

# Opinion

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

**THE BJP'S MANIFESTO** was released with almost no fanfare on April 8, 2019. The modesty was unnatural for the BJP! The BJP had much to be modest about. As one Tamil wit put it, the BJP's manifesto was taking the *idlis* left over from breakfast and making them into *upma* for dinner!

There is a saying that the proof of the pudding lies in the taste. The Congress manifesto is, after 12 days of its release, the talk of the town. Prime Minister Modi cannot complete a speech without referring to one or other aspect of the Congress manifesto. He refuses to read, he refuses to be instructed, and he is not shy of uttering falsehoods. I wish someone in the BJP has the courage to make the Prime Minister read the Congress manifesto or at least my essay last week (April 7).

## BJP's Boasts

The BJP's manifesto ceased to be a talking point a day after its release. The translation errors and the typos can be ignored, but how can one ignore the vein of arrogance that runs through the document?

### Let me list the boasts:

- 50 crore Indians *got* health insurance thanks to Ayushman Bharat (Fact: Ayushman Bharat covers only hospitalisation and only 10,59,693 beneficiaries have been hospitalised and treated under the scheme till February 4, 2019).

- More than 40 crore people in the unorganised sector can now *avail* (sic) pension coverage (Fact: Only 28,86,659 persons have enrolled under the scheme. The first payout will begin in 2039. Nobody will get any benefit now or in the near future).

- Now we are close to 99% *sanitation* coverage (Fact: There is a mass of evidence that a large number of toilets that were hastily constructed are unused [habit] or unusable [lack of water]. Besides, ask Mr Bezwada Wilson and he will tell you that the scheme is designed to perpetuate septic tanks and manual scavenging).

- It is now possible for youngsters from smaller towns to become *entrepreneurs* thanks to Mudra Yojana (Fact: The average size of the Mudra loan is ₹47,575 and it would be a major miracle if that loan can create even one job).

- The Northeast is now *closer* to the national mainstream in more ways than one (Fact: The National Register of Citizens exercise and the Citizenship [Amendment] Bill are tearing apart the North Eastern states and there is more distance from the rest of India and more distrust today than ever before).

- Demonetisation, GST..... are some of the historic *achievements* of our government (Fact: Demonetisation devastated the Indian economy and a flawed GST ruined trade and business, especially the MSMEs).

## Person-specific vs People-sourced

Those examples are enough. Let us look at the manifesto-making process.

Mr Rajnath Singh, who chaired the Manifesto Committee, claimed that they had connected (sic) crores of people and the document was inspired by the 'will of the people'. That claim was exposed in the last paragraph of the introduction which said 'The above summary is based on the vision of Prime

## ACROSS THE AISLE

P Chidambaram



# A tale of two manifestos



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president Amit Shah and Union home minister Rajnath Singh release the BJP manifesto for Lok Sabha elections 2019, in New Delhi

Minister Modi'. Therein lies the difference between the Congress manifesto and the BJP's manifesto and the difference becomes stark as we go through the promises of the two parties.

Take national security and internal security. The BJP has offered strengthening of the Armed Forces and indigenous production of defence equipment. Every government has done that and will do so in the future. Beyond that, there is not a word about the National Security Council or the National Security Advisory Board or the National Counter-terrorism Centre (NCTC) or NATGRID. There is no mention of data security, cyber security, financial security, communication security or security of trade routes.

Take agriculture. The BJP has exposed the unfulfilled promise to double farmers' incomes, but there is no roadmap towards that goal. The

Congress has promised bold measures such as repeal of the APMC Act, establishing farmers' markets, and making trade in agricultural produce, including exports and inter-state trade, free from all restrictions.

Take school education. The BJP has promised more of the same — emphasis on quality, smart classrooms and more Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas. The Congress has promised to transfer school education to the State List, implement the Right to Education Act, increase the allocation for education to 6 per cent of the GDP and include compulsory vocational training in Classes IX to XII.

## A Math Puzzle

The main reason for the difference that runs through all the pages of the two manifestos is the difference between a Modi-centric approach and

a people-sourced approach. The BJP's manifesto is limited by Mr Modi's knowledge and his unwillingness to listen to wise men and women.

