

# KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



CONGRESS CAN ONLY PROVIDE  
'CORRUPTION GUARANTEE' WHENEVER  
IT COMES TO POWER: JP NADDA



**BJP COMMITTED TO DEVELOPMENT,  
CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL**



**BJP National President Shri JP Nadda in a Road Show at Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal**



**BJP National President Shri JP Nadda waving at the gathering at Borgaon New Ketla Tea Estate Field, Behali, Assam**



**Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah waving at the gathering in a road show in Kharagpur, West Bengal**



**Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing a huge public meeting in Nazira, Assam**



**Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressing an election meeting in Lumding, Assam**

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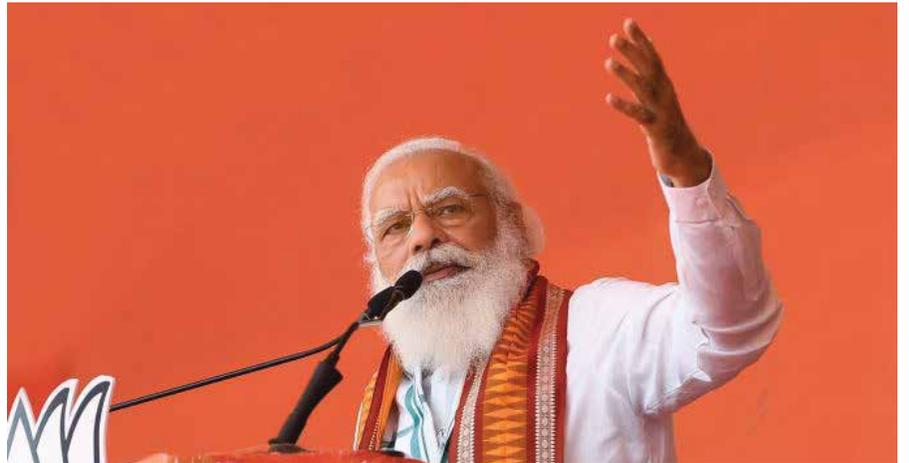
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# INCREASING SUPPORT FOR BJP

**A**s election campaign for the assembly elections in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala is gaining momentum day by day, people are increasingly coming out in support of BJP in large numbers. The BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has become a new hope for the entire country. The increasing support for BJP can be seen in the massive rallies and public meetings echoing the sentiments sweeping across all these election bound states. The boundless enthusiasm, optimism and expectations, trust in BJP and overall positive ambience reflecting newfound confidence of the people speaks volumes about the success of democracy in India. It seems that people have realized that India's time has come and it is time to vote and strengthen the process aimed at resurgence of India to build an 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat'. In the elections which are aimed at electing assemblies in five states, people are looking forward to contribute their bit in the process of building a New India.

The BJP has released its 'Sankalp Patra' for the states of Assam, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The 'Sankalp Patra' for Assam released by BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has given ten key commitments to the people paving the way for all round development of the state. In the last five years BJP has heralded an era of peace, development and progress in the state through many strong and innovative initiatives resulting in increasing support for BJP among the people. As the people are set to elect a BJP government in the state, BJP in its 'Sankalp Patra' has paved the path for an 'Aatmnirbhar Assam'.

The 'Sankalp Patra' for West Bengal released by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah reiterates BJP's commitment in realizing the dream of a 'Sonar Bangla'. It expresses BJP's commitment to introduce centre's schemes like PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi and Aysushman Bharat of which people have been kept deprived by the TMC government. The 'Sankalp Patra' for West Bengal details various innovative schemes which may create a new ambience of progress and development in the state ending decades of corruption, loot, cut money and anti-development policies

under Congress-Left and TMC rule. It is a comprehensive document aimed at empowering deprived, exploited, farmers, labourers, SCs & STs, OBCs, women and youth by creating new opportunities for them.

BJP 'Sankalp Patra' for Tamil Nadu outlining innovative schemes for every section of the society was released by Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari. While a special budget for agriculture has been promised, creation of fifty lakh jobs, home delivery of ration, laptop for students, a multi-speciality hospital in each districts are the other highlights of the 'Sankalp Patra'.

BJP is a political party which forms government not to rule but to serve the people. The untiring resolve of BJP karyakartas and commitment of the leadership to realise the goals which appeared impossible till a few years back have made people to support the party more and more. As one year of the pandemic passes, the faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has increased manifold throughout the country. The call for an 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' has infused a new confidence in the people who are looking forward to writing a new saga of success. The positive approach, message of hope and trust and the confidence of winning amid adversity have become the hallmark of Shri Narendra Modi's leadership. There is no doubt that under his leadership, India is set to script many more success stories in the coming days. The people in these five states are looking forward to strengthen BJP by voting and supporting the party in the ongoing elections. ■

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**THE FAITH IN  
THE LEADERSHIP  
OF PRIME  
MINISTER SHRI  
NARENDRA MODI  
HAS INCREASED  
MANIFOLD  
THROUGHOUT THE  
COUNTRY.**



**'TODAY THERE IS A WAVE OF DEVELOPMENT AND TRUST IN ASSAM'**

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 18, 2021 addressed a massive public meeting at Karimganj in Assam. He said, "Today, there is a wave of development, a wave of confidence in Assam. Today, Assam believes in peace, trusts in prosperity. Today, there is only one issue in Assam - development, continuous development and development of all."

"In 2016, when I came here, I was shocked to know that Congress governments ran Divisional Commissioner for Barak Valley from Guwahati. NDA government has overcome this injustice," PM Shri Modi added.

Hitting out at the Congress-led government, he said, "Congress governments and their policies have damaged Assam socially, culturally, geographically and politically, in every way. Decades ago, this entire region was one that had better connectivity. However, Congress' corruption and vote-bank-based governance made Assam one of the most disconnected states in India."

Addressing the massive rally, PM Shri Modi asked, "Who completed the construction of India's longest bridge- Bhupen Hazarika Setu, stuck for years? It was BJP government. Who is constructing even bigger Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge to connect Assam

with Meghalaya? It is BJP government. Who gave the country's longest river ropeway to Assam? It is the BJP government."

The Prime Minister's speech focused on the BJP's development work in the state, the PM stated, "NDA government's work in Assam is praised by tourists as well. The widening of railway tracks was done on mission mode, and big trains are also reaching here. The number of trains has doubled reaching this region in the last few years. We are trying to develop a multimodal logistic park in Silchar to transform this region into a hub of import-export. This will provide a lot of employment opportunities to the youth and economic opportunities to the farmers."

He asserted, "Thousands of rupees are being given to pregnant women working in tea plantation, so that they can take care of themselves and children's health. Recently, the central government has made a special provision of Rs 1000 crore for the associates working in the tea garden in the union budget. here are many possibilities of fisheries in Barak Valley."

"Our double engine government is giving a lot of encouragement to the fisheries business. Therefore, a separate Ministry of Fisheries has been created at the Center," he added.

# LIVE UP TO 'SONAR BANGLA' DREAM

**A**ddressing a massive gathering on March 18, 2021 at Purulia in West Bengal, PM Shri Narendra Modi said, "This land is a witness to Lord Ram and Goddess Sita's exile. This land has Sitakund. It is also said that when goddess Sita was thirsty, Lord Ram got water from the ground by hitting it with an arrow. It is an irony that Purulia faces water crisis today."

He said, "Left Front and TMC governments have not done enough for irrigation in Purulia. These people have given Purulia a life riddled with water crisis. They have given Purulia, migration. They have given the poor of Purulia, discriminatory governance. BJP government in Bengal will address issues of water and connectivity in Purulia on priority."

"I know the problems faced in rearing livestock due to less water. TMC government was busy in its 'khel' by leaving farming on its own. First the Left government and then TMC government didn't let industries develop here. Purulia ranks among the backward regions due to lackadaisical attitude of TMC government," he added.



Playing on Mamata Banerjee's slogan – 'Khela Hobe', Prime Minister Shri Modi, in Purulia, said, "Didi bole 'khela hobe', BJP bole 'chaakri hobe'. Didi bole khela hobe, BJP bole 'vikas hobe'. Didi bole 'khela hobe', BJP bole 'shiksha hobe'.... 'Khela shesh hobe, vikas aarambh hobe'."

Launching an attack against the TMC government, he asserted, "West Bengal can only develop when all sectors come together. Mamata didi, however, never brought together the dalits, tribals, SCs/STs and other such classes. Centre has stressed on education, health and income generation of tribal people."

Continuing the attack at Mamata Government, Prime Minister Shri Modi remarked, "The central

government's policy of the BJP is DBT- i.e. 'Direct Benefit Transfer' while TMC means 'transfer my commission'. TMC extortionists do not even spare ration for the poor that Centre provides. TMC has created a new breed of Maoists in Bengal who loot public money. Countdown has begun for the exit of TMC. The violence, mafia raj, atrocities will not be allowed now."

"I can assure you, action will be taken against every criminal after BJP forms government on May 02. We will have to live up to the 'Sonar Bangla' dream of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji and Vivekananda. On May 2 Didi jachhe, asol paribarton asche," PM Shri Modi said while urging to vote for the BJP in upcoming assembly elections. ■

The PM took a swipe at the Congress-Left alliance and stated, "Today the Congress has become so weak that it can go to any extent, can join hands with anyone. The whole country is seeing this strange situation today. In Kerala Left and Congress are wrestling against each other and in West Bengal Congress is doing Lal Salam with Communists."

