

## **2009 Lok Sabha Elections : An in-depth analysis.**

(By N.T.Ravindranath)

The outcome of the recent lok sabha elections in the country was a huge set back to the Hindutwa forces and all nationalist people in the country. The results proved all psephologists horribly wrong with their political predictions going widely off the mark. Even the Congress, which emerged as the largest single party, never imagined that it will perform so impressively. Political analysts across the country wrote elaborate columns drawing all kinds of theories and conclusions over the election outcome. Many of them gave credit to the youth power as represented by Rahul Gandhi for the impressive victory of the Congress as against the old and stale leadership of L.K.Advani. They also felt that the gentleman prime minister image of Manmohan Singh further contributed to the Congress victory. Many such analysts and also a section of BJP leaders felt that Varun Gandhi's hate speech against the Muslims had done the maximum damage to the prospects of the BJP. The leaders of JDU, the BJP's alliance partner and a small gang of veteran BJP leaders opposed to Advani-Modi axis felt that the projection of Narendra Modi as the future prime minister in the midst of electioneering and his hectic campaign tour in the length and breadth of the country only harmed the interests of the party as it created total confusion among the masses besides alienating the minority communities. Many observers were of the view that the bitter and perennial infighting within the party leadership even during in the midst of the poll process was the main cause of the rout of BJP in the elections. But what is the truth?

### **A realistic analysis of the election outcome**

There are many factors responsible for the defeat of BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. Some of these factors are explained here.

#### **1) Indians' admiration for the Nehru dynasty and their fascination for the white skin.**

Rahul's country-wide election campaign and Priyanka's campaign in UP had given a new hope and impetus to the party followers resulting in some improvement in the Congress prospects in the elections. The Congress may have fared even better if Priyanka Gandhi had extended her campaign tours and road shows to other states in India as she appears to enjoy greater support among the people. The BJP with its tarnished image due to infighting and indiscipline was not in a position to counter-balance the blind admiration of the people for the new icons of the dynasty.

#### **2) The biased electronic and print media**

Almost all national news dailies and T.V channels in India are totally controlled by either some western funding agencies or other anti-Hindutwa forces. The media as usual played a dirty game by building up a larger than life image of Rahul and Priyanka. Some of the print media compared Priyanka with princess Diana and described her as the people's princess of India. Some of the columnists unashamedly wrote about the close similarity of Priyanka's nose with that of Indira Gandhi and predicted her emergence as the new Indira Gandhi of India. Even a bold and impartial columnist like Shobha De

seems to have been completely bowled over by the so-called charismatic personality of Priyanka with her assertion describing Priyanka as a prime ministerial candidate with greater potential than Rahul.

It was not only Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka who had become the subjects of adulation by the media. Countering Advani's description of Manmohan Singh as the weakest PM that India ever had, the media described him as the most simple and humble prime minister, a shrewd politician and eminent economist who was prepared to sacrifice his prime ministership in defence of his support for the Indo-US nuclear deal. After the victory in the lok sabha elections, a section of the media described him as the greatest and most famous Indian prime minister after Jawaharlal Nehru. Well, the media has done its assigned role as they were paid for it. In fact Advani's description of Manmohan Singh as a weak PM was an understatement. Manmohan Singh is a rubber stamp prime minister with no decision making power. Every educated person in India knows that he is a puppet prime minister remote-controlled by Sonia Gandhi.

While the media indulged in the worst form of sycophancy by chanting the hymns in praise of Sonia, Rahul and Manmohan Singh, it did every thing possible to defame the BJP and other Hindutwa forces. An isolated outburst against anti-Hindutwa forces by Varun Gandhi during the election campaign was blown out of all proportions by the media during the entire campaign period depicting the BJP as an anti-minority monster. Similar statement made by a former Congress minister of Karnataka against Hindu leaders was conveniently ignored by the media. Even more provocative statements made by Samajwadi Party leaders in support of jihadi elements in the country were also played down by the media.