Let me conclude with a math puzzle. The BJP attacked the Congress's promise of NYAY and said spending ₹3.6 lakh crore a year when the programme is fully rolled out to cover 5 crore families will not be feasible and will be fiscally irresponsible. Yet, the BJP confidently claims that it will invest (in 5 years) ₹25 lakh crore in the agri-rural sector and ₹100 lakh crore in the infrastructure sector. ₹25 lakh crore + ₹100 lakh crore = ₹125 lakh crore divided by 5 years is ₹25 lakh crore a year. Which is bigger, ₹3.6 lakh crore or ₹25 lakh crore per year?

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## INSIDE TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR

### Sub-editor needed

There may be contrary views on the content of the 2019 BJP manifesto, but there can hardly be any differences that the English document badly needed a good translator and a sub-editor. It is replete with poor English, sentences with missing articles and *babu* words such as 'upskilling', 'reskilling', 'sporting talent', 'kuchcha', 'pucca' etc. But at least someone should have noticed something wrong in the following sentence, "We have made strict provisions for transferring the laws in order to commit crimes against women."

### College rivalry

Lalu Prasad's engrossing biography in English, Gopalganj to Raisina, is written in polished prose uncharacteristic of his earthy, rustic image. But he had a senior journalist Nalin Verma, pen his thoughts. An interesting fact to emerge is that Lalu's main rivals in Bihar today—Nitish Kumar, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Sushil Modi—all started their political careers with him during the JP Movement. Lalu won the post of Patna University Students' Union president (PUSU) in 1973-74, while Modi and Prasad, members of the ABVP, were elected as the PUSU's general secretary and secretary respectively. It was, writes Lalu, "the beginning of a political rivalry between the ABVP and me, which remains to this day". Nitish, he claims, was an insignificant student in a Patna engineering college when he himself was already a full-time political worker. Lalu writes that Modi and Prasad intrigued against him and tried to spoil his reputation with his idol and mentor, Jayaprakash Narayan, by telling him that Lalu drank liquor and collected money, which was unaccounted for. Lalu says he exonerated himself pointing out that as a village boy he did sometimes drink toddy and his friend Shivanand Tewari smoked *ganja*, but that it was a total lie that he collected money. Later, the ABVP even tinkered with the press release announcing that Lalu was convener of the Bihar students' movement, but with JP's support he was reinstated, the book says. Lalu claims that Nitish, who was once his ally, "always looked for the right opportunity to get into positions of power".

### Cattle jailed

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath had come up with an ingenuous plan to keep in check the stray cattle running wild in the state, giving farmers a huge headache. The CM ordered that all such cattle should be locked up in state prison compounds and supplied fodder. The idea sounds

funny, but there are reports of some success for the scheme.

### Ghost writer?

Many in the BJP are convinced that L K Advani did not pen his nuanced, well-crafted blog on the eve of the BJP's foundation day entirely on his own. The blog, implicitly criticising the party bosses for undermining of the BJP's value system and not upholding constitutional norms, was a source of considerable embarrassment. Visitors to the 91-year-old founder of the BJP doubt that Advani was in a position to write the piece solo. The needle of suspicion about the ghost writer is on a journalist who frequently visits his home and has in the past written speeches for both Advani and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He recently authored an article in a newspaper praising the Congress manifesto and is a contributor to *The National Herald*.

### Mind your language

In the heat of electioneering, politicians often say things without considering the consequences. In western Uttar Pradesh, two remarks, one by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the other by CM Yogi Adityanath, have backfired badly. Modi, in his rallies at Meerut and Saharanpur, took jibes at RLD leader Ajit Singh and son Jayant Choudhary, saying they were not to be seen in their constituencies after the 2013 communal violence, but were now scurrying from place to place begging for votes. The remark was received badly by Jats, who felt it was a slur against Jat leader Chaudhary Charan Singh's family. The clannish Jats believe that only they can belittle their own, not outsiders. Similarly, while sugarcane farmers are angry about non-payment of dues for the current season by sugar mills, the UP chief minister's flippant statement that people should not grow so much sugarcane as sugar causes diabetes was a red rag to the bull.