Talking about the development in the North-east region, PM Shri Narendra Modi asserted, "For the BJP government, country's interest has always been

paramount, development of the country has been the priority. For decades, the BJP governments have been improving the way Northeast was ignored in development. We are making the Northeast the main center of development for the country."

"Your vote this time is to be vocal to the local talent of Assam, to local art, to local goods. This time your vote is to make Assam - Aatmanirbhar," he said while urging the people of Assam to vote for BJP once again. ■

### DHAKUAKHANA RALLY

**A**ddressing a huge public rally in Dhakuakhana, Assam BJP National President Shri JP Nadda on 15 March, 2021 said the Congress can provide only “corruption guarantee” wherever it comes to power though it has promised five-guarantees in the poll-bound state of Assam.

Many Congress leaders are now coming to Assam and talking about the five guarantees, Shri Nadda said at the election rally. “For 60 years, Congress leaders only indulged in corruption and so for the last five years, we had to fill up pot-holes, repair roads and convert double lane highways to four and six-lanes”, the BJP President said.

It is the BJP which has a mission and the “Congress is only interested in commission”, the BJP President said. He also accused the Congress of “latkana” (delaying), “atkana” (stalling) and “bhatkana” (misleading) but Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi believes in “jodna” (integrating).

“It is Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who through his initiatives has joined Assam and the Northeast with Mainstream India”, Shri Nadda said.

Assam has moved ahead along the path of development due to the efforts of the Prime Minister which Shri Sarbananda Sonowal-led BJP government in Assam has executed in the state. “The people of the state has the responsibility of electing BJP candidate Nabakumar Doley from this seat on March 27 and we assure you that the government will complete all pending works in the next five years”, he said.

### SOOTEA RALLY

## ‘CONGRESS CAN DO ONLY ONE THING-GHOTALA, GHOTALA, GHOTALA’

Addressing a rally in the Sootea, Shri JP Nadda said, “I was told Congress gave five guarantees in Assam. I am not aware of these guarantees. But I would like to give one guarantee from their side that whatever the Congress says, it would do only one thing i.e. ghotala, ghotala, ghotala (scam).”

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri JP Nadda targeted the Congress party over the five promises it has made to the people of Assam ahead of the assembly elections. The opposition party’s



**CONGRESS CAN ONLY GUARANTEE WHENEVER IT COMES TO POWER**

**BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHRI JP NADDA ADDRESSED A PUBLIC RALLY AT MV FIELD, DHAKUAKHANA. FROM THERE HE WILL GO TO ADDRESS ANOTHER RALLY. IN THE EVENING, SHRI NADDA WILL ADDRESS A RALLY IN BORBHAGIYA. NOTEWORTHY, ELECTIONS TO THE 12TH PHASES ON MARCH 27.**



‘Congress or 5 Guarantee’ was launched on March 11 when it asserted that these would reach every corner and every household of the northeastern state.

We’re not against the word ‘Congress’, but against its policies. What have they done in 70 yrs? There’s one guarantee that there’ll only be scams if Congress comes to power. It’s up to you whether you want guarantee of scams or guarantee of development, Shri JP Nadda said.



## PROVIDE 'CORRUPTION COMES TO POWER: JP NADDA

SEVERAL PUBLIC RALLIES FOR THE UPCOMING ASSAM HELD LILABARI AIRPORT IN ASSAM AND ADDRESSED A FIELD, HE REACHED IB FIELD, JAMUGURIHAT SOOTEA JP NADDA ADDRESSED THE THIRD RALLY AT HS FIELD 6-MEMBER ASSAM ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD IN THREE , APRIL 1 AND APRIL 6.

The BJP President asked people attending the rally whether they wanted a guarantee of scams or a guarantee of development. Shri Nadda said, as he reiterated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mission of a 'Congress Mukta Bharat' (Congress-free India), the BJP was moving forward with this mission adding one or two states were left and they would be covered soon.

### BORBHAGIYA RALLY

## 'WHILE CONGRESS PRACTICED ONLY CORRUPTION, THE BJP DID DEVELOPMENT WORK'

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda lashed out against the alliance between the Congress and the AIUDF, a party led by Badruddin Ajmal. "In 2006, Tarun Gogoi used to say 'Who is Badruddin?' And today, what is Congress saying, 'My brother', 'My



friend',” said Shri Nadda. His reference was to an oft-quoted comment by former Assam CM Gogoi, “Who’s Badruddin?”

“Kerala is also going to polls at the same time. There the Congress is fighting against the Communists. In West Bengal too elections are happening, but here they are embracing the CPI(M). And in Assam they are embracing the AIUDF... waah re waah milan, satta bhi doston kya cheez hoti hai, niyat ko bhi paar kar jaati hai,” he said.



He said while the Congress practiced only corruption, the BJP did development work. He said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has united Assam and the Northeast with the rest of the country. ■

## 'POLITICS OF APPEASEMENT REACHED TO A NEW LEVEL IN WEST BENGAL'

**B**hartiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed a huge rally and flagged off Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Yatra in Kotulpur, West Bengal on March 16, 2021 and urged the people of West Bengal to uproot the Trinamool Congress government, which is doing politics of corruption, appeasement and violence. He called for the formation of a Bharatiya Janata Party government with an absolute majority. Earlier in the day, National President held a grand road show from Kumari Talkies Cinema Hall to Bishnupur Bus Stand in Bishnupur (West Bengal). Pointing out the huge crowd at the road show, the BJP President said that change is certain in West Bengal.

In his address Shri Nadda said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's affection for West Bengal is not hidden from anyone. He has opened the treasury of the country for the development of West Bengal, but Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool government does not allow central schemes to be implemented in the state. The Prime Minister has made a meaningful effort to bring positive changes in the lives of the villages, poor and farmers of the country which is visible on the ground, be it Swachh Bharat Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, Saubhagya Yojana, social security schemes, Ayushman Bharat or Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi. But, I am pained to tell you that the poor of West



Bengal are still deprived of taking advantage of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the farmers here have not been able to get the benefit of the Kisan Samman Nidhi because the anti-farmer Mamta Banerjee government is standing in the way of these schemes.

National President said that around 130 Bharatiya Janata Party workers in West Bengal were victims of the Trinamool Congress political violence under Mamata Didi's rule. Did our workers not have mothers, wives and daughters? Have you ever worried about those mothers? The people of West Bengal are going to take account of your misadventure. Instead of 'Maa, Mati, Manush', you started the politics of dictatorship, manipulation and appeasement. Mamta Didi stopped the immersion of Durga Puja, the cultural heritage of West Bengal, and did not allow Saraswati Puja for five years. Mamata didi lifted the curfew in Muharram but imposed curfew on the day of foundation stone of the grand temple of Ramlala in Ayodhya. Mamta didi, now your

appeasement politics will not work. The people of West Bengal have turned against it.

Shri Nadda said that the politics of appeasement in West Bengal reached to such a level that a large number of minorities were also added to the OBC reservation, but Mamta Didi deprived the OBC of Mahisya and Teli cast from the benefit of reservation. But after forming BJP government in Bengal a commission will be formed and the Mahisas and Teli castes deprived of the benefits of reservation will also be included in this category.

He further added that the current government under which the atrocities on people belonging to the scheduled castes has increased alarmingly in last 10 years.

Hailing the people of West Bengal, Shri Nadda said that if you have to get rid of Tolabazi, appeasement and corruption and want a fear-free Bengal, then you must support BJP. The people of West Bengal should give a chance to Bharatiya Janata Party. ■

# 'LEFT, CONGRESS AND TMC HAVE WASTED A LOT OF TIME OF PREVIOUS GENERATIONS'

**A**head of West Bengal polls, PM Shri Narendra Modi on March 21, 2021 addressed a massive public meeting in Bankura, West Bengal. Impressed by the huge turnout at the rally, the PM said, "The picture of Bankura witness that people of Bengal have decided on May 2, 'Didi jacche, Ashol Poriborton ashche, Ashol Poriborton ashche'. BJP will bring the Ashol Poriborton in Bengal - to increase the pride of Bengal. Ashol Poriborton - to bring a government in Bengal that serves the poor and removes their problems."

Hitting out at Mamata Banerjee, PM Shri Modi said, "The game of Corruption - Cholbe naa, the game of

while people of West Bengal have decided 'Khela Shesh Hobe'. Didi, the games of corruption, syndicate, cut-money will have to end.

Slamming the Left, Congress and the TMC for taking Bengal backwards, he asserted, "Congress, Left and TMC are all to be blamed for development eluding Bengal. All there have wasted a lot of time of your previous generations. I can't let your futures be ruined. I call upon the first time voters to vote and make the dream of Sonar Bangla come true."

The PM slammed TMC government for not doing enough to reach piped water to people. He said, "Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat and other central



Syndicate - Cholbe naa and the game of cut money - Cholbe naa. If persecution and deprivation was on your mind, then why did you chant the mantra of Ma, Mati, Manush? After the BJP forms the government, maa'er pujo hobe, maatir tilak hobe aar manusher somman hobe."

