countries has gone through a sea-change in the recent past. It is the New India that the world sees now.

A seasoned diplomat having dealt with great powers in his career, EOM Jaishankar, a true nationalist, is sounding the alarm bells that India has its own policies and philosophies and better the world recognize this and deal with Bharat accordingly, with respect and honour. It's really the New Emerging India and EOM Jaishankar is the medium to tell the world of the changing status of the country. EOM Jaishankar is doing India proud.



# VIVEK TASK



Vivek was appreciated for his hard work and intelligent strategies. Now, in recognition of his capabilities, BJP has made him the new Prabhari, State General Secretary of the remote UT of Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) island cluster. The challenges in this A&N island cluster is nothing small. He has to toil to bring BJP back in this territory, where Kuldeep Rai Sharma the Congress MP is riding on a decent popularity among the islanders.

Earlier BJP is said to have lost this territory to the Congress as their choice for a new face at that time dumping the sitting BJP MP, appeared to have gone wrong. But for sure, BJP would not want to repeat the same mistake again. However, the Congress MP Kuldeep has done good work in this island and he has gained in popularity since then. BJP now has to plan strategies to win this seat over from this now popular sitting congress MP.

When a sitting MP is doing well and is rising in his people popularity chart, the new incumbent naturally will have hard times cutting through his popularity. Under the circumstances, the challenges for the new BJP Prabhari Vivek are too high. The stake is also too high for the party where every seat count would matter for BJP in the forthcoming all crucial 2024 general election, to take things light. The BJP Prabhari has to toil and work hard to win people over again. He has to increase the BJP footprints all over. He has to work hard propagating the achievements of the BJP government, educating the islanders on the government schemes and their advantages to them, to list a few. He would be expected to plan effective and inviting strategies to woo the islanders to his side. But having known Vivek Dadhakar, BJP could expect to put up a tough fight to recapture this UT island cluster seat.

A lot is at stake both for BJP and their Prabhari, filled with challenges. Should be too interesting to watch the elections in this remote this time around which has all the characteristics for an interesting election fireworks!

Vivek Dadhakar is a known name in the UT district of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH) as the aggressive BJP State in-charge who is an unmatched election campaign organizer and an expert in political people outreach programs.

As BJP Prabhari of DNH Vivek's aggressive campaigning strategies and highly effective mass people contact programs ensured the victory at that time of BJP candidate Natubhai G Patel, a relatively weaker candidate who was further sliding badly in the popularity chart at that time

in this parliamentary constituency.

It was not the BJP victory that earned him a big name in DNH, Daman & Diu and neighboring Gujarat, but the way he planned to defeat the then all powerful Tribal Leader Mohanbhai S Delkar who had won this seat several time earlier as a Congress and also Independent candidate, against the much weaker BJP candidate. Even the then sitting MP was shocked that how he was defeated by much weaker opponent despite his crowning glory in his UT district.

# KULDEEP FOR Fisherfolk Welfare

UT of Andaman & Nicobar island cluster (A&N) Member of Parliament Kuldeep Rai Sharma has urged for immediate action for the welfare of Baratang Fisher folk in the islands cluster. MP Kuldeep Sharma amplified the urgency surrounding the plight of the Fisher folk community residing in Baratang island. He also listed the series of challenges and urged the centre to address them quickly as they are affecting the livelihood of the fishermen in this island. He has highlighted the issues and immediate action requirement as:

Floating Fiber Jetty Construction at Khari Basti to safeguard fishermen in this area. Construction of Fishing Net Mending Shed. Construction of Fish Landing Jetty to relieve the fishermen who are currently facing innumerable challenges in unloading their catches.

Construction of a 2000-Litre capacity Water Tank near the proposed Fish Landing Jetty to improve water facilities for the fishermen. Fisheries Department to directly supply Fishing Nets and other essential materials to the fishermen complying with government norms and regulations. Forest Department to provide necessary Sawn Timber to facilitate dinghy repairs. Land Allotment to the fishermen to improve their life. Regular visits by the Fisheries Inspector to understand the factual challenges faced by the fishermen community.

The A&N MP Kuldeep Sharma said that these are bare essentials in the area to significantly improve the livelihood of the fishermen in this island. It is indeed heart warming to see the MP going all out to ensure the overall well being of the people of the island.



# 5000 JOBS IN A&N!



Unbelievable has happened in this remote UT of Andaman & Nicobar islands cluster (A&N). In a first ever in this UT of A&N islands cluster over 5000 eligible and qualifying islanders and residents have been recruited for different jobs in the Administration, its Departments and other controlled and monitored wings and units. In a place where rampant corruption was the rule of the day fanned by the unscrupulous officials and where jobs were always for

cash and where officials' nepotism ruled the administration, the Chief Secretary Keshav Chandra, IAS, had taken personal interest, engaged himself and saw through these direct recruitments cutting across the corrupt avenues in the administration. These islanders and residents in this remote UT island cluster have never seen such an honest move to help the unemployed in the island providing them with a regular income that will go a long way to improve their livelihood. The long pending demand of the people of the island are being fulfilled in a phased manner. CS Keshav Chandra is one of the best able administrators with vast experience and is known for providing clean and proactive administration, coming heavily on the corrupt. Since his taking over the Administration people of the island are witnessing several initiatives to improve their lives, solving the problems in a phased manner, but quickly. Electricity and clean drinking water problems the island residents were facing for decades also seeing marked improvement. The Chief Secretary says that he is evolving a system that will ensure that the electricity problem does not arise for the next several years, once the initiatives are completed. It is said that the Lieutenant Governor Admiral D K Joshi, a defence services veteran has given a free hand to the Chief Secretary as he firmly believes that there could be no one else other than Keshav Chandra who could bring in good and clean administration in the island that has long been suffering for focused attention for the welfare and wellbeing of the people of this remote island.

Jharkhand 'the land of forests' known for its beautiful natural waterfalls, hills and holy places is a gold mine of natural mineral resources and is a state in eastern India bordering 5 States of Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. In 1999 Jharkhand was carved out of Chota Nagpur Division and Santhal Pargana Division of South Bihar with few more of Bihar territory added. Jharkhand suffers from what is sometimes termed a resource curse. While Jharkhand accounts for more than 40% of the whole mineral resources of India, 39.1% of their populations are below the poverty line and 19.6% of children less than five years of age are malnourished. Jharkhand is primarily a rural area State, with only about 24% of its population living in cities. It is amongst the leading states in terms of economic growth touching a GDP growth rate above 10.22%.

Plagued with problems of all nature and types, amidst political instability with no party having absolute majority, it was Hemant Shibusoren who took the initiative to bring in opposition parties to form a stable government and became the 5th Chief Minister of this relatively newly formed State. He is the President of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha that fought for a Separate State under his father and previous Chief Minister late Shibu Soren.

Hemant Soren was awarded Champions of Change Award in 2019, for his exceptional work for Dumka and Barhait constituency in the state of Jharkhand, conferred by former Indian President late Pranab Mukherjee at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi on 20 January 2020.

Hemant Soren has come a long way since then. He has got into the pulse of pro-active politics applying the policy of cordial relationship with all including the opposition parties. He was one Chief Minister who stood separate when he attended the President Invite Dinner meeting during the concluding India Presidency G20 summit. His chemistry with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and every other minister, luminaries and delegates at the Presidential dinner struck the lime light making even his allies in the newly formed opposition grouping to fight Modi out.

Into 4 years in the office, the achievement of Hemant Soren as the Chief Minister is impressive. His government achievements include quick issuance of



# TRIBAL CARD

green ration cards to two million people, timely appointment of administrative officers through the rapid publishing of JPSC results, organising the Sarkar Aapke Dwar programme to bring government schemes to the people's doorstep, extending pensions to all, including widows, the physically challenged, and those over 60 years old are some to list. CM Hemant Soren also is ensuring proper education for girls, offering foreign education opportunities to the underprivileged, and guaranteeing 75 per cent of jobs in private companies. His government also formulated stringent laws against use of unfair means during examinations. The Jharkhand CM also is appreciated for the transportation of stranded labourers to their homes

via flights during Covid-19 pandemic, dispatching teams to Uttarakhand to rescue Jharkhand labourers trapped in tunnels and directing the issuance of land papers to forest dwellers under the Forest Right Act, which all go out to prove the care of the government for its people and also form a part of his government's key achievements. CM Hemant's yet another dream scheme of providing 800,000 houses for the poor in Jharkhand, a plan his government intends to execute under the Abua Awas scheme is soon to commence. A passionate badminton player who loves to read books and bicycling, the journey in politics has a bit turbulent despite hailing from a politician family. But he tends to forget everything else when it comes to politics

and the good for his people where his usually introverted self gives way to an astute straight-forwardness which proves politics is not just something that runs in his family but is his own personal passion too.

His cordial relationship with all the parties, allies and the opposition, have earned him credits. He is easily approachable and interacts with the people and party supporters regularly stitching a firm bond between them. His outreach to the people of Jharkhand is amazing, in this tribal dense State that is still to be counted as backward what with 39+% population still under the poverty line despite the State boasting a major natural mineral resources.

Hemant's first tenure as chief minister was short, from July 13, 2013 to

December 28, 2014 when Jharkhand's politics was swayed by the Narendra Modi-wave after the general elections in 2014. But five years then on, Hemant Soren managed to come back to power, that too with a larger majority than before and now five years since his becoming the Jharkhand Chief Minister in 2019, he is firmly in the saddle looking to rule for more terms than any Jharkhand Chief Minister would have ever done before. Bold, outspoken, cordial, low profile but stern on clean administration and passionate for his people and fast-paced development of his State and hailing from Tribal agricultural family, Hemant Shibusoren certainly is the Tribal Card for his alliance partners in politics to win elections in the State.

# MUKESH THE NEW FAVOURATE



Mamata Banerjee-led govt cancels initial pact with Adani Ports for Tajpur project. News-2: Mukesh Ambani commits to infuse 20K crore more in West Bengal Projects. It appears that the honeymoon of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appears to have become sour with Adani group, while she gets a new business suitor for her State in Mukesh Ambani, the Reliance-Jio Chairman. In the 2-day Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) Reliance-Jio Founder and Chairman pledged an additional investment of Rs 20000 Crore in its West

Bengal State projects in the next 3 years.

The BGBS is the state's flagship investment summit. The two-day event had delegates from over 25 countries and business leaders from across India. While BGBS 2022 saw Advani being the darling of the WB CM Banerjee, BGBS 2023 saw Ambani stealing the limelight.

"West Bengal has been one of the largest investment destinations for Reliance. Reliance has invested close to ₹45,000 crore in the state. We plan to invest an additional ₹20,000 crore in the next three years," Ambani said while speak-

ing at the 7th Edition of Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS). Ambani said that the investment will be done in three areas, in digital life solutions, Reliance retail business and bio-energy.

As a further soother to the WB CM Mamata, Mukesh said "As one of the leading private sector investment and employers in West Bengal, Reliance has had an extremely pleasurable experience of doing business in the state. I have no hesitation in recommending Bengal as an ideal investment destination". Mukesh Ambani also added that the Reliance Foundation has taken up a project to renovate and restore the Kalighat temple including the centuries-old heritage structures. Meanwhile, in another development WB CM Banerjee cancelled the intent to award the Tajpur Deep Sea Port Creation and Development project citing reasons of not wanting to take risks on clauses of the contract content whose Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed during the BGBS 2022 summit.

The proposed port in Tajpur, which is around 170 km from Kolkata has a deep draft of 12.1 metres

and is expected to create 25,000 jobs directly besides indirect jobs which would touch a lakh, the state government had said last year.

Billionaire Gautam Adani had attended the Bengal Global Business Summit 2022, following which the deal was finalised. Gautam Adani, who was the star attraction of the last summit, had promised additional investment of Rs 10,000 crore in the state in sectors of port infrastructure, data centres and undersea cables, warehouses and logistics parks.

The LoI was handed over to Adani Ports CEO Karan Adani by WB CM Banerjee in Kolkata in October last year. Gautam Adani had attended the Bengal Global Business Summit 2022, following which the deal was fixed.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said that the state government will "dissolve" the letter of intent (LoI) that was handed over to Gautam Adani-controlled Adani Ports last year to develop the Tajpur deep sea port.

She said that her government will soon reopen the tender process inviting fresh bids for the Rs 25,000-crore Tajpur deep

sea port project

"There is a proposed deep sea port at Tajpur. That is ready. You can participate in the tender. This will attract an investment of \$3 billion or Rs 25,000 crore " Banerjee said recently.

In March 2022, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone had emerged as the highest bidder in a tender floated by the government ahead of Sajjan Jindal-promoted JSW Infrastructure.

On October 12, 2022, Karan Adani, son of group founder Gautam Adani and CEO of APSEZ, came to Calcutta to accept the LoI from the Bengal government. The project also involved the establishment of a new port and an adjacent industrial zone.

The government is yet to sign a formal concession agreement with the conglomerate. Under the project, the group was supposed to develop the greenfield port on design, build, finance, operate and transfer basis.

Amabani or Adani, its all about money inflow and it is to State's advantage triggering a fast-paced development and provide employment to thousands of youth.

# Reliance Patronises Anshu

Reliance's Jio appear to have made a good decision in cornering Anshu Prakash, the retired 1986 batch civil servant of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) cadre of Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre to bolster their telecommunication business.

