

# **A charge sheet against the UPA government and its remote control chief.**

(By N.T.Ravindranath)

## 1) UPA government follows pro-terrorist policies.

The first major decision of the UPA government after coming to power in 2004 was the abolition of Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA). When the jihadi terror was becoming deadlier, and Maoist movement was making steady inroads into all remote and tribal areas in the country, what was the need and logic behind abolishing a tough anti-terror law like the POTA? It was the first and clear signal to show that the UPA government wanted to be helpful to terrorists and all other anti-national forces. The UPA government, taking the side of foreign-funded NGO and human rights activists, has also been trying to abolish the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) from Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern states. However it could not be done so far, only due to stiff resistance from the army which considers the AFSPA as a very vital tool for their effective operation in the disturbed areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East region.

## 2) Sonia Gandhi opposes anti-terror laws.

After the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, there was tremendous pressure from various security agencies and political leaders, including some prominent members within the UPA government, for enacting a new anti-terror law to effectively deal with the worsening security situation in the country. However a powerful group of pro-militant Sonia loyalists within the UPA still resisted the move for any such new anti-terror law. According to a report published in the English daily "The Indian Express" dated October 2, 2008, a stringent anti-terror law recommended by the Administrative Reforms Commission was rejected by the UPA government because of opposition from Sonia Gandhi who felt that there was no need for any new anti-terror law as the existing laws were sufficient to deal with terrorism. It confirms that Sonia Gandhi herself has an anti-national mindset.

## 3) UPA government is sympathetic to separatists in Kashmir.

The UPA government has adopted a pro-separatist policy in Jammu & Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir government's decision not to permit hoisting of the tri-colour at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on the Republic Day in 2010 had the approval of the UPA government. The government's explanation for this serious lapse was that the hoisting of the national flag would be an unnecessary provocation to the separatists in the state. Flag hoisting on Republic Day was taking place at Lal Chowk for the past 19 years. It was former BJP president Murali Manohar Joshi who 19 years ago took out an Ekta Yatra from Kanyakumari to Srinagar to hoist the tri-colour at Lal Chowk. Now, to please the separatists in Kashmir valley, the UPA government has stopped the flag-hoisting ceremony at Lal Chowk in Srinagar from 2010.

4) PDP leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed sent to UN to speak in support of separatists in Kashmir.

In a highly questionable decision, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had nominated PDP leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to lead an unofficial delegation to the U.N. to make a presentation about his concept of self-rule as a solution to resolve the Kashmir dispute before an international gathering at the General Assembly in November 2006. Thus, the UPA government, at the government expense, sent a delegation of PDP leaders to the U.N. to canvass support for self rule and full autonomy for Kashmir which could pave the way for an independent Kashmir. This was nothing but a seditious act.

5) UPA government's pro-Pakistan policies led to spread of jihadi terror in India.

Former Pakistan President General Musharraf had proposed a 4-point formula in 2006 to settle the Kashmir dispute. The four-point formula envisages the total withdrawal of all army units and other security forces from Kashmir, grant of full autonomy and self rule to the people of Kashmir, allowing the people of both parts of Kashmir to travel across the border without Passport and visa and joint supervision of unified Kashmir by Pakistan and India. If all the security forces are withdrawn from Kashmir, self-rule and full autonomy is granted to Kashmiris and both parts of Kashmir are allowed to unite, what control then India will have over Kashmir and how can it still remain as a part of India? This is a very treacherous proposal and as such it should have been outrightly rejected by India. But India welcomed the proposal and agreed to include it in the peace talks. Though India has not accepted this 4-point formula, we have not rejected it either so far. In fact, under pressure from the US and the Sonia coterie, there is a move to implement the Musharraf formula in a surreptitious manner. The whole peace talks drama with Pakistan is meant to achieve an independent unified Kashmir which will automatically become a part of Pakistan later. In the name of peace talks and confidence building measures with Pakistan, the UPA government removed all travel restrictions to Pakistan. More cross-border bus services were introduced and train services between the two countries were also resumed. Two cross-border trade links were also established with POK, which was actually a long-standing demand of the separatists in the Kashmir valley. With the lifting of all travel restrictions, it became easy for the SIMI and Indian Mujahiddin volunteers to go across the border and get trained in Pakistani terror camps. Various jihadi terrorist groups in Pakistan took full advantage of this lowering of guard by the Indian authorities to send their operatives to India and select terror targets in India for their future terror attacks. The Indian Mujahideen later started conducting regular terror attacks, mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts, in different parts of the country with the support and guidance of Pakistani terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba. Thus it is the UPA government's pro-Pakistan policy that has led to the spread of jihadi terror in the country.

#### 6) Despite continued Pak-sponsored terror attacks in India, we hold peace talks with Pakistan

Pakistan had always been extremely hostile to India ever since independence. It fought three wars with India, two of which were over Kashmir. It also fought a border war with India following the Kargil intrusion. After the 1971 war, Pakistan was convinced that it can never annex Kashmir by force and hence it adopted terrorism as a state policy to capture Kashmir. General Zia was the chief architect of the conspiracy to start a proxy war in Kashmir to bleed India with thousand cuts by sending armed infiltrators into Kashmir. There is no let up in this terror war against India till this day. Pakistan has not dismantled its terror infrastructure in its territory directed against India. Defence Minister had recently announced in the Parliament that there are more than forty terrorist training camps, directed against India, still operating with full impunity in Pakistan. Leaders of all major Kashmiri terrorist groups like Laskar-e-toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hisbul Mujahideen are still allowed to operate from Pakistan. All the five hijackers who hijacked an Indian airlines flight to Kandhahar in December, 1999 are given safe asylum in Pakistan. All the main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts and 2006 serial train blasts in Mumbai are evading arrest by taking shelter in Pakistan. Dawood Ibrahim and his henchmen who are wanted in India in connection with various terror acts in India, including the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, are given safe asylum in Pakistan. Pak-supported terror outfits like LeT continues to bomb various cities in India. India is flooded with fake Indian currency notes printed in government presses in Pakistan as part of the Pak-ISI's long-cherished strategy of destabilizing Indian economy. And still, we continued to hold peace talks with Pakistan.

#### 7) Both prime minister and home minister go back on their assurance on 26/11 attacks in Mumbai.

After the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, India had suspended the ongoing peace dialogue with Pakistan and later both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had repeatedly asserted that India will not resume peace talks with Pakistan unless all the culprits involved in the 26/11 terror attacks are brought to book by the Pakistani authorities. But within weeks, the prime minister and the home minister had to swallow their words and pride and resume peace talks with Pakistan because of the pressure from the US exerted through Sonia Gandhi. Hafiz Saeed, the mastermind behind the 26/11 attacks, not only is still roaming free in Pakistan, but he is considered as a national asset by the Pakistani authorities.

#### (8) NGO and human rights lobby promotes separatist movement in Kashmir.

The NGO and human rights lobby in Jammu and Kashmir is the mastermind behind the systematic and massive campaign undertaken by the separatist elements and pro-separatist media in the state to dub the Indian Army personnel posted in the Kashmir valley as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people. The hate-campaign against the army was further intensified after the alleged discovery of some mass graves in places like Baramulla and Uri by some NGO and human rights activists in 2008 and their propaganda claiming those mass graves as that of disappeared Kashmiri youths who had become victims of atrocities by the Indian security forces. Highlighting this claim by the local human rights activists, the Amnesty International and other international human rights organisations had projected a grim picture of the human rights

situation in J&K, and the separatists and rights activists in the Kashmir valley used the Amnesty report to start a hysteric campaign and agitation demanding the total pull out of the army from the state. The army and the J&K police had repeatedly clarified that the discovery of the so-called unmarked graves played up by the media and rights activists were actually the graves of unidentified infiltrators from across the border killed in encounter with the security forces. However the rights activists were not ready to accept this clarification and even the UPA government, guided by the NAC, remained indifferent and did nothing to defend and salvage the reputation of the army thereby indirectly giving some legitimacy to the allegations raised by the separatists against the army personnel.

All the anti-national movements in the country like the Maoist movement, separatist movement in Kashmir, efforts to revive Sikh militancy in Punjab, ULFA in Assam, Tamil nationalist organizations in Tamil Nadu, insurgency in the north-east and agitations against mega development projects like the agitation against Kudankulam nuclear plant in Tamil Nadu and POSCO steel plant in Odisha are supported and funded by foreign funded NGOs. The NAC led by Sonia Gandhi is functioning like an apex body of all such activist NGOs.

#### 9) Invitation to terrorists who crossed over to POK to come and settle down in Kashmir.

Heeding to the recommendations of the J&K government and PDP leadership, Union Home Minister in 2009 had given an open invitation to all Kashmiri militants who have gone across the border and taken asylum in POK for various reasons since 1989 to return and settle down in Jammu Kashmir. He also announced a scheme under which they will be offered financial assistance and job for their proper rehabilitation in Kashmir. To avail this general amnesty, all that they have to do is to give a promise that they have left militancy. Since there is no record of the actual number of youths who have crossed over to the other side during the last 20 years, the J&K government had sought the help of the government of POK in obtaining the actual figures of Kashmiri militants who have taken shelter in POK for giving shape to the rehabilitation scheme. Giving these details to the media people, J&K Minister of State for Revenue and Tourism Nasir Aslam Wani claimed on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb.2010 that almost two-third of the population from border villages had migrated to POK after 1990. The minister's statement is an indication that under the pretext of the said scheme, tens of thousands of Kashmiri militants from across the border would now be rehabilitated in the Kashmir valley. In fact, the proposal for providing a safe passage to the militants and those political leaders who had crossed over the LOC and were staying in Pakistan or POK to come back and lead a normal life in J&K was originally made by senior PDP leaders. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had personally taken up this issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. Reportedly, about 400 former Kashmiri terrorists from PoK have already been rehabilitated in the state under this scheme. This was a clever move by the PDP and its patrons in Pakistan to resettle thousands of ISI-trained militants from POK in Kashmir valley in preparation for launching a final jihad against the Union of India.

This general amnesty scheme for the Kashmiri terrorists announced by the UPA government is the most atrocious, stupid and dangerous move which will have serious implications for the security interests of the country. Along with many Indian Muslims, this scheme will also allow thousands of Pakistani infiltrators and other civilian Muslims from the POK to come and settle down in J&K to inflate the Muslim population in the state, avail the rehabilitation assistance from the government and to strengthen the separatist movement in the state. Even a veteran Congress-I leader like Ghulam Nabi Azad, a Union minister and former chief minister of J&K, had opposed this amnesty move and had warned the government that since there was no way of checking the identity of those who crossed over to the POK, the proposed move will only facilitate the entry of thousands of infiltrators and trouble-makers into the valley. He was soon silenced by the Sonia loyalists.

#### 10) ISI agents appointed as interlocutors on Kashmir

The UPA government on October 13, 2010 appointed a 3-member team of interlocutors to initiate a dialogue with different sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir and submit their recommendations to help the government to resolve the Kashmir problem. The interlocutors assigned with this task are noted journalist Dileep Padgaonkar, academic Radha Kumar and former information commissioner M.M.Ansari. By the way, Dileep Padgaonkar and Radha Kumar are known for their ISI links.