### 3) Consolidation of Muslim and Christian support for Congress

There was greater consolidation of Muslim and Christian support for the Congress because of UPA government's anti-Hindu moves like the crusade against Narendra Modi, implementation of Sachar Committee report, peace talks with Pakistan, abolition of POTA, stringent action taken against the alleged Hindu terrorists and the sympathetic attitude towards the missionary movement.

### 4) Indiscipline in BJP

The BJP was once known as a party with a difference because of its internal discipline and nationalist credentials. But it has now been reduced to a party with differences only. Since the differences persist even at the top most level, it has led to intense groupism at every level in the party causing total disorder and chaos in the party. The origin of this state of affairs can be traced to certain developments in the eighties. In the 1984 elections held after the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the BJP led by A.B.Vajpayee was totally routed with the party winning only two seats. Vajpayee himself was defeated in the elections. It was a big set back and loss of face for Vajpayee from which he has never recovered. In 1996, L.K.Advani who was a loyal lieutenant of Vajpayee was elected as the new president of the BJP. He followed a militant brand of Hindutwa which gave a new hope and motivation to the party cadres. Advani's rath yatra in 1989 and the subsequent Babri masjid campaign made him immensely popular among the party cadres and allowed him to establish himself as an independent and powerful leader on his own right on par with A.B.Vajpayee. Advani's growing status and

popularity within the party was however not liked by a jealous Vajpayee who openly expressed his displeasure over Advani's style of functioning like the Rath Yatra and Babri masjid campaign. In the 1989 elections, BJP under Advani's leadership secured 85 seats which caused further heart burns to Vajpayee. When Vajpayee became the PM in the late 1990s, there was a powerful section in the party preferring Advani for the top job. However a magnanimous Advani did not want to stake his claim for the top job and paved the way for senior leader Vajpayee to become the PM. Though Vajpayee was happy to become the PM, he could never reconcile with the new power equations in the party caused by Advani's rise to super stardom. Vajpayee's silent grudge against Advani is the root cause of all the internal rivalries in BJP. All the rebels in the party now like Jaswant Singh, Yashwant Sinha, Shekhawat and M.M. Joshi have the patronage of Vajpayee. It is because of this Vajpayee factor, the rebels flourish in the party. It may be recalled that earlier when Madanlal Khurana was expelled from the party for gross indiscipline, Vajpayee had come out with a press statement criticizing the disciplinary action and Khurana had to be rehabilitated in the party again. It appears that it is mainly because of this Vajpayee factor that Advani is unable to assert himself to curb indiscipline in the party. Thus Vajpayee, the so-called tallest leader of the BJP, has done a lot of harm to the party in the later part of his life. No wonder, he has become a darling of the so-called secular media.

Narendra Modi's rise in the party as a powerful and charismatic leader and an able administrator was quite unpalatable to a section of senior leaders in the party. His projection as a future prime minister and his emergence as the chief campaigner for the Lok Sabha poll was also resented by this lobby. However because of his mass support and his closeness to senior party leader L.K.Advani, they could only passively watch his ascendancy in the party with grudge and envy. After the BJP's defeat in the elections, there were sinister attempts by this lobby to isolate and humiliate Narendra Modi by putting all the blame on Narendra Modi for the party's debacle in the elections. These leaders along with some JDU leaders charged that Modi's projection as a future prime minister in the midst of electioneering confused the masses and his nation-wide campaign tour only helped to alienate the minority communities. These allegations can only be described as rubbish. 82-year old Advani of 2009 is not the Advani of eighties. Much of his charm and dynamism is missing now. When Advani was projected as as BJP's prime ministerial candidate, most of the BJP supporters, especially the youth, were unhappy as they wanted a dynamic leader like Modi to be projected as the party's prime ministerial candidate. His belated projection as a future prime minister and his entry into the country-wide election campaign in a big way after becoming a much sought-after campaign leader was a big morale booster to BJP cadres throughout the country. He drew huge crowds wherever he addressed campaign meetings. The fact remains that if Modi was kept out of the national-level campaign, the BJP would have suffered a much more miserable defeat. Modi's detractors in the party should know that if Modi walked of the BJP and formed a new nationalist party, a major chunk of the party supporters would prefer to go with him.