Prakash earlier had served as the Chief Secretary of Delhi who had a bitter spat with the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. The Chief Secretary was allegedly manhandled by the goon members of the Delhi Legislative Assembly from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in February 2018 at a midnight meeting in Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence. over his work style and tough stands adhering to the services laws for the good of government administration. This had set off a prolonged tussle between the state government and the bureaucracy.

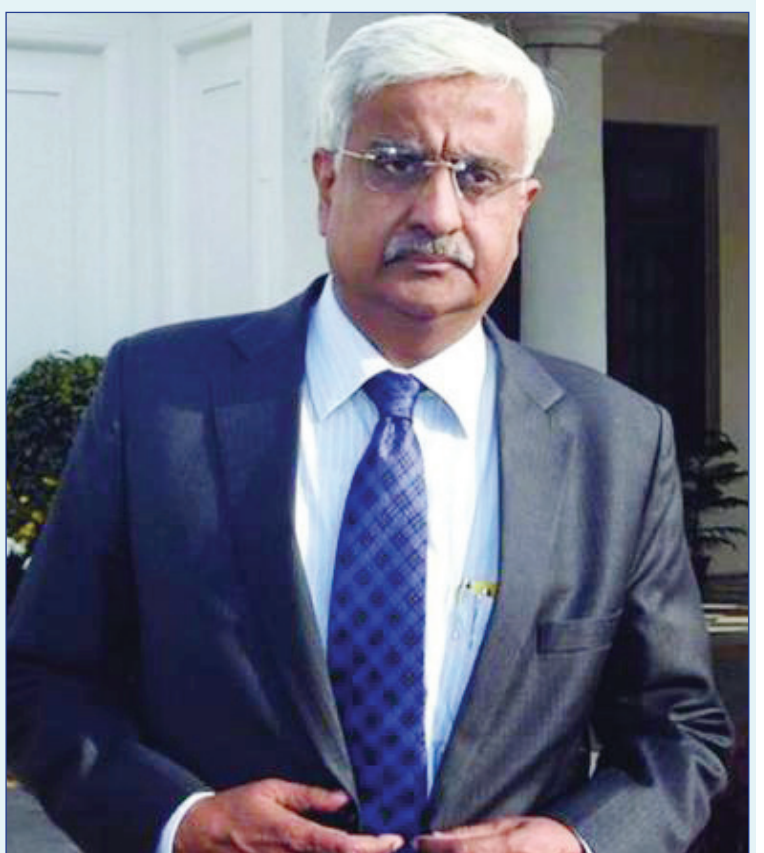
He then was transferred and served as Additional Secretary in the telecom department of the Ministry of Communications from 2019 till his retirement in 2021. In his long illustrious career Prakash has served in various key positions for both the Government of India and the governments of his cadre.

Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), Additional Commissioner Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Chairman and Managing Director of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Director in the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs in the Indian government are some of his previous roles while in government service.

Prakash an economics graduate from the St. Stephen's College and an

MBA from the Faculty of Management Studies at the University of Delhi is said to have handled the challenging situations in the telecommunication department well at that time, earning all round appreciation. He is said to have managed well the plan implementation of the making of the spectrum auction a success and the revival of the two public-sector telcos, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), say industry experts. Reliance has since been eyeing him to associate him with their business.

His long illustrious career in the government has earned him a name and is considered an Administrative expert with wide knowledge of the telecommunication industry. It is said that he was being approached by several multinational companies and Indian Corporate Houses to guide them in their businesses.



Eventually, Reliance Jio cornered this experienced ex-IAS government official. His expertise, experience and exposure in the telecommunication indus-

try and the government is expected to add strength to the Reliance Jio's telecommunication business, who as such is a lead player in this sector.

## CABINET ON WHEELS!

# VIJAYAN VIJAY YATRA

Election times makes politicians do things after their vanishing act from the voters after the elections are over. All become conspicuous to the voters, who for years might not have shown their faces in their own constituencies. But elections bring them all back to their home areas. Those who have shunned public while in power, with elections round the corner now start showering love and concern to the people of the constituency. But some do it smartly and at someone else's cost. If good, could be appreciated.

It is all important for the left party to corner minimum 24-28 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 elections to keep its upper hand for bargaining in the newly formed opposition grouping I.N.D.I. alliance after the elections and in case they manage to get the number to form the government at the centre. In a bid to strengthen its foothold and outreach to the people of Kerala to ensure it bags the maximum LS seats in the forthcoming crucial 2024 general elections, Kerala CM Vijayan has come with a brilliant events-filled program termed "Nava Kerala Sadas" (New Kerala Meeting).

In a first among Indian States, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan along with his Cabinet Ministers started a month-long Cabinet-on-Wheels tour across Kerala. The "Nava Kerala Sadas" yatra will travel from one district to another, covering all 140 Assembly segments in an outreach programme unprecedented in the history of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government. This Kerala CM yatra comes close on heels after the week long review meeting organized by the government nearly a month ago.

Starting from village Paivalike in Kasaragod in the far north of the state, on November 18, the 21-member Kerala Cabinet led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has set off on a state-wide yatra that is expected to continue for the next 36 days, ending in Thiruvananthapuram on December 23.

Through this yatra the government is to highlight "achievements" to the people, and explain how it has kept afloat despite the "stifling financial policies" of the BJP government at the Centre.

The Opposition has alleged that the yatra, being undertaken at the state exchequer's expense ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, is "politically motivated".

Across Kerala, the state government has started organising events and making arrangements

for the event. Flash mobs, marathons, football contests, yoga shows and meetings of entrepreneurs have been planned along the way.

There is a mix of politics and governance in the "Nava Kerala Sadas" schedule. While local officers will hear complaints from the public at multiple counters to be set up wherever the Sadas pitches tent, Vijayan and his team will interact with select people, leaders of various religious groups, businessmen and other influential individuals. All complaints will be registered, progress updated in two weeks and relief to registered complaints provided within 45 days, officials said.

In Kerala, leaders of both the CPI(M) and the Congress are used to conducting state-wide political yatras ahead of elections, to test the battle-readiness of cadres and party machinery. But Vijayan's Cabinet-on-Wheels is different. For the first time, the state machinery, led by the chief secretary, is going to keep the Cabinet on the move.

Such interactions, expected to take place every day of the yatra, are mainly aimed at improving the Left's links with locally influential people.

That apart, at public meetings of 3-4 a day, Vijayan and his colleagues will highlight the achievements of the LDF government over the last seven years, apart from making commentary on national issues that are expected to target the BJP and the Congress.

Opposition to such moves by the government are only expected. Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Assembly, V D Satheesan of the Congress, said, "What issues will this Nava Kerala Sadas consider, when the state is facing a grave financial crisis and people are in deep trouble? Welfare pension has not been paid for 52 lakh beneficiaries in the last four months. Farmers are in debt due to the state's procurement policy. This is a luxury tour at the expense of tax payers hard earned money."

When Congress CM Oommen Chandy had conducted a similar mass contact programme in 2013 by hearing complaints directly from the public, not only had the CPI(M) boycotted it, but also protested the event. Vijayan, the then CPI(M) state secretary, had said Chandy was doing the job of a village officer and all at government expense. Vijayan is doing the same, but with a difference and in a new style!



# INDIA'S BIGGEST TOURIST VESSEL



India soon to get its first first and biggest-of-its-kind tourist vessel to be built in Kerala. The number of seagoing vessels that operate from Kochi has been increasing over the years, commensurate with the increase in the number of boat jetties at Marine Drive.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari is launched the tourist vessel "Classic Imperial", touted to be the first and biggest-of-its-kind tourist vessel built in Kerala, at Marine Drive. This amazing tourist vessel was built in over three years on land leased from

the Cochin Port Authority at Vallarpadam.

This 50-metre-long fully air-conditioned vessel adheres to all the safety norms specified by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). It is designed to carry up to 150 passengers and will operate in the backwaters off Marine Drive.

It will be among the handful of tourist vessels from Kochi that can operate well beyond Fort Kochi, a few kilometres into the sea, said Nishijit John, managing director of Neo Classic Cruises and Tours, which owns the vessel and has been operating another five tourist boats here.

# Navas Bats For Fishermen

Navas was in the news recently for his diplomacy for the release of the fishermen and their boats caught by the Sri Lankan authorities, which has of late become a regular happening in the high-seas.

Kani K. Navas is a socio-political worker from Indian Union Muslim League who serves as the Member of Parliament Loksabha from Ramana-thapuram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu. He is a member of Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare and Consultative Committee, Ministry of Shipping.

Navas has been with the Indian Union Muslim League (IML) for over a decade now and has served as the party's State Official Advisor.

Navas the young leader, one of the four Indian Union Muslim League members in the Indian Parliament is also the first Indian Union Muslim League Member of Parliament Loksabha from Tamil Nadu, defeating his closest BJP rival Nainar Nagenthran in 2019. A good orator is politely aggressive towards issues facing his people and the community and once had dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to contest from his constituency.

A prominent Leader of IML from Tamil Nadu is a committed social activist too and has been fighting for the interests of the fishermen. His constituency is home to fishermen of his area and they have long been issues high-seas when they go fishing for their livelihood. It was normal that some of them



are captured by the Sri Lankan authorities while on fishing missions and it takes long time to get them released from their custody. The fishermen and their leaders have long been fighting over their right to fishing issue with Sri Lanka.

IMU leader Navas attended a DMK-led meeting recently with the Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muralidharan raising serious concerns of frequent occurrences of Sri Lankan navy capturing Indian fishermen and even destroying their boats resulting huge losses to them and loss of livelihood of these fishermen whose income is based on their catches from high-seas.

Navas was in Sri Lanka recently to attend a meeting. He had gone as IUL attendee. He took the opportunity to meet Alis Sabry, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. He raised the issue of Indian fishermen rights with the Sri Lanka and also raised the issue of In-

dian fishermen currently in the custody of Sri Lankan authorities and urged him to immediate action to release them quickly along with their boats. The Sri Lankan minister is said to have assured him of their early release and that he would discuss with his team to seek a lasting solution for this issue.

Navas has been instrumental in triggering the win potential of Indian Muslim League in Tamil Nadu. As it stands today IUL is in a position to win at least two Parliament seats from Tamil Nadu. IML an ally of Congress led UPA front has seen increase in their footprints among the community in the recent past. Navas's regular people-outreach programs have been very effective and his regular interaction with the people of his area and his cordial relationship with the workers, ally partners and even the opposition parties have made him a popular leader that his workers and supporters adore him for.

# CJI: Should Not Be Afraid Of Courts

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said the common man should not fear approaching courts. The courts are an extension of constitutional governance. For the past seven decades, the Supreme Court has acted as a "people's court". Thousands of citizens have approached its door with the faith that they will get justice through this institution, the Chief Justice said.

CJI D.Y. Chandrachud emphasized that it is the solemn duty of the current generation to keep afloat the idea of India powered by a Constitu-

tion based on the principles of individual liberty, equality, and fraternity. "When we say today 'we honour the adoption of the Constitution', first and foremost, we honour the fact that the Constitution 'exists' and that the Constitution 'works'," the CJI said in his address at the Supreme Court during the Constitution Day celebrations.

Citizens came to the court to seek protection of their personal liberty, accountability against unlawful arrest, protection of rights of bonded labourers, asking for guidelines to prevent sexual harassment at

workplace, prevention of social evils such as manual scavenging, even hoping for interference to get clean air, food security, and so many more instances that cannot be summarised in few minutes. These cases are not just citations or statistics for the court. These cases resemble the expectations of the people from the Supreme Court, as well as the court's own commitment to deliver justice to the citizens," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

Citizens, no matter who they are or where they come from, can simply write to the Chief Jus-



tice of India to set into motion the constitutional machinery of the Supreme Court to get justice. The Chief Justice said the focus of the court has been on making its work accessible to all free

of cost.

The Chief Justice's words are significant as both the Constitution and the Supreme Court are entering the 75th year of their adoption and founding, respectively.



# CONGRESS STILL SLEEPING?

**S.J.A. BADASHAH**

All eyes are on Nov-03 when the canned results of the 5 States those went to polls would be out to tell if Congress party is marching strong towards the crucial 2024 general elections or readying itself for another drubbing. It would then be a hat-trick in getting drubbed at the hands of the smart, intelligent and well informed voters. Voters are not the same as they were two or three decades ago.

Should the party only just scrape through to taste a bit of success in some States, credit surely is not owing to any change in the party strength or its popularity, but would purely be the incumbency mindset factor of the voters and to some extent the misconception of wrong-doings in the current BJP ruled States. But the credit of any success does not go to the party and its leaders at this point. It is unfortunate that majority party leaders have still not learnt the lessons from the two general election drubbings, 2014 and 2019. Should the situation still not change fast, 2024 would sadly be a repeat of the same hammering for this grand old party. The leaders and the contesting MLAs still are in the same mirage world that Rahul Gandhi alone would make them win supported by the money they spend on voters and the campaigns. Sadly not. Rahul Gandhi is certainly working hard to take the party ahead, but he needs seamless support from its

State and regional leaders, which unfortunately is not forthcoming.