Syed Gulam Nabi Fai is the Executive Director of Kashmir American Council (KAC), a front organization of the ISI working under the cover of an NGO, based in Washington DC. Fai is a Kashmir-born American citizen. He was arrested on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 by the US Justice Department on charges of illegally receiving up to 4 million dollars from the ISI and trying to influence the US politicians and opinion-makers on the Kashmir issue. Fai, who was accused by the FBI of being a spy for the Pakistani spy agency ISI, pleaded guilty on December 7, 2011 to the charge of illegally lobbying the Congress to influence the American policy on Kashmir. The Kashmir American Council also runs two subsidiaries called Kashmir Centers at Brussels and London. The KAC and the two Kashmir Centers routinely conduct international peace conferences on Kashmir to mobilize and canvass support for Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. Radha Kumar, one of the three interlocutors, had attended a Kashmir conference in Brussels in 2006, organized by Majid Trambo, head of the Kashmir Center in Brussels. Dilip Padgaonkar, head of the three-member interlocutors team had also participated in a Kashmir conference organized by Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai at Washington DC in 2010. All their expenses for their entire trips, including airfares, boarding, lodging, etc, were met from the ISI funds. What can we expect from a government which appoints two ISI agents as interlocutors for Kashmir to resolve the Kashmir dispute? Following the arrest of Syed Gulam Nabi Fai by the FBI in US in 2011 for being a Pakistani spy, there was a lot of criticism in the Indian media against Dileep Padgaonkar, Radha Kumar and some other Indians for their reported links with the ISI. Even then the UPA government did not find it necessary to remove them from the interlocutors' panel. The

interlocutors submitted their report on October 12, 2011 and it was made public on May 24, 2012.

The special status given to J&K under Article 370 is only temporary. The interlocutors in their report have however recommended to further strengthen the Article 370 by deleting the word temporary and replacing it with the word 'special', thus making the temporary special status given to Kashmir as a permanent feature of the constitution. The report says that if the state government was dismissed, elections should be held within three months and no more central laws be extended to the state through a presidential ordinance. It has further recommended to set up a constitutional panel to review all central acts and articles extended to the state since the signing of the 1952 agreement (laws like the extension of the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Election Commission, CAG, AFSPA and All India Services). It says that the proportion of officers from the All India Services should be gradually reduced in favour of officers from the state. Another recommendation is that the Parliament won't make laws applicable to the state unless it relates to internal and external security and vital economic interest. It also says that all opportunities for cross-LoC cooperation should be promoted. An important point to be noted is that nowhere in the report the interlocutors mention the Pakistani-occupied Kashmir as PoK and instead refers to it as Pakistan-administered Kashmir. The government of India may consider it as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, but not the interlocutors. Such was their loyalty to Pakistan. The whole exercise was obviously an effort meant only to dilute J&K's accession to India.

### 11) Sharm el Shaikh goof up

Another shocking and unpardonable mistake committed by UPA government was the signing of a joint statement by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani after their unofficial peace talks held at Sharm el Shaikh in Egypt on July 16, 2009, agreeing to delink the jihadi terror attacks in India from the ongoing peace talks with Pakistan and to open a dialogue on India's involvement in promoting separatist movement in Balochistan. Pakistani leaders had naturally exploited this statement as an admission by India of its involvement in stirring up militancy and separatism in Balochistan. The Congress leadership had tried to dismiss the controversial joint statement issued by the prime ministers of India and Pakistan after their meeting at Sharm el Shaikh in Egypt as a drafting mistake following severe media and public criticism in India against the reference to Balochistan and India's consent to delink terrorist incidents from the peace dialogue. However it was later reported that those two clauses were inserted in the statement on the specific instructions of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

### 12) Sachar Committee Report : a conspiracy to provoke Muslim anger

Retired chief justice of Delhi High Court Rajinder Sachar is a known sympathizer of Maoist movement, ULFA, Kashmiri separatists and Naga insurgents, as can be proved by his articles and statements on such topics posted on the net. In January, 2000, Sachar had strongly condemned the arrest of Th. Muiva, General Secretary of National Socialist Council of

Nagaland-IM (most dominant Naga insurgent group) and had sought the intervention of Government of India to get him released. He later flew all the way to Bangkok to express his solidarity with the arrested Naga insurgent leader. He also participated in a symposium organized by 'Friends of Nagas' in Bangkok, wherein a resolution was passed demanding the immediate release of Th. Muiva. It may be noted that Muiva was arrested by the Thailand police on January 19, 2000 while he was travelling from Karachi to Bangkok on a fake South Korean passport.

Sachar is a pseudo secularist who holds the view that the Muslims are discriminated in India. If such a man is appointed as the head of a committee to study the status, grievances, etc. of Muslims in India and suggest remedial measures, is it possible to get an unbiased and truthful report from him? The Sachar Committee headed by Rajinder Sachar, as expected submitted its report distorting all facts, depicting a totally biased picture and recommending some remedial measures which could only promote Muslim fundamentalism. As per the recommendations of the Sachar Committee, the UPA government has introduced number of special incentive schemes to promote Madrassa education in India. As recommended by the Sachar committee, the Madrassas were linked up with Higher Secondary School Board, allowing the Madrassa students to shift to regular schools. The Madrassa degrees were given recognition on par with university degrees with eligibility to appear for competitive examinations like civil services, banks and defence service examinations. Thus, for the first time in the history of India, a Madrassa graduate, who has not even seen a collage gate, was recruited as an IAS officer in 2008.

The extent of harm done the country by the Sachar Committee report can be gauged from the coverage of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks by some sections of the western media, which while condemning the Mumbai attacks also highlighted the discrimination and ill-treatment suffered by the Muslims in India as revealed by the findings of the government-appointed Sachar Committee and thereby indirectly hinting the justification of such retaliatory attacks by the Muslim militants. Further substantiating his anti-national credentials, it was later found that Rajinder Sachar had attended an international peace conference organized by ISI spy master Syed Gulam Nabi Fai at Capitol Hill, Washington DC on July 29, 2010.

### 13) Sonia coterie supports and promotes Maoist movement

The UPA government considers the Maoist movement as a socio-economic problem and hence believes that it should be treated with sympathy and understanding and not with force. The logic behind this argument is totally misplaced. The avowed objective of Maoists is to dislodge the democratically elected government in the country through an armed revolution and to establish a dictatorship of proletariat. As such, their philosophy is based on brutal violence. They are known to indulge in routinely harassing and intimidating innocent villagers by subjecting them to extortion, looting and kidnapping. They even attack police stations, CRPF camps and police patrol parties, loot arms and ammunition and massacre hundreds of police personnel. In one such attack alone 76 CRPF personnel were massacred at Dantewade in Chhattisgarh on April 6, 2010. In a latest such attack on a motorcade of Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district on May 25, 2013, 27 people, including Mahendra Karma, the founder of Salva Judum, an anti-Maoist outfit, and Pradesh Congress committee president Nand Kumar Patel were killed. 32

people including former Union minister V.C. Shukla were injured in the incident. V.C.Shukla later succumbed to his injuries. In another instance, it was found that the Maoists had surgically implanted an IED in the stomach of a slain CRPF jawan at Latehar in Jharkhand on January 7, 2013, intended to kill those who were trying to shift the dead body. The Maoists attack even IAF helicopters engaged in providing evacuation and logistics support to paramilitary forces deployed in Maoist-infested areas. In a recent such an attack, an IAF helicopter on a rescue mission to evacuate an injured CRPF jawan and the body of another slain jawan was forced to make a crash landing in a forest area in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on January 19, 2013 after it came under heavy ground fire from the Maoists. In the latest such an attack carried out by the Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on March 11, 2014, fifteen security personnel, including 11 from CRPF and four from district police, were killed. The Maoists also took away the arms and ammunition of the slain security personnel. In response to a Parliament question, minister of state for home RPN Singh informed the Lok Sabha on May 7, 2013 that Maoists were making improvised hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades in their arms manufacturing units in Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand. Yet, the UPA government considers the Maoist movement as a humanitarian problem and insists on engaging them in peace talks. The IAF is strictly barred from using its helicopters for any offensive operations against the Maoists because of opposition from Sonia's National Advisory Council. The government's sympathetic attitude to the Maoist movement had sabotaged a major anti-Maoist operation in Andhra Pradesh in February, 2005. About 30 top Maoist leaders, including State Secretary Ramakrishna and also some other top leaders from Chattigarh and Bihar, who were holding a secret meeting deep inside the Nallamala jungles in Prakasm district of Andhra Pradesh were encircled by the special anti-naxalite squad of Andhra Pradesh on February 3, 2005. However the said operation had to be called off at the last moment because of a directive from the Centre seeking the suspension of the operation in order to create a cordial atmosphere for peace talks. Thus a golden opportunity to break the backbone of the Maoist movement in Andhra Pradesh was lost. The peace talks with the Maoists were short-lived as it soon collapsed reportedly because of the unreasonable demands raised by the Maoists. The suspension of all offensive operations against the Maoists to facilitate the success of the peace talks was used by the Maoists to regroup and revitalize their cadres, and the movement soon emerged as a much more vibrant and potent force spreading its lethal tentacles to many more regions in the country.

### Jailed Maoist leader honoured in absentia.

Dr. Binayak Sen, a jailed pro-Maoist leader and Vice President of PUCL was honoured in absentia by the 31st Indian Social Science Congress held at SNTD university, Churchgate, Mumbai from 27 to 31 December 2007, with the president of the science congress himself presenting a gold medal to him on behalf of Indian Academy of Social Sciences. The Science Congress was inaugurated by Balachandra Mungekar, President of the Indian Academy of Social Sciences and a Member of Planning Commission. While presenting the gold medal and a citation to Dr. Binayak Sen, Mungekar lauded Sen for his fresh and innovative interpretation of Mahatma Ganthi's teachings. Binayak Sen was arrested and jailed by Chattisgarh police on May 14, 2007, for his close links with Maoist leaders and was released on bail only on May 25, 2009. The UPA government obviously found nothing wrong in a government dignitary like the Planning Commission Member honouring a jailed pro-Maoist leader at an official function.



## Binayak Sen becomes steering committee member on health under Planning Commission.

On December 24, 2010, Dr. Binayak Sen was found guilty of sedition by a Raipur court for helping the Maoists in their fight against the state and was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Raipur. However, on April 15, 2011 he managed to get bail from the Supreme Court which rejected the sedition charges against him.

Within weeks of getting bail from the Supreme Court in connection with the charges of sedition, Binayak Sen was appointed by the UPA government on May 11, 2011, as a member of Planning Commission's Steering Committee on Health for 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, to advise the government on health-related issues. The Centre apparently found nothing wrong or improper in appointing a life convict on bail as a health advisor under the Planning Commission. Allowing a jailed pro-Maoist leader like Binayak Sen to be felicitated at an official function with a prestigious award and later when released on bail, his appointment as a member of Planning Commission's steering committee on health, showed the UPA government's arrogant display of support for Maoism.