Taking a jibe at the TMC for his graffiti, PM said, "I have seen graffiti humiliating me made by Didi's partymen on walls wherein she is hitting my head with her foot and playing football. Didi, you can kick me. But I won't allow you to kick away the development of Bengal and people's dreams."

Addressing the massive gathering, the Prime Minister accused Mamata Didi for making hollow announcements in the last 10 years, he said, "Didi, you have only made empty promises in the last 10 years, where is the work you claim to have done? You keep saying 'Khela Hobe'

schemes will be taken up in priority once BJP government comes to power." "Terracota art from Bankura-Bishnupur region can play a major role in the Aatmanirbhar Bharat dream," he added.

Asserting that BJP works to schemes, TMC plays by scams, he stated, "All central schemes that were to be delivered through the state government have ended up in scams. Bengal farmers have been deprived of Rs 14,000 that was delivered to accounts of farmers all across India."

The PM remarked, "The more I question Didi, the angrier she gets. Now she says that she doesn't like my face. Didi, in democracy, it is the public service and not the face which is put to test. Urging the people of Bengal to vote, PM Shri Modi said, "Every person in Bengal must exercise their power to vote without any fear. Ebar gorbo sonar Bangla, ebar aschhe BJP." ■

# NDA GOVT ENSURES PEACE, STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASSAM: PM MODI

**C**ontinuing his election campaigning spree, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a public meeting in Bokakhat, Assam. He said, "It is now decided that Assam will get 'double engine ki sarkar', 'doosri baar, BJP sarkar', 'doosri baar, NDA sarkar'. "Today I can respectfully say to all our mothers, sisters and daughters sitting here that we have worked hard to fulfill the responsibility and expectations with which you elected the BJP government," he added.

The 'double engine sarkaar' of the NDA government ensured the availability of free gas cylinders, LPG, electricity and free healthcare to the people of the state, he said while attacking the Congress government. "During Congress' regime, the main question was to save the loot of Assam from Congress.

## ASSAM IS HEADING TO TOUCH NEW HIGHS

Under the NDA government, the Prime Minister said the NDA government saved the rhinos of the state that the earlier Congress-led government failed to do. The NDA government has put the rhino hunters in jails. We are working on both safety of animals as well as facilities for the people of Assam.

"All our sanctuaries, including Kaziranga, are our heritage, our responsibility towards the environment and also the means of livelihood. I am happy that the forest area in Assam has increased in the last 5 years," he added.

Listing developmental schemes undertaken in Assam, PM Shri Modi shared that in the last 5 years, Assam had witnessed a growth in forest cover. It increased the opportunities for tourism and economic activities. We wanted India to be included in one of the leading nations in natural, spiritual, cultural and heritage tourisms, and Assam has all of this.

"More than 90 years ago, the British had made a law and put Bamboo in the category of trees. This law prohibited the transportation and cutting of bamboo



grown on private land. Even after independence, this law existed for 70 years. Because of this, farmers, traders, bamboo industries had to face many problems. Our government understood your problems and changed this law. Its huge benefit has been to the people associated with the Bamboo Craft in Assam, to the farmers, to the entrepreneurs," PM Shri Modi shared.

## UNDER CONGRESS THERE WAS DOUBLE NEGLIGENCE & DOUBLE CORRUPTION

**"When Congress was in power at the Centre and in Assam, there was double negligence and double corruption."**

Hitting out at the opposition, PM Shri Modi stated, "In Congress Raj, the question was how to increase the connectivity between the two sides of the Brahmaputra? Modern bridges are being built on the Brahmaputra during the period of NDA, old incomplete bridges are being completed."

Addressing the rally, Prime Minister Shri Modi asserted, "When Congress was in power at the Centre and in Assam, there was double negligence and double corruption. You have to remember that Congress means instability, corruption. They have no vision or intention to do any good."

He exuded confidence of a clean sweep in upcoming assembly elections, said, "Seeing the massive crowd, I am sure that we are winning the elections in the state of Assam." ■

# 'BJP WILL RID WEST BENGAL OF INFILTRATORS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS'

**U**nion Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed a huge public meeting in East Medinipur, West Bengal on 21 March, 2021. He called for the formation of an absolute majority government of the Bharatiya Janata Party dedicated to the development of the state. On the occasion, in the presence of Shri Amit Shah, Shri Shishir Adhikari, Member of Trinamool Congress and father of senior BJP leader Shri Suwendu Adhikari, took membership of Bharatiya Janata Party. BJP's national general secretary and in-charge of West Bengal Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya was also present at the event.

During the public meeting Union Home Minister said Mamata Didi wants to make her nephew the Chief Minister of West Bengal, and on the other hand Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji wants to create 'Sonar Bangla'. Now it is up to the people of West Bengal who have to decide whether to vote for making the 'nephew' of someone the Chief Minister of the State or to vote for realising the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji of creating 'Sonar Bangla'.

Launching an attack on chief minister, he said Mamata Didi says that Rs.500 is nothing these days but we in the Bharatiya Janata Party say the people of West Bengal should not be forced to pay even 5 aana as toll money or cut money. After the formation of the Bharatiya



Janata Party government in West Bengal we will end the culture of toll money and cut money forever.

In West Bengal under the Trinamool Congress Government more than 300 workers and sympathisers of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its sister organisations were brutally murdered. All the murderers and criminal elements who have got the patronage of the Trinamool Congress Government will not be spared under the Bharatiya Janata Party government once we come to power in West Bengal.

On the coming May 02, the departure of the Trinamool Congress Government is certain. After May 02, all the murderers of Bharatiya Janata Party workers will be put behind bars and we will find them out from wherever they are and presented before the law and justice will be delivered to all those families whose members were brutally murdered.

The state government employees in West Bengal have been deprived of the benefits of the Seventh Pay Commission. We have decided soon after the

formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in West Bengal all the government employees will immediately start getting the benefits of the Seventh Pay Commission as recommended. We will also immediately hike the salaries of teachers of West Bengal.

During the Panchayat elections in West Bengal people were stopped from voting and candidates were even assaulted. The candidates had to file their forms through WhatsApp. But this time, the voters should not be worried. This time the goons supported by the Trinamool Congress will see stars during the day. The goons of Trinamool Congress will not be able to stop anyone from casting their vote.

Illegal immigration and infiltrations have been happening for long in West Bengal. Infiltration is also happening in the Trinamool Congress. Didi will not be able to rid West Bengal of illegal immigrants. The people of West Bengal should give the Bharatiya Janata Party one chance to form the government and we all rid the state of infiltrators and illegal immigrants in the next five years. ■



## BJP ASSAM MANIFESTO WITH 10 PROMISES RELEASED

# WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKE ASSAM FASTEST JOB CREATING STATE IN COUNTRY: JP NADDA

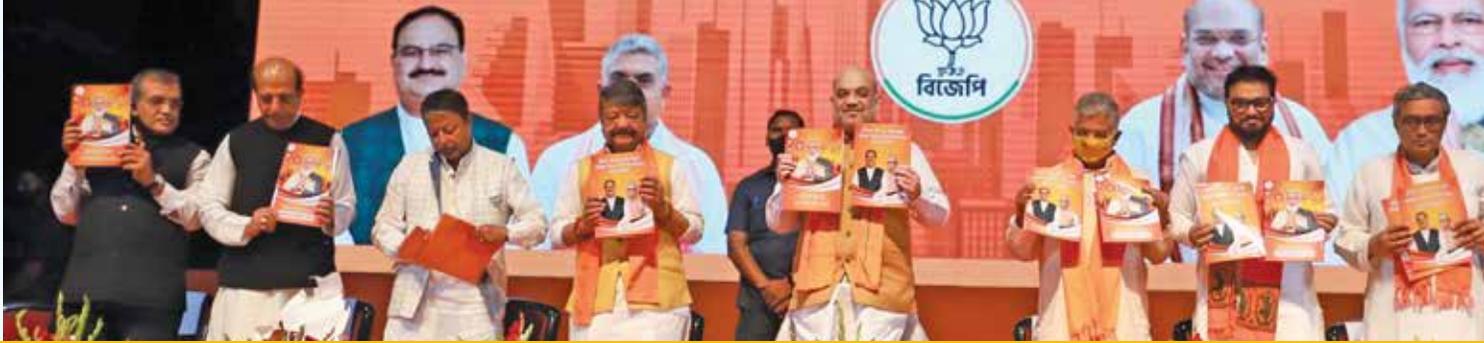
**B** JP National President Shri JP Nadda on March 23, 2021 released the party manifesto for the upcoming assembly elections in Assam.

Along with Shri JP Nadda, Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Chief Minister of Assam Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, senior leader Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma and others were also present on the occasion of manifesto release.

Announcing the manifesto, Shri Nadda said the party is making 10 commitments to help Assam take the next big leap in the coming five years.