As Rahul Gandhi toils hopping locations tirelessly, the leaders are still enjoying themselves with luxury suites and partying in hotels and farm houses. There appears to be total vacuum of hard working honest grass-root leaders who are passionate about the party and winning elections with team efforts and spirit. Rahul Gandhi unfortunately is not a magician. He needs support to take forward his efforts. There hardly are any efforts to revamp the party. The office bearers and State leaderships are the same old and influential lot who are close to those at the top. No thrust on young leaders as dirty suppression game goes on in the party. Clinging to power has become the norm in the party, not caring for the party good at all anywhere at any level. Needed state and district level leadership changes are not happening. It is the same old partying scenario that is continuing. With the crucial 2024 general elections just few months away and all State elections over, it is now for the Congress party bosses to introspect, review and come out with strong winning strategies and have honest and party good oriented winning grass root leaders in the team to take the message of the party to the people.

People want the Congress to win, but are tired and sick of the same old faces in the party with no apparent trend-setting changes in

the party composition, its outlook and outreach to the voters. Party workers still remain the same ignored lot. In short everything and every leader, from bloc, district to State levels have become absolutely materialistic and self-gains oriented. The possible prospective candidates are helpless and also think wrongly that they can win with Rahul's photograph and the party symbol in the posters. This will not be so.

In fact the allegations that elections tickets to prospects are majorly based on the stronger who are willing and have the resources to spend more and more for the party and the campaigns. This is undoubtedly unhealthy for the strong sound health of the party.

The party President Mallikarjun Karge also has not been proactive. It is the same lethargic attitude. Just sitting still in Rajaji Marg bungalow does not make the party win. Just being foul mouthed to utterances against Prime Minister Narendra Modi to please his party bosses does not make the Congress party stronger to be able to win elections hands down. The party that calls it self secular is only plagued by the caste syndrome. Party President Karge has done nothing to enthuse party workers or strengthen the party at all levels. All grass-root level mass leaders still face the same royal ignorance from the party, especially the Party President. The regional and state level current office bearers would naturally not

allow such leaders to come to the fore.

The party still does not have grass-root based Brahmin face whose voters are in millions. Able and mass leaders like Manish Tiwari and Promod Tiwari are put in the back burners, not being given even a cosmetic people-interaction oriented prominence. Congress has had no mass grass-root level Brahmin leaders, like Janardhan Reddy, who were stalwarts and had the capacity to woo voters all the time to their camp. Why no Brahmin face has been brought to the front by President Karge?

No strong grass-root level mass leaders have been brought to the fore to entice the dalit vote bank. There is none to name from the Tribal community either. Is the party not losing on all these fronts? Why Karge is sleeping over these all important needs of the party? If he is so passionate about the party why no visible action is forthcoming from him? Just sitting from the luxury of Rajaji marg will serve no good purpose for this grand old party that the people really want. None have seen him interact freely with the workers and supporters or bloc and district level leaders.

It is sad to see the party clamoring around and promoting as leaders who are high-profile and from the bureaucracy, who have no idea or knowledge about the party functioning at grass-root levels. Unfortunately the Congress party is only creating a IAS and IPS lobby within the party which will serve no good in long terms. They may have money and administrative abilities, but they know nothing about handling and interacting with the party workers and the people at lowest levels in the party cadre. This party has become home for the cash-rich high profile who are joining only to use the party for self-gains.



Just pleasing Rahul Gandhi with misleading advises and status of the party in the country and moving hands from the luxury of Rajaji Marg does no good either for the party, its top bosses or the President himself.

Congress party President Karge himself has risen from the grass-root level. He knows the pulse of the workers at all levels in the party and the party hierarchy. He knows well what is wrong where and how to plug the holes. He knows the power of motivating workers and the leaders. He is a seasoned politician and has seen generations in the party. If the bosses have entrusted the Party mantle to him reflects the amount of confident and faith they have in him. It is time for him to act and revive the party fast to make it 2024 elections battle ready.

Wakeup call was sounded in 2014. Nothing happened. Same wakeup call was in 2019. Still nothing happened. Crucial and prestigious 2024 is just few months away. Still nothing is happening. When will the party President wake up to address the burning needs of the party to make it return to its winning streak era as it was few decades ago? Will it or not?

## Ignoring Services Personnel

Congress Party never tries to learn from mistakes of the past. It has been ignoring to give prominence and responsibilities to leaders and people who are honest, hard working, clean and extremely passionate about the party and party doing good for the people of the country.

It is not sufficient just to say that the party represents progressive soul of India, but it also has to demonstrate in actions and bringing on board the hard working and honest leaders who understand party cadres, which is non-existent now, and who knows the pulse right from the grass-root level. But of late Congress has become a home for games of caste and rich and high-profile.

The party President despite having risen from

grass-root level has been ignoring key initiatives those will increase the love for the party and catapult it to seats of power again. Leave alone the ignorance being shown for good honest leaders from Brahmin community, Dalits or Tribals. The party is ignoring even the most important ex-Servicemen Cell, wing, of the party. Party should not forget that service personnel votes are in millions, with each of their family members included.

The appointment of Colonel Rohit Chaudhry (Retd), a trusted man of Haryana's former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, getting the posting of Chairman of AICC ex-Servicemen wing was not received well among the party workers and leaders, especially the defence services personnel who long

have been supporting the party. Even for theory, since his appointment to this important party wing, what has he done for the party in the last 6+ months of his appointment, ask the loyal workers of the party.

Of course there is no denying Col Chaudhry is high-profile with possible administrative exposure. He hails from a family of bureaucrats and doctors and is high profile and cash-rich, but has no party experience required for this respectful position in the grand old party. What party requires is honest people with party experience and has been attached to the party or have done good work among the voters hailing from defence background. When it comes to the party good and functioning and functionaries, caste and favours should

have no role to play. But Col Chaudhry's appointment directs only at castism playing the role as he hails from former CM Hooda's caste and has been appointed, but not on merits and experience in party affairs.

More surprising is Col Chaudhry's appointment comes just in 6 days of the demise of the previous Chairman of the ex-Servicemen cell, Late Maj Ved Prakash. Why was this hurry? Why caste played the role and not the credentials. Possibly this is the first time ever in Congress party history a sensitive appointment has been made on caste-basis and not on merits.

It is a curse on honest workers of the party to get pushed back, put in the backburner. Despite election drubbings the party refuses to learn that the party needs people who can work at grass-root level. What has happened to Capt Praveen Davar ex-Army of-

ficer, a war veteran, editor, political analyst and deeply committed to unity of secular forces and a loyal Congress party worker, after his illustrious service in the Congress Party for 40 long years? He was the one who worked seriously and with true commitment among the defence personnel circle and made Congress their priority party. Davar was a known name and organized more than 500 camps. After all his hard work, Capt Davar was sidelined. Yet he worked hard and dedicated. Why his services not being utilized? Because he is not close to the bosses. He was one who was popular among the services personnel and brought their families closer to the party. It is not that what is happening is not known to the party bosses. But it is the way the Congress party works to put the loyal and hard working in the backburner. Will this type of working bring gains for the party?

# Puducherry Under Corrupt Vallavan Raj!



There is no end to scams and mafia raj with the nexus of government servants' news in this UT of Puducherry. This small UT is full of alleged corruption at all levels, from government to Temple land grabbing to allowing polluting units in riverbed to destroy the otherwise bewilderingly beautiful environment of this UT of Puducherry, which is home to several beautiful locations including the most celebrated Aroville township, the city of dawn, and the serene Aurobindo Ashram that vibrates with peaceful atmosphere. Even the French Nationals are not spared.

It is alleged that in Puducherry district alone, land grabbing gangs mafia have grabbed over ₹2,000 crore worth of individual properties. Apart from this, shocking information has come out that the government has expropriated and illegally sold off-shore, barren, lakeside and coastal lands terming as them as salable for commercial and residential purposes, without any concern for environment protections and preservation of natural heritage and the natural beauty. For instance the river-beds are the natural beauty, great for

the environment and tourism and the lands should never be commercialized.

Despite the good humble nature of listening to people's woes and attempting to resolve them, outstanding administrative capabilities and clean image none of the efforts of the Chief Secretary, Rajeev Verma, IAS appear to work. In fact his powers and abilities are being literally clipped by the polity and unscrupulous elements in the UT and the government and of course the favoured top officials of the administration who see him as their speed-breaker to their wrong-doings.

Political parties and local population allege that District Collector E Vallavan is fully and directly involved in these illegal transactions. E Vallavan, IAS from the AGMUT cadre, is the current Puducherry Collector who also holds the charge as Secretary to the Government (Local Administration, Excise, Information and Publicity) and also is the Excise Commissioner of Puducherry district. Every department he holds is rich pasture for minting illicit money. He is the favoured officer of the current Chief Minister N Rangasamy.

It is being alleged that the



key perpetrator of fearless and rampant corruption in this district is Vallavan who is said to be too close with the politicians and especially the Puducherry Chief Minister N. Rangasamy, who hence has knowingly given this corrupt officer the multiple responsibilities of green pasture departments like Revenue, Excise, Local Administration, Excise Commissioner in addition to being District Collector. It is said that wherever allegations of irregularities, land grabbing, fake deed and registration of fake arise in Puducherry, Vallavan's name comes first who has been saving the officials under him smartly based on his closeness with the Chief Minister Rangasamy.

It is to be noted with keen interest that despite several able officers in waiting, this allegedly corrupt official Vallavan has been given charge of key multiple departments. Why? Should be a good matter to delve on and investigate. In fact Vallavan was a promotee as he is a favoured official of the boss of the government.

Now the key prompter reason is out as to why a multi-billion dollar fraud took place in the securities registry under the control of a corrupt Collector of this district. It has come to light that with Vallavan's consent, the District Registrar Ramesh, who works under him, resorted to bullying the questioning victims and openly without fear of any penal action if found, canceled the deed registrations in cases and where and whenever the victims resorted to a solution through the courts. With District Collector Vallavan's support, many people with political backgrounds have boldly encroached on government lands in Puducherry, it is being alleged. The land mafia goons with the local corrupt officials' nexus sold crores worth encroached government land, land and properties of the unwary

French Citizens and even temple land as commercial and residential plots, the allegations go on. Officials under Vallavan's control gave approvals, clearances and NOCs at supersonic speed for the illicit sale and registration of such grabbed, encroached upon and sold plots. The commercial value of the illegally grabbed and sold Temple land alone in Puducherry is alleged to exceed a whopping ₹90,000 crores. For example, to name only a few select, the prime lands of Villayanur Thirukameeswarar, Puducherry Kamatsiyamman, Mana Kula Vinayak, Tiruvetakkudi Tirumeni Alaghar Temple, Kotucherry Kodeeswaramudayar, Thirutelicherry Parvatheswarar Temple, Tirunallaru Shani Bhagavan Temple, Tirupattinam Jadayapuriswarar, Varadarajaperumal and Venkatesap temple were also expropriated. The value of these illegally grabbed or say government annexed land runs into several hundreds of thousand of crores of rupees. Unbelievable that even the God is not spared by these corrupt officials and politicians, very shameful instances. Complicit in these land grab transactions, the Puducherry government, in a hoodwinking action, appointed the Trust Committee and individual officers of the respective constituency MLAs across the state. When this was objected to by many and went to the court for remedy, now the High Court has removed the Board of Trustees and ordered the appointment of separate officers. But the fraudsters are smart and cunning. They know how to circumvent to break the rules, laws and even court orders. As if to comply with the Court Order, civil servants who are relatives, caste members and supporters of local MLAs are appointed as separate officers. How smart but shameful? The govern-

ment-appointed trustees private officers, have seized the temple lands and crores worth of properties entrusted to them for temple dharma works. For instance, the corrupt bureaucracy-polity-mafia (BoPoMa) gang allegedly fraudulently created fake deeds of 64,000 square feet of land worth Rs 50 crore in Rainbow Nagar belonging to the Puducherry Kamatsiyamman temple, applying the lowest possible land sale rates. The land was sold as residential plots.

In an interesting instance, the death certificate of the landowner Muthuswamy was also forged and the fraudulent will was registered in 1995 before a notary named Halil Pasha. BSNL cell phone number of notary was mentioned in this document. Interestingly at that time BSNL had not introduced cell phones in the city. The will also does not contain the details of the witnesses who have signed the will.

The CB-CID police sleuths initiated an investigation into the temple land grab. In this case alone, 17 people including district registrar Ramesh, Tahsildar Balaji and Sub Registrar Sivasamy were arrested. A case was registered against them under Sections 120 (B), 465, 467, 468, 471, 420 of the Indian Penal Code.

In yet another exemplary of rampant corruption and high handedness of the polity in nexus with the corrupt officials on September 22, the documents of one John Richard and his son Vivian Richard, MLAs, were registered by revenue officials in supersonic speed action. Within just three months, the revenue authorities have converted these properties into 'patta'. While petitions for public registration have been pending for years, only few lower level officials have been arrested as scapegoats but no action has been taken against Vallavan, the ring master, it is being alleged. It has been two months since

the BJP MLAs who bought Kamatsiyamman Temple land, the Madras High Court ordered John Kumar and his son Richards John Kumar to appear before the CB-CID inquiry without giving excuses. Madras High Court Judge S M Subramanian, who examined the police report in this regard, said, "It is shocking that government employees are involved in the sale of temple property to private individuals". The CB-CID police found that Sub-Registrar and District Registrar Ramesh and collector Vallavan were involved in these fraudulent transactions. There was a commotion among the high level officials that the same Vallavan was directly involved in fake deed registrations, fraudulent leases, sale of temple properties and government lands. It was because of Collector Vallavan that there was a feud between Chief Minister Rangasamy and Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma. It is being alleged that Collector Vallavan has amassed huge illicit assets and has several prime properties in Tamil Nadu with the illicit money he got through corruption and bribery. It alleged that Collector Vallavan is clinging on to Chief Minister N Rangasamy to escape from the innumerable wrong-doings he has done, investigations, actions and punishments.