## 14) UPA government's sympathetic gesture to Khalistani terrorists.

In a significant decision, the Central government has removed 142 of the 169 hardcore Punjabi militants from its blacklist. These wanted persons whose names have been deleted are believed to be currently based in Pakistan, the US, Canada, Norway, France and Germany. Those who have benefited from this baffling gesture of UPA government include four dreaded Punjab terrorists based in Pakistan, namely, Wadhawa Singh, chief of Babbar Khalsa International, Paramjit Singh Panjwar, chief of Khalistan Commando Force, Ranjit Singh @ Neeta, chief of Khalistan Zindabad Force and Lakhbir Singh Rode, nephew of slain terrorist Jarnail Singh Bhinranwale and President of International Sikh Youth Federation. The removal of their names from the blacklist will enable them to move freely around the world or return home. The government's gesture comes in the wake of consistent demand from a section of people within the ruling party who wanted the black-listed Punjab militants to be given an opportunity to join the mainstream in view of the transformation in their views and activities and normalized situation in Punjab. The names have been deleted in two phases. While 25 names were deleted in August 2010, 117 names were deleted in May, 2011. (<http://news.in.msn.com/national/article.aspx?cp-documentid=5160230>).

## 15) CBI made a 'caged parrot'.

As is well known by now, the nation's premier investigation agency, the CBI, has now been reduced to a tool of the UPA government to harass, blackmail, intimidate and punish its political opponents or to cover up the role of UPA leaders involved in various scams and other misdeeds. The UPA government showed no ethical standard in giving a clean chit to Samajwadi Party leader Mulayan Singh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayavati, in disproportionate asset case and Taj Corridor case respectively, whenever they sided with the government and shamelessly harassed them whenever they sided with the opposition. Even the

Supreme Court had slammed the CBI on January 6, 2009 for its inconsistent stand against Mulayam Singh Yadav and asked the agency not to become an instrument in the hands of the Central government. The most blatant misuse of the CBI by the UPA government was demonstrated by the deliberate bungling by the CBI in getting the Bofors scam accused Ottavia Quattrocchi extradited to India from Argentina and allowing him to withdraw the Bofors scam money from his frozen account in a London bank.

On several occasions in the past, the Supreme Court had pulled up the CBI for its tardy investigation into various scams like the 2G spectrum and the coal scam. On 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, while hearing the progress of the coal scam case, the Supreme Court severely condemned the CBI for changing the 'heart of the status report' on the coal scam allocation scam as per the instructions from the PMO and the coal ministry. It also criticized the Union Law Minister for accessing the draft status report and distorting the facts. The court even described 'the CBI as a caged parrot speaking in its master's voice'.

#### 16) Attempt to make Intelligence Bureau (IB) totally ineffective.

Intelligence Bureau cannot be considered as a very efficient organization because of its misuse for political purposes, mismanagement by the top brass and wrong priorities given in intelligence collection. But, there appears to be a calculated attempt by the UPA government to make the IB totally ineffective and useless. The questioning of a senior IB officer Rajendra Kumar by the CBI in connection with the alleged generation of fake IB alerts ahead of the encounter killing of Ishrat Jahan and three other alleged LeT terrorists in June, 2004, is indicative of such a sinister move. Such a thing has never happened in India before. An IB officer can never be questioned by any agency on the basis of the intelligence inputs he provides. Because, the IB officers function like the eyes and ears of the government and they can report on anything under the sun, including some rumours floating around, provided it has some value to the government. They are not supposed to reveal their sources. However, these reports are properly graded and only confirmed reports are passed on to the other agencies. An IB officer is not given police powers, mainly to keep him out of court proceedings. The CBI questioning of Rajendra Kumar has set a bad precedent. No IB officer will give any sensitive humint (human intelligence) inputs from now onwards because of the realization that he could be questioned by some other agency on the authenticity of the report. Fabricating evidence against the Gujarat police and thereby the state government in the encounter killing of Ishrat Jahan and further weakening the credibility of the IB appear to be the twin-objective of this dastardly act of UPA government.

The UPA government in December, 2012 appointed Syed Asif Ibrahim, a Muslim IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, as the new IB chief. He took over charge as the new chief of IB on January 1, 2013, superseding four other Hindu officers senior to him, who all had to be transferred out on different assignments to accommodate him at the top. Subsequently, Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde had made a controversial statement in Vadodara claiming credit for the UPA government for appointing a Muslim for the first time as the IB chief.

Coming from the Union home minister, it was a cheap statement, to say the least. His statement makes it very clear that it was not merit, but Ibrahim's religion that paved the way for his appointment as the IB chief, superseding four others. The way the IB is now used to contradict its own report and fabricate evidence against the Gujarat police in the encounter killing of Ishrat Jahan, gives enough grounds for suspicion as to whether there was any ulterior motive behind the elevation of Syed Asif Ibrahim as the new IB chief.

### 17) Unique Identity Card, an anti-national scheme

A national citizen's identity card is an extremely desirable and necessary document for every Indian citizen as it could be a very useful and effective instrument in checking the entry of infiltrators from across our western and eastern borders. Since 1971 more than two crore Bangladeshi nationals are reported to have entered India as illegal migrants and their inflow still continues. Under such a scenario when the UPA government announced a scheme for a Unique Identity Card for all citizens of this country, it was welcomed by all nationalists in India thinking that it will help to weed out all infiltrators from across the border and deport them. However all such hopes and expectations of the people were shattered when in August 2009, Unique Identification Database Authority of India Chairman Nandan Nilekani clarified that the UID or Adhar number will not establish one's citizenship of India. He said that all residents, including foreigners and people without proper identification documents, can also apply for UID number. The applicants would not have to furnish date or place of birth. Residents will be photographed and their fingerprints and iris would be scanned.

In fact, the first phase of the present UID project was initiated in 1999 by the NDA government mainly to provide an identity document to every Indian citizen in view of the continued influx of illegal immigrants from across the borders and deteriorating security scenario in India. The UPA government's Adhar scheme has totally discarded this security-related objective of ascertaining the citizenship identity of a person and instead shifted its focus to prevent any leakage in the welfare measures of the government and to ensure that such benefits reach the targeted sections of people. In that case, it is all the more necessary for the government to ensure that such benefits reach only the genuine citizens of the country. But the UID/Adhar number cannot ensure this objective as it is not a citizenship identity document. There are strong grounds to suspect that Sonia's NAC has deliberately left out the citizenship identity clause from the original UID scheme to help the illegal migrants in the country also to become eligible to avail the government's various welfare measures. The estimated total cost of the project is slated to range from Rs,3 to 4 lakh crore. All the illegal immigrants with the adhar number will get their entry into the National Population Register as Indian citizens and it will thus become their citizenship proof. The UID scheme is the most treacherous scheme designed by Sonia's NAC as its hidden objectives include ruining Indian economy, helping all illegal migrants in the country to become beneficiaries of the various welfare schemes of the government and in getting them citizenship proof and bribing the poor Indian voters through the direct cash transfer scheme to vote for the Congress. In fact, as widely reported, some of the

illegal migrants from Bangladesh arrested by the Mumbai Crime Branch in January, 2013 were found in possession of Adhar cards. As far as the cash transfer scheme is concerned, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi while addressing the Congress workers from 51 districts, where cash transfer scheme is to be implemented in the first phase, had boasted on December 14, 2012 that the Congress will win not only the 2014 elections, but the 2019 elections as well if the cash transfer scheme is properly implemented, which is a clear admission that the cash transfer scheme is also meant to bribe the voters. (<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/cash-transfer-will-win-cong-both-2014-2019-rahul-gandhi/1045424>)

### 18) Anti-Hindu Bill in the name of Prevention of Communal Violence Bill.

At a time when the Hindus are faced with deadly onslaughts from two of the major minority communities challenging their very survival in India, the National Advisory Council has come up with a draft Bill purportedly intended to curb communal violence in India. The Bill called the “Prevention of Communal and Targeted Violence Bill, 2011”, unashamedly puts all the blame on Hindus, unless proven otherwise, for every incident of communal violence in India. The Bill violates individual and state rights and principles of equality under the law and innocent-until-proven-guilty principles underlying the due process of law. This Bill will only serve to instigate inter-religious and communal tension in India as under the provisions of this Bill, in all cases of communal violence, the Hindus, being the majority community, will be automatically considered as the perpetrators of the crime and the people from the minority community as the victims. This vicious Bill was drafted by congenial Hindu-baiters like Harsh Mander, Aruna Roy, Jean Dreze, Teesta Satalvad, John Dayal and Syed Shahabuddin, all hand-picked by the NAC, the super cabinet cum think tank of Sonia Gandhi. Though the Bill is presently kept in abeyance because of stringent criticism from all quarters, the very fact that such an obnoxious and blatantly anti-Hindu Bill was drafted by the special committee appointed by the NAC, clearly demonstrates the destructive designs of the NAC. The NAC could be aptly described as a Satan’s Workshop. Every piece of draft legislation that comes out of this workshop is intended to harm the interests of Hindus, imperil the Indian economy or cause social unrest in the country.

### 19) UPA government encourages inflow of Bangladeshi migrants into India

The continued influx of Bangladeshi migrants into Assam has changed the demographic profile of Assam. According to the 2001 census report, there were six Muslim-dominated districts in Assam. H.S. Brahma, Election Commissioner of India, in an article written in July, 2012 had stated that according to his information, as per the 2011 census report, 11 out of 27 districts in Assam have now become Muslim-majority districts. If this trend continues, the Hindus in the State will very soon be reduced to a minority community. Many security experts and analysts like Lt Gen (Rtd) S.K. Sinha, former Governor of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir, T.V. Rajeshwar and Ajit Doval, both former chiefs of Intelligence Bureau, had pointed out the grave security implications arising out of the unchecked inflow of Bangladeshi migrants into the country. The Supreme Court of India while invalidating the IMDT Act in 2005 had also

expressed similar fears and had directed the Government of India to take immediate steps to identify and deport all Bangladeshi immigrants from Assam and other regions in the country.

However, the Government of India under one pretext or other has been avoiding taking any positive action in this regard. In fact the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act (IMDT) passed by the Parliament on December 12, 1983 was introduced by the congress-I government at the Centre only to protect the interests of Bangladeshi migrants in India. This Act is applicable only in the state of Assam. In all other states, the detection of foreigners is done under the Foreigners Act, 1946. Under the Foreigners Act, the onus of proving one's nationality or otherwise lies on the accused, where as under the IMDT Act, the onus of proving one's nationality lies on the complainant. This makes it impractical and impossible for the concerned authorities to proceed against the illegal migrants in Assam. In July, 2005, the Supreme Court of India quite rightly struck down the IMDT Act describing it as "unconstitutional" and the biggest hurdle in deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants from India. The Supreme Court also warned that large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh constituted an "external aggression" against Assam. Shockingly however, instead of initiating action on deporting the infiltrators, the UPA government on February 10, 2006, brought in the Foreigners (Tribunals for Assam) Order to nullify the apex Court's judgment. But on December 5, 2006, Supreme Court quashed this Order also as unconstitutional, and called for implementation of its earlier judgment dated July 12, 2005 for deporting all illegal immigrants from the country. However despite such a strong verdict from the Supreme Court, the UPA government has not initiated any action so far to detect and deport the illegal Bangladeshi migrants from India or to check the continued inflow of Bangladeshis into India. This omission is deliberate. There is an ISI plot to aggressively push in more Bangladeshi Muslims into Assam and West Bengal to tilt the demographic balance in the border areas of the two states in favour of Muslims. The aim of this operation is obviously to build up a conducive ground in the long run to press for the creation of a third Islamic country in the region. The UPA government's stubborn resistance to implement the Supreme Court order seeking immediate deportation of all illegal migrants from the country amply illustrates its blatant patronage to this wanton invasion of this country by illegal migrants.