## 5) Lacklustre performance of the party

If the BJP was rejected by the people, there is nothing surprising about it and the party has no reason or right to grumble about it. The party leadership should make a sincere introspection to evaluate its own track record when it was in power and later as an opposition party. People of this country considered BJP as a patriotic and disciplined party and gave it a chance to rule this country for six long years. And what did they do? Millions of illegal migrants from Bangladesh have entered this country since seventies and the BJP-led government did nothing to identify and deport these Bangladeshis from India. Now when out of power, the BJP leaders are blaming the UPA government for its inaction against the illegal migrants from Bangladesh. They have also been demanding the need for introduction of national identity card for all citizens of India to check the menace of inflow of illegal migrants to India. The I.D scheme is a good proposal which if properly implemented could help to identify all illegal immigrants in the country. But the moot question remains as to why the BJP government did not take any serious action to introduce such a scheme when it was in power for six years. The NDA government did launch an I.D. scheme in 2003, almost at the fag end of its rule on an experimental basis and it remained only as an experimental scheme which was finally given a silent burial during the first UPA government. Now the UPA government in its second term has taken up the I.D. card scheme on priority basis in view of the worsening security scenario in the country and has set up a new agency called the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), with Nandan Nilekani, co-founder of Infosys, as its chairman for the speedy implementation of the project.

The BJP leaders are now accusing the UPA government of allowing Ottavia Quattrochi to go off the hook in the Bofors case and even facilitating the removal of his name from the wanted list of the Interpol. The BJP leadership should explain as to what steps they took to bring Quattrocchi to book when they were in power for six years. The BJP government also completely mishandled the incident of hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane from Kathmandu by five Islamic terrorists in December, 1999, which resulted in the release of three dreaded Islamic terrorists in return for the safe release of the hijacked plane and the passengers. The hijack attempt could have been thwarted by blocking the plane's take off from the Amritsar airport, where it had landed for refuelling. One of the released terrorists, Moulana Masood Azhar, had later founded the dreaded terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad. The fact that a senior cabinet minister had accompanied the released prisoners to Kandahar to personally hand them over to the hijackers makes it as one of the most shameful episodes in India's terror history.

The peace initiative with Pakistan which paved the way for opening up of borders and lifting of all cross-border travel restrictions was mainly responsible for the spread of jihadi terrorism in India. This peace initiative which later led to a composite peace dialogue with Pakistan during the UPA regime was originally started during the NDA regime with the resumption of cross-border bus service with Pakistan. It is significant to note that this peace initiative was not called off even after the Kargil conflict. Thus the greatest blunder of the Government of India in launching an ill-advised peace initiative in the name of seeking a peaceful solution to all outstanding differences with Pakistan, was

originally committed by the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, probably under American pressure.

Brejesh Mishra, the all-powerful NSA and principal secretary of the former Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee and Sudheendra Kulkarni, a close confidant and press adviser of Dy. PM. L.K. Advani were two Trojan horses in the BJP government as have been proved by their recent statements holding the hardline Hindutwa stance of the BJP responsible for its debacle in the recent Lok Sabha elections. Brejesh Mishra was a very strong advocate of Indo-US nuclear deal and his open support for the nuclear deal despite BJP's strong reservations against the deal had caused acute embarrassment to the party leadership. Sonia Gandhi had soon rewarded Brejesh Mishra by nominating him as India's representative to the 15-member nuclear watchdog committee of the IAEA. Brejesh Mishra is reported to have close links with Sonia Gandhi. There are strong grounds to suspect his loyalty to the BJP.

Sudheendra Kulkarni, an adviser of L.K. Advani since his Dy. PM days, was a card-holding member of the CPM earlier. He was once very closely associated with rabid Hindu-baiters like Javed Anand and his wife Teesta Satalvad and they had jointly conducted some anti-Hindutwa campaigns in the past as admitted by Javed Anand in his interaction with media people. Kulkarni's recent outburst against the BJP that appeared in an anti-Hindutwa publication like 'Tehelka' holding the party's close links with the RSS as a major factor responsible for its debacle in the Lok Sabha elections exposes his inherent bias against the Hindutwa movement. The BJP leadership owes an explanation to the party followers as to how the anti-Hindutwa agents like Brejesh Mishra and Sudheendra Kulkarni were allowed to occupy vital and sensitive posts in the BJP.