### 10 KEY COMMITMENTS MADE IN MANIFESTO:

- We have resolved to protect the culture of Assam, ensure the state is protected and we have also resolved to make the state prosperous and self-reliant. This Sankalp Parta is our 'Direction of Development' for Assam.
- We are committed to make Assam free of floods. We will start the 'Mission Brahmaputra' Yojana, which will help rid Assam of the devastating floods every year and chart a new course of development for the state.
- Under the Arunodaya scheme around 30 lakh poor families will be covered. Under this scheme at present a financial assistance of 830 is provided every month, which will increase to 3,000 per month.
- We will establish a task force that will look into removing the encroachments on the worshipping area of tribals. Every Namghar in the state will be given financial assistance of Rs 2.50 lakh to strengthen them.
- Under the mission, Sishu Unayan, every child will get education free of cost in state government education institutions. Besides, children from Class Eight and above will be given a bicycle.
- The BJP government in Assam will properly implement the NRC so that the citizenship rights of the people of Assam are ensured and illegal immigrants are dealt with sternly.
- To protect the political interests of Assam, we will conduct a delimitation exercise in the state. We will pride land to all the landless people in the state and will also empower them.
- After BJP forms the government in Assam, we will implement the Assam Ahaar Atmanirbhar scheme for the state. In Assam, we will focus on food products, especially fish, horticulture products, poultry and dairy products. We will also focus on gardening (Nursery) products.
- We will offer 2 lakh government jobs to youth in Assam. Of this, 1 lakh jobs will be offered in the first year of the BJP forming government in Assam, which means before March 31, 2022 we will provide 1 lakh jobs. We will make Assam the fastest state in creating jobs in the country. In the private sector also arrangements will be made to create 8 lakh jobs.
- After the BJP forms the government in Assam, we will start the Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Employment Yojna, under which every year 2 lakh youth entrepreneurs or 10 lakh youth entrepreneurs will be created in five years. ■



## 'SONAR BANGLA SANKALP PATRA' FOR WEST BENGAL RELEASED

**U**nion Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on March 21, 2021 released the 'Sonar Bangla Sankalp Patra' for West Bengal Legislative Assembly. Earlier, BJP had launched a huge 'Lokho Sonar Bangla Abhiyan' campaign in the state and sought public opinion for its Sankalp Patra. The campaign was started by the National President of the party Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. To get the opinion of maximum people the BJP had arranged LED Rath for 294 Vidhan Sabha. Based on the suggestions the party prepared its Sankalp Patra. The key points are following:

### KEY POINTS OF SANKALP PATRA

- 'Sonar Bangla' is not just a declaration, it is our resolve.
- The BJP government will give 33% reservation to women in state government jobs. Women's education will be free from KG to PG. The public transport for the women will also be free.
- 75 lakh farmers will be given 18 thousand rupees under 'Kisan Samman Nidhi'.
- Free education will be provided to the children of landless, small and marginal farmers. Fishermen will also be given financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 annually.
- Ayushman Bharat Yojana will be implemented. A total of three new AIIMS will be set up in North Bengal, Jungle Mahal and Sundarbans.
- Employment opportunity will be provided to at least one member in every family. Up to Rs 25 lakh subsidy will be given to 10,000 startups. Netaji Vocational Training Center will be established in every block for skill development of 20 lakh youth.
- Free books, bags, school uniforms, bicycles and digital tablets will be made available under the Sahaj Path program.
- A sports university will be established in the state.
- An anti-corruption helpline will be started under the CMO to end syndicate, counterfeiting and cut money.
- Special Task Force will be set up against coal mafia, sand mafia, water tanker mafia, job recruitment scam, communal violence, illegal arms smuggling, drug trade, forced land conversion, fake currency and cow smuggling.
- SIT will be set up to investigate all the mega scams, political killings and Rs. 25 lakh will be given for rehabilitation of victims of political violence.
- Will completely stop cross-border infiltration.
- Every family will be given Pucca houses. Free electricity will be provided for domestic consumption up to 200 units and ensured supply of 24x7 power will be ensured in homes.
- Saraswati and Durga Puja will be celebrated throughout the state without any fear or restriction.
- Annapurna Canteen will be set up in West Bengal to provide nutritious food for only five rupees three times a day.
- Under the subsidy ration, PDS beneficiaries will be provided rice or wheat at 1 per kg, pulses at Rs. 30 per kg, salt at Rs. 3 per kg and sugar at Rs. 5 per kg.
- The Citizenship Amendment Act. will be implemented.
- SC / ST caste certificate will be given without any corruption.
- The Seventh Pay Commission will be implemented in the first cabinet meeting itself.
- Free electricity will be supplied for use up to 200 units for domestic consumption and 24x7 power will be supplied to the houses in the city.
- 500 crores will be given to get the prestigious UNESCO Heritage City tag for Kolkata. 10 smog towers will be installed in the city to combat air pollution. 1,500 crore will be spent for the Clean Kolkata Mission.
- A fund of Rs. 500 crore will be created for flood prevention and its master plan for its management in Bengal. ■

## 50 LAKH JOBS IN BJP MANIFESTO FOR TAMIL NADU

**T**he BJP manifesto for Tamil Nadu was launched by Union Ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari on 22 March, 2021. Among others, MoS Shri VK Singh, BJP State President Shri L Murugan and the members of election manifesto committee of the party; Shri H Raja, Shri Sasikala Pushpa, Shri K Annamalai, Shri VP Duraisamy and Shri M Nachiappan were present. The manifesto promised fifty lakh jobs, home delivery of ration, 6,000 annual support for fishermen and farmers and total prohibition of alcohol in the state if voted to power.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Nitin Gadkari said, "We are confident that the NDA will get the majority in Tamil Nadu. We will have a new government and Tamil Nadu will be developed as a progressive state". Other promises in the manifesto include;

### HIGHLIGHTS

- NDA will make sure that Tamil Nadu will be the number one state for ease of doing business.
- Free two-wheeler driver's licenses will be issued to women aged 18 to 23. They need not pay any fee to take the driving test and get the license.
- Students of classes 8 and 9 will be provided a 'Tablet' device for free.
- Door delivery of ration items through the Public Distribution System.
- Every district will get a government multispecialty hospital with facilities equivalent to private hospitals and free treatment will be provided.
- Widows' pension will be increased to Rs 3,000.
- Fisher folks above the age of 60 will be given a pension of Rs 3,000 per month.
- Separate budget for agriculture.
- Twelve lakh acres of Panchami lands will be retrieved and distributed to those from the Scheduled Castes.
- The administration of Hindu temples will be handed over to a Board with religious leaders.
- River sand mining will be banned for five years to improve groundwater table and the flow of rivers.



- River sand import will be allowed in this period.
- Greater Chennai Corporation will be trifurcated.
- Legislative council will be set up to facilitate informed debates on topics by subject matter experts.
- Badugas will be added to the Scheduled Tribe category.
- All state highways will be converted into four-lane roads.
- Every district will have coaching centers for National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET), Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and Common Law Admission Test (CLAT).
- Online skill Development University will be set up.
- A Circuit Bench of the Madras High Court will be established in Coimbatore.
- Law will be brought against forced religious conversions.
- Siddha Medicine University will be established in Palani.
- Thirukkural Mamalai Park will be established in Erode district.

Earlier, a day before the BJP also criticized the DMK of deceiving the people of Tamil Nadu had released a 'charge sheet' against the MK Stalin-led DMK party, listing out 100 reasons to reject the DMK-led combine in the April 06 assembly elections.

The BJP is contesting in 20 assembly seats as part of the AIADMK-led alliance in the state. It has also been allotted the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha seat where a by poll is being held. ■

## 17 STATES IMPLEMENT 'ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD'

**S**eventeen (17) States have successfully operationalised "One Nation One Ration Card system" with Uttarakhand being the latest State to complete the reform.

States completing 'One Nation One Ration Card' system reform are eligible for additional borrowing of 0.25 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Accordingly, these States have been granted additional borrowing permission of Rs. 37,600 crore by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.

'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme is an

important citizen centric reform. Its implementation ensures availability of ration to beneficiaries under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other welfare schemes, especially the migrant workers and their families, at any Fair Price Shop (FPS) across the country. Those 17 states which executed 'One Nation One Ration Card' System successfully are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. ■

## MAJOR REFORMS IMPLEMENTED TO BOOST DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING

**T**he Government has implemented major reforms in the last one year to boost domestic manufacturing, industrial production and GDP growth. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in 13 key sectors, under the aegis of AatmaNirbhar Bharat, have been announced for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. PLI Schemes for medical devices; mobile phones; electronic components; pharmaceutical drugs; telecom and network equipment; and electronic technology products have been notified. Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) and Project Development Cells (PDCs) have been set up in the Ministries/Departments to facilitate and promote investment.

A Single Window System involving clearances by Ministries / Departments and selected State Governments is on the anvil to provide end-to-end facilitation support. In the Union Budget 2021-

22 with a view to promote domestic manufacturing, announcements have been made on setting up seven Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) over the next 3 years with plug-and-play facilities, rationalization of customs duty structure across sectors and for a Scrapage Policy to phase out old and unfit commercial vehicles. The National Infrastructure Pipeline is expected to significantly boost infrastructure and spur growth impulses in the economy. Reduction in the compliance burden is an ongoing process to spur investment and enhance ease of doing business in India

To boost domestic manufacturing, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has taken a number of measures including setting up of world class infrastructure by developing nodes across various Industrial Corridors; formulation of National Master Plan on multimodal connectivity infrastructure;



implementation of Industrial development schemes for North-East States, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to boost industrialization in the industrially backward and hilly States; for start ups, setting up a Fund of Funds and Seed Fund to build up a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship; Development of industrial information system for improving availability of industrial land and amendment in Public Procurement Rules to enhance minimum local content.