## 20) UPA government appoints a scam-tainted officer as the CVC

Telecom Secretary P.J.Thomas was appointed as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) by the UPA government on September 7, 2010, despite objections raised against his appointment as CVC by opposition leader Sushama Swaraj on account of his suspected role in the 2G Spectrum scam and also because of a pending charge sheet against him in the palmolein import scam in Kerala. How can a person allegedly associated with two scams be appointed as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner? The UPA government appears to be bent upon destroying the credibility of every prestigious government institution in India. The Supreme Court on November 23, 2010 rightly termed the appointment of P.J.Thomas as chief vigilance commissioner as illegal, forcing him to resign from the post.

## 21) UPA Government's Sympathy for Anti-development Lobby

There is a very strong anti-development lobby in India which opposes all major development projects in the country like power, steel and cement and nuclear power plants, mega dams and ports, uranium and coal mining projects in the name of environmental pollution, rehabilitation of project-affected people, loss of livelihood of people, etc. As a result of the activities of this lobby, hundreds of prestigious mega developmental projects in the country are indefinitely delayed and many other proposed projects like the Vadhavan port in Maharashtra, Umbargaon port in Gujarat and Haripur nuclear plant in West Bengal have been abandoned. When Medha Patkar, one of the top leaders of the anti-development lobby, went on an indefinite fast at Jantar Mantar in Delhi from March 29, 2006 in protest against the Centre's clearance for raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam from 110.64 metres to 121.92 metres and also demanding immediate rehabilitation of all project-affected people, the UPA government had deputed three Union ministers namely Saifuddin Soz, Union Water Resources Minister, Ms. Meira Kumar, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister and Pritviraj Chavan, Minister of State (PMO) to meet Medha Patkar and express the Centre's support and sympathy with her. Minister Saifuddin Soz even joined the protest programme and sat with Medha Patkar for a few hours on April 4, 2006 to express his solidarity with the cause taken up by her. The three Union ministers later visited the project site to study the condition and problems of the displaced villagers and submitted a detailed report to the prime minister fully supporting the arguments and allegations raised by Medha Patkar.

Medha Patkar is notorious for her destructive campaigns for stalling various mega development projects in the country. A world bank loan sanctioned for the Sardar Sarovar project and another loan for the same project sanctioned by the Japanese government were cancelled as a result of the intensive campaign that she carried out outside the country with the help of some foreign agencies. Many mega development projects in the country were either cancelled or delayed because of the destructive campaigns undertaken by Medha Patkar and her associates during the last two to three decades causing a loss of lakhs of crores of rupees to the nation. Some of the mega projects stalled or delayed by the activities of this anti-development lobby include Rs 52000-crore POSCO, Rs 40000-crore Arcelor Mittal and Rs 15400-crore (Tata) steel plants in Odisha, Rs 42000-crore Tata steel plant in Jharkhand, Rs 20000-crore Tata steel plant in Chhattisgarh, 2000 MW Lower Subansiri hydroelectric project in Assam and almost all new thermal and nuclear power plants in India.

According to a report published in the English daily 'The Free Press Journal', dated April 21, 2006, Saifuddin Soz's total support to Medha Patkar's campaign against Sardar Sarovar dam was prompted by a directive from 10 Janpath. In fact, the anti development lobby enjoys the patronage of Sonia's NAC, various church agencies, some international NGOs and even some UN agencies like the UNESCO. Blocking India's economic progress appears to be a major agenda of the imperialist block and Sonia is being used by them to achieve this goal.

## 22) Antulay Episode

After the Mumbai terror attacks, the people of India had shown exemplary unity in condemning the jihadi terror strikes and the nation's resolve to fight against Pak-sponsored terrorism in India. The entire Muslim community and the Urdu press for the first time showed rare unity in condemning the jihadi terror attacks in Mumbai and the Pak-ISI for sponsoring terrorist strikes in India. Outraged by the mindless terror attacks in Mumbai, Muslims had taken out protest morchas and demonstrations in different parts of the country against the terror sponsors based in Pakistan. They also wore black bands on Eid day in protest against the Mumbai carnage. Then came the shocking statement from A.R.Antulay, a senior Union Cabinet Minister, that he suspected a conspiracy by the Hindu terrorists in the killing of ATS Chief Hemant Karkare and seeking an inquiry into the said possibility.

Antulay's mischievous conspiracy theory was aptly condemned by vast sections of the people and the media in the country as irresponsible. But it did strengthen the Pakistani argument that the Mumbai carnage was an insider's job and that India was making wild and baseless allegations against Pakistan. However a defiant Antulay stood firm in his assertion. Further complicating the issue, Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh and some other leaders, mostly Muslims, from the Congress and other political parties also came forward in support of this conspiracy theory. The controversy raised by Antulay created some confusion and divisions among the Indian Muslims and a section of Muslims and Urdu press found some merit in the allegations raised by him. Thus the rare unity shown by the Hindus and Muslims in condemning Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror strikes was shattered and the national resolve to combat terror together by all sections of the people was seriously dented. On December 23, 2008 Union Home Minister P.Chidambaram had to make a detailed statement in the Lok Sabha to explain and assert that there was no conspiracy or foul play behind the killing of ATS chief Hemant Karkare. Though Antulay was satisfied by the clarification given by the home minister, the intended harm by this stage-managed controversy was already done. At a time, when the whole country was grieving over the mayhem caused by the Mumbai terror attacks, can a cabinet minister like A.R.Antulay dare to make such a malicious and controversial statement without the approval of his dictator-like party supremo? The fact is that the anti-national think-tank that guides the UPA government was not pleased with the rare unity displayed by the Hindus and Muslims in India in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror attacks. They did not relish it and they had to curb all such positive trends in the country. So, Antulay was conveniently used by Sonia Gandhi and her think-tank cronies to raise a controversy that will keep the Indian society divided.

## 23) Digvijay Singh supports Azis Burney's theory of RSS conspiracy behind Mumbai terror attacks.

Azis Burney is the editor of the Urdu daily "Rashtriya Sahara". After the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, Azis Burney had written several articles in his paper contradicting the government's claim that the attack was planned and executed by Pakistani terror group Lashkar-

e-Taiba, and asserting that the circumstantial evidence strongly indicated the involvement of Hindu terrorists in the attack in which three top police officers, including ATS chief Hemant Katkare, were also killed. Later he compiled his articles into a book and published it under the title “RSS ka shadyantra, 26/11” (26/11, an RSS conspiracy) in Urdu. The book was released at a function held in Delhi on December 6, 2010 and in Mumbai on December 27. Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh was the chief guest at the book launch functions at both the places. Speaking at the book-launch function in Delhi, he claimed that ATS chief Hemant Katkare had spoken to him just a couple of hours before he was killed, informing him about the threat he faced from Hindu terrorists. By making such claims, his only intention was to throw his weight behind Burney’s assertions in his book about the alleged RSS conspiracy.

On August 7, 2009, Vinay Joshi, an RSS activist, had filed a law suit against Azis Burney in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate of Navi Mumbai against Azis Burney for indulging in anti national activities by twisting and distorting the facts about the terror attacks in Mumbai. On January 29, 2011, Azis Burney tendered an unconditional apology to Vinay Joshi for the baseless allegations he had raised against the RSS and requesting him to withdraw his law suit against him. His apology was prominently published in Hindi and Urdu editions of the ‘Rashtriya Sahara’ daily.

The 26/11 carnage in Mumbai was the worst ever terror attack in India, carried out by ten Lashkar-e-Taiba activists from Pakistan. In all, 166 people, including 28 foreign nationals, were killed in the attack and 308 people were injured. The attack drew global condemnation. Pakistan had initially denied the involvement of any Pakistani outfit in the attack, but later admitted the role of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistani terrorist outfit, in the attack. It is such a horrific attack of monstrous proportions that the Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi, using her cronies, tried to trivialize by distorting facts and putting the blame on Hindu activists. Ajmal Kasab, the only terrorist caught alive and subsequently hanged, was only a misguided youth who blindly believed in the jihadi philosophy of Islam. Sonia Gandhi’s culpability in the crime is much more greater than that of Ajmal Kasab.

#### 24) Jamia Nagar Shoot-out

The Batla House shoot-out in Delhi was a meticulously planned operation, carried out on specific information. It happened during the forenoon hours on a sunny day on September 19, 2008, at Jamia Nagar, a congested Muslim locality in Delhi, in the presence of a large crowd of Muslim onlookers who raised religious slogans while watching the raid from a distance. Two young terrorists were shot dead in the operation. Inspector R.C.Sharma, a brave and distinguished police officer was also killed in the shoot-out and another police officer was injured. Two other terrorists however managed to give a slip to the police and fled from the scene. The irate Muslim residents of the locality who were present on the spot in large numbers however refused to believe that the two boys shot dead were terrorists and described the shoot-out as a fake encounter. The human rights lobby also concluded that the two youths shot dead by



the police were innocent students and launched a campaign demanding a judicial inquiry into the shoot-out, thereby further inciting the anger and resentment of the local residents. There was no effort from the government side to clarify the position and assert the genuineness of the operation. A substantial section of the press and electronic media also gave credence to the lies and malicious propaganda carried out by the human rights lobby describing the Jamia Nagar encounter as a cold-blooded murder of two innocent students. As a result of this sinister campaign by human rights activists and a section of the media, even the moderate Muslims in the country believed that the Jamia Nagar shoot-out was a fake encounter. Sensing the simmering anger among the Muslim residents of Jamia Nagar over the alleged fake encounter, senior Samajwadi Party leaders who had earlier praised the Delhi police for the success of the Jamia Nagar operation, took a U-turn on the issue and rushed to Jamia Nagar to express their solidarity with the local residents and supported their demand for a judicial enquiry into the Batla House shoot-out. Top congress-I leaders like Kabil Sibal, Arjun Singh, Digvijay Singh and Salman Khursheed also visited Jamia Nagar to extend their sympathy and support for the demands and grievances of the local Muslim residents over the issue. These leaders also reportedly apprised both congress president Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh about the anger and misgivings among the Muslims in Jamia Nagar over the Batla House encounter and strongly supported their demand for a judicial enquiry into the incident. These leaders became silent only when the concerned agencies shared the clinching evidence with them about the involvement of the two killed militants in several terror plots. The government had all the evidences to prove the genuineness of the Jamia Nagar operation. But still, it did not take any timely action to clear the misgivings among the Muslims over the issue. Thus a genuine encounter in which a brave and distinguished police officer lost his life, was made to look like a fake encounter, deliberately provoking anger and resentment among the Muslims.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi on February 4, 2010, expelled SP leader Amar Singh said that at a meeting of the UPA-SP coordination committee held after the Batla House encounter, he had demanded a thorough probe into the encounter incident and it was backed by Sonia Gandhi and her political adviser Ahmed Patel. But they did not have their way as the NSA opposed it and the PM also felt that it will demoralize the police.