Kalapat Kalyanasundaram, a BJP MLA who protested at the gate of the Assembly against the District Collector Vallavan for not paying attention to the people's problem and complaints of rampant corruption in the administration under him. Collector Vallavan allegedly has been responsible for various corruptions and irregularities in the administration, but only few lower level officials have been arrested as scapegoats but no action has been taken against Vallavan, the ring master, it is being alleged. It has been two months since

## FRENCH PARLIAMENT PROTESTS

Puducherry district is the most important of all districts and also the capital of this UT. Puducherry, once was the French colony during the British rule. After India's independence, the French left this place leaving behind innumerable memories in the form of wonderful architectural buildings and greenery all around. Once the French left India, French government then offered option of French citizenship to the residents of this Indian colony and also left all the properties assigned legally to them. While many left to

live in France, there are still many living in this city holding a dual citizenship. The property of those residents who left for France are still being maintained by them and or through their relatives and also are used by them when they visit India once every year on a vacation, religious, family functions and or some other purpose. Many of them were shocked to note that their 'wills' and original documents (Mother Document) had been fraudulently changed, tampered with. In fact the ownership has been totally changed to a

new person. The original wills of them, now French citizens, have been removed from the NIC Portal at the Deeds Offices. Instead, they have uploaded fake documents on the government website (NIC Portal) stating that the will was written in the name of another person, it is said.

It is alleged that properties worth Rs 10,000 crore belonging to Indians, now French citizens, have been expropriated across the state of Puducherry. The issue echoed all the way to the French Parliament. French citizens from

Puducherry in that country also joined the protests. The victims of this land grab fraud also have approached their country Ambassador in India and also have complained to the Indian Embassy in France. Local UT government and the administration have taken no action to restore the properties to the original owners.

However, French nationals are in tears as they are unable to get their assets from the mafia gang for fake bond fraud with the help of the unscrupulous officials in the Puducherry administration.

Jayantkumar Ray IAS was transferred from Delhi to Puducherry, but the talented officer has not been allotted a single department yet. At the instance of Collector Vallavan, Chief Minister Rangasamy has still not allocated any government departments to Jayantkumar Ray. This speaks volumes of the amount of rapport this allegedly corrupt official enjoys with the Chief Minister and other political leaders.

Colletor Vallavan along with his accomplices be immediately suspended or at best transferred to any remote North Eastern States or UT,

all their assets in his, relatives, friends and in benami names be immediately ceased and attached and they all be booked for severe

punishment so that none in the future dare to commit such crimes. Will this happen? Let's watch and see!

## The Smart City Turned Scam

There appears no end to scams and corruption charges in the name of irregularities in the UT of Puducherry. Latest victim is 'smart city' project undertaken by Puducherry Smart City Development Ltd (PSC-DL) under Puducherry government. The moto was to develop and convert the city as a preferred global tourism destination and enhance the quality of life of the citizens by providing efficient urban mobility, smart civic infrastructure, smart service delivery and participative decision making. But six years into this the smart city project is still hanging clouded with allegations of rampant corruption and stalling of the project for a number of reasons, which are not pleasant.

This Rs 2000 Crore project has seen nothing but piling accusations and counter accusations. This project currently literally in a stalled status, after few hundreds have already been spent over this project. Allegations once again point to Chief Minister Rangasamy's favourite officer Collector Vallavan and his high handedness and naturally, alleged irregularities in plan implementation.

This is yet another new scam where Collector Vallavan has been named. In Puducherry, work had started on the 'Smart City' project at

an initial cost of around ₹900 crore now progressing fast towards crossing ₹2000 crore, with 50-50 contribution from the Centre and the UT government. After Chief Minister Rangasamy assumed office, works to the tune of only Rs 200 crore is said to have been done. While the project is scheduled to end by June 2024, projects completion is now where in sight, with over ₹400 crore worth work scheduled has been abruptly halted.

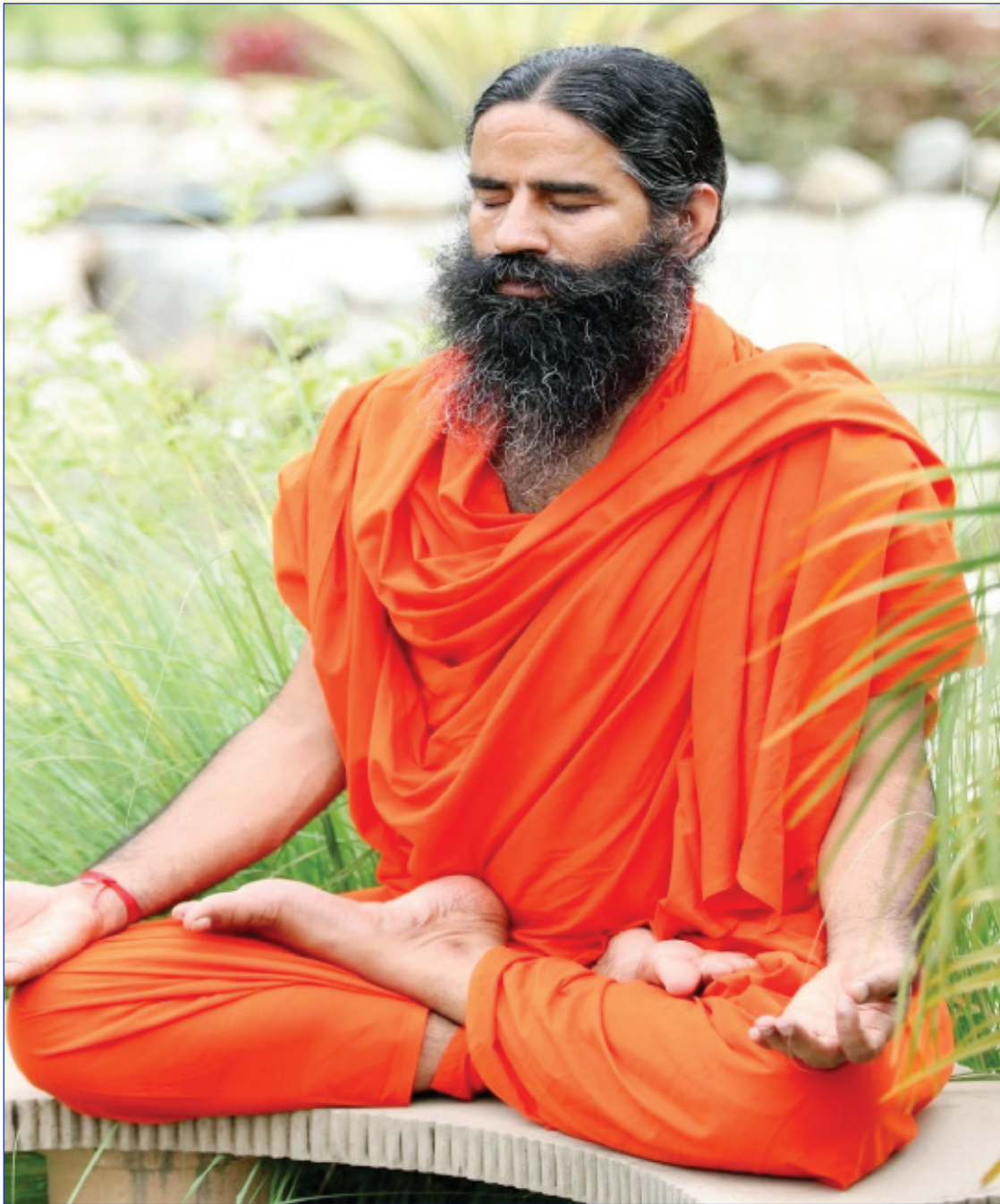
It is said that the Puducherry government does not have enough funds for this project of this pre-budgeted project. With complaints of irregularities, rampant corruption and literal non-movement of this project, it is said that there are talks that the Central government intends to take over this project with 100% funding of this all important project that is of mass good of the city and its residents.

The UT government has ruined the very smart city project which would have created hundreds of jobs and brought in great development to the city. Now this 'smart city' project has become a big scam where hundreds of cores have been wasted. These uttering are of the people and honest officials of the government.

It is being alleged that rampant corruption in award-

ing contracts for this project is hindering the fast-paced development of this project and whatever has been done does not come up to the superior standards and superior quality work, if is alleged. Here too the hand work of Collector Vallavan who is literally the ruler of this city and who is said to have the total support and blessings of the Chief Minister has cropped up. It is again the same cover-up of the corrupt and the rule of the builder mafia at work with the connivance of the unscrupulous officials, blessed by their top boss. The names of Collector Vallavan, Raju IAS, Excise Deputy Commissioner Sudhakar, Chief Minister's Secretary Amuthan are on the table of the Enforcement Directorate in the Puducherry Smart City scam. A special team of Enforcement Department is to visit Puducherry soon to further deep investigate this alleged scam, or say ruining of this important development program though wasteful expenses and corruption. Why all these? Why the corrupt official is not being booted out? Who are all protecting him and his accomplices? The political buzz is also heating up. It is expected that all the involved culprits would be mercilessly booked by the central investigating and revenue intelligence agencies.

# Baba On Medical Terrorism



It is known the world over that pharma mafia uses 'medical terrorism' to earn huge profits and down grade ancient wisdom of ayurved treatments that fights the root causes of the issues, unlike the allopathy.

What is medical terrorism? It is about bullying the users, the patients, terrorizing them to use their manufactured medicines. It is known that the pharma companies will never want to cure their patients fully and at the same time will not want them to die either. If all are cured fully, then the pharma companies make no sales and die. So, more the patients more their sale, more their profits. It is simple medical business logic.

For instance, over 85% of world population are diabetic of one stage or the other. This disease, diabetic, is no more a hereditary transferred one, but a modern lifestyle induced disease. If a pharma company comes out with a permanent cure for diabetic patients, the pharma companies sale of these sugar control medicines

will dwarf and eventually end. This means sales death for the pharma companies making these sugar control medicines. So what they do? Just make sugar 'control medicines' and not 'permanent cure medicines'. Patients live with the problem and the pharma companies flourish as they keep buying in a greed to survive quick death! The same applies in every field of pharma medicines for different ailments. The key moto is "patients should live with the disease" and never be cured.

Another classical example of Medical Terrorism is pharma companies and doctors ganging together to spread rumours that Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's huge push on 'generic medicines' which are way too cheaper than the branded big pharma brands, are ineffective and are produced without any quality control. The generic medicines they know will kill the huge profits that they have been making so far by fooling the helpless patients.

For instance a diabetic medicine Galvus Met 50mg/1000mg Tablet is a combination of two medicines, Metformin (1000mg) + Vildagliptin (50mg), that control high blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes mellitus (also known as non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus) in adult patients. This is to help prevent serious complications of diabetes such as kidney damage and blindness and may also reduce chances of having a heart attack or stroke. A popular pharma brand has priced this @ Rs 348. Whereas the same medicine with 15 tablets strip costs just Rs 50 in the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras, popularly referred by people as PM Care Medical store, costs just Rs 50.00. Look at the whopping profit the pharma company makes just in this one medicine alone.

There are more to this medical terrorism promoted by the pharma-doctors combine mafia, who prescribe premium priced medicines to patients as against low priced or mid

priced medicines, leave alone the generic medicines. The list is endless.

Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev came heavy on the pharma mafia and the practices of 'medical terrorism'.

"Didn't Give False Ads, Ready For Death Sentence If Guilty" said Baba Ramdev of Patanjali.

Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved, a mega Rs 40000 Crore company marching fast-paced to reach 1 Lakh crore soon, said it was not making any "false advertisements or propaganda" regarding its products and respects the apex court and said it would not object if the Supreme Court were to impose a fine or "even give us a death sentence" if found making misleading claims.

This was in relation to a recent Supreme Court observation that cautioned the company against making "false" and "misleading" claims in advertisements about its medicines as cure of several diseases and that the apex court would take it seriously if misleading ads are not stopped. "Patanjali have made thousands of people free from several diseases like BP, sugar, thyroid, asthma, arthritis, obesity, liver and kidney failure, and cancer," the company asserted and added that it has "database with more than one crore people, with real world evidence, preclinical and clinical evidence".

In its statement, Patanjali said, "We would like emphasise that we are not spreading any false propaganda. Hundreds of therapies of Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Panchakarma, Shatkarma, fasting and with the integrated treatment of system, we have made thousands of people free from several diseases like BP, sugar, thyroid, asthma, arthritis, obesity, liver and kidney failure, and cancer."

It further claimed, "We have the world's best research centre on ayurveda, Patanjali Research Foundation, for research on traditional treatment and sanatan knowledge tradition. Where hundreds of world renowned scientists are conducting research, and by following more than 3,000 research protocols, close to 500 research papers have been published in the world's highly reputed research journals."

