

COVER STORY **MANMOHAN SINGH**

his life. Pakistan could have been pressurised to send him to India or abroad for life-saving treatment, but Sarabjit belonged to a country which Pakistan had already taken for granted. When it was most required, India didn't have a leader who could stand up to Islamabad. Just a day earlier, on April 30, the Congress waited with bated breath for the Supreme Court verdict on the Government-tampered CBI affidavit on the coal scam. The party, usually keen to defend the Prime Minister, had gone into a shell. At its daily briefing, all they would say is: "The matter is sub judice." Eventually the court's decision to defer the substantive part of its hearing—it asked the CBI to file another affidavit explaining who all had changed

what in its report—to Congress some time.

A kilometre from headquarters, in Parliament, the position successfully stalled all business with the signing of the Finance Bill. The move that limited opportunities for the Government. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj called UPA 2 the most corrupt since Independence. The insistence on the resignation of the Minister and Prime Minister on the Coalgate cover-up as a precondition for allowing Parliament to cost the Congress. Crucial bills like the Right to Food and Land Acquisition may be postponed to the Monsoon Session in

ON HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE COAL SCAM, the affidavit to the Supreme Court. Kumar wanted a sense of how much blame



2004

MAY

Manmohan, the architect of India's liberalisation, is sworn in as Prime Minister after being nominated by Sonia.

"It'll be my endeavour to do my best and come up to the expectations and trust of the people."

2005

DECEMBER

Foreign Minister Natwar Singh named by the UN Volcker Committee for getting illegal payoffs in an Iraqi oil-for-food scam

"There is no proof. Just tables and names of Congress and Mr Singh. Anyone can write any name."



Impact Foreign Minister Natwar Singh sacked.

2009

JULY

Singh blunders in joint statement with Yousuf Geelani, mentioning alleged Indian hand in unrest in Balochistan.

"We cannot wish away the fact that Pakistan is our neighbour. We should be good neighbours."



Impact Lets Pakistan off the hook for 26/11 attacks.

2010

AUGUST

CAG report on 2G spectrum says Telecom Minister A. Raja signed and approved majority of the questionable allocations.

"I sometimes feel like a high school student—going from one test to another."



Impact CBI-appointed JPC probe in progress.



2011

OCTOBER

Scam found in 2010 CWG preparations with embezzlement of up to Rs 8,000 crore being investigated by the CVC.

"Those found guilty should face severe and exemplary punishment."



Impact ED, CBI and CVC are probing on directions of Supreme Court.



JULY

Government arrests Anna Hazare, who sits on an 11-day fast that becomes a national anti-corruption event.

"To err is human but to accuse me of conniving in corruption is a charge I firmly repudiate."



Impact Promises Lokpal but doesn't clear Bill in Parliament.