In short the BJP has lost its credibility. The BJP-led NDA alliance which ruled the country for six years did not look any different from the Congress. It did not take a single step which could be described as praise-worthy. When we think of the NDA regime, what strikes our mind first are the episodes of Kandahar fiasco and the Parliament attack case. The BJP leaders may proclaim the nuclear tests conducted during the NDA regime as a great achievement. But it is a rubbish claim. India had attained the capacity to explode a nuclear device in 1966 itself. It finally tested a nuclear device in 1974. There was nothing great in conducting a second round of nuclear tests in 1998. This belated action on the part of India only helped Pakistan also to emerge as a nuclear power and claim parity with India in military power. It also led to Pakistan threatening India with nuclear first strike in case of any provocation from India. The people had great expectations from BJP stalwarts like Vajpayee and Advani. But they miserably failed to deliver the goods during their six-year tenure in power. Vajpayee's description of the US as a natural ally was a Himalayan blunder. Pakistan could not have carried out all the terrorist and other anti-India activities against India all these years without the backing of the US. On a closer scrutiny of the US attitude in the context of various developments in India since independence, it can be seen that a strong anti-India bias had always been the core essence of the US policy towards India. Under the circumstances Vajpayee's overzealousness in launching a peace initiative with Pakistani leaders, probably under the

US pressure, without getting any assurance from them to stop all their terrorist and other unfriendly activities against India was most inappropriate and ill-advised.

L.K.Advani, who as the home minister in charge of the internal security, also failed to strengthen the country's internal security apparatus or clean up the messy affairs in the central intelligence agencies. Those who had earlier compared him with Sardar Patel had to swallow their pride in disbelief as Advani proved to be a poor shadow of the iron man. The BJP which betrayed the faith of its own followers is further weakened by the growing indiscipline and factionalism within the party. It is pathetic to see even the senior leaders of the party fighting among themselves, airing charges and counter charges. No, the BJP in the present form did not deserve to win the elections.

### Track record of the UPA government

It is most unfortunate that the Congress-led UPA was voted back to power by default. What is the report card of the UPA government's achievements? The very first act of the UPA after coming to power in 2004 was the abolition of POTA despite the increasing frequency of jihadi terror strikes and growing menace of Maoist violence in the country. The UPA government's soft-on-terror policy and peace talks with militant outfits like Maoists and ULFA activists only helped those outfits to recoup and strengthen their cadres and emerge as more powerful and blood-thirsty. The peace dialogue with Pakistan and opening up of borders paved the way for the spread of jihadi terror to every nook and corner of the country. There had been at least 30 major incidents of jihadi terror in the country during the last four years. Every accused arrested in connection with these incidents had confessed that they had undergone terror training in one or other terror camps based in Pakistan, patronized by Pak-ISI. Yet India did not take any retaliatory action and silently suffered all the hammering from Pakistan. Because, after every major terror attack in India, a number of senior officials and other dignitaries from the US and its allies would visit India admittedly to show their sympathy and support for India but in reality to dissuade Indian authorities from taking any retaliatory action against Pakistan. They would urge India to take more confidence building measures with Pakistan to strengthen the democratic forces in that country in tackling the threat posed by the Taliban and Al Quada, deliberately suppressing the fact that the outfits like LeT, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Hisbul Mujahideen which were sponsoring terrorism in India have the full backing of the Pakistani authorities. The UPA government which has surrendered its sovereignty to the US would simply abide by the treacherous advice of the Western diplomats. It is because of the US pressure that India has not called off the peace talks with Pakistan even after the terror attacks in Mumbai.