This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri SomParkash, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on March 10. ■

## INDIA'S ARMS IMPORTS DECREASE BY OVER 33 PER CENT

**I**ndia's arms imports have decreased by over 33 per cent between 2011–15 and 2016–20, the latest 'Trends in International Arms Transfers' report released on March 15 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) stated. According to the report, India's imports of US arms also fell by 46 per cent. At the same time, Russia's arms exports to India also came down by 53 per cent. In the last few years, India with the pledge of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'

has taken a series of measures to boost domestic defence industry with an aim to reduce dependence



on imported military platforms and hardware, Defence Minister Shri

Rajnath Singh in a statement on February 5, 2021 had announced at the Aero India 2021's Bandhan – partnership signing ceremony that India planned to bring down defence imports by \$2 billion by the end of 2022. He had said, the idea of cutting down on imports is to encourage domestic manufacture of defence related items. Between 2016 and 2019, 138 proposals worth over \$37 billion have been approved for domestic manufacturing and they will pay off now in lower imports. ■

## INDIA EXPORTS 3000 HP CAPE GAUGE LOCOMOTIVE TO MOZAMBIQUE

**T**he Union Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal on March 10 flagged off 3000 HP Cape Gauge Locomotive indigenously developed by Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi via video conferencing along with Minister of Transport and Communications, Government of Mozambique, Shri Janfar Abdulai, Union Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey and other dignitaries who were present at the event site.

The export of locomotives to Mozambique shall boost the Indo-African relationship and pilot the economic empowerment through export. Indian Railways is exporting first batch of 2 locomotives as part of total order of 6 locomotives of 3000 HP cape gauge locomotive and 90 stainless steel passenger coaches to Mozambique. These locomotives are developed indigenously by Banaras Locomotive Works under Make-in-India, they are being exported through Indian Railways' PSU, Rites Limited. In spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, these Cape Gauge Diesel Locos have been designed in India, Made in India

and financed by India.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Shri Piyush Goyal said that under the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji's visionary leadership & his commitment to further strengthen African-Indian relations, we will work as Mozambique's trusted partner. With significant innovation, re-modelling & upgradation, Indian Railways wishes to become the preferred supplier for Mozambique & countries around the world for all their requirements. We are willing to support further development of rail network in Mozambique. By 2030, we plan to become a net-zero Railway & power our entire electricity requirements by renewable energy. We will be the first large railway in the world to become 100% electric traction driven.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey said good quality products manufactured by Indian Railways symbolises the mantra of Aatmanirbhar Bharat given by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Indigenously developed locomotives by BLW are an epitome of skilled workforce. Our vision is to make India a skill capital. ■

# TELEMEDICINE SERVICE COMPLETES 3 MILLION CONSULTATIONS

**DAILY OVER 35,000 PATIENTS USE E-SANJEEVANI TO SEEK HEALTH SERVICES REMOTELY**

**G**ovt. of India's National Telemedicine Service – eSanjeevani has crossed another milestone by completing 3 million (30 lakh) consultations. Currently, the National Telemedicine Service is operational in 31 States/Union Territories and daily over 35,000 patients across the country are using this innovative digital medium – eSanjeevani, to seek health services.

The National Telemedicine Service, set up by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare comprises of two variants of eSanjeevani namely - doctor to doctor (eSanjeevani AB-HWC) telemedicine platform that is based on hub and spoke model and patient to doctor telemedicine platform (eSanjeevaniOPD) which provides outpatient services to the citizens in the confines of their homes. eSanjeevaniAB-HWC is being implemented at Health & Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, and by December 2022 it will be made operational at 1,55,000 Health & Wellness Centres across India. It was rolled out in November 2019 and Andhra Pradesh was the first State to roll out eSanjeevaniAB-HWC services. Since its roll out over 1000 hubs and around 15000 spokes have been set up in various States. eSanjeevani AB-HWC has completed around 900,000 consultations.

eSanjeevaniOPD provides digital health services to the citizens through more than 250 online OPDs



set up on eSanjeevaniOPD. Over 220 of these onlineOPDs are specialist OPDs and the rest are general OPDs. eSanjeevaniOPD was rolled out on 13th of April 2020 during the first lockdown in the country when all the OPDs were closed. So far, over 21,00,000 patients have been served through eSanjeevaniOPD.

In a short span of time Govt. of India's National Telemedicine Service has started aiding the Indian healthcare delivery system by plugging the digital health divide that exists in urban and rural India. It is also addressing the shortage of doctors and specialists at ground level while reducing the burden on secondary and tertiary level hospitals. In line with the National Digital Health Mission eSanjeevani is also boosting digital health ecosystem in the country. ■

## **49.87 CRORE PEOPLE HAD HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE (EXCLUDING PERSONAL ACCIDENT & TRAVEL BUSINESS) IN FY 2019-20**

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has informed that the total number of lives covered under health insurance business (excluding Personal Accident & Travel Business) in Financial Year 2019-20 was 49.87 crore. This was stated by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on March 15.

The Minister stated that IRDAI has further informed that the total number of lives covered under health insurance business (excluding Personal Accident & Travel Business) from 1.4.2020 to 30.9.2020 has been 30.22 crore (provisional data) as compared to 17.83 crore for the period from 1.4.2019 to 30.9.2019 showing a growth of 69.8%. In general, there has been no abnormal increase in health insurance premium during the pandemic, the Minister stated. ■

### CABINET APPROVES CREATION OF PRADHAN MANTRI SWASTHYA SURAKSHA NIDHI

**T**he Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on March 13 approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.

#### SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PMSSN

- A non-lapsable reserve fund for Health in the Public Account;
- Proceeds of share of health in the Health and Education Cess will be credited into PMSSN;
- Accruals into the PMSSN will be utilized for the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare namely,
- Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)
- National Health Mission
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
- Emergency & disaster preparedness and responses during health emergencies
- Any future programme/scheme that targets to achieve progress towards SDGs and the targets set out in the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017.
- Administration and maintenance of the PMSSN is entrusted to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- In any financial year, the expenditure on such schemes of the MoHFW would be initially incurred from the PMSSN and thereafter, from Gross Budgetary Support (GBS).

#### BENEFITS:

The major benefit will be enhanced access to universal & affordable health care through availability of earmarked resources, while ensuring that the amount does not lapse at the end of financial year. ■

### RS PASSES MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL, 2021 FOR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF WOMEN

**T**he Rajya Sabha has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021 to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 on 16th March 2021. The Bill was approved in Lok Sabha on 17th March 2020.

Enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women which will be defined in the amendments to the MTP Rules and would include survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (like differently-abled women, minors) etc.

Opinion of only one provider will be required up to 20 weeks of gestation and of two providers for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.

Upper gestation limit not to apply in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by Medical Board. The composition, functions and other details of Medical Board to be prescribed subsequently in Rules under the Act.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021 is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds. The amendments include substitution of certain sub-sections, insertion of certain new clauses under some sections in the existing Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, with a view to increase upper gestation limit for termination of pregnancy under certain conditions and to strengthen access to comprehensive abortion care, under strict conditions, without compromising service and quality of safe abortion.

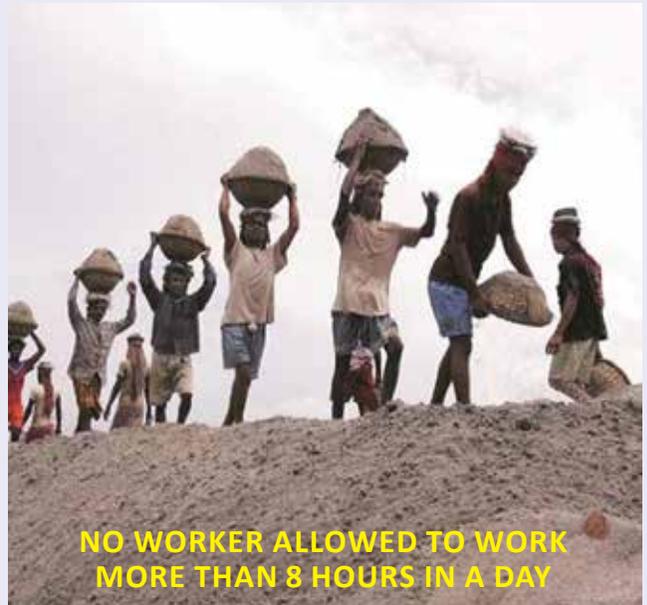
It is a step towards safety and well-being of the women and many women will be benefitted by this. Recently several petitions were received by the Courts seeking permission for aborting pregnancies at a gestational age beyond the present permissible limit on grounds of foetal abnormalities or pregnancies due to sexual violence faced by women. The amendments will increase the ambit and access of women to safe abortion services and will ensure dignity, autonomy, confidentiality and justice for women who need to terminate pregnancy. ■

## GOVT. TO DEVELOP NATIONAL DATABASE OF UNORGANISED WORKERS

**T**he Ministry of Labour and employment proposes to develop National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW), which will be a comprehensive data base of the Unorganised Workers including the Building and other Construction Workers and Migrant workers, seeded with Aadhaar. It will have details of name, occupation, address, occupation type, educational qualification, skill types & family details etc. for optimum realization of their employability and extend the benefits of the social security schemes to them. The details of schemes/ programme implemented by Government for welfare of unskilled and skilled migrant labourers in the country inter-alia include such as; Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri SVANIDHI Scheme, Aatm Nirbhar Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, One Nation One Ration Card, financial assistance to Building and Other Construction workers etc.

