

I'll revive economy in 100 days: PM

TOI: 25th APRIL 2009, SATURDAY

FRONT PAGE

Bhaskar Roy | TNN

Guwahati: Manmohan Singh knows his strengths. And he's pitching them hard. In an exclusive interview to TOI, the PM said if voted back to power, he would roll out a 100-day action plan to revive the economy by adding greater zip to the stimulus packages and by tackling job losses.

"There is considerable scope to

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refuel the stimulus packages and our aim is to take the economy back to the stage where 9% to 10% growth is possible," he said, adding that such a boost would revive confidence in the economy.

Singh was hopeful of a quick economic recovery and creation of new jobs. He said that the recovery process was being led by cement, textiles and construction industries and these sectors would also create employment opportunities.

Singh has also added a new priority to his 100-day "to-do" list — bringing back black money salted away in tax havens abroad by taking whatever steps are required. He, how-

“The aim is to take the economy back to 9-10% GDP growth. I'm not setting too high a target. Only a Congress govt can do such things”



“We can't say there are no links between terrorists outside the country and terrorists within it... Community policing is the best way”

ever, disputed figures being quoted by BJP leader L K Advani: "I am not denying its existence — but how

Cong stands by Man, Left talks tougher

Congress toughened its stand vis-à-vis the Left on Friday, saying PM Manmohan Singh's continuation in the office was non-negotiable. CPM leader Prakash Karat swatted aside the claim, saying the Left wanted a "non-Congress secular government", with Congress, at best, "remaining outside and extending support". **P 11**

much is in Swiss banks, how much in tax havens, nobody knows."

On opaque banks in tax havens,

Shourie touts Modi as Advani's successor

In what may be the first clear advocacy of Narendra Modi for PM by a senior BJP leader, former minister Arun Shourie said the Gujarat chief minister's leadership of his state was exemplary as he had already implemented programmes being promised by political parties in their manifestos. **P 13**

he said, "We argued within a group of friendly countries for absolute transparency within the banking system and an international agreement to share information between tax authorities of various countries."

The PM pointed to India's unstable neighbourhood along with home-grown terror and said that given the international ramifications, his government would urgently modernize the security and intelligence mechanism if voted back to power. He drew attention to the Taliban's expansion in Pakistan and linked it to a spurt in terror directed against India.

On home-grown terror, he said, "We cannot say there are no links between terrorists outside and terrorists within the country." He laid emphasis on getting the basics like ground-level policing right. "Ultimately, community policing is the best way (of handling the problem)."

Insisting only a Congress-led government could meet such challenges, he referred to the mortgaging of gold reserves by the short-lived Chandra Shekhar government and the success of the Congress government in bringing it back.