There is a strong lobby of anti-national elements in the country who masquerade as NGO and human rights activists. It is this lobby which gives all support and encouragement to all anti-national movements in the country like the Maoist movement, Islamic militancy, separatist movement in Kashmir, the ULFA in Assam, LTTE in Tamil Nadu, insurgency movements in the North-East, Dalit militancy and caste conflicts across the country. These lobbyists funded and guided by some Western intelligence and funding agencies are also opposing all mega developmental projects in the country as they do not want the emergence of India as an economic super power. The present

agitation against the security forces by the separatist elements in the Kashmir valley has the full backing of this lobby. It has also been found that the leaders of this NGO and human rights lobby enjoy the support and patronage of some top Congress leaders, which is a very disturbing development. The decision of the Congress party to align with a pro-separatist party like People's Democratic Party (PDP) to form a coalition government in Jammu & Kashmir and the party's close links with the pro-separatist NGO lobby in the state has led to the present turmoil in the Kashmir valley.

The UPA government was not prepared to take any action against the illegal migrants from Bangladesh despite the repeated directives by the Supreme Court asking the Centre to identify and deport all Bangladeshi migrants from the country, whose number has now swelled up to about two crores. The UPA government has also been unwilling to carry out the death sentence awarded by the Supreme Court to Afzal Guru who was involved in the Parliament attack case. Many top Congress leaders have often described the RTI act, Forest Rights Act, National Employment Guaranty Scheme, the loan-waiver scheme for the farmers and the Indo-US nuclear deal as the greatest achievements of the UPA government. But the fact is that with the exception of the RTI Act, all other schemes are not at all in the interest of the country. Most people may not be aware that all these schemes, except for the nuclear deal, were actually initiated by the NGO lobby. The Forest Rights Act is a most regressive legislation with potential for dangerous consequences. As per this Act, about 70% of the forest land will have to be distributed to the forest dwellers after completing all procedural formalities. This scheme designed and promoted by the NGO activists will allow the militant and pro-Maoist NGO activists to strengthen their hold on the forest dwellers, mostly tribals, which will give further boost to the Maoist movement. As the illiterate tribals are prone to easily succumb to the allurements of the timber lobby, it will also lead to large scale illegal tree-felling inviting an environmental disaster. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), another pet scheme of the NGO activists, which was introduced by the UPA government with much fanfare in 2006 was a colossal flop because of the large scale corruption and other irregularities found in the implementation of the scheme. The performance audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the NREGS presented in Parliament on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2008 had highlighted these points. Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G.Balakrishnan while addressing a Regional Conference on the NREGS at Bangalore on 22 November, 2008 had also stated that the implementation of this scheme was seriously hindered by factors such as corruption, lack of transparency in payment of wages, falsification of wage records and nexus between the contractors and officials. A draft performance audit report of the CAG, highly critical of the NREGS, was released in January 2008 itself, which prompted some economic experts and senior bureaucrats in the country to demand the total abolition of this scheme. However in the budget for 2008-09, not only this scheme was retained with higher allocation of funds, but it was extended to all the districts in the country. Originally an amount of Rs.16000 crore was allocated for the NREGS in the budget for 2008-09 which was subsequently raised to more than 30000 crores on the personal intervention of Rahul Gandhi.

The loan-waiver scheme for the farmers introduced by the UPA government through the 2008-09 budget was another Himalayan blunder. It benefited mostly the rich farmers. It was done without any proper study about the problems of the farmers or about

the real reason for the increasing incidents of suicide by farmers. Originally a sum of Rs.60000 crore was earmarked in the 2008-09 budget for the loan-waiver scheme. Later it was raised to Rs.71680 crore to include a wider section of farmers. While the UPA government wasted huge amounts of money on unproductive and questionable schemes like NREGS and loan-waiver for farmers, it grossly neglected some vital sectors like defence, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and space and missile programme despite the worsening security scenario in the country. India's defence allocation for 2008-09 had fallen below 2% of the GDP for the first time since 1962. This has happened even after receiving a recommendation from the Parliamentary Committee on Defence that there should be a permanent provision in the budget for allocation of at least 3% of the GDP for defence expenditure. Similarly, the budget allocation for DAE for the year 2008-09 was Rs.4797 crore, which is Rs.1333 crore less than the allocation for the previous year. Is it not strange that when the UPA government is projecting nuclear power as the answer to our future energy needs there should be such drastic reduction in the budget allocation for the DAE instead of a substantial increase for the same?