## 25) Sonia and Priyanka help to revive pro-Eelam movement in Tamil Nadu

The LTTE had a strong base in Tamil Nadu, prior to the assassination Rajiv Gandhi. However, after the killing of Rajiv Gandhi in a human bomb attack by an LTTE cadre in 1991, there was a surge of outrage among the people over the heinous crime, and as a result the support base of LTTE was almost wiped out from Tamil Nadu. Sonia Gandhi, widow of slain leader Rajiv Gandhi, was initially very much opposed to DMK leader Karunanidhi as the Jain Commission report had made some adverse remarks against him in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. However after the Lok Sabha elections in 2003 despite Karunanidhi's past record of being a staunch supporter of LTTE, quite strangely the Congress-I led by Sonia Gandhi decided to align with Karunanidhi's party to form the UPA government at the Centre.

Even stranger was her behavior when later she started supporting a campaign launched by some human rights activists in Tamil Nadu to get the death sentence given to Nalini, one of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination, commuted to life term. In 1999, i.e. one year after becoming the congress president, Sonia is reported to have told President K.R.Narayanan that neither she nor her son and daughter wanted any of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination be hanged. Before Sonia Gandhi's meeting with President Narayanan seeking mercy for Rajiv's killers, the congress leaders were in the forefront in opposing any mercy to them. Sonia's mercy plea silenced them all. What transpired at Sonia's private meeting with the President was revealed in a media interview by Mohini Giri, former Chairperson of the National Women's Commission. (Front Line, November 5-18, 2005). Acting on Sonia's plea, Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by the state governor in May,2000.

The campaign carried out by Tamil Eelam supporters for getting Nalini's death sentence commuted to life term, with Sonia extending a helping hand, got wide publicity in the press and electronic media which resulted in the revival of some public support and sympathy for the LTTE in Tamil Nadu giving it a fresh lease of life. Slowly the erstwhile supporters of LTTE including DMK chief M. Karunanidhi also started publicly airing their views in support of the LTTE. On March 19, 2008, Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Vadra had visited Vellore jail in Tamil Nadu to meet Nalini Sriharan who is undergoing life imprisonment for her role in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Priyanka had reportedly spent about an hour with Nalini. Priyanka's explanation for her controversial visit to Vellore jail to meet Nalini was that it was her way of coming to peace with her loss. But what has really happened is that Priyanka's controversial visit to Vellore jail and the publicity it received created a new sympathy wave for Nalini and a new respectability to the LTTE, the outlawed organisation. The leniency and goodwill shown by the UPA government and Sonia Gandhi towards M . Karunanidhi, a pro-LTTE leader, and Nalini, an accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, was solely responsible for the revival of the support base of LTTE in Tamil Nadu.

## 26) UPA regime neck-deep in Corruption.

Corruption is a universal phenomenon. No country is free from this virus, although the scale and intensity of this menace varies from one country to another. India is considered as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. But, what is significant now is that the magnitude of corruption in India has taken unimaginable dimensions under the UPA regime. Taking a few thousand crores of rupees in a corruption deal has now become quite routine and ordinary, as was found in 2G spectrum scam, Commonwealth Games scam and coal scam. In fact, Sonia Gandhi's involvement in corruption deals dates back to Rajiv Gandhi's time when the Bofors scam first broke out exposing the role of Italian middleman Ottavio Quattrocchi, which tarnished Rajiv's name.

## Ottavio Quattrocchi Episode

In April 1998, the CBI in a court affidavit had nailed Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi and late Rajiv Gandhi for being involved in Bofors scam. Quattrocchi's accounts in the BSIAG Bank in London were frozen in July 2003 by the British government on the request of CBI as the amount was linked to the Swish accounts of A.E.Services, a company owned by Quattrocchi which had received the Bofors kickbacks. All appeals by Quattrocchi to defreeze these accounts were turned down by the British courts following strong defence put up by the CBI. However there was a sudden change in the CBI's stance on the issue after the installation of the UPA government at the Centre in 2004. On May 31, 2005 the Delhi High Court gave a judgement quashing the proceedings against the Hinduja brothers and Swedish arms manufacturer A.B.Bofors in the Bofors kickbacks case on technical grounds as some of the vital documents from the Swedish authorities submitted by the CBI were not certified. Strangely enough the CBI's Director of Prosecution (DOP) S.K.Sharma gave his legal opinion against contesting this judgment. Subsequently the law ministry wrote to Britain's Crown Prosecution Service recommending the release of Quattrocchi's frozen accounts as nothing adverse was found against him. The government also sent Additional Solicitor General B.Dutta to London in December 2005 to depose before the British Crown Prosecution Service that the CBI did not have any clinching evidence to link the Bofors money to Quattrocchi's off-shore company A.E.Services and that the Government of India did not have any objection in defreezing Quattrocchi's accounts. S.K.Sharma (DOP,CBI) was also sent to London to ensure the early defreezing of Quattrocchi's accounts. On 11th. January 2006 the Queen's H.C ordered the defreezing of Quattrocchi's accounts, and \$4.5 million (Rs.21 crore) in his accounts was immediately withdrawn even as the Supreme Court gave a directive to the Centre to ensure that Quattrocchi's accounts remained frozen. See, how the Supreme Court was outwitted by the queen of corruption.

## Sonia's involvement in mega scams.

The Bofors scam which rocked the country since late 1980s can no more be considered as a major scam compared to the mega scams of the UPA era. One common factor in all the recent scams is the unmistakable links of Sonia Gandhi with every such scam. Janata Party leader Dr Subramania Swami had written a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on November 24, 2010, informing him that Sonia Gandhi's sisters Anushka and Nadia had received Rs 18000 crore (\$3.3 billion) each, amounting to 60% of the total kickbacks in the 2G scam. He had also written some more letters to the prime minister about the various other corrupt and shady dealings of Sonia Gandhi, with evidence. He had also conducted a press conference in Chennai in November, 2010 alleging the role of Sonia Gandhi in various mega scams in the country. Dr Subramania Swami is a former Union law minister, and the serious charges made by him against Congress President and NAC chairperson Sonia Gandhi cannot be taken lightly. Either the prime minister should have ordered a thorough probe into the allegations or Sonia should have filed a defamation suit against Dr Subramania Swami for making baseless allegations. Since

nothing of that sort happened, it has to be presumed that the charges leveled against Sonia are true.

According to a front page report in the English daily 'Mumbai Mirror', dated September 15, 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had met Sonia Gandhi on August 31, 2012, i.e. the day he returned from the non Aligned Summit in Tehran, and conveyed to her that his office had cleared the coal block allotment on the recommendation of her political secretary Ahmed Patel. Manmohan Singh was reportedly forced to clarify his position by the drubbing he was getting in the media over the coal-gate scam and the aspersions being cast on his integrity.

According to WikiLeaks expose, Sonia Gandhi has amassed black money to the tune of \$40 billion in foreign banks. She had also inherited \$2 billion from the Swiss Bank account of late Rajiv Gandhi. The WikiLeaks had also published details of huge sums of black money, including bank account numbers, held by other Congress leaders like Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh. It is thus a combined looting by the UPA government.

### Tainted MPs in House panel.

Former Union minister A. Raja, the main accused in the 2G spectrum scam, Suresh Kalmadi, accused in the Commonwealth Games scam and DMK MP Kanimozhi, another accused in the 2G spectrum scam have been nominated as members of separate parliamentary standing committees by the UPA government. While Raja, a DMK MP, has been nominated to the standing committee on energy, Suresh Kalmadi, a Congress MP, has been nominated to the standing committee on external affairs. DMK MP Kanimozhi has been nominated to the standing committee on home affairs. Raja, who was arrested in connection with the 2G scam on February 2, 2011 was released on bail on May 15, 2012. Suresh Kalmadi, who spent nine months in jail was released on bail on January 19, 2012. Kanimozhi, who was arrested in connection with 2G spectrum allocation on May 20, 2011 was released on bail on November 29, 2011. The inclusion of the three tainted leaders in the Parliamentary standing committee clearly shows the patronage they enjoyed from Sonia Gandhi.

### 27) CIRUS nuclear reactor closed down under US pressure.

CIRUS was a research reactor at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Trombay, near Mumbai. It was supplied by Canada in 1954. This 40 MW reactor went critical on July 10, 1960. India conducted its first nuclear test at Pokhran (Pokhran-1) in 1974 using the plutonium produced by the CIRUS reactor. However, under pressure from the US, and as part of the nuclear deal signed with the US, India was forced to close down the CIRUS reactor on December 31, 2010, though it had a life of 20 more years. The CIRUS was a symbol of growth of our country's civil and strategic atomic programme, and most of the nuclear scientists in the country were extremely angry and upset over the forcible closure of the CIRUS reactor. There is definitely merit in their conclusion that the nuclear treaty which imposed conditions on India to shut down the CIRUS reactor and desist from any further nuclear tests was a trap laid by the western

powers to effectively cap India's nuclear research programme and bind India to terms and conditions of Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty through the back door.

## 28) UPA government sabotages and delays a very sensitive neutrino research project.

The Indian scientists have been trying to revive the neutrino research in the country by building an underground physics laboratory in India since last few years. On the initiative of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), a Neutrino Collaboration Group (NSG) was established in August, 2002 with the specific objective of setting up an underground neutrino laboratory in India.

The Site Selection Committee of the INO collaboration group had initially identified two potential sites and conducted feasibility study of the two sites at Rammam in Darjeeling, West Bengal and the Singara site in Nilgiri hills, Tamil Nadu for the location of the project. Both the sites had enough rock cover that would shield the laboratory from cosmic radiation. After evaluation of various criteria like availability of water, power, cost factors, risk and safety issues, depth, accessibility, time to install, etc. the SSC opted for the Singara site in Tamil Nadu which was found more suitable for the project.

The neutrinos are believed to be the fundamental particles that were first formed in the universe even before the atoms. The neutrinos have no charge, almost no mass, and are so tiny that they can pass through absolutely every thing, including the earth. The whole universe is filled with neutrinos. They permeate every inch of space all around us. Billions of neutrinos pass through our bodies every second. But still, there is not much known about these elusive particles. They have undetermined mass, and travel at near the speed of light. They generally do not interact with matter and pass through everything unhindered. However, on the rare occasion of their interaction with the matter through collision with the nucleus of an atom, they interact with the nucleus, get absorbed, and produce another harmless particle called a muon. It is this interaction that will be subjected to study and research by the INO team.