### Wrong message

On the other hand, the *gathbandhan* played into the hands of Yogi Adityanath, who gains if there is any polarisation of voters, by organising the first joint rally of the SP and BSP in 25 years at Deoband. The town is associated with the Darul Uloom, Deoband, which propagates a conservative Islamic revivalist movement among Sunnis. In fact, the rally had nothing whatsoever to do with the seminary and the venue was selected because it was at the centre of three constituencies, Saharanpur, Kairana and Muzaffarnagar, and is considered a "symbol of *bhaichara* (brotherhood)".

# The miracle man

Pochettino believes that trophies don't take a team to the next level. Philosophy, identity and consistency do

## RINGSIDE VIEW

Shamik Chakrabarty



**ONLY A LUNATIC** will now consider Tottenham Hotspur as also-rans. Only a dark narcissist like Jose Mourinho will say football managers are judged by the number of trophies in their trophy cabinets. Mourinho doesn't have a philosophy. He needs silverware to fuel his dark narcissism. Mauricio Pochettino is not a spotlight monger. To quote French economist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon: "When deeds speak, words are nothing."

Last Tuesday, Spurs hosted Manchester City in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals. This is a season of austerity for the North London club. They didn't spend a penny on player transfer this term. The reason was that they were building something hugely more significant. The £1 billion Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was

unveiled a fortnight ago. Two years after the club owner Daniel Levy started the project, Spurs eventually moved to their swanky, world-class new home.

It was at their new home Spurs played against a side which is owned by Abu Dhabi, city manager Pep Guardiola has spent in excess of £545 million over three seasons on player signings. Pochettino, the Spurs manager, on the other hand, has invested £254 million over five seasons in the squad. Football, however, is played on the pitch and Spurs won the first leg 1-0 despite losing their talisman, Harry Kane, early into the second half.

Spurs are not through to the semi-final yet. But even if they go down in the second leg and lose the tie, they would still be considered a success story in English football. Spurs are rewriting the modern football's rulebook. They are refreshingly old-school. And maybe, they are the game's conscience as well. Spurs have had a net spend of £29 million since Pochettino's arrival in 2014. They spent £254 million on player signings and received £225 million on player sales.



Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino and Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola after the match

Even Stoke City and West Bromwich Albion had higher net spends at £65 million and £85 million respectively over the past four seasons. At the end of

the last season, the net spends of Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United and Manchester City stood at £119 million, £166 million, £417 million

and £496 million respectively. Only Liverpool in the top six in the Premier League had a lower net spend—£18 million—than Spurs, which was largely due to Philippe Coutinho's £142 million transfer to Barcelona.

Spurs are on course for a fourth successive top-four finish in the Premier League. They are just a good 90 minutes away from a Champions League semi-final. Pochettino has done all these on a shoestring. Yes, he is yet to win a major trophy, but presiding over a Spurs side, reveling in punching above their weight season after season, is a gold medal in itself. And Pochettino has never compromised on his philosophy. He has trained his players to entertain, which is very important.

Modern day sport has embraced commerce. But entertainment still remains the primary objective. From that perspective, Pochettino has done an incredible job. His building from the back philosophy has wowed even the greatest—Sir Alex Ferguson. Ironically, this is now the second time that United have bungled an opportunity to rope in the 47-year-old Argentine. Old Trafford's pain, though, is Spurs' gain. Their steady rise is also great news for English football.

Unlike Mourinho, Pochettino looks at the bigger picture. He doesn't whine at the lack of money. "One thing you need to understand is that Tottenham built a new training ground and built

what is going to be one of the best stadiums in the world with our own resources," the Spurs manager had said. His positivity has had a serious trickle-down effect.

Harry Kane, Eric Dier, Kieran Trippier, and Dele Alli—they have all benefited immensely from playing under Pochettino. "Well the manager (Pochettino) has been fantastic. They (Spurs) have a bad record of managers; there's no doubt about that. They have had so many over the years, but this lad has composure. You never see him ruffled and the way his team play is a testimony to the work he is doing. The most important thing for English football is how many English and young players are in his team. He understands the advantage of playing young people. They won't let you down and they have been fantastic. Alli, Kane, (Ryan) Mason, (Danny) Rose, Dier; all English players..." Sir Alex had said in 2016, when Pochettino was only into his second season in English football.

As for Pochettino, he believes that trophies don't take a team to the next level. Philosophy, identity and consistency do. "Again we are going to have the debate whether a trophy will take the club to the next level. I don't agree with it. It only builds your ego. The most important thing for Tottenham right now is to always be in the top four," he observed.