The company accused

"some stubborn and so-called frustrated doctors of the medical sector, who oppose Yoga, Ayurveda and Naturopathy" have a problem. The Yoga Guru claimed that contents of education for medical sciences are made by 'drug mafia' while with his efforts Yoga and Ayurveda have so far reached more than 100 crore people.

While acknowledging that diseases can be controlled with synthetic medicines, it said "but cannot be cured", this problem of allopathy is not a problem for Yoga-Ayurveda.

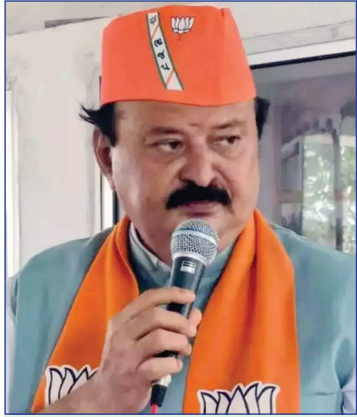
In another statement Yoga Guru, Baba Ramdev has claimed it is truth that after getting doses of COVID-19 vaccine, people developed complications like paralysis, cancer, white-spots, liver and kidney problems, autoimmune disease etc. Under these circumstances issuing guidelines and directions for not giving any scientific documentation on complications of the vaccination is a big scam in itself.

As such in the medical field, many of us have seen many modern practitioners those who are committing 'medical crimes' by installing fake pacemakers and or putting pacemakers on dead patients to show to their people as if the patient is alive and will die if removed, stealing kidneys, taking unnecessary medicines and conducting tests indiscriminately as medical mafia and drug mafia. Patanjali for long has been fighting against them. It is only natural that they would do everything to end the Ayush, naturopathy and yogic ways of permanent cures and find ways to malign them.

IMA, the association of majorly of allopath doctors supported by pharma industry, had alleged a smear campaign by Ramdev against the vaccination drive and modern medicines. Generic medicines and the Ayurved, naturopathy and yoga treatments naturally have hugely dented their flourishing business, inflicting huge losses to them, say informed sources. So their complaint is only natural!

It is time the Health Ministry took note of all these and immediately come out stern laws and reforms to tame the pharma industry of their bullying practices and promote permanent cure treatments as against temporary relief to patients.

## BJP REVAMPS DNH & DD



BJP's Surat West MLA Purnesh Modi appointed as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State in-charge of UT Districts of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH) and Daman and Diu (D&D). Dushyant Patel is his state co-in-charge. Revamping to enhance the prospects of BJP in these two small UT districts, BJP National President JP Nadda announced these new appointments recently.

Purnesh's Gujarati roots are expected to help BJP in Daman and Diu, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and could be the first step to enter national scene. Purnesh will hold the post of UT in-charge for three years, and his primary focus will be to ensure the party's victory in these two UT Districts in upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

It was this BJP leader Purnesh Modi, who had filed a criminal defamation case in 2019 in a Surat, Gujarat, Court against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "Modi surname" remarks that he claimed had defamed the entire Modi community. This led to the conviction of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the defamation case, eventually resulting in his brief disqualification as a Lok Sabha MP from Waynad, Kerala. This case against Gandhi put Purnesh into the national spotlight. Rahul Gandhi since has been got back his lost MP seat through an order of the Parliament. The 58-year-old 3-time MLA Purnesh Modi, is the face of the saffron party's OBC community in South Gujarat. He is a lawyer by profession. He won the Surat West seat in a bypoll in 2013 for the first time and then was re-elected from the same seat in 2017 and in 2022. His latest victory was with a margin of over 1 lakh votes. In 2021, he was appointed as a cabinet minister in the first Bhupendra Patel

government and was assigned portfolios such as transport, civil aviation, tourism, and pilgrimage development.

In an attempt to capture both these UT districts in the forthcoming cricoal 2024 general elections, Purnesh and Dushyant were on a day long tour of these UT districts along with Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore. BJP Territorial President Deepesh Tandel, Lok Sabha Migration Coordinator & MP B Machhi and Damd & Diu MP Lallubhai Patel welcomed the BJP team in Silvassa Circuit house along with the office bearers of the BJP of these two UTs. The discussions were around the strengthening of the BJP presence in the two UT districts and ensuring capturing of these two MP seats. Former MP Nathubhai Patel, along with Balubhai Patel, Deepak Jadav, Sunil Patil, Mahesh Agaria were also present among other BJP luminaries. The BJP team freely interacted with the supporters and people of the people.

The Dadra & Nagar Haveli Lok Sabha seat is currently held by Kalaben Delkar, the widow of former seven-time MP Mohan Delkar, an influential tribal leader. His wife was elected as MP in November 2021 on a Shiv Sena ticket. The other Daman & Diu Lok Sabha seat in the UT is held by the BJP's Lalubhai Patel.

These two districts though had selected powerful MPs earlier, both the areas remained totally undeveloped. But things are changing now under the BJP government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also visited these UT districts few months ago to inaugurate the first Medical Research Institute Facilities in Silvassa, DNH. As such, the BJP government has been focusing attention to these UT districts with all round progressive development, including the much needed over bridges across the ring road. Now the fight should become interesting with BJP already proactively working in these UT districts, Udhav's Shiv Sena holding a seat and Congress though looks like a non-starter but appear to have a good peoples' support.

# Lotus Vanathi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is not yet a strong contender in the Southern States. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mission South' push has not gone much further in Tamil Nadu that is ruled by politics of castes and local issues.

But there are bold and grass root level mass popularity leaders in the BJP in the Southern States taking the party and central government programs to the people in a most convincing manner, talking their language, the way they understand.

Vanathi Srinivasan, a socio-political activist, is one such mass popular Fire Brand leader of Tamil Nadu BJP. A Lawyer by profession, who practiced law in Madras High Court and a member of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Coimbatore South constituency from BJP. She currently is the National President of the Women's Wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Vanathi was also a Standing Counsel for Southern Railway and Union Government, was a former State Secretary of BJP Tamil Nadu and also served as Board Member of Central Board of Film Certification. Vanathi Srinivasan's association with the BJP spans more than three decades. A BJP member since 1993 she has held various positions in the party. She was appointed State Secretary of the BJP Tamil Nadu in 2013 and went on to become the General Secretary of the BJP Tamil Nadu. Her dedicated work for the party and her popularity with the people, she was elevated as the State Vice President of the BJP Tamil Nadu. Later in 2020, in recognition of her great value to the party, BJP National President J P Nadda appointed her as the National President of the BJP Mahila Morcha, all important and powerful post that she has been doing justice since her appointment. A fire-brand leader bold to talk truth and fight for the cause of her people and the party, has been through turbulent times when the opposition parties tried their best to frame her in an attempt



to dissuade her to leave BJP which they thought was getting stronger under leadership with ever increasing women support and following. In fact her own fellow party leaders tried their best to put her down. A great fighter she is and with the mass support of her workers and supporters, she faced challenges firm.

There is no denying that popularity of a women leader is in general an eye sore for their colleagues, leave alone the opposition parties who keep gunning for anyone on the other side of the fence.

Vanathi is a proactive social activist and environmentalist, is associated with NGOs and does several activities to empower women, something that she has been doing for decades. Vanathi also supported Asian games medallist Santhi Soundarajan's 'Justice for Santhi' campaign to end the sex verification test for women in sports. She also has initiated several water conservation projects in Coimbatore to protect the local water bodies.

Passionate about her commitment to the people, she boldly stands for their rights all the time which in itself has earned the accolades of the people and the political parties alike. Humble but ready to fight against injustices to people, she recently stood firm with the people who were protesting against the construction of Parandhur Airport Project that she said the government had not properly surveyed the area, not ad-

ressing environmental concerns and that not proper plans were in place to compensate the people being displaced from their land as it affects their livelihood.

A fierce and great orator, Vanathi always attracts and convinces her audience with great conviction on the philosophy of BJP and the achievements of the BJP government at the Centre. Her easy accessibility with the people and party workers with regular one-to-one interactions makes people dot on her. She promotes cordiality in relations with all, from bureaucracy to polity of all affiliations, listens to the problems of the people and also acts quick to resolve them by taking them up with the government and the administration, local, State and the Centre. Her regular interactions and organizing meetings have made her people more aware of the centre government schemes and people-benefit oriented programs, which the party appears to appreciate and recognize as her contribution for the good of the party and the people. Having risen from the grass-root level she understands the challenges the party cadre face and is always out to help them all overcome issues. She doesn't spare anyone who is wrong. A real women firebrand leader and an effective party propaganda machinery of the party, Vanathi is indeed a darling lioness of BJP in the Southern India, fit for leading the women's wing of the party, nationally.

# KEJARIWAL CONTINUES TO SLIP

What has happened to the man who climbed the popularity ladder entering politics with his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sweeping the Delhi State elections this decade. The man who kept saying except for him all in polity are corrupt is caught in a web of scams himself. Two of his ministers and close friends are languishing in jail for the past several months on charges of corruption and money laundering. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejariwal, the man who claimed to be the only honest politician on earth, is getting deeper into the scams after scams right from liquor and money laundering cases investigations by ED and CBI to the latest Delhi Jal Board scams. CM Kejariwal by skipping the latest summon by ED is only getting himself into a deeper trouble, say some informed officials, adding that he is surrounded by inefficient legal team who are only continually misguided him.

The man who climbed the political ladder the easy way riding on freebies politics, has already fallen in grace and respect in every way one could imagine, even wildly. Even his own party supporters and MLAs are said to be worried about their future if they cling on to his party and are thinking on ways to wriggle out, soon. It is no hidden truth that the man who claims to be the honest on earth is now surrounded by problems and scams, the liquor scam, money laundering, jal board's 70000 Cr debt signaling possible scam, Delhi Transport Corporation and Electricity distribution running in huge per day losses are some to list.

The alleged latest Delhi Jal Board scam is to the tune of Rs 3735 Crore claiming accounting-related irregularities such as missing amounts, no trace of term deposits, suspicious adjustments and entries, huge mismatch in accounts and bank reconciliation statements, to name a few. It is alleged that tenders were awarded to 12000 work orders worth 600 crore by keeping the value below 5 Lakh and majority of the contracts were interrelated and that a complex web of accounting methodologies were applied to escape attention. The question is how the Jal Board has gotten into a deep whooping debt of over Rs 70000 Crore? In an attempt to escape and divert attention from being possible detained by the investigation agencies, CM Kejariwal coined a land scam by the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, IAS, alleging irregularities and corruption in awarding compensation for land acquired for a highway project in Bamnoli, South West Delhi and that the Chief Secretary's son's employer's relatives benefitted from the

compensation. He also prepared a report on this by his own Vigilance Minister Atishi Singh. This naturally was one-sided and had nothing but flaws, it is being alleged. This allegedly signaled the possible fact that the CM is only trying to wrongly implicate the senior official to escape and also to divert peoples' attention from his wrong doings. However, the Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has refused to accept this report and an investigation is already in process. Cumulatively CM KJejariwal is deep into scams and corruption at highest levels in his government. It is said that the officers don't listen to him and his orders. He has overall become so ineffective that his own hand picked officials also are not favouring him, it is being alleged. Some alleged that the CM is so self-centered that every act of his only to keep him in the headlines irrespective of the issues.

The previous Delhi Chief Ministers, including the late Shiela Dixit, never were in loggerheads with the Centre. They were also not the same party government at the centre as that of the State all the time. All the previous Chief Minister worked closely with the Centre and maintained a very cordial relationship with both the bureaucracy and the leaders of the opposition parties. Hence they had no issues and Delhi also witnessed development leaps. What happened to Kejariwal? He has always been riding high on ego, ruthless, selfish and arrogant with the bureaucracy and the opposition. In the last 9+ years Delhi under Kejrival has seen development. What one sees as Delhi is all the hard work of his predecessor Delhi CM late Shiela Dixit. Even today after several years of her demise, people of Delhi remember her as the most efficient and passionate CM ever who lived and dreamt of Delhi as a world's astonishing capital. Since CM Kejariwal took the mantle every utility sector is in several crore per day losses. Several officials and political parties allege that he thinks just the freebies alone will keep him in the saddle all the time. He is wrong, as people are also watching him, his scams lists, his government and conduct of his ministers and MLAs, all of whom does not seem at all interested in the development or the good of the city and its people. Even the alliance parties in the newly formed opposition grouping are also not taking him seriously. In short, the man who claimed to be the purest has become an empty vessel, always making noises, but no action. He has fallen in respect. He has fallen from the grace that people once



# INDIAN ERA OF HYDROGEN & BIO-FUELS

India soon to be world's 'Clean Green Energy Superpower'. Mass 'Hydrogen' fuel production plans give a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Green-Superpower Dream. Green Hydrogen, fuel of the future, is here to make India the green fuel superpower, in addition to prioritized 'biofuels' and eVehicles push. All used to have fun talks that if only the vehicles run on 'water'! This soon is going to become a reality!

What Oil and Gas producing Nations like USA, Russia and the Arab World fear, India is soon to make this a reality! Clean Green Fuel, Hydrogen and Bio-fuels, have top-rated environmental credentials too.