Scientists believe that the study of the neutrinos will help us understand the universe and its origin better. It could also have vast applications in the field of astrophysics. As the neutrinos pass through matter almost undisturbed, the observatory has to be built deep underground, ensuring that all other particles and rays are naturally filtered out. The project report for the INO was submitted in 2002. The approval for the project came in 2007. Subsequently, the Planning Commission also approved its funding and allocated a sum of Rs.950 crores for the project, earmarking Rs.315 crore for disbursal during the 11th Plan. The Ministry of Environment and Forest also gave its clearance in 2008.

The India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Singara was proposed to be housed in a man-made cave about 2 kilometres beneath the tallest peak of the Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu.

There are only a handful of such observatories in the world, and this Rs.950 crore India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) was slated to be the most advanced among them and was expected to put India at the forefront of neutrino physics.

### Opposition to the project

Some NGO and environmental activists in the country however opposed this project from the beginning, raising various environmental issues. They resorted to a media campaign against the project at national and international level to scuttle the project. Even some international agencies like World Wildlife Fund also took an active part in this campaign. The forest department in Tamil Nadu also opposed the project and refused to give green clearance to the project.

### Support for the project.

Former president Dr.Abdul Kalam and many top nuclear scientists in the country, including former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman late P.K.Iyengar, had shown a keen interest in early completion of the neutrino project at Singara. In August, 2009, eleven leading physicists, including Nobel laureates Sheldon Glashow and Masatoshi Koshihira, had written to India's prime minister Manmohan Singh urging him to intervene to push forward the project. They wrote that "The INO will bring more big science to India and enhance India's role as an important player in front-line science". (NATURE / Vol 461/24 September 2009).

The Union ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) in November, 2009 finally rejected the proposal for setting up an underground neutrino observatory at Singara in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris district on the ground that the project site falls in an elephant corridor and tiger reserve area.

The decision of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to deny permission to the INO project at Singara in Nilgiri hills had shocked and disheartened all the scientists associated with the project. The INO scientists along with the Geological Survey of India had identified Singara as the best available and most suitable site to locate the INO, based on various factors like safety, seismicity and year-round accessibility. A dedicated team of scientists had tirelessly worked for six years and had completed all the necessary spade work for locating the most prestigious science lab in the country at Singara. But all their efforts, dedication, patriotic spirit and their enthusiasm for neutrino research have all gone in vain. The Singara site for the neutrino lab been rejected for the silliest excuse of it being a tiger reserve and an elephant corridor. There are any number of tiger reserves and elephant corridors in the country. Where as, the Singara site was the place best-suited for the proposed science lab. The Singara region was declared as a tiger reserve only in 2008, where as the forest clearance for the neutrino lab was pending since 2006. It looks, as if, the area was declared as a tiger reserve only to help and strengthen the lobby campaigning for scuttling the neutrino project at Singara.

## Importance of neutrino research

The neutrino science is not just a new science, but it is the science of the future. The whole universe is filled with neutrinos. And yet, the scientists know very little about these mystery particles. Thousands of scientists all over the world are engaged in unveiling the hidden mysteries of these elusive particles. The experiments being carried out by the European Organization for Nuclear research (CERN) at its research lab in Geneva are also linked with the neutrino research. The proton-colliding experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at Geneva with tentative evidence for the existence of Higgs boson (the God particle) has already created a sensation among the scientific community in the world. The neutrino research is certain to open the floodgate of new mysteries and revelations that could shock the mankind. We will now come to know more about the black hole, antimatter and dark energy. The neutrino research is expected to change the complexion of the universe as it is perceived today. The exciting possibilities of neutrino research may one day prove that many of the fictional events shown in the English serial "Star Trek" may not remain fictional any more. Another important fact is that the neutrino technology, just as the nuclear energy, will also have its use in military application. It is possible that those who master the neutrino technology will rule the earth in future. Imagine a situation where we can tap the dark energy and send an invisible dark energy beam to destroy an enemy country. Yes, it is a possible "Star Trek" like future scenario. Is it not clear now why Jairam Ramesh and Sonia Gandhi at the behest of their Western masters sabotaged the Singara project? The West will not allow us to develop any such crucial technology on our own. We always have to contend with being a borrower. There are any number of traitors in the country who are ready to collaborate with the Western agencies and sabotage crucial Indian projects like the one at Singara. Just as the black hole, the antimatter, dark matter and dark energy are all real. In fact, it is reported that the universe is made of mostly dark matter and dark energy. The neutrino research will help to shed more light on all such hidden secrets and mysteries. It is such an important project that the Sonia loyalists have successfully stalled and delayed.

The neutrino project site has now been shifted to the Bodi West Hills in Theni district in Tamil Nadu. It may be noted that the new site was earlier rejected by the site selection committee, for not being good enough for the location of the project. The neutrino project at Singara was to be commissioned in 2012. Because of the green hurdles created by the NGO lobby and the MoEF, the INO project, the country's biggest-ever research facility for basic sciences, will now be delayed by at least 7/8 years.

## 29) UPA government responsible for India's diminishing defence capabilities.

Construction of the 73 all-weather roads measuring about a total of 3808 km, was approved by the government over 4 years ago in a belated effort to match with China's spectacular infrastructure development work in the Tibetan Autonomous region. However the latest status report on the progress of the project reveals that only 12 of the 73 roads earmarked for construction along the unresolved 4056 km line of actual control with China have actually been completed till now. This was the situation in 2012 which was actually the deadline for the

completion of this project. These shocking and unpardonable delays have been caused by lack of necessary environmental clearances, bureaucratic hurdles and delays in allocation of funds. These things are happenings when the senior military officials and defence analysts have been repeatedly seeking urgent measures to bolster road connectivity and telecommunication links along the LAC to ensure faster movement of troops, artillery and other equipments to forward areas in case of an emergency.

It is most unfortunate that Indian troops have to trek long distances to reach their border posts. At many places, even our kaccha (temporary) roads stop at 60 to 70 km short of the LAC with closest rail link being 100 km away. China on the other hand has highway and metal roads coming right up to its claim lines. China has built several air, road and rail links all along the LAC, and can mobilize large columns of troops at their launch pads at short notice. China, for instance, has now can boast of a 40000-km road network in Tibet, apart from rail links like the 1118-km one from Lhasa to Gormo in Qinghai province of mainland China. It has also built huge air-lift capabilities.

India's much talked about military modernization programme has not yielded any positive results so far. Despite all such talks about the modernization of Indian army, the capacity of Indian artillery regiments to play any crucial role in a war remains extremely poor. The last major acquisition of towed gun-howitzers was of about 400 pieces of 39-calibre 155 mm FH-77B howitzers with a range of 30 km from Bofors of Sweden in the mid-1980s. Every effort in the past to make fresh acquisition of guns has been thwarted by unforeseen moves with strong possibility of sabotage. It has been reported that close to 100 Army procurement projects are currently stuck up at different stages amid bureaucratic bottle necks, cumbersome procedures and suspected sabotage. Under the prevailing scenario, it will take more than 15 years for the Army to achieve its optimum level of operational readiness to defend our borders.

<http://indianmilitarynews.wordpress.com/tag/howitzer/>

Speaking ahead of the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the air force on October 8, 2010, Air force chief Air Chief Marshal P.V.Naik had stated that 50% of IAF equipments, including fighters, radars, transport aircraft and air defence weapons, were either obsolete or obsolescent. This kind of a situation emerges in India, when, as per some international defence review reports, Pakistan has already overtaken India in possession of number of nuclear war-heads and long-range missiles. It is also reportedly catching up fast with India in its superiority in fighting a conventional war, with the massive military aid it was getting from the US in the name of its war on terror. Thus, when the army top brass is debating about the worst-case scenario of India being forced to face a two-front war, the ground reality appears to be frighteningly grim.

Just ahead of the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Air Force Day on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, Air Chief Marshal N.A.K.Browne said on October 3d, that the IAF has now 34 squadrons of fighter planes and it would reach its sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons by 2022. So, we are presently 8 squadrons short of the sanctioned strength and we will have to wait till 2022 to reach even the



sanctioned strength. This is a very tragic situation, as air superiority is the key to win the modern wars.

### India's Light Combat Aircraft Programme

It has been reported that India's light combat aircraft, named 'Tejas', which was scheduled to be inducted into the Indian Air Force in 2012 is further delayed by another three years. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had started development of this aircraft way back in 1983 with the aim of replacing the ageing MIG-21 fighter jets of IAF with the locally made Tejas attack aircrafts. At the time when the project was taken up, it was widely expected that the new combat aircraft would become operational by the year 1995. However a series of technical snags and mishaps forced the DRDO and the HAL to delay its induction several times in the past. The single-engine Tejas will become fully combat ready only after getting the final operational clearance. So far the Tejas has received only the initial operational clearance-1 (IOC-I), granted in January 2011, to certify its airworthiness. The IOC-II for the fighter, which includes integration of some weapons like laser-guided bombs, initially pushed back to December 2012, is now further delayed without any convincing explanation. India is reported to have already spent more than Rs.25000 crore on Tejas project. The Indian Air Force is already faced with a serious shortage of fighter aircraft, as induction of new aircraft was not keeping pace with the retirement of old and ageing aircraft for quite some time. Any further delay in induction of Tejas aircraft will seriously hamper the overall efficiency and operational capabilities of the IAF. ( [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-18/india/32729834\\_1\\_light-weight-fighter-naval-variant-and-trainer-tejas-light-combat-aircraft](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-18/india/32729834_1_light-weight-fighter-naval-variant-and-trainer-tejas-light-combat-aircraft)).

Former Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Navy chief Admiral Suresh Mehta had admitted that India has neither the capability nor the intention to match China's military strength, force for force, and therefore our strategy to deal with China would need to be in consonance with these realities. He further said that whether in terms of GDP, defence spending or any other social, economic or development parameter, the gap between the two is wide to bridge and getting wider by the day. He lamented that India's defence expenditure has been hovering around a low two percent of GDP and warned that unless there is a substantial hike in the defence expenditure, the gap in the military capability between us and our potential adversaries could further widen and dilute our operational edge. Admiral Mehta was speaking on the topic of National Security Challenges at a function organized by the National Maritime Foundation at New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup>.August, 2009.

### Shortages faced by the IAF

The IAF and defence officials had informed the standing committee on defence on April 15, 2012 that the Indian Air Force was facing critical deficiency of trainer aircraft and simulators and that the strength of the fighter squadrons was depleting fast. The IAF has 34 fighter squadrons presently against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons and this number was likely

to reduce further to 31 squadrons during the 12<sup>th</sup> plan period. This is because, the induction process has not been commensurate with the de-induction process.

### India's indigenous aircraft carrier

At a time when the US has already announced its plan to relocate 60 per cent of its formidable naval fleet towards the Asia-Pacific region, and China having already commissioned its first ever aircraft carrier in September 2012, India's long-standing aim of being equipped with two full-blown carrier battle groups has suffered a huge set back with the reported delay in the construction schedule in the 40000 tonne indigenous aircraft carrier, being built at the Cochin shipyard. According to present indications, the new aircraft carrier (IAC-I) will not be battle ready anytime before 2017. This has severely hampered the Indian Navy's plan to have two carrier battle groups (CBGs) by 2015. India's first CBG is to be centred around the much-delayed 44570-tonne INS Vikramaditya (refitted Gorshkov) which was rescheduled to be inducted into the Indian Navy by early 2013 under the revised \$2.33 billion deal inked with Russia. However its delivery is further delayed by an year reportedly because of a technical snag. The second CBG was to be centred around the IAC-I, to be christened as INS Vikrant after the country's first carrier decommissioned in 1997. The Navy will now have to stretch the operational life of its present solitary carrier, the 28000-tonne INS Virat, beyond 2014. Thus, India, which earlier had two aircraft carriers, is now forced to manage with just one old and ailing carrier INS Virat. The 50 year-old INS Virat is relatively toothless with just 11 Sea Harrier jump jets left to operate from its deck. The 45 MIG 29K naval fighters, being procured from Russia for \$2 billion, can operate only from Vikramaditya and IAC-I. India also has a 65000-tonne IAC-II proposal on the drawing board. But, it has reportedly been derailed by the delay in the IAC-I.

All this is happening when the US has announced its plan to deploy at least six of its 11 CBGs in the Asia-Pacific region. Each of these carriers is of over 94000 tonnes and can operate 80-90 fighters. China's first ever aircraft carrier, the 67500-tonne Liaoning, after the sea-trials was commissioned into the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) on September 25, 2012. It is a refurbished Soviet carrier purchased from Ukraine in 1998. China, as part of its ongoing robust programme, is reported to have plans to build up to five indigenously-built aircraft carriers in the decade ahead.

### India's submarine fleet

At present, the Indian Navy operates only 14 submarines against the sanctioned strength of 24, due to delays in new acquisitions. Ten of these submarines are Kilo class Soviet-origin vessels and the rest are HDW German-origin vessels. This number is likely to dwindle further to half the present strength by 2015 as most of these vessels are ageing and would be decommissioned in the next five years. India had signed a contract with the French firm DCNS in October 2005 for six Scorpene submarines to be built at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), Mumbai. First of these submarines was scheduled to be inducted into the Indian Navy by

December 2012. But the latest on this front is that there will be a full three years delay in delivery of these submarines and the first vessel will not be ready for induction before 2015.

### Nuclear-powered submarines

The nuclear-powered Akula-II class submarine K-152 Nerpa that India had taken on lease from Russia was handed over to India on January 23, 2012 at a function held in Russia. On reaching the Indian shores, it was renamed as INS Chakra and inducted into the Indian Navy at a ceremony held in the port town of Visakapatnam on April 4, 2012. This submarine will be on a ten-year lease with Indian Navy till 2022 as per a contract signed with Russia in 2004, worth over \$900 million. The 8140-tonne INS Chakra, based in Visakapatnam, however, is not armed with long-range nuclear missiles, like the Russian SS-N-21 cruise missiles with over 2500-km range due to international nonproliferation treaties like the Missile Technology Control Regime. The Indian nuclear triad's elusive underwater leg will become functional only when the home-grown nuclear submarine, the over 6000-tonne INS Arihant becomes fully operational in 2013/14.

India had earlier operated another Soviet-origin Charlie class submarine between 1988 and 1991. It was also named Chakra. The said nuclear submarine was quietly returned to Russia after three years, without seeking any lease-extension, reportedly under pressure from the US. Not only that, the expertise gained from Chakra was steadily lost, since the Navy did not operate any other nuclear submarine thereafter.

### Indigenous nuclear-powered submarine

The Indian Navy's Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project to design and construct nuclear submarines was first initiated in 1974, when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the prime minister of India. After the initial ups and downs in acquiring the necessary technology, the matter was seriously pursued since 1985 to develop an indigenously constructed nuclear submarine based on the concept of the Soviet Charlie-II class design, detailed drawings of which were obtained from the Soviet Union in 1989. However the actual work on the first ATV started only in 1998. On completion, the first indigenously-built nuclear submarine named INS Arihant was symbolically launched from its dry dock on July 26, 2009. The INS Arihant is presently undergoing harbour acceptance trials and is likely to be inducted into the Indian Navy by 2013. Thus it took more than 30 years for India to design and develop its first Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV).

In the annual budget presented in the Parliament on February 28, 2013, the defence outlay has been only marginally hiked to Rs 203,672 crore. It means that the country's budgeted defence expenditure will amount to only 1.79% of the projected GDP for 2013-14. This despite the fact that the armed forces and defence experts have for years been demanding at least 3% of GDP for defence outlay to ensure requisite deterrence against both China and Pakistan. Last year's allocation was Rs193,408 crore, which was further reduced to Rs 176,504 crore by the revised estimate. China's defence allocation for the current year is \$119 billion.

### 30) UPA government blocks sensitive defence/infrastructure projects raising eco-hurdles

#### A bird stops missile testing range proposal

The Navy's proposal to set up a missile testing range at Tillanchong island in the Andaman and Nicobar islands was shot down by the environment ministry in October, 2012, as the said island was the habitat of an endangered bird Nicobar Megapode. Defence minister A.K.Antony on October 18 confirmed the rejection of the Tillanchong island for the missile range and added that a new site will be identified soon by the Navy chief and a fresh environment clearance will be sought for the new site. The Navy had reportedly sought permission for temporary use of forest land on the island for missile testing. It also wanted to put up a temporary structure as a target for testing the accuracy of missiles fired from the submarines. The test firing is proposed to be carried out once every year for a duration of 7 to 10 days only. Now the Naval authorities will have to hunt for a new site and again seek environmental clearance for the same.

#### Another bird stops a surveillance radar project

Raising the bogie of threat to an endangered species of bird 'Narcondam Hornbill', the Environment Ministry has refused to clear a critical Ministry of Defence (MoD) project to install a surveillance radar along the coastline in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Narcondam Hornbill is an endemic species of bird found in Narcondam Island, 100 km to the east of the main Andaman Islands. It is listed in Schedule 1 Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) also lists the Narcondam Hornbill as an endangered species. The proposal to install the surveillance radar to secure the country's coastline had come from the Coast Guard. Only .7 hectares of the 7 sq km area of the Narcondam Island would be required for the radar project. But the strong anti-development lobby of environmental activists is opposing the project pointing out that the disturbances and damage caused to the habitat due to laying of road and functioning of the radar system could cause irreversible adverse impact on the unique bird and may wipe out the entire Hornbill population from the area. Endorsing the similar fears expressed by the standing committee of National Board of Wildlife, Environment Minister Jayanti Natarajan has recommended in September, 2012 that the MoD should look for alternative sites for the proposed radar project. Meanwhile the Coast Guard has reportedly informed the Environment Ministry its inability to shift the location elsewhere as the Narcondam Island was found to be the most suitable location for the proposed radar project.

There are nine species of Hornbill found in different states of India, especially in the Western Ghats and in the Northeastern region. Poaching is the biggest threat faced by any rare bird or animal in India. It is the most foolish argument put forward by the environmental lobby

that the proposed radar project could wipe out the entire Hornbill population from the area. In fact, the installation of the radar will help to check poaching in the area. The opposition to the radar project has to be seen as part of the ongoing nation-wide sabotage drive by the enemies of the country to weaken and destabilize the country by stalling all our developmental projects, scientific ventures and defence projects.

[\(http://www.indianexpress.com/news/to-save-hornbills-environment-says-no-to-defence-project/998904/\)](http://www.indianexpress.com/news/to-save-hornbills-environment-says-no-to-defence-project/998904/)

### India's first underground naval base stalled due to Green hurdle

India's first strategic underground naval base that was meant to house its nuclear-armed submarines has run into a tangle over green norms with the regional office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) opposing the diversion of over 600 hectares of reserved forest land citing a strong possibility that it may affect the water table and soil moisture content in the area. The proposed expansion of the base at Rambilli near Visakhapatnam, that will consist of underground pens to house nuclear submarines and protected harbours for warships, is currently under the scanner of MoEF's Forest Advisory Committee. The project for setting up of a Naval Alternate Operating Base (NAOB) involves diversion of 676.12 hectares of forest land in Rambilli and Kalavalapalli reserved forests of Visakhapatnam division. The proposed base would be similar to China's base at Hainan Island that houses nuclear-armed submarines, which came to India's notice four years ago through satellite imagery. The project involves a number of strategic constructions of undisclosed cost and nature. India should have gone ahead with this secret and vital project at break-neck speed to ensure its early completion in view of the increasing threats to the nation's security from our hostile neighbors. But the project is now stalled, as the MoEF's Southern Zone Site Inspection report has observed that the project may have an adverse effect on the water table and soil moisture content in the area.

### Ministry turns down proposal to set up Mountain Strike Corps

The finance wing of the defence ministry in consultation with the ministry of finance rejected a proposal in 2011 to spend Rs12,000 crore to set up a Mountain Strike Corps even as a plan to create an alternate, all-weather route from Siliguri to North Sikkim to rush troops to the Indo-China border was turned down by the ministry of environment and forests on the grounds that the alignment passes through eco-sensitive areas. The proposal to beef up army's force level on the Indo-China border was mooted by the former Army Chief Gen.N.C.Vij after a comprehensive review of the situation was undertaken by a special study team. The study group led by the then Western Army Commander J.J.Singh had recommended the creation of a mountain strike corps to maintain a strong deterrent against China. While the finance ministry shot down the proposal pointing out the huge financial implications, the environment ministry rejected it on the ground of possible harm to the biodiversity and eco-system of the region.

[http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report\\_babus-block-indian-armys-plans-to-counter-chinas-pla\\_1587622](http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_babus-block-indian-armys-plans-to-counter-chinas-pla_1587622)

### 31) Weakening the country's defence capabilities through black-listing of firms.

Over the last few years, the Ministry of Defence has black-listed so many foreign arms corporations that it has virtually stalled the military's modernization programme. The hit list includes some prominent global weapons suppliers with good record of delivering arms and equipments to India. Starting with Bofors in 1980s, the list includes Israel Military Industries (IMI), Denel of South Africa, Singapore Technologies Kinetic (STK) and Rheinmetall Air defence (RAD). Corruption in arms purchase is a world-wide phenomenon. Agents of almost all arms corporations routinely bribe political leaders, bureaucrats and senior military officers to clinch a particular arms deal. It is an open secret that almost all arms companies maintain and use millions of dollars of slush funds to clinch their mega defence deals. Though it is always desirable to avoid any kind of irregularity in the arms contract, including availing the services of an arms broker, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has to study the existing patterns, availability and urgency of the items required and such other practical aspects of the deal before rejecting a deal. The MOD's decision in such matters should not be guided by any fanatic commitment to a false notion of self-righteousness and moral convictions, if such a decision leads to a weakening of our defence preparedness endangering the country's security interests.