'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)' is a universal education programme, Government of India to provide free and compulsory education to the children of 6-14 years age group under Right to Education, which is accessible to the children of inter-state migrant workers as well. In addition, Ministry of Minority Affairs, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Department of School Education & Literacy and some other Ministries provide scholarships to different target groups of students including children of Migrant workers. All these scholarships are coordinated through National Scholarship Portal. In order to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Central Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Code has been notified on 29.09.2020. The above mentioned code commonly known as OSH Code, provides for decent working conditions, minimum wages, grievances redressal mechanisms, protection from abuse and exploitation, enhancement of the skills and social security to all category of organised and unorganised workers including Migrant workers. ■

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND WORKING CONDITIONS CODE, 2020 FOR WORKERS WILL COME INTO FORCE



**T**he Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSHW&C) Code, 2020, has provisions for safety, health and working conditions of workers which include daily and weekly working hours, leave etc. The OSHW&C Code, 2020 has been published on 29th September, 2020 and will come into force on the date as notified by the Central Government.

The OSHW&C Code, 2020 and draft Rules framed thereunder provide that no worker shall be required or allowed to work, in any establishment or class of establishments for more than eight hours in a day or forty eight hours in a week.

Ministry of Labour and Employment has received the draft Ordinances/Bills from different State Governments through Ministry of Home Affairs regarding amendment in the existing provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 including extension of working hours under the Factories Act, 1948. This Ministry has not agreed to extend the working hours.

This information was given by Minister of State (I/C) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on March 17. ■

# “INTEGRAL HUMANISM”

I am asked to present my thoughts on the subject of “Integral Humanism” in a series of talks beginning this evening. Last January at Vijayavada, Bharatiya Jana Sangh adopted the statement of “Principles & Policies” in which ‘Integral Humanism’ have also been accepted. There has been scattered discussions here and there on the subject. It is necessary that we consider Integral Humanism in all its aspects. So long as the country was under the yoke of the British rule, all the movements and policies in the country had one principal ‘aim to drive out the foreign rulers and to achieve independence’. But what would be the face of the new Bharat after independence? In which direction were we to advance? These questions were precisely thought out. It would not be correct to say that no thought was devoted to these aspects. There were people who even at that time had considered these questions. Gandhiji himself had set out his idea of the independent Bharat in his book “Hind Swaraj”. Prior to this Lokmanya Tilak discussed the philosophical basis of the rejuvenation of Bharat in his book ‘Gita Rahasya’. He gave a comparative discussion of various schools of thought current all over the world at that time.

Apart from these, the Congress and other political parties adopted various resolutions from time to

time which contain references to this subject. However the subject requires much more serious study than was devoted to it at that time. It did not attract serious attention at that time because every one believed it was more important to think of ways to drive out the British and the other things could be discussed later on. It did not seem right to waste time in internal discussions while the foreign rule continued. Hence even if there might



have been difference in views, they were shelved for the time being.

As a result, even those who held the view that socialism should be the basis of the future Bharat, worked inside the Congress as a socialist group. They did attempt to form as a separate party as such.

The revolutionaries too, were working for independence in their own way. All agreed, however, that the foremost task was to gain

independence.

Having attained. Independence, the question naturally ought to have occurred to us, “Now that we are independent, what shall be the direction of our progress?” But it is amazing that serious thought has not been given to this question and today even after seventeen years of independence we cannot say that a definite direction has been decided upon.

## WHITHER BHARAT

From time to time, Congressmen or others have declared Welfare State, Socialism, Liberalism etc. as their aims. Slogans have been raised. But this ideology and slogans attached little significance to the philosophies, apart from the slogans. I am saying this on the basis of personal discussions. A leading gentleman once suggested during a conversation that a joint front should be formed against Congress, whereby a good fight can be given. Now a days political parties adopt this strategy. So, it was not surprising to put forward this suggestion. However, naturally, I asked, “What programme shall we adopt? If such a joint front is formed some idea of the programme is essential. What will be out economic policy? What will our foreign policy? These questions should also be broadly tackled.”

“Do not worry about it.

Whatever you like you can adopt. We are ready to support, anything from extreme Marxist to downright capitalist program.” The reply came as if this was natural. He had no difficulty in adopting any programme. The only object was somehow Congress should be defeated. Even now some declare that Congress must be defeated even with the cooperation of communists and all the rest.

Recently elections were held in Kerala. During the elections, Communists, Muslim League, Swatantra Party, S.S.P. Rebel Congress known as Kerala Congress, Revolutionary Socialist Party etc. entered into a variety of bilateral of multiple alliances. As a result, it was difficult to imagine that any of these parties had a definite ideology, principles and aims. This is the situation as far as principles are concerned.

Congress too, is in a similar state. Even though the Congress has proclaimed democratic socialism as its goal, the behaviour of various Congress leaders shows one thing clearly that there are no definite principles, no single direction in Congress. There are staunch communists in Congress fold. There are also those who have faith in, Capitalism and oppose communism to the teeth. All brands of people are arrayed on Congress platform. If there can be a magic box which contains a cobra and a mangoose living together, it is Congress.

We must ponder whether we can progress under such conditions. If we stop to analyze

the reasons for the problems facing the country we will find that the confusion about our goal and the direction is mainly responsible for the chaos. I realize that all the 450 million people of Bharat cannot agree on all or even on a single question. That is not possible in any country. Yet there is generally, what is called a more or less common desire of the people of any nation. If this popular longing is made the basis of our aims, the common man feels that the nation is moving in a proper direction, and that his own aspiration is reflected in the efforts

**As long as we are unaware of out national identity, we cannot recognize develop all our potentialities. Under alien rule this identity is suppressed. That is why nations wish to remain independent so that they can progress according to their natural bent and can experience happiness in their endeavour.**

of the nation. This also generates the greatest possible feeling of unity. The truth of the statement is borne out by the response of the people during the Chinese Invasion of October/November 1962. A wave of enthusiasm swept across the country. Action and sacrifice both obtained in abundance. There was no barrier between the government and the public or between various political parties. How did this happen? The external threat made us recognize ourselves. The government adopted that policy which

reflected the widespread feeling in the people and which enhanced their sense of self-respect with a call for sacrifice. The result was we stood united.

## **THE ROOT OF OUR PROBLEMS-NEGLECT OF SELF**

It is essential that we think about our national identity. Without this identity there is no meaning. Of neither independence, nor can independence become the instrument of progress and happiness. As long as we are unaware of our national identity, we cannot recognize and develop all our potentialities. Under alien rule this identity is suppressed. That is why nations wish to remain independent so that they can progress according to their natural bent and can experience happiness in their endeavour. Nature is powerful. An attempt to go against nature or to disregard her leads to troubles. The natural instincts cannot be disregarded but it is possible

to elevate this nature to the level of culture. Psychology informs us how by suppression of various natural instincts, different mental disorders ensue. Such a person remains restless and dejected. His abilities slowly deteriorate and become perverted. The Nation too like the individual becomes a prey to numerous ills when its natural instincts are disregarded. The basic cause of the problems facing Bharat is the neglect of its national identity. ■

**To be continued...**

**1st Lecture on April 22, 1965**

## FORMER UNION MINISTER DILIP GANDHI PASSES AWAY

**F**ormer Union Minister and BJP leader Shri Dilip Gandhi, also a former MP from Ahmednagar, passed away in New Delhi on March 17. He was 69.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying condolence said that he was saddened by the demise of Shri Gandhi. "He will be remembered for his rich contributions to community service and helping the poor," he said. "He made numerous efforts to strengthen the BJP in Maharashtra. Condolences to his family and supporters. Om Shanti."

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda paid condolence and said, "The news of the demise of former Union



Minister and senior BJP leader Shri Dilip Gandhi is very sad. His entire life was dedicated to social service and strengthening organization. May God give peace to the departed soul and strength to the family in this hour of grief. Om Shanti Om!"

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said he was anguished by the BJP leader's death. "He distinguished himself as an able administrator & Parliamentarian," he said. "He worked towards the welfare of farmers & other weaker sections of our society. Condolences to his family and well wishers. Om Shanti!"

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. Shri Gandhi had represented the Ahmednagar seat in Lok Sabha for three consecutive terms. He was first elected in 1999. He served as minister for state in the Union Shipping Ministry in the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government. ■

## BJP MP RAM SWAROOP SHARMA IS NO MORE

**B**JP leader and Member of Lok Sabha from Himachal's Mandi seat Ram Swaroop Sharma passed away at his residence in Delhi on March 17. He was 62 years old.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tweeted that he was pained by Shri Sharma's untimely and unfortunate demise. The BJP cancelled its parliamentary party meeting following the news of his death.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda took to twitter and said, "The mind is deeply distressed by the news of the sudden demise of Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma, BJP MP from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. I express my

deepest condolences to the bereaved family and pray to God to place the departed soul at its Shri feet. Om Shanti!!!"