According to energy experts India has the capacity, capability and resources to become a 'hydrogen' superpower. During the recently concluded India Presidency G20 summit, on clean energy issues International Energy Agency Executive Director Fatih Birol sought India not to miss the historical opportunity of becoming a leader in the world energy domain. What oil is to Saudi Arabia today, hydrogen and Bio-fuels will be to India of tomorrow. Oil and gas resources of these now cash-rich Nations are not going to last long. Clean green energy is the future of the world. Clean and Green Hydrogen will be India's Ticket to Energy Independence and sound Economic Growth. Green hydrogen and Biofuels will also help India in meeting climate targets and India can become a production and export hub of these revolutionary fuels. This will also help India attain self-sufficiency in the energy sector. India's Green Hydrogen mission, launched in 2022 by PM Modi, targets 5 MMT of green hydrogen per annum to start with, which will amount to one-fifth of global production. Government and companies are on a fast-paced research and testing track. Increased production will cut costs to make India the uncrowned energy superpower in the coming times. In fact, India has moved far ahead in this direction. Indian Railways is all set to roll out the country's first 'hydrogen-powered' train by December 2023 or early 2024, in a major boost towards greening the national transporter's network. For nearly a century, Arabs

and other major oil producing countries have been ruling the world's energy market. But the coming decade promises to be the beginning of an Indian era in world energy domain. The use of petrol, diesel, and natural gas in wide sectors of economy will soon be replaced by clean green fuels, hydrogen and bio-fuels.

For PM Modi, India becoming world's 3rd largest economy and surpassing US\$ 5 trillion domestic economy by 2025 are no small goals. These require herculean cumulative all sector efforts, drastic increase in job creation, progressive and aggressive all round reforms, curbing inflation and black economy, increase in purchase power and GDP, bigger export leaps, creation of India as global manufacturing hub, are to name a few from the long list. More so, it will need drastic cuts in wasteful expenditures and import bills, majorly the huge crude imports that are eating away major parts of government revenue. The election freebies also need to stop to save the State and National economy.

All these are oriented towards larger goods for the Nation and the people: Continuous development, '0' Unemployment, huge foreign currency inflow, increased buying power of the people, larger range of superior quality products at economy prices, controlled inflation and more. These have several other benefits too. Carbon emission will eventually become '0' resulting in lesser controllable pollution. Moreover, when youth and people are satisfied and happy, evils in the society will start drastically dwarfing. Major Key is drastic cuts in crude and gas imports. Currently 85% of domestic fuel need is fulfilled by imports. India has to slowly do away its oil import dependency. This is possible only when we achieve self dependency in crude and gas exploration and generation. These are highly expensive, being carried out though. India, using its bilateral ties, has also started helping African Union States in cost-economic oil and gas exploration. Mass production of nature-based clean green fuel 'Hydrogen' and 'Bio-fuels' are two sure solutions, though way too expensive at this point, along with mass generation of alternative energy sources like solar and



wind energy to achieve major economic goals. Mega players like Reliance, Gas Authority of India (GAIL), National Thermal Power Corp (NTPC), Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Larsen and Toubro (L&T), to name a few, are jumping into mass hydrogen production process with mega plans, budgets and financial assistance in place. This makes prospects for green hydrogen in India gets brighter. Mega vehicle makers Tata and Ashok Leyland have already started working on hydrogen and bio-fuel driven vehicles. Reliance is already working on technology advancement to produce "hydrogen" as fuel at lowest cost to mass breaks into this sector with a global bang. The new entrant Nuclear Power Corporation of India, NPCIL, is said to have found a ground breaking high efficiency and reliable technological methods to mass produce profit model-based 'hydrogen' fuel, under the Atma Nirbhar and Make In India programs. NPCIL will use its current infrastructure, without disrupting its current programs. This will not only quickly fulfill the domestic needs, but also will create a huge surplus of this green fuel for mass exports. These hydrogen production plants would be powered by Nuclear energy. This translates to fulfilling energy requirement to produce hydrogen fuel at lowest cost-economy. It is also said that once this pilot model tested, dedicated nuclear plants could be thought of for the production of green energy fuel in the future. Research is also on for advanced modular nuclear reactors those are capable of producing power beyond 300 MW. These developments are encouraging. First step to success is to first create domestic demand, before embarking on mass exports. Power and Renewable Energy Minister Raj Kumar Singh said he was working toward purchase obligations for major industries, a significant step to creating domestic de-

mand. So, the Government has already taken the significant step by working towards purchase mandates for key industries, in short pre-book purchases before manufacturing starts. Meanwhile India also has started its dialogues with the European Union and other Eastern Nations for this clean green hydrogen fuel purchase. These would automatically lead to large 'hydrogen' and 'bio-fuel' exports. These are sure indicators of India soon becoming world's clean green fuel superpower. It wouldn't be the first time India has successfully stimulated commercial demand. A 2016 government move to compel local electricity distributors to buy renewable energy nurtured that market and eventually helped create bankable wind and solar projects. The country now has some of the world's lowest prices for renewable energy, the backbone of its hydrogen ambitions. New Delhi has long expressed its wish to become a clean-energy superpower, leaning in part on green hydrogen, a fuel that's tipped to be transformative for some of the hardest-to-abate corners of industry. Challenges are aplenty. These alternate fuels production at this point are expensive. But research is on for innovative advanced technologies to reduce the cost to drive the fuel as the most preferred. That's where purchase mandates come in. By creating a level playing field, the government provides producers with a sizeable ready market for a commodity that's more easily consumed in India. The opportunity is significant. Domestic hydrogen consumption will raise multi-fold, which sees India hit 20 years ahead of its official 2070 target.

Pessimists in the government often talk only about the supremacy of China in areas such as solar power, despite the nation's clean-energy growth. With hydrogen, they hope, India won't be left behind.

India currently gets al-

most three-quarters of its electricity from coal. Over 39 new coal-fired power plants under construction, but this adds up to global warming and underscores India's commitment to fight climate change. To counter this PM Modi is batting for quicker development of alternate clean energy sources, hydrogen and biofuels. While his underlings defended coal, PM Modi made a series of pledges in Glasgow that, if kept, will make his country a green-energy powerhouse. In the recently concluded G20 summit PM Modi again dramatically strong pushed the clean energy and launched the alliance on the sidelines of the summit. The 'Global Biofuel Alliance' is an India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations, and Industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels as an alternate energy source to drive economy further.

With the Indian hydrogen mission moving fast forward tasting enormous success, the world will soon look up to India with awe and that will increase India's heft in the world of diplomacy too. Achieving one fourth of the world production capacity would go a long way in making India a major producer and supplier of clean fuel to the world. Green hydrogen industry will not only create millions of new jobs but will also give a huge fillip to other sectors of economy. This would strengthen India's economic and strategic muscle.

Global disturbances and disruptions will no longer impact Indian economy and affect India's independent foreign policy. The world oil prices have seen many ups and downs, leading to financial crisis in the country, but India would soon be free of any financial pressure or the kind of market fluctuations in energy market we see today. This will enable India to maintain strategic autonomy. India will indeed soon be the world's clean green energy superpower!

# GAME OF POLLUTION & TAX EVASION

**THAMBI MARI MUTHU**

The Puducherry coastal region in the recent years has been facing severe threat due to unplanned and uncontrolled disposal of wastewater and has given birth to serious issues of rapid increase in the pollution levels in the areas. The main source of pollution in the identified estuaries and coastal belts of the Puducherry coastal region are mainly due to direct discharge of untreated industrial effluent and domestic sewage at various points along the coast. Vaighai Chemical Industries Limited in Karaikal, a unit of the Vaigai Group based out of Tamil Nadu, operates a chemical manufacturing plant that produces the dangerous and highly polluting chemical, Potassium Chlorate, operating in Melakassakkudi Vadapadi area next to Nedungkadu. This chemical unit manufactures and or supplies several chemical components as raw materials for use in match sticks, firecrackers and explosives.

It is alleged that Vaigai Industries in Karaikal and Karaikal Chlorates are the culprits in polluting the air and water resources and devastating the cultivable soil that has been poisoned badly making the cultivable land slowly turning into barren uncultivable land.

The farmers and people living in these villages and the neighboring areas are deeply worried due to the highly polluting poisonous liquid, solid and air waste emissions from this factory and that their livelihood almost gone and they are not being able to generate any farm produces. They are naturally up in arms protesting against this factory and for its immediate removal from the area. Based on explosive reports and exposure of these happening in the previous issues of UT Independent, the authorities woke up a bit, but only to hoodwink the people and the protesters. But they sent, of all, allegedly only a team from the Revenue records department. As expected, as being alleged, that they only had great fun with the management of the polluting factory had luxury lunch-dinner time and went away without doing anything, after allegedly getting their pre-set gratifications.

Smelling the foul and exposure of wrong-doing by them, the company senior management and Director allegedly camped in the factory for over a month to attend to and pacify the visiting officers, if any, who might take penal action against the factory and its owners. Vil-

lagers have been opposing the Vaigai Industries Chloride Plant right from the beginning. 30+ years now, the industry still flourishing, creating destruction and havoc in the area. The solid, liquid and gaseous waste emissions is threatening the villagers of Melakassakkudi, near Karaikal, Puducherry Union Territory, day and night for the past 3 decades.

It is alleged that when the current Lok Sabha MP Vaithilingam was the Chief Minister of Puducherry earlier, there were allegations that despite the opposition from the people, he gave clean approval, against alleged huge gratifications, for setting up of this dangerously polluting and poison emitting factory in the middle of green agriculture fields and residential colonies of the villagers. It is alleged that the poisonous gaseous emissions from the chimney is causing the residents of the villages and the surrounding areas health hazards like fainting, vomiting and suffocation. As factory wastes are mercilessly dumped into drains without treating them and following the prescribed safety norms, is leading to destroying the agricultural fields which are ravaged by chemical runoff. Paddy crops are scorched and the yields are ruined.

Cattle and livestock are dying by eating the grass and paddy straw found in fields polluted by chemicals. It is hard to find a single breed of high yielding cows in this area, which was popular for high quality milk and healthy cows as majority have perished already due to high poisonous pollution. At first, the villagers became chronically ill with symptoms such as skin disease, nervous disorders, blurred vision, vomiting and dizziness. Now the villagers are also ending up dying due to cancer, heart diseases and blood pressure without knowing the cause of death. Since the last report published in UT Independent, the government administration is said to have deputed some officials from the Science and also Environment departments from Puducherry. It is the same old story when the Revenue officials visited to hoodwink the people as if some action is being taken. The current team performance was also the same expected repeat it is being alleged.

But in a new, these officials switched off their cell phones to avoid receiving complaints from the villagers and protesters and naturally refused to meet the villagers. It is alleged that till evening it was all the

same fun, luxury meals with Biryani and of course the lots of gifts and money from the factory. Why this factory is being protected despite its known destruction of the environment and the endless pain to the villagers and residents of the area? Who is protecting them? Coming to the details, the said industry is the supplier of the dangerous and poisonous raw materials needed for the match sticks, firecrackers and explosives making industry that flourishes in locations like Sivakasi and several other locations throughout India. Of the semi-finished raw materials that this company produces for the explosives, firecrackers and match box making industry, among others, while Chlorine is locally produced and Potassium is locally purchased, the key ingredient Ammonium is imported. It is alleged that the company imports large quantities of this ammonium component from foreign countries and that most of the materials pass through customs without paying proper import duty, naturally with the connivance of few corrupt customs officials, with support from local polity. Customs duty evasion it is alleged, makes the import of this dangerous chemical too easy for the company to continue its money games using this factory, not mindful of the environment destruction they are fanning in the area.

The demand is for the intelligence agencies to investigate how much these companies have supplied



GSTIN	34AAACV4725A1ZU			
TRADE NAME	VAIGAI INDUSTRIES (A DIVISION OF VAIGHAI CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED)			
AO	0			
OUTWARD SUPPLIES				
FINANCIAL YEAR	TAXABLE TURNOVER	LIABILITY	ITC	CASH
2017-18	287,919,621	34,731,589	16,864,535	17,867,054
2018-19	656,109,623	45,623,703	43,689,627	1,934,076
2019-20	497,130,508	48,250,667	48,250,667	0
2020-21	503,658,784	56,718,929	41,198,490	15,520,441
2021-22	613,687,522	72,248,088	49,405,057	22,974,097
2022-23	758,432,425	85,924,912	57,964,934	27,959,980
2023-24	428,236,356	48,021,636	16,334,580	31,687,056
Total	3745174838	391519523	273707890	117942704

GSTIN	34AAACM7886M1ZU			
TRADE NAME	KARAIKAL CHLORATES (UNIT OF MEPCO INDUSTRIES LTD)			
AO	51			
OUTWARD SUPPLIES				
FINANCIAL YEAR	TAXABLE TURNOVER	LIABILITY	ITC	CASH
2017-18	366,327,946	65,735,956	37,805,888	27,930,068
2018-19	514,977,989	92,874,303	43,981,394	48,892,909
2019-20	510,376,343	91,866,507	53,425,733	38,440,774
2020-21	1,037,121,368	112,827,108	71,545,738	41,281,370
2021-22	743,644,828	133,306,390	74,840,978	58,465,412
2022-23	866,072,663	154,553,068	108,817,574	45,735,494
2023-24	528,086,543	93,942,359	28,609,538	65,332,822
Total	4566607680	745105691	419026843	326078849

as against official and illicit import of materials need by these units, the quantum of customs duty evasion and the GST evasion so far. These polluting companies have been allegedly customs, income and GST tax evasions running into several hundred crores as against a manipulated taxable turnover of around ₹375 crore and ₹457 crore respectively by Vaigai Industries and Karaikal Chlorates, since 2018.

