

T.N. Chaturvedi joins BJP

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NEW DELHI, April 8: As part of its move to field candidates with a clean image during the forthcoming elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today inducted the former comptroller and auditor-general of India, Mr T. N. Chaturvedi, but did not indicate from where he would contest.

The former bureaucrat, who shot into the news with the CAG report on the controversial Bofors gun deal, was introduced to newsmen by Mr L. K. Advani in the presence of the

party president, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, and other party leaders. "My decision to enter politics is a recent one. I have decided to serve the country through the BJP," Mr Chaturvedi said.

Never connected with the RSS in the past, Mr Chaturvedi said his decision was also influenced by a friend, though, by his own admission, "I am not cut out for politics actually." He found the BJP as good as any other party, "integrated, cohesive and with policies of its own."

He, however, would not commit himself on whether he agreed with the BJP line on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. He believed more in the 'sarva dharma samabhav' concept as propounded by Dr S. Radhakrishnan. Throughout his interaction with the press, he gave

the impression that he would not like to take sides on controversial issues like the Ayodhya dispute, and laughed away a query on whether he was a "secularist or a pseudo-secularist."

Mr Chaturvedi disclosed that he would shortly resign as the ombudsman of the *Navbharat Times*, a post to which he was appointed recently.