# Idea Exchange

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"We are on board (on Cong's NYAY). Mr P Chidambaram has been finance minister... Let us have faith in people who have delivered superior results... Eventually, we will seek a clear roadmap on its implementation"



## WHY SUPRIYA SULE

**IN 2014, DESPITE** the Modi wave, Supriya Sule managed to retain the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency against Mahadev Jankar of the Rashtriya Samaj Paksh, an ally of the BJP. But her victory margin — over 70,000 votes — was drastically reduced from 2009, when she had won by over three lakh votes. This time, BJP president Amit Shah

has set a target for the party's Maharashtra workers to win 45 of the 48 LS seats in the state, including Baramati. The party has also fielded its own candidate, Kanchan Kul, on the Pawar family bastion to take on Sule. In 2009, Sharad Pawar had vacated the Baramati seat for his daughter and NCP has been winning the constituency since 1999

"National security is clearly a serious issue. We are all for dialogue to resolve issues. All these years, such issues were not in our manifesto and I was surprised. Global terrorism has become the biggest challenge"



# I win by 1 vote or 5 lakh... *Jo jeeta woh sikandar.* BJP eyeing Baramati means I did a good job

Baramati MP Supriya Sule sees defections from party as erosion of ideology, terms BJP a regressive party and says nothing wrong in Sharad Pawar's 'personal relations' with Modi, lists jobs and agriculture as prime poll issues, and says Cong-NCP will do better this time

**AMITABH SINHA:** This is your third election. How is it different from the ones you have contested earlier?

It is too early to say anything. I personally feel that the pot is getting stirred every day. It unnerves me. Ideology no longer seems to be an issue in this election. My fight is against no individual. I don't care who the candidate is. I have an issue with my opponent, not individually, but over ideology. This war is about the way we want to shape the country for the next five years. It is a policy issue. Elections are to be fought on ideologies. Governments are about serving the people and somehow I feel we have lost the plot along the way. People are getting aggressive. It's all about *saam, daam, dand, bhed*.

The other thing different about this election is social media, not so much Facebook, but WhatsApp, which is playing havoc. Frankly, when people tell me this or that happened and that they learnt about it on WhatsApp, I get amused. WhatsApp is not in charge of my election.

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS:** Many leaders in Maharashtra have jumped ship to join the BJP. Did Sharad Pawar anticipate such a trend in western Maharashtra?

Does anybody ask these leaders why are they joining the BJP? They are the same people who have been vocal in their criticism about the BJP's policies. So you have to ask them why they have joined the party. It is so disappointing, especially when they are highly educated, brilliant people. It is for their own convenience that they have joined the BJP. These leaders have criticised the ideology (of the BJP) for several years. How will they deliver then?

**MANOJ MORE:** Why did Sharad Pawar decide not to contest these elections?

Few people in Indian politics have seen 14 elections. Sharad Pawar is 78 now. Politics is what he loves and he gets new energy during elections. I don't think anyone has prevailed over him. Sharad Pawar listens to nobody but himself. He is a survivor. In his 50-year career people have left him and he has seen disastrous stuff. However, I feel that power should never be isolated in and around one person or one family. In India people get overwhelmed with power. But what is power? Here today, gone tomorrow. Why do I like this job? Why am I a high-performing MP? Why do I ask so many questions? It is because I would like to make people's lives better.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** Do you think Sharad Pawar is a PM candidate? Well, you never know.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** You said that only media and politicians seem to be interested in elections. Is that not a kind of a self-indictment, that people are not interested? Also, when you talk of ideology, it is a little abstract. Could you break it down for us?

See, the tempo of filing nominations, campaigning will slowly build up. So far there was no clarity on who is in which party. You would wake up one day to find someone in another party and then wonder what happened to their value system. When I talk about ideology it is about the Congress and the BJP — one representing modern India and the other which is not for modern India. For me the BJP is a regressive party. They talk about equal rights but do not believe in it. For instance, they had the women's reservation Bill in their manifesto. They had all the power, so why didn't they keep their promise?

Also, I have an issue with them when it comes to farmers not getting remunera-



Baramati MP Supriya Sule with Pune Resident Editor Amitabh Sinha in *The Indian Express* newsroom in Pune

ARUL HORIZON

work done to eradicate malnutrition.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** What do you think people really vote for?