Why the IT, ED, DRI, GST and Customs officials are not taking action to investigate and recover the evaded tax money from them? Why the Central Pollution Board officials are sleeping over this crucial issue? When will the

government take stringent action to shut this dangerously polluting factory? Will the administration bring relief to the people from their sufferings and investigate and book the rogue factory and shut their factory in this area? National Green Tribunal also has to engage itself joining the other investigating agencies and department to correct the situation in the area and bring relief to the residents in this area.

The people now are looking at the Chief Secretary and the Environment Ministry at the centre to rescue them from these corrupt officials and immediate shutting of this poisonous polluting factory unit of the Tamil Nadu-based group.

## GAIL HAND IN GLOVE

Gas Authority of India (GAIL) supplies natural gas to Vaigai Industries, Karaikal Chloride Plants. GAIL has provided the natural gas pipeline connection from Nagapattinam, cutting through and across the agricultural land of the villagers. It is interesting to note that though this long pipe line connection comes with safety measures by GAIL, these natural gas supplying pipelines have no safety measures to protect the poor farmers and villagers even though these dangerous pipeline is cutting across the farm and other lands of the villagers.

Moreover, these natural gas supply carrying pipes mandatorily regularly checked during the

year and also have to be totally replaced every 5 years. But this is not being done. No regular inspection of the pipelines or laying new pipes. To hoodwink, particularly the residents of the village, these pipes are painted again and again without replacing them. In short, both the government PSU GAIL and the private company Vaigai Industries are cheating both the people and the government. It is seriously alleged that the officials note in records that the pipes have been replaced with new one, while the truth is that they are just painted again and again to hoodwink the people and the PSU management. It is also alleged that the GAIL officials involved

mint several crores of rupees by not replacing but just painting the pipes.

These old pipes now have developed leaks. Foul odor of the gas is being continuously emitted out of these leakages filling the whole environment with foul smell of this gas and water bubbles come out of these leaks while watering the fields and more so during the rainy season. Several complaints of the residents have gone in vain.

Not the demand of the people is not only to remove the whole poison generating plant from this location but also to immediately remove these natural gas supply pipes as they fear mishap anytime in the area and serious harm to their families.

## AUSTRALIA AUKUS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Australia is moving ahead with its US\$245 billion AUKUS project with Britain and the United States to build a new class of nuclear-powered and conventionally armed submarine. Aukus, is a trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific region between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The partnership also includes cooperation on advanced cyber mechanisms, artificial intelligence and autonomy, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic, electronic warfare, innovation and information sharing. The partnership will focus on military capability, distinguishing it from the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance that also includes New Zealand and Canada.

Responding to the criticism by China that Aukus has the potential to spark an arms race, Australian Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy reacted that the Indo Pacific region is in the midst of a substantial arms race that Australia is responding to, not fuelling it, with its planned acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines. In the same tone responding to domestic political criticism of the high cost and ambition of the program, which aims to build the submarines in Australia by 2040, Defense Minister Conroy said AUKUS (acronym for Australia, the U.K, and the U.S.) was

fundamental to Australia's defence.

"Conflict is far from inevitable," he said, adding that Australia cannot afford to underinvest in defence. "We must be able to deter conflict before it begins, and certainly before it reaches our shores." A shake-up of Australia's defence forces has prioritised protecting the continent's northern approaches and sea trade routes, and Australia has boosted military exercises with other nations in Southeast Asia this year, including the first joint patrols with the Philippines in the South China Sea. Australia's nuclear-powered submarine fleet will be used for intelligence gathering in peacetime and to strike enemy targets during a war, Mr. Conroy said.

"You don't just defend Australia by stationing pickets around Karratha or off Darwin; you need the ability to hold an adversary at bay and to threaten a potential opponent's assets as far away from Australia as possible," Mr. Conroy added. Australia has the third-largest exclusive economic zone on Earth and its diesel-electric fleet of Collins-class submarines must travel thousands of kilometres before reaching a patrol area, using more fuel in transit than on patrol. Where diesel-electric submarines spend half of their time at sea going to from a patrol area, a nuclear-powered submarine would spend 15-20% of its time in transit.

## Bharat Biotech-Sydney Uni Tie-Up

Hyderabad-based Bharatbiotech International Ltd and University of Sydney Infectious Diseases Institute have announced a pact to advance Vaccine Research. The agreement aims to build strong sectoral and cross-organisational collaborations to design novel methodologies to tackle future epidemics and infectious diseases.

Both the parties recently have signed a Memorandum of Understanding between them to advance vaccine research initiatives, strengthen academ-

ic-industry partnerships and augment global efforts to combat infectious diseases. The partnership also aims at leveraging academia-industry strengths to advance the science of vaccines and biotherapeutics. Dr Krishna Ella, the executive chairman at Bharat Biotech, said, "This agreement reflects our ethos to facilitate collaborative research, foster innovation, and further advance the science vaccine technology. "Mutually, we are excited about the new opportunities to strengthen our

shared vision, leverage the prowess of education, and research capabilities to help build a healthier universe and improve people's lives by developing safer vaccine platforms. Most importantly, build the talent of young scientists with a passion to innovate," he said. Professor Jamie Triccas, the deputy director at Sydney ID said, "Positioning Sydney ID on a global scale to drive innovation and highlight our expertise in the development of new vaccines and biotherapeutics is paramount."

## World's Food Future

Like much of the rest of the world, Singapore is racing to feed a growing population with limited natural resources. But with almost no land for agriculture this small, wealthy, fast-paced and densely-packed nation is doing so by embracing and encouraging new food technologies that may someday help feed all.

In 2019 Singapore launched a program called 30-by-30, designed to spur the country to produce 30% of its food by 2030, while still using less than 1% of its land for agriculture. The program has encouraged innovation that may offer a peek into the world's food future as land and resources become scarcer around the world.

There are rooftop farms that produce greens such as kale, lettuce and herbs using a system that relies on nutrient-rich water instead of soil, powered by solar



panels. Shrimp are grown in warehouses. The company's largest egg farm uses automated machines to feed the chickens and sort, scan and check each egg. Researchers are working to develop varieties of plants that can flourish in extreme, unnatural environments, and ways to grow lobster in a lab, from cells. Singapore that is far ahead in the use of technology in the foods sector, already has developed plant-based meat that has now become popular world over.

But for all the coun-

try's government-supported entrepreneurs and sparkling new technology, the country is also learning that this kind of transformation is not so easy. Consumers can be reluctant to change, and producers have found it hard to turn a profit because costs are high.

It is far from clear Singapore will reach its 30% goal by 2030. But along the way it may help teach the world, through successes and failures, how to reduce the amount of land needed to produce our favorite dishes.

## MALAYSIA GIVES FREE VISA

Malaysia joins Thailand and Sri Lanka in granting visa-free entry for Indians holding valid Indian passport. The 30-day visa-free entry is also currently enjoyed by eight ASEAN countries for the purpose of social visits, tourism and business.

Malaysia will grant a 30-day visa-free entry for Indian and Chinese citizens, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim who is also the Finance Minister of the country has announced, joining Thailand and Sri Lanka in recent weeks to offer such

a facility to foreigners to promote tourism.

Malysian PM Ibrahim said the waiver was an additional facility to the existing visa exemptions currently enjoyed by Gulf nations and other West Asian countries, including Turkiye and Jordan.

However, this visa exemption will be subject to top security screening. "Initial screenings will be conducted for all tourists and visitors to Malaysia. Security is a different matter that comes under the authority of the security forces and immigration. If there are

criminal records or the risk of terrorism, they will not be allowed to enter," the Prime Minister said. Malaysia is currently targeting 16.1 million international tourist arrivals with RM 49.3 billion in tourism receipts.

India remains to be among the top countries to contribute tourist arrivals to Malaysia. In 2022, Malaysia welcomed a total of 3,24,548 Indian tourists, while in the first quarter of 2023, Malaysia received as many as 1,64,566 Indian tourists compared to 13,370 in the same period last year,

according to data from the Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board, also known as Tourism Malaysia. This is for now is a limited time frame offer valid till March 2024.

Currently, there are 158 flights with 30,032 seats offered weekly between India and Malaysia through Malaysia Airlines, Batik Air, AirAsia and IndiGo.

Malaysia's decision follows a similar visa waivers implemented by Sri Lanka and Thailand. Sri Lanka has introduced a visa-free entry initiative for visitors from India

and six other countries, encompassing China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand. This initiative will remain effective until March 31, 2024, and aims to boost tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka, with the Tourism Ministry setting a target of attracting five million tourists in the coming years. Thailand has also recently lifted visa requirements for visitors from India and Taiwan. Indians can travel to Thailand without a visa and stay for up to 30 days, the government announced recently.



# CORPORATE

# BUSINESS



## Mallya To Return?

financial crimes in India.

When Mallya, the liquor baron, was at the helm of affairs that the world admired had a chain of profit-making mega businesses in India and also overseas. It was unfortunate that such a great business brain went haywire possibly owing to few fatal business decisions, one being starting Kingfisher airline business that literally consumed all his finances, leading to financial frauds. Mallya once an uncrowned Business King owning a business empire ranging from Liquors and pharma to aviation.

The son of a businessman who was also in the alcoholic beverages business, Mallya is the former chairman of United Spirits, the largest spirits company in India, and continues to serve as chairman of United Breweries Group, an Indian conglomerate with interests including beverage alcohol, aviation infrastructure, real estate, and fertilizer. He was the chairman of Sanofi India (previously known as

Hoechst AG and Aventis) and the chairman of Bayer CropScience in India for over 20 years, and the chairman of several other companies.

Mallya was also the founder and former owner of now defunct Kingfisher Airlines and former co-owner of the Force India Formula One team before it went into administration. He is also a former owner of the Royal Challengers Bangalore cricket team.

Mallya, a two time Rajya Sabha member and ex-National Working President of Subramanian Swamy-led Janata Party, who was always known for having an extravagant lifestyle, is an ardent God-fearing and God-Loving man and devotee of Lord Venkatesh-wara of Tirupati, Sabarimala Ayyappa and Kukke Subrahmanya and also a devout follower of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar of Art of Living Foundation. He is known to have donated huge amount of his earnings to spiritual initiatives, temples and NGOs.

All these history of the

past. It is all bad times for this once prospering business tycoon. Mallya now is a fugitive on the run that the government is gunning to bring back to India for his financial crimes. Since 2010 he got embroiled in a string of scandals and scams with Indian banks running to get their over US\$ 1 Billion dues from him. He on his head several cases of Indian Intelligence Agencies gunning for him.

Mallya was named in the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers, leaked confidential documents relating to offshore investment, meaning thereby he piled up his illicit or looted money overseas. He is accused of having money laundered over US\$ 10 billion from the loans Indian banks had advanced his businesses.

These being so as they are, it is rumoured that he has evinced interest to return to India should there be change in guard in the government, with BJP gone and a new favorable government gets installed. A remote thinking, but a possibility?

Vijay Mallya, the once globally admired business tycoon now on the run for financial frauds is said to be interested in returning to India, provided he is given protections, absolved of all financial and other cases once he pays up all the dues, has creat-

ed interest in the business and government circles.

Vijay Vittal Mallya is an Indian fugitive and former businessman and politician. He is the subject of an extradition effort by the Indian Government to return him from the UK to face charges of fi-

## FINMIN ON DIGITAL FRAUDS



ances Secretary, will focus on financial cyber security and the latest statistics of digital payment frauds that is resulting in huge loss to the banks and the government and for their early detection and putting an end to them.

Steps to deal with increasing digital payment frauds and cyber security issues and early detection of the same are to be discussed at length in this meeting. During the meeting Indian Cyber Crime Co-ordination Centre will make a presentation on the latest statistics of digital payment frauds as reported in National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), including challenges and issues faced in countering such issues.

The meeting will also be attended by senior official of Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics and Infor-

mation Technology (MeitY), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and National Payments Corporation of India.

The meeting assumes significance in view of digital fraud witnessed by UCO Bank and Bank of Baroda in the recent past. Earlier this month, Kolkata-based public sector lender UCO Bank reported erroneous credit of Rs 820 crore to account holders of the bank via Immediate Payment Service (IMPS). During November 10-13, the bank observed, due to technical issues in IMPS, certain transaction(s) initiated by holders of other banks have resulted in credit to the account holders in UCO Bank without actual receipt of money from these banks.

The bank blocked the recipients' accounts and has been able to recover Rs 649 crore of the Rs 820 crore, or about 79 per

cent of the amount. Some of the credited amounts have already been detected by smart account holders and have been consumed from them and is not recoverable. Some of the transactions are not yet traceable. The state-owned bank is yet to clarify whether this technical glitch was due to human error or a hacking attempt. Actions have been initiated and the concerned law enforcement agencies are already working on this.