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said on the demise, "I am deeply distressed by the sudden demise of Shri Ram Swaroop Sharma, BJP MP from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. In this hour of grief, I express my condolences to his family and pray to God for the peace of the departed soul. shanti shanti shanti."

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jairam Thakur expressing condolence said, "We learnt about his unfortunate death in morning.



We used his work as an example for party workers. We're extremely saddened, hope his soul rests in peace."

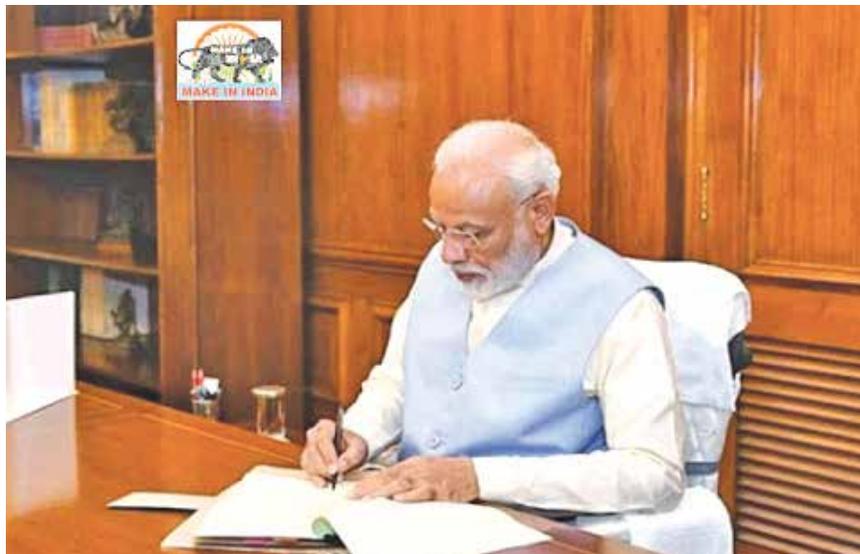
Shri Sharma was a two-time MP. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Mandi parliamentary constituency, Himachal Pradesh in 2014 and 2019. ■

## ‘MAKING CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO EASE EVERY PROBLEM OF FARMER’

**T**hough Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's daily routine is very busy, not many people are aware that whenever he finds time, he does not miss the opportunity to respond to people's letters and their messages. One such letter was received by Shri Kheemanand of Nainital, Uttarakhand, who congratulated the PM through the Narendra Modi app (Namo app) on the completion of five successful years of 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' and other efforts of the Government. The Prime Minister has written a letter to Shri Kheemanand thanking him for sharing his valuable thoughts.

"Thank you for sharing your valuable views on the continuing efforts being made by the Government to improve various sectors, including agriculture, and take the country to new heights of development," Prime Minister Modi wrote in the letter. "Such messages give me new energy to commit myself for the service of the country."

Referring to the success of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Prime Minister said, "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is continuously playing an important role in protecting the economic interests of the hardworking farmers by reducing the risk associated with weather uncertainties. Crores of farmers are availing the benefits of this farmer-friendly insurance



**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is continuously playing an important role in protecting the economic interests of the hardworking farmers...**

scheme today."

Referring to the government's committed efforts towards agriculture and farmers' welfare, Prime Minister Shri Modi wrote further in the letter, "Through comprehensive coverage and transparent claim redressal process over the last five years, this 'Fasal Bima' (crop insurance) scheme has emerged as an example of our determined efforts for farmers' welfare. Today, sustained efforts are being made to remove every small and big difficulty in the way of the farmers' journey from the 'seed to market' and to ensure their prosperity and progress of agriculture."

The Prime Minister also appreciated the contribution and

role of the people in the progress of the country in the letter and wrote: "Today the country is rapidly moving towards building a strong, prosperous and self-reliant India with a vision of all-round development. Energised by the trust of all the citizens, the nation is determined to achieve the national goals and I am sure that our efforts to take the country to new heights on the world stage will be further intensified."

Congratulating Prime Minister Shri Modi Shri Kheemanand also said that the central government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, was constantly making efforts for the progress of the citizens and of the nation through various welfare schemes. ■

# AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Commemorating 75 Years of Independence

Launch

Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

programme at Sabarmati Ashram  
times at 75 locations all over India  
g of the Padyatra from Sabarmati to Gandhi



## PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV' FROM SABARMATI ASHRAM; FLAGS OFF DANDI PADYATRA

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 12, 2021 flagged off the 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad and inaugurated the curtain raiser activities of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75). Governor of Gujarat Shri Acharya Devvrat, Union MoS (I/C) Shri Prahalad Singh Patel and Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani and Gandhi Ashram trustees were among those present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering at Sabarmati Ashram, the Prime Minister stated that the launch of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' 75 weeks before 15 August, 2022 will continue till 15 August, 2023. He paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and great personalities who laid down their lives in the freedom struggle.

The Prime Minister reiterated five pillars i.e. Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolves at 75 as guiding force for moving forward keeping dreams and duties as inspiration.

The Prime Minister asserted that Azadi Amrit Mahotsav means elixir of energy of independence. It means elixir of inspirations of the warriors of freedom struggle; elixir of new ideas and pledges and nectar of Aatmnirbharta.

Speaking on this occasion, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel said that after 91 years, we are all now on the same soil from where Gandhiji started the Dandi March. But it is a completely transformed India now. Recalling the words of the Prime Minister, the Union Culture Minister said that the journey of India will now be defined by self-reliance and self-respect. Our image on the world canvas will be that of a contributor. The new and self-reliant India has delivered medicines and vaccines to the world. We want to focus on labour and toil so that our future generations are carved out in strength. The Prime Minister envisions that when the country celebrates the centenary (100th year) of Independence, then our achievements and cultural glory should be an outshining example before the world. Shri Prahlad Singh also stated that Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav shall be a Jan Mahotsav and the programs will be organized as per the interest of the general public. In fact, these programs will be organized by the citizens themselves.

Addressing the audience, the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani thanked the Prime Minister for initiating the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations of our



independence from the soil of Gujarat. The Dandi March is an important milestone of our freedom struggle. For a promising future it is necessary to understand our past, he said.

The Chief Minister further added that today the attention of the whole country is focused on Gujarat. He said that two sons of Gujarat i.e Gandhiji and Sardar Patel played a pivotal role in our struggle for freedom. And now, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our nation is moving in the direction of transforming the country into a Vishwa Guru.

The Prime Minister launched the website of India@75 on the occasion. He also launched the 'Atmanirbhar Incubator' programme of Ministry of Culture in partnership with Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust to preserve the skills and arts of artisans/crafts persons on the verge of extinction.

A unique Charkha Campaign was also started by the Prime Minister to promote 'Vocal for Local'. (Give tweet of PM or Minister on Charkha)

A short film on 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' was screened on the occasion and Dandi Yatra Geet was also performed. The occasion was marked by colourful and inspiring cultural performances in the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat representing cultural variety and diversity from across the country. The performances ranged from those based on patriotic song penned by famous Tamil poet Subramania Bharti to Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee to beautiful cultural item from Kashmir among others.

Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav is a series of events to be organised by the Government of India to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. The Mahotsav will be celebrated as a Jan-Utsav in the spirit of Jan-Bhagidari throughout the length and breadth of the country.

### **LET US ALL PLEDGE TO USE 'MADE IN INDIA' GOODS AND MAKE THE COUNTRY SELF-RELIANT IN EVERY FIELD: AMIT SHAH**

The Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has greeted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the inauguration of Amrit Mahotsav dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Independence. In a series of tweets, Shri Amit Shah said that "Gandhiji's 1930 'Dandi Yatra' gave a boost to the freedom struggle, and today (12 March) the 2021 March under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi shall energize the resolve of a Self-Reliant India".

The Union Home Minister said that "the fulfilment of the resolve of a self-reliant India was contained in Gandhiji's Swadeshi campaign and also in Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vocal for Local. Shri Narendra Modi has repeatedly said that the future belongs to India, but this is possible only when we work towards a self-reliant India while discharging our duties".

Shri Amit Shah said, "I believe that indigenous products, especially Khadi, play an important role in keeping us connected with our culture, values and roots. On the inauguration of the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence by Shri Narendra Modi, let us all pledge to use 'Made in India' goods and make the country self-reliant in every field".

The Union Home Minister also said, "On the call of Vocal for Local by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, I also bought an Angavastra and a diary from a nearby Khadi Bhandar. I appeal to citizens to be part of Shri Narendra Modi's appeal and share the indigenous product purchased in your neighbourhood by participating in Vocal for Local". ■

## 'BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR SAMMAN YATRA' LAUNCHED



# ATROCITIES ON SC PEOPLE HAS SKYROCKETED UNDER TMC GOVT IN WEST BENGAL: JP NADDA

**T**he BJP National President Shri JP Nadda flagged off the 'Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Yatra' from Kotulpur constituency in West Bengal on 16 March, 2021. The Yatra was launched in the presence of BJP National General Secretary and West Bengal In-Charge Shri Kailash Vijayvargiy, BJP SC Morcha President Shri Lal Singh Arya, Member of Parliament Shri Saumitra Khan and others.