Defence Minister A.K.Antony's paranoia against corruption and the resultant blacklisting spree of all major arms corporations is wholly unjustifiable. Reputed arms companies are blacklisted on unproved corruption charges. These blacklists have started choking our defence procurement. The Indian Army's artillery fire power is grossly inadequate today as we have not purchased a single artillery gun ever since the Bofors scam that broke out in the eighties. The South African company Denel was to fit a gun turret on the Arjun tank chassis. That was scuttled in 2005 when Denel was unofficially blacklisted over bribery allegations in another sale, which was never proved. That also blocked a crucial ammunition factory being built in Nalanda, for which Denel was providing technology. In 2007, Israel Military Industries (IMI) replaced Denel as technology provider. But after the arrest of former Ordnance Factories Board Chairman Sudipta Ghosh in a corruption scandal, the IMI also came to be included in the prohibited list. Also blacklisted after the arrest of Ghosh was Singapore Technologies Kinetic (STK), whose Pegasus ultra-light howitzer was the long gun being evaluated for the army's mountain divisions. Despite strong protests from the army, the said crucial procurement remains blocked. (Business Standard, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2009).

The UPA government is the most corrupt government that the independent India has ever seen. If the same government takes such a moralistic stance on checking corruption in defence procurement deals, it is certainly not aimed at curbing corruption, but meant only to weaken our defence preparedness. Non-corrupt, but incompetent A.K.Antony appears to be more than happy to cooperate with the scheming Sonia in her vicious game plan.

## 32) UPA government encourages indiscipline and factionalism among defence service personnel

### Appointment of Air Marshal Fali Major as Chief of Indian Air Force

The selection of Air Marshal Fali Major as the new Chief of Indian Air force in 2007 was a controversial decision, as he was a chopper pilot. Every other former air chief was a fighter pilot. There is no rule mandating that only a fighter pilot could become the air chief. But that was the convention. There is also the question as to how a man who cannot, as per rules, command the Western or South Western Command of IAF by virtue of his not being a fighter pilot, can be eligible to hold the post of Chief of Air Staff. According to press reports when it was decided by the government to appoint Air Marshal Fali H. Major as the new Chief of Air Staff, there was a lot of criticism within the ranks against the decision to appoint a non-fighter pilot as the new Air Chief. At least one senior Air Marshal-rank officer was quite vocal on this issue and reportedly had even conveyed his protest to the higher authorities in writing. Eight months after taking over as the new Air Chief, Fali Major probably realised that it was difficult for a non-fighter pilot like him to do full justice to his role as the Air Chief. In November 2007, the Defence Ministry officials were surprised to receive an unusual letter from the Air Headquarters proposing that only fighter pilots should be considered for appointment as Chief of Air Staff in future. An intriguing question arises as to why the UPA government flouted the conventions and appointed a helicopter pilot as the new Chief of Air Staff at the risk of creating internal rivalry and disunity within the ranks. Was it not a malicious attempt to create dissensions within the ranks?

### Sukna Scam

The Sukna scam was presented to the public by the media as a mega scam that left a serious blot on the good name and reputation of the Indian army. But anyone who goes through the facts of the case can see that it can hardly be called a scam. Nobody in this alleged land scam is accused of financial misappropriation, cheating or taking bribe. The army did not own the disputed piece of land. The land in question is a 71-acre plot of land belonging to a private party. In March, 2009 the 33 Corps commander gave a no objection certificate to a realtor for transfer of the said plot of land to a private trust for construction of an educational institution. The entire area surrounding a military base is a restricted area and because of security implications, no construction can be undertaken in the said area without an NOC from the Army authorities. The Sukna scam is all about the NOC issued by Lt General P.K.Rath, Commander, 33 Corps to the private realtor Dilip Agarwal. At the most we can describe the entire case as an issue of propriety. And yet the issue was blown out of all proportions to tarnish the reputation of the Indian Army.

When LT General V.K.Singh, GOC-in-charge of Eastern Command, came to know about the NOC granted by the 33 Corps commander to a realtor, he took the matter so seriously that he ordered a court of inquiry against all those who facilitated this deal. Based on the CoI report, he recommended disciplinary action against all officers involved in the deal and summary

dismissal of Lt General Avadesh Prakash, who was posted at that time as the Military Secretary at Army headquarters, for influencing the 33 Corps commander in giving the NOC to the realtor. V.K.Singh's recommendation for summary dismissal of Lt General Avadesh Prakash and disciplinary action against three other senior Army officers for their roles in granting an NOC to a realtor for construction of a girls' school on his own land, is not only unduly harsh, but does not appear to be logical and unbiased. The then Army chief Deepak Kapoor rightly disagreed with the recommendations of V.K.Singh and as per his orders, the Army headquarters issued show-cause notices for administrative action against Lt General Avadesh Prakash, Lt General Ramesh Halgali and Major General P.Sen and disciplinary proceedings against Lt General P.K.Rath. But the decision of the Army chief to opt for a milder course of action against the guilty officials was resented by Lt General V.K.Singh. He obviously pulled some strings and managed to put pressure on Defence Minister Antony to change his stand on the issue and order tougher action against the officers found guilty. Army chief Deepak Kapoor who had ordered administrative action against military secretary Lt General Avadesh Prakash, was thus forced to issue a fresh order for disciplinary action against him. The chief's decision to switch from administrative to disciplinary action is reported to be a violation of military policy in operation since 1993. As per a directive issued by the additional directorate general (Discipline and Vigilance) to all army command headquarters, dated May 11, 1993, it was clearly stated that once the competent authority after having applied his mind to the full facts of the case decides to initiate action and if that action has commenced, it is unjust and illegal at that stage to revert to disciplinary action. Gen. Deepak Kapoor in fact had a thorough discussion with Defence Minister A.K.Antony over this controversial case and he had also informed him about the intended course of action against the indicted generals. General Kapoor had admitted this much in an interview to Karan Thapar, which was telecast on CNN-IBN's Devil's Advocate programme. Apparently the defence minister did not have any disagreement with the Army chief at that point of time. Which means that Antony's decision to take a tougher stand against the accused generals is an after- thought, influenced by a third person. Congress supremo Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are the only two persons who could have put pressure on Antony to change his stance on this sensitive issue against the wishes of his army chief. And, it is clear as to who could have put pressure on Defence Minister to revise his decision on Sukna scam accused. Under pressure or not, the defence Minister's action in this regard against the decision of the army chief, clearly amounted to gross interference with the set procedures in the army. It is for the army chief to decide whether there should be an administrative inquiry or disciplinary action against a particular officer. The aggrieved parties can always move the civilian court. But the civilian authorities must keep away from the internal trial and disciplinary proceedings within the army, as has been the practice so far. By breaking such conventions, Antony has challenged the authority and prerogatives of the army chief, that too publicly, allowing the whole thing to stink. Why was it done and what purpose did it serve? Was it not part of an attempt to malign and defame senior officers of the Indian Army? These are disturbing questions. Whoever may have been the real culprit behind attempts to defame the



Indian army, Antony cannot wash off his responsibility as the person mainly responsible for creating a huge controversy over a minor issue of propriety or an error of judgment.

### Attempt to defame senior officers of the armed forces.

In February 2012, Lt General Rameshwar Roy, who was posted as the Director General of the Assam Rifles on deputation from the Army, was recalled by the Army following complaints of financial impropriety were received against him. The officer who is currently appointed as the chief of staff at the Southern Command, had been accused of using regimental funds of the Assam Rifles to the tune of Rs.23000 for expenses incurred by his wife during official tours. The officer was recalled from the paramilitary force following the allegations, as the Army wanted to pursue the charges further despite the fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs which controls the Assam Rifles, had already conducted a thorough probe into the allegations against Lt General Roy and found no proof of any misappropriation. Incidentally, it was General V.K.Singh who ordered an Army probe into the allegations against Lt General Rameswar Roy.

While the Army probe also cleared Roy of all charges, the case has now taken a serious turn as it was found that forged documents were used to initiate the case of financial impropriety against Roy. In one case, it is reported, that payments shown to frame the officer actually took place two days before he took charge of the paramilitary force in 2010. A Brigadier-level officer at the Assam Rifles is now under the scanner for forgery. There appears to be a clear conspiracy to malign and defame senior officers of the armed forces.

### 33) UPA government's war on Indian economy.

The UPA government's various so-called welfare schemes meant for the poor have done irreparable damage to the Indian economy. Take for instance, the loan waiver scheme. While it is necessary to address the genuine grievances of the farmers, resorting to unethical and undesirable solutions like the loan-waiver scheme would only be counter-productive. The very concept of loan-waiver is highly regressive and objectionable. It makes the honest farmers who have paid back their loans look like fools while the dishonest ones are rewarded. The loan-waiver scheme has not stopped farmers' suicide in the country, but it has caused considerable damage to the country's economy.

UPA government's so-called flagship programmes like MGNREGS, UID-cash transfer scheme, free housing for the poor, the food security scheme and all such welfare schemes would only further ensure the destruction of Indian economy. Thousands of mega development projects in the country are presently stalled or delayed over issues like land acquisition problems, rehabilitation of project-affected people, agitation by local villagers and NGO activists or for want of environmental clearance. Union Minister Jairam Ramesh, when he was the environment and forest minister, had declared that that the various development projects in the country would not get the necessary green clearance unless a comprehensive impact assessment is done on every such project. Though his declaration was welcomed by the NGO and environmental activists, this environment impact assessment exercise, in effect, was delaying all infrastructure

development projects in India. In 2009, road transport minister Kamal Nath, power minister Sushil Kumar Shinde and water resources minister Pawan Bansal had reportedly complained to the Prime Minister against the environment ministry headed by Jairam Ramesh for deliberately delaying various developmental projects by withholding environmental clearances. The prime minister had then asked the Planning Commission to come up with a process that will give faster clearance to infrastructure projects. However, despite the prime minister's intervention, no concrete steps were taken to expedite the environmental clearance process. The anti-development lobby in India which is engaged in blocking all developmental projects in the country, is supported and financed by various western and church agencies. The government of India is very well aware of the activities and intentions of the western agencies involved in such disruptive activities in India. In fact in 2011, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had lashed out against some US and Scandinavian NGOs involved in abetting agitation against the Koodankulam nuclear power plant in Tamil Nadu. This emboldened Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha to act against those who were inciting the local villagers against the Koodankulam project, paving the way for resumption of work at the project. In the same way, the work on all other stalled and delayed projects in the country can also be resumed in a matter of days, if the prime minister so desires. But the hitch is that the anti-development lobby, backed by Jairam Ramesh and National Advisory Council, enjoys the patronage of Sonia Gandhi.

As a result of the criminal misdeeds of the UPA government, India's growth has slowed to a decade low of 5% while the industrial output has slowed to a 20-year low of 1% in 2012-13. The exports have slumped and the rupee has fallen to Rs 59 per dollar. It appears that the UPA government has declared a war on India's economy. What else can explain the logic and meaning of the disastrous policies of the UPA government? Meanwhile Pakistan has given a new dimension to the war on Indian economy by bulk-printing of fake Indian currency in the government facilities in Pakistan and circulating the same in various Indian cities with the help of Dawood Ibrahim and his gang. Printing and circulating the currency of another country is an act of war. And, we respond to this undeclared war by our hostile neighbour by stressing the need further efforts for promoting peace and friendship with Pakistan.

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