The last elections were different as people were angry with us. People were not happy. There were allegations. But this time the government has failed India and we need to stand up and tell them what has gone wrong in the last five years. For instance, their (the BJP's) ideology was against dynasties. Take a count and you will find that there are more dynasties on their side than ours.

Personally, I believe voters want basic amenities. Issues such as traffic, the stray dog menace, their garbage not getting picked up... Such things tell you that the systems below are not working. There is a full-fledged corporation (in Pune) that needs to address these issues but then I get a call asking whether Supriya *tai* can help. I cannot say this is not my job as people do have expectations from me. I call the officer concerned and direct them to lift the garbage.

**SUSHANT KULKARNI:** You spoke about WhatsApp and how it is being misused. Does the NCP not use such technology?

Every political party has a social media team. Personally though, I want to meet voters in flesh and blood. In the last five years, I have gone to every village in my constituency and the team displays it all on Facebook and Twitter. However, I am still old-fashioned. I want to meet people, to remain emotionally connected to them.

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS:** Baramati is often projected as a model for development, but there have also been concerns about certain social indices in the region.

I only commit to what I can deliver. There have to be realistic targets. Some of the indicators of my constituency may not be considered electorally relevant but I know that I have delivered on those fronts. For instance, take the issue of malnutrition. Recently, the Tata Trust and Harvard University released a report profiling top constituencies working on the issue across the country. Baramati stands at No. 3. It is also the most high-performing constituency in the country in terms of

work done to eradicate malnutrition. Now, how many people know of this and how many care? But for me it is very relevant as children, who are not my voters, will be healthier. So judge me by my performance. Check data, ask questions...

**MANOJ MORE:** Your victory margin reduced drastically in the 2014 general elections. Are you worried that the BJP is eyeing Baramati this time?

**Boss, jo jeeta woh sikandar** (the winner takes all). Whether I win by one vote or five lakh votes, it is okay. Supriya Sule's job is not about grabbing power. This is my passion. I am flattered that the BJP is eyeing my constituency. That means that I have done a damn good job.

**AJAY KHAPPE:** Who do you think should contest the Lok Sabha elections, and do you think your nephew and the NCP candidate from Maval, Parth Pawar, measures up to those qualities?

Anybody who is sensitive to issues, high-performing, honest, should contest. It is for the people to judge Parth Pawar. They will elect him if they think he is good. After five years if people don't like our work they reject us. I have never got caught in the trap of being Sharad Pawar's daughter. The reason I don't use my family surname is to create my own identity. I am proud to be their daughter but I also like to work in my own space. And that is why when I get an award and a pat on my back from Sumitra Mahajan (the Lok Sabha Speaker) as a high-performing MP, it makes my father proud.



**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** So are you then saying that we have to make peace with political dynasties?

No, you don't have to make peace. That's your choice. You have to stand by what you want. If you feel dynasties are bad, then so be it.

**RASKIA BHALE:** You said your father has won 14 elections. Do you think there should be a limit on the number of elections an individual can contest?

How can you do that in a democracy? People have the right to reject.

**AMITABH SINHA:** The broader question is that should there be a retirement age for politicians?

No. Doctors don't retire, lawyers don't. My lawyer is 92 years old. My doctor is very old but I don't want to change my doctor. Teachers retire at 60. They are so talented and skilled, why should they retire at 60? In my constituency, I tell them to teach at zila parishad schools (post retirement).

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS:** The Dhangar community in Maharashtra has been angry with the state government over the issue of reservations. The Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) has named influential Dhangar leader Gopichand Padalkar its candidate from Sangli. How do you see the contest playing out?

Why would they (the VBA) not join hands to resolve the demands of a community? Look at a party like ours, or the Aam Aadmi Party. Hats off to (Delhi CM) Arvind Kejriwal who has said that let's join hands with the Congress to take on

(On Sharad Pawar not contesting) He is 78. He listens to nobody but himself. He is a survivor. I don't think anyone has prevailed over him. In his 50-year career people have left him and he has seen disastrous stuff

the Centre. We tried our best to reach out to Prakash Ambedkar, but it is unfortunate he refused to join hands. This will only lead to division of votes. Who is going to benefit? It seems nobody is interested in making a difference; things are so bad in this country.