The UPA government's policies have considerably weakened India's defence preparedness. It is an established fact that the air power is the most important factor in winning a war. According to I.A.F's own assessment, it needs 44 fighter squadrons for a dominant position in case of a full-fledged conflict with Pakistan. Where as, India reportedly has only 30 squadrons presently which is far short of even its sanctioned strength of 39.5 squadrons. About 12 years back, we had two aircraft carriers. But presently we have none, as the country's solitary aircraft carrier, the 50-year old INS Viraat, is undergoing refit and repair work since last two years. The Indian army has had no fresh induction of field artillery guns since the purchase of Bofors field guns in 1987. Our missile programme has been making progress at a snail's pace. A small country like North Korea had recently tested a missile with a range of 6000 Kms. But India is still stuck up with field trials of its 3000-3500 Km-range Agni-III missile. China is reported to be already in possession of missiles (ICBMs) with a range of 12000 Kms. The UPA government's policies had thus harmed India's economic progress and weakened our defence preparedness.

The Indo-US nuclear deal is an unequal agreement between an arrogant and big-brotherly USA and a subservient India. Though it gives some concessions to India, it is certain to harm the independent path followed so far by India in nuclear research by imposing many restrictions. Many senior nuclear scientists in the country are still opposed to this deal. At present only 3% of India's power needs are met by power generated by nuclear power plants. It is estimated that the nuclear deal will help India to meet 8% of our power needs by 2020, which is quite insignificant. In a major set back to the nuclear deal, the G8 meeting at L'Aquila on 9<sup>th</sup>.July,2009 has decided to adopt new rules prohibiting the sale of enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) components and technology to countries like India which have not signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). The fact that the US had persuaded the G8 to ban the transfer of ENR items to countries which have not signed the NPT, including India, further confirms the reputation of the US as an unreliable partner

The Sachar Committee Report is actually an anti-national document. Rajinder Sachar, who headed this committee, is a supporter of the Maoist movement, separatist movement in Kashmir and various other anti-national movements in India. In the year



2000, he had air-dashed to Bangkok to express his support and solidarity with Naga underground leader Th.Muivah who was arrested by the Thailand police for traveling on a fake passport. He had also conducted press conferences to condemn the arrest of Maoist leaders like Arun Ferreria and Dr.Binayak Sen. His inherent hatred for Hindutwa movement was also reflected in his speeches and articles. The appointment of such a person to head a committee to study the problems of Muslims in India and suggest remedial measures in itself was an anti-national and anti-Hindu act. The Sachar Committee report indicting the Government of India for its anti-Muslim bias has done immense harm to the country's image at the international level. Quoting extensively from the Sachar Committee report, the media in Muslim and Western countries had even justified all the Islamic terror attacks in India. The UPA government has used this report to announce a number of welfare measures for the Muslim community, including encouragement to Madrassa education, amounting to thousands of crores.

The UPA government's reservation policy as reflected in its never-ending announcement of quotas for various sections of people in every field in a routine and calculated manner was meant only to create divisions and disunity among the Hindus as desired by the NGO and human rights lobby. Despite all these misdeeds of the UPA government, if the people have reaffirmed their faith in Sonia ,Rahul and Manmohan, it is only because of the ignorance of the people who are mostly illiterate or semi-literate and the failure of the BJP, the main opposition party in evolving itself as a truly nationalist party giving selfless service to the nation.

### India's survival under threat

The BJP with all its lapses, infighting and internal contradictions is still a nationalist party and its defeat in the Lok Sabha elections was a big tragedy. The Congress led by Sonia Gandhi is not the Congress of Nehru, Shastri or Indira Gandhi. The leadership of the present-day Congress has been hijacked by a powerful lobby of NGO and human rights activists supported and funded by some Western agencies. This can have a very dangerous impact on India's future. The possible fallouts of this situation are as under.