Of late digital payments systems are facing several security issues and also that number of cases have been detected where digital payment systems like UPI are being misused by fraudsters to collect illicit money and are also being smartly used by several scamsters for money laundering. These issues also should justifiably come up for discussions in this meeting.

Close on the wheels of discussions with the Insurers few weeks ago, Finance Ministry has called an exclusive meeting with senior Bankers, Reserve Bank of India and oth-

er senior officials in the sector for discussions to sternly and effectively deal with Digital Payment frauds and Cyber Security issues. The meeting, chaired by Financial Ser-

# TALCHER, A POLLUTION BOMB



**JHEENDRA KUMAR DAS**

Destruction of environment continues in Talcher, the Coal City of Orissa, without any immediate relief for the people in this district, where the gang of coal mafia operates fearlessly, of course in nexus with the unscrupulous government servants.

Talcher City is the Coal, also termed Black Diamond, capital of Odisha. This Black Diamond City of India is home to two Maharatna PSUs, NTPC and Coal India Ltd.

Talcher coal mining and distribution business significantly contributes to the Nation's economy, but ironically continues to remain one of those neglected districts. The coal mafia money lords would never want the district to develop, lest they lose control over their illicit business in coal. Coal Mafias are known for their roaring illegal coal business in this Coal Capital city, Talcher. Thanks to the BuPoMa (Bureaucracy-Polity-Mafia) nexus. This deadly evil nexus is affecting not just the output quality triggering financial losses to the government and the PSUs but is killing this city owing to uncontrolled pollution affecting the environment causing miseries to the people. People are suffering from several perennial diseases, with no relief to their health issues which are serious.

Talcher coalfield is one of the largest storehouses of premium priced "power grade" coal in India and plays a major role in the socio-economic development of the Odisha State and the Nation. Hundreds of Thousands lakh tons of coal are mined, cleaned, sorted and sent it to different parts of Odisha and other Indian State locations and also are exported to several countries.

Before Talcher was developed as coal mines hub, there were several under-

ground coal mines established such as Handidhua Colliery, Deulbeda Colliery, Dera Colliery, South Balanda Colliery, Nandira Colliery, Champapashi Colliery etc. Most of these underground collieries have all been closed owing to several reasons, except for the Dera Colliery, where some coal mining is still being done.

Talcher has India's one of the largest open cast coal mines. A large quantity of coal is mined from open cast coal mines like Hingula, Balram, Jagannath, Bharatpur, Bhubaneswari, Anant, Lingaraj, Kaniha, Chendipada and it is being exported within the state, within the country and outside the country by rail, road and waterway routes.

In Talcher, all coal mines are under Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of CIL. MCL is the controlling authority of coal mining business including its distribution and transportation out of Talcher city.

Talcher is also home to several Coal-based enterprises like Talcher Super Thermal Power Station (TSTPS), NTPC Limited, a PSU established in Angul district. National Aluminum Project (NALCO), Talcher Thermal Power Station (TTPS) and private enterprises like, Jindal Steel & Power, (JSPL) Monnet, Tata Steel, Navbharat, Jindal India Thermal Power Limited (JIPTL), Lanco, B.R.G., Rungta, etc.

Over the years, several small scale industries have also sprung up in this city and its surrounding areas. All these units require large quantities of coal to run their units. Coal is sourced by these units from all the coal mines of Talcher.

While the state and railway department get thousands of crores of revenue from the sale and distribu-

tion of coal from Talcher city, there has not been any visible improvement or development for the suffering people of this region.

At Talcher, the coal extracted from all the coal mines comes to its own Coal Handling Plant (CHP) and is transported out through trucks, tipper and rail sidings. Over 3000 coal loaded trucks are plying daily from Talcher on the road and 45 coal loaded wagons (RACK) are going out of the city daily through railways.

Thousands of vehicles plying in and out of the city 24/7 in itself causes a huge uncontrolled air and other pollutions in the city. Added to this are those akin to the mining industry.

Blowing coal lumps due to surface coal mining pollutes the environment of Talcher heavily. The coal lumps, smoke and waste water flowing from the coal washery plant established here further complicates the pollution problems of the city. The coal lumps from trucks and tippers spilling from the vehicles despite their normal customary covering, gets piled up on both sides of the road. The fumes emitted and waste water flowing out of the washing units and from the factories add to the already serious and grave pollution issues further. Mahanadi Coal Mining Corporation (MCL) along with the local Corporation outfits are to plant lakhs of trees every year in the coal mining areas and adjacent villages. But ironically and surprisingly this work is not being done properly. It is alleged that the money allotted for the purpose is never used for this all important pollution control measures and the money allotted is diverted elsewhere in addition to they being swallowed by the unscrupulous officers in the corporation and the government. According to researched data, Talcher

city is the hottest city and it ranks 2nd in terms of environmental pollution in the whole of India.

People in this mining region live in this continually polluting environment that is only increase every passing second, is naturally causing severe health issues. The people in the region are continually facing perennial health issues like heart disease, breathing and asthma, cancer, jaundice, flu, allergy, dengue and many other diseases owing to continued inhaling of the polluted air and consuming badly polluted water. The land also is so polluted it has become totally unfit for any cultivation. The Central and State governments, Angul district administration, political leaders of the area, M.C.L. are all to be blamed for their total inaction. All are only interested in minting illicit money from the coal mining and related business in the region. People are overly concerned, complaining that no effective measures are being taken to prevent the increasing environmental pollution in Talcher and are demanding immediate action to relieve the people of the city from the exploding pollution situation in the region. Experts, Intellectuals and several voluntary organizations working in the area of environment pollution have been continually warning that if this instant absolutely effective actions are not taken to resolve this burning pollution problem in the region, it will go out of control beyond any cost-effective remedies. Talcher has become a real pollution bomb, needing immediate diffusion initiatives.

The Odisha State Pollution Control Board and local environment department is witnessing the exploding environmental pollution situation in Talcher, but turn a blind eye to the burning and grave pol-

lution issues and do nothing tangible to resolve the environmental concerns pro-actively with special plan implementation that this type exploding environmental issues need.

With such heavy buzzing activities and buzzing coal movement across the city and in and out of the city naturally will cause mammoth pollution issues, causing total environmental destruction. The conventional lack-luster anti-pollution measures will naturally not work and be effective in this city. Talcher of pollution issues need mammoth initiatives to relieve the city and the people from their sufferings.

There are several unanswered questions. The State government knows the issues faced by the region. Why have they not taken any effective remedial initiatives so far? Why is the Chief Minister and his close aide Pandiyan are turning blind eye to this exploding pollution problem in this region that is generating huge revenue for the government? What is the State and Central Pollution Board officials doing? Are they being blocked by the local mafia nexus whose business will be largely affected if drastic pollution control measures are taken to relieve the people from the pollution issues in the area? What is the Central government doing to resolve this issue? Why has the The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) acted so far? When the Union Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav intervene to take immediate action to save the people of the region from this exploding situation? Talcher has become real hot pollution bomb. This city needs to be saved immediately. Are the Central and State governments listening? When will they act?

# ED, SFIO TURNS NELSON EYE



## BAAP NUMBARI, BETA DUS NUMBARI !

ally interesting!

Parimal Nathwani's, a native of Gujarat, Rajya Sabha MP from Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR Congress Party of Andhra Pradesh after being an Independent RS-MP from Jharkhand twice earlier and also serving currently as Director of Corporate Affairs, story of rags to riches in a short span of time is sure to intrigue anyone.

Nathwani's rise from being a small time railway ticket black market seller in railway platforms of Gujarat Stations-turned-power-broker, now a RS MP, and Director at Reliance and also considered very close to the RIL supremo Mukesh Ambani and his family, is meteoric. But the quick rise is not of any honest hard work, but is alleged to be out of illicit means.

There are several serious alleged cases against Parimal Nathwani. How come he is still occupying the highest post of highest honor and respect in the Indian Parliament as one of its Rajya Sabha member, it is being questioned. It is said that a complaint of serious fraud, corruption and money laundering was filed with the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). It is said that this was reviewed and recommended by the then Chief of SFIO for extensive investigation.

However, owing to the influence of Nathwani in the political circles then and applying pressure from all corners, the high-profile person who filed this SFIO complaint was forced to withdraw this case, stating that the SFIO does not take up cases for investigation of individuals. Having said this, a complaint having been filed in writing, this should have been automatically transferred to EOW or other investigating agencies, but was strangely made to withdraw. This in itself raises several questions, yet unanswered.

Filing a serious criminal complaint with one of the apex fraud investigation agencies in itself calls for extensive investigations by suitable investigating agencies. Just withdrawing the complaint does not in any way absolve the individual from the piled allegations and accusations, or does it?

No smoke without spark somewhere. Allegations are mounting against this one time small railway platform ticket seller. There are also allegations of his illicit relationships with a senior railway employee through whom he once, allegedly, used to get his black market railway tickets.

All cannot be dismissed as rumours or just simple allegations. There are several cases under investigation against him including his shell company M/S Khodiyar Consultants Pvt Ltd where both father-son duo are Directors.

Adding to the long list of allegations, a Parliamentarian recently in the monsoon session raised questions in the Parliament seeking clarifications on the allegations that Nathwani had filed false information in his affidavit and concealed truths about his business dealings filed with the Election Commission at the time of his election to the Rajya Sabha. Several Parliamentarians are said to have raised concern that the respect and honour of the Upper House will be lost if such people like Nathwani with tarnished image occupy the seat of Rajya Sabha.

Earlier the Senior Ambani, late Shri Dhirubhai Ambani, had perfect and friendly relations with every other business houses, industrialists, bureaucrats and politicians of all parties and administrations, ruling or in the opposition. Father Ambani was a darling of all and all in the ruling government at the state and centre and were all on one-to-one relationships with him. He

ensured he kept the relationships cordial all the time. In the initial stages, it is said that Mukesh also carried forward the same legacy of his father, but as Nathwani entered Reliance arena, he started getting distanced from all the political parties and bureaucracy. Though, Mukesh is one of the most respected and highly regarded business tycoon, it is said of late he rarely interacts directly with anyone. Now the circumstances have started changing. Nathwani has not maintained good relations with any of the political parties. Gone are the days when both the ruling and opposition parties never used to take the name of the Ambanis or reliance. Now opposition is openly taking the name of Ambanis as government favoured business house. But the ruling party says that this is not true at all as the relations are not the same as it was during the Dhirubhai Ambani days.

When allegations are that the Ambanis are a favoured entity of the ruling party, why then Nathwani had to go all the way to Andhra Pradesh and join Jagan Reddy's YSR party, a non-supporter of the ruling party, to be nominated to RS as MP, using money power? Honest employees of Reliance now fear that the reputation and pride of Reliance Group may be at stake too soon because of the presence of father-son duo in the group, who are allegedly running a parallel Reliance. They also allege that even political parties and bureaucrats are turning their deaf ears and going against RIL interests because of the high handed dealings and strained relations of Nathwani with political parties and the bureaucracy.

What's happening in Reliance now a days? Are the owners of RIL seriously taking these allegations and keeping a watch to ensure their reputation and honour are kept intact?

Strange are the stories of the rich, not necessarily famous, quickly rising from rags is always interesting. Allegations of money laundering and corruption against Reliance (RIL) Parimal Nathwani are piling up. Many in the RIL and political and bureaucratic circles are amazed at his quick rise and talks are agog that if father can mesmerize RIL supremo to amass wealth, son cannot lag behind. While the senior, father, has got the RIL supremo in his pocket as his priced catch, his son has the sons of the business tycoon in his pocket as his priced catch. People say it is the Baap Numbari and Beta Dus Numbari type of catch story. These allegations as it may be, using his influence in the Reliance Industries and his closeness with Mukesh Ambani of Reliance, Parimal Nathwani has inducted his son, Dhanraj P Nathwani, also into Reliance industries as a Group President. The son is nothing smaller to his father as he has developed close relations with the children of the tycoon so quickly. It is now alleged that the father-son duo influence in RIL now has increased multifold and from different corners. It is said that both father-son duo now erode into Reliance Industries finances and earn in multiple of crores from Reliance alone year after year in the form of huge salaries, perks and other incentives which in fact they don't deserve, allege several employees. It is said that their annual compensation alone is over 18-20 crore which is unjustified, plus the in-

teresting and tricky perks alone, leave alone the extra which are huge.

Many in the Reliance are unhappy with the father-son duo in the company saying that they have no experience or knowledge of the business and yet they are occupying top most positions they are not fit to be, bypassing several senior and capable existing employees and senior most management brains in the company. While father Parimal Nathwani is the Director of Corporate Affairs his son Dhanraj Nathwani is the Group President of RIL. It is said that majority in the Reliance like the Nathwanis, but are forced to work with them owing to their position in the company and more so their closeness to the owners. Many whisper that Nathwani literally runs a parallel Reliance and allegedly, gaining all the financials benefits to himself. As the time passed by and as Nathwani took full control of Reliance as its Corporate Head, it is alleged, he is ensuring that all liaison work with the company and its current owners are only with and routed through him and his son. Several top employees alleged that the Nathwanis have ensured that none can interact with the Ambanis without their approval.

Latest of the allegations against the Nathwanis is that how they got so much wealth in such a short time that Nathwani is said to be building his super-luxury palatial bungalow in the prime and premium Juhu area of Mumbai at an alleged whopping cost of Rs 900 crore? Looks re-