**MANOJ MORE:** Prakash Ambedkar has also alleged that Sharad Pawar has been having secret meetings with the Prime Minister. Your father and the PM are believed to be good friends.

I have not been part of any meeting (between the PM and Pawar). If anybody has any evidence of a secret meeting, they should come forward with it. I am curious to know about it as well.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** In your manifesto you have mentioned initiating talks with Pakistan and a promise to deal strongly with terrorism. Do you think national security is a crucial issue in this election?

National security is clearly a serious issue. We are all for dialogue to resolve key issues. All these years, such issues were not in our manifesto and I was surprised. Global terrorism has become the biggest challenge the world is facing now. The world is not the same place. It is changing every day.

**AMITABH SINHA:** Did the Congress consult you, other allies, before announcing the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY)?

Of course. We have been consulted and we are on board. P Chidambaram has been the finance minister of this country. Let us have faith in the people who have delivered superior results for this country in the past. Eventually, we will ask them to give us a clear roadmap on how the programme will be implemented.

**AMITABH SINHA:** What is your assessment of the NDA government's performance in the past five years?

On two crucial issues, agriculture and unemployment, this government has failed to keep its promises. They were the biggest challenges and this government has failed the people on both the counts. In this election, agrarian crisis and jobs are key issues.

**MANOJ MORE:** In the 2014 Assembly

elections in Maharashtra, the BJP fell short of a majority, and the NCP, without being asked, extended support to the party. Would you do the same after the general elections?

At the time, we offered support in Maharashtra because otherwise the state would have been forced to go through another election. We were not joining the government, only extending support from outside.

**MANOJ MORE:** Are the BJP and the NCP closer than the NCP and Congress?

You obviously don't follow my or Sharad Pawar's speeches. These are the two people who most often criticise the Devendra Fadnavis government in state. It is not against Modi or Fadnavis, it's not personal. Our fight is against wrong policies. Personal relations are personal but this is about the politics of Maharashtra. We had good relations with Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray and BJP leader Pramod Mahajan. The differences are on ideology.

**AMITABH SINHA:** Earlier there was an attempt by PM Modi to reach out to Sharad Pawar. He had come down to Baramati and publicly met Pawar.

It was kind of Modi to come to Baramati. You are looking at things in isolation. When the UPA was in power, and Pawar was the Union agriculture minister, he had helped Gujarat like any other state. It was very kind of Modi to remember that. I keep repeating that personal relations have nothing to do with ideological differences.

**ANJALI MARAR:** How do you see the status of women in politics now?

Let us not fool ourselves. Electoral merit is important for everyone. Every party doesn't necessarily have women candidates who can win. We have seen wonderful women in politics. As for me, I always try to better my performance. I always feel the need to do more for my constituency.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** The Congress-NCP alliance in Maharashtra also apparently includes 56 other organisations. Most of these are not even political parties. How does this grand alliance help you fight the BJP-Shiv Sena in the state?

These are other kind of organisations like NGOs etc. All like-minded people should come together. Not very long ago, everything that the BJP was doing was seen as wrong by the Shiv Sena. They were talking badly about each other. They can do anything to come in power.

**AJAY JADHAV:** What is your assessment of the Congress-NCP alliance?

We will do better than our past performance. I am confident of it.

**CHANDAN HAYGUNDE:** Will the NCP tie-up with Raj Thackeray's MNS?

We don't have any tie-up with the MNS.

**RASKIA BHALE:** What do you make of the Rafale controversy and the way it was handled by the Centre?

The government should have addressed Parliament about it. Nobody wants security secrets to be revealed. It could have been done through a JPC (Joint Parliamentary Committee). What is even worse is that the documents of the Rafale deal got photocopied and robbed from the Defence Ministry. It is so scary.

**SARTHAK KHINVASARA:** Is this election turning into a presidential-style poll between PM Narendra Modi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi?

They (the BJP) tried to do it last time as well. I am not sure (if it will help the BJP). Besides the leader, they have nothing to say. If elections become so personality-driven, it takes away focus from core issues such as unemployment etc.

**NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN:** How would you tackle unemployment?

I feel the way to deal (with unemployment) is to create an environment where people come and make investments... Make sure land is available, (facilitate) single window for taxation, make sure power and water resources are given... What more do industries require?