The present turmoil in Kashmir valley, stage-managed by NGO and human rights activists in connivance with a section of the Congress leaders and enemy agents from across the border, will further worsen leading to an agreement between the separatist leaders and the UPA government for a stage by stage withdrawal of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and all central police and paramilitary forces from Kashmir and finally the total pull out of the army from Kashmir. Later under American pressure, India will be forced to come to a peaceful settlement on Kashmir through the composite peace dialogue with Pakistan. The proposed peace formula envisaging grant of total autonomy and self rule, free cross-border travel by people of both parts of Kashmir without passport and visa and joint supervision of unified Kashmir by both Pakistan and India would be on the lines of the four-point peace formula suggested by General Musharraf in 2006. As India will have no troops or no say in administering the state, this peace formula will in effect amount to presenting J&K on a platter to Pakistan.

Under the American pressure, India will sign the NPT and CTBT. All important government policies, especially in the fields of defence, DAE, development, trade and foreign affairs would be dictated by the US, which is going to be quite detrimental to the country's economic and security interests.

After the November, 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, there has not been any jihadi terror strikes in India so far. Any more terror strikes prior to the Lok Sabha poll would have seriously damaged the Congress prospects in the elections because of the anger and frustration of the people. Now with all the election dust settling down and reinstatement of the Manmohan Singh ministry and resumption of peace talks with Pakistan, we can expect a revival of jihadi terror all over India. The terror strikes would be focused mainly on economic targets.

The Maoist movement will continue to grow and expand to more and more areas in the country with the active support of NGO, human rights and environmental activists and also with the indirect patronage of political parties like the Congress and Trinamul Congress.

There will be greater opposition to all mega developmental projects in the country with the Maoists, environmentalists and NGO and human rights activists putting up joint resistance with the indirect backing of a section of bureaucrats and Congress ministers. Many mega projects like airports, sea ports, dams, steel and power plants and mining projects would be scrapped or indefinitely delayed because of the activities of this anti-development lobby. Jairam Ramesh, the new Union Minister in charge of Environment and Forest, has already announced that he will not allow any mining projects in the forest areas of the country which is indicative of the UPA government's indirect support to the anti-development lobby. Mining projects are mostly located in hilly and forest areas and not in cities and towns.

The NREGS will continue to be a flop scheme because of the large scale misappropriation and other irregularities by the implementation agencies. Yet, more funds would be sanctioned for this scheme apart from the Rs.39100 crore already allocated in the budget for 2009-10. There would also be a hefty allocation of funds for implementation of Food Security Act, though no amount for the same was shown in the budget. A sum of Rs.120 crore was allotted for the Unique Identity Card scheme in the budget. There will be a substantial raise in the amount allotted for this scheme as this project reportedly needs more than Rs.100000 crore for its implementation. The main purpose of this project is to check the inflow of illegal migrants into the country and also to identify and deport such illegal migrants already present in the country. The UPA government can not be trusted to implement this scheme in the desired manner because of the dubious vote-bank politics of the Congress leadership. If all the illegal Bangladeshi migrants in the country are also getting the national ID cards because of the UPA government's vote-bank policy, there is no need for this project. Hence this scheme is also going to be a wastage of tax payers' money.

In the midst of such a gloomy scenario, two developments that took place in our neighbourhood came as a great blessing and relief to India. One is the total decimation of LTTE in Sri Lanka. The pro-LTTE elements in Tamil Nadu with the active support and guidance of some NGO and human rights activists and some western intelligence agencies, were trying to stir up a Tamil separatist movement in Tamil Nadu. With the killing of LTTE supremo V.Prabhakaran and total defeat of LTTE by the Sri Lankan forces, the Tamil separatist movement in Tamil Nadu has also died down thereby averting a Kashmir type situation in Tamil Nadu.

The second development is that Pakistan which created and nurtured terrorist outfits to sponsor terrorist activities in India has itself now become a victim of intense terror sponsored by Al Qaeda and a section of the Taliban. Suicide bombings and other forms of terror attacks have become a routine phenomenon now in Pakistan. India does not want the self destruction of Pakistan. And yet, India is pleased with this turn of events only because it could have some restraining influence on Pakistan's disruptive activities in India.

Nobody can change the course of destiny. Whatever is destined to happen will happen. But at the same time we have to do whatever we can to thwart an impending danger, as part of our duty. Hence this alert.