Addressing the Karyakartas Shri JP Nadda said under the reign of present TMC government the atrocities on people belonging to the scheduled caste community has alarmingly increased in last 10 years.

Criticizing the present TMC government Shri JP Nadda said more than 100 innocent people from scheduled caste community have been murdered in last two years and more that 68% women of the community in the state are suffering from Anemia.

The BJP National President stated that as per



### More than 100 innocent people from scheduled caste community have been murdered in last two years

Shri Nadda also targeted the government for not honoring Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. He said Babasaheb was not given the honor that he should have received while alive, but BJP governments both at the centre and states are trying its best to make his vision come true.

The Yatra which was launched in honor of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar will cover 189 assembly constituencies. ■

the available data the atrocities on scheduled caste people was 59% in 2011 which has skyrocketed to 119% in 2019 which shows that the incumbent government is anti Scheduled Castes.

He emphasized that the current government has failed to ensure justice to Scheduled Caste people and has done nothing to put an end to corruption which has tainted the image of West Bengal.

He further added that there has been serious mismanagement of central government funds given during the Amphan Cyclone relief.

# IMPACT AND INFLUENCE OF AYURVEDA IS IMMENSE: PM MODI



**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 12, 2021 addressed the fourth Global Ayurveda Festival, via Video Conferencing. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister noted the growing global interest in Ayurveda and appreciated the efforts of all those working on Ayurveda across the world.

He said, "Ayurveda could rightly be described as a holistic human science. From the plants to your plate, from matters of physical strength to mental well-being, the impact and influence of Ayurveda and traditional medicine is immense."

In the context of COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister said that the demand for Ayurvedic products is steadily rising. "The current situation presents a right time for Ayurveda and traditional medicines to become even more popular globally. There is growing interest towards them. The world is seeing how modern and traditional medicines both are important to further wellness. People are realising the benefits of Ayurveda and its role in boosting immunity," said the Prime Minister.

Talking about the potential for wellness tourism in India, he said that at the core of wellness tourism is the principle of - treat illness, further wellness. Therefore,

**Ayurveda could rightly be described as a holistic human science... the impact and influence of Ayurveda and traditional medicine is immense.**

the strongest pillar of the wellness tourism is Ayurveda and traditional medicine. He called upon the audience to tap into the timeless culture of India to de-stress and healing. "Whether you want to treat your body, or a retreat for your mind, come to India", The Prime Minister invited.

Shri Modi called for taking advantage of Ayurveda's popularity and opportunities arising out of combining traditional with the modern. Citing situations like youngsters using a wide range of Ayurveda products and a growing consciousness to integrate Ayurveda with evidence-based medical sciences, Shri Modi called upon the Academicians to deepen research on Ayurveda and traditional forms of medicine. He urged vibrant start-up community to specially look at Ayurveda products. He also appreciated the youth for presenting our traditional forms of healing in a language that is globally understood.

On behalf of the Government, the Prime Minister assured full support to the world of Ayurveda. He informed that the National AYUSH Mission has been started to promote AYUSH medical systems through cost effective AYUSH services. ■

# 'QUAD WILL WORK TOGETHER & CLOSER FOR PROMOTING A SECURE, STABLE AND PROSPEROUS INDO-PACIFIC'



**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated along with Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Yoshihide Suga and President of USA Mr. Joseph R. Biden, in the first Leaders' virtual Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework on 12 March, 2021

The Leaders have discussed regional and global issues of shared interest, and exchanged views on practical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The Summit provided an opportunity to exchange views on contemporary challenges such as resilient supply chains, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security and climate change.

The Leaders also discussed the ongoing efforts to combat Covid-19 pandemic and explored opportunities for collaboration in ensuring safe, equitable and affordable vaccines in the Indo-Pacific region.

**"I see this positive vision as an extension of India's ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which regards the world as one family"**

Speaking on the occasion PM Shri Narendra Modi said, "It is good to be among friends and I thank President Biden for this initiative".

He said, "We are united by our democratic values, and our

commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Our agenda today - covering areas like vaccines, climate change and emerging technologies - makes the Quad a force for global good".

He said, "I see this positive vision as an extension of India's ancient philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', which regards the world as one family".

Shri Modi said, "We will work together, closer than ever before, for advancing our shared values and promoting a secure, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific".

He further said, "Today's summit meeting shows that Quad has come of age. It will now remain an important pillar of stability in the region". ■

# TIRATH SINGH RAWAT TAKES OATH AS NEW CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTARAKHAND

**S**hri Tirath Singh Rawat took oath as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in Dehradun on March 10, 2021. This comes a day after Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat stepped down as the state's Chief Minister.

Shri Tirath Singh Rawat is the BJP's Lok Sabha MP from Pauri Garhwal. He was earlier the President of the party in Uttarakhand between 2013 and 2015 and has served as an MLA from Chaubattakhal constituency from 2012 to 2017. He was chosen as the leader of the Uttarakhand BJP legislature party on March 10, 2021. This paved the way for his appointment as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

Shri Rawat was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand by Hon'ble Governor Smt. Baby Rani Maurya at the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun.

Soon after taking oath as the CM of Uttarakhand, Shri Tirath Singh Rawat was congratulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. PM Shri Modi tweeted, "Congratulations to Shri Tirath Singh Rawat on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. He brings with him vast administrative and organizational experience. I am confident under his leadership the state will continue to scale new heights of progress".

In a tweet the BJP National President Shri JP Nadda said, "Best wishes to @TIRATHSRAWAT Ji who has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand.

I am absolutely sure that under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi the state will establish new developmental parameters and extend the benefits of the welfare schemes of the central government to everyone"

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has also sent his best wishes for the new Uttarakhand CM Tirath Singh Rawat. In a tweet he said, "Congratulations to Tirath Singh Rawat for becoming the CM of Uttarakhand. I have faith that under the guidance of PM Shri Modi and your leadership, the state will get new energy and new standards of progress and public welfare will be



## UTTARAKHAND CM EXPANDS CABINET; 11 MINISTERS TAKE OATH

Two days after Shri Tirath Singh Rawat took oath as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, eight legislators on 12 March, 2021 took oath as Cabinet Ministers and three as Ministers of State (independent charge) for the new cabinet.

Hon'ble Governor Smt. Baby Rani Maurya administered the oath to the ministers at a ceremony in Raj Bhavan in Dehradun.

As part of the Cabinet expansion, Satpal Maharaj, Bansidhar Bhagat, Harak Singh Rawat, Bishan Singh Chuphal, Yashpal Arya, Arvind Pandey, Ganesh Joshi and Subodh Uniyal took oath as Cabinet ministers and Rekha Arya, Dhan Singh Rawat and Swami Yatiswarananda took oath as ministers with independent charge.

established in Devbhoomi".

After being elected as the Chief Minister-designate of Uttarakhand, Shri Rawat extended his gratitude to PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP President Shri JP Nadda and others for trusting him with the responsibility as he is a mere party worker who comes from a small village. He said, "I had never imagined that I would reach here and will make all the efforts to meet people's expectations and will take forward the work done in the last 4 years". ■



## “INDIA STRONGER DESPITE PANDEMIC & DISASTERS”

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 23 March, 2021 told BJP MPs that despite very challenging times, like the COVID-19 pandemic, cyclones, earthquakes and tensions at the India-China border, the country had emerged stronger, with the world also acknowledging this fact. He was addressing a meeting of the BJP parliamentary party, where he also touched upon the historic farm laws.

During the meeting, Shri Modi cited the party's good performance in Panchayat polls, where the good intentions behind the farm laws were clearly communicated to the people, and said it was a reason for remaining firm on them. He made a specific reference to the Panchayat polls in Pali in Rajasthan, the Lok Sabha constituency of former Union Minister PP Chaudhary, as an example. BJP had won more than 90% of the seats in

the Panchayat polls in Pali, which had taken place amid protests on the farm laws.

“Sharing his experiences of corona pandemic, the Prime Minister also told MPs that during that period, the country was not

**Despite very challenging times, like the COVID-19 pandemic, cyclones, earthquakes and tensions at the India-China border, the country had emerged stronger, with the world also acknowledging this fact.**

only facing the challenge of the virus, but on others fronts as well as there were tensions on LAC, cyclones, earthquakes and then there was locust swarm attack but despite all these odds, India emerged stronger and the entire world realized its potential.”

Shri Narendra Modi also mentioned that he has been holding public office earlier as the

Chief Minister of a State and now Prime Minister for more than two decades without an off day.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal informed it to the media after the meeting.

Besides the Prime Minister, Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister Shri S. Jaishankar also addressed the meeting. Shri Jaishankar emphasised that India's stature rose in the world during the pandemic for its medical diplomacy — first in providing antibiotics and testing kits and later for its vaccine diplomacy.

Giving a presentation on the Union Budget, Smt. Nirmala Sitharman emphasised that despite the economic impact of the pandemic, the government did not impose any additional tax on the public and came with a comprehensive budget for all. ■

## GST COLLECTIONS TOP 1 LAKH CR FOR 5 STRAIGHT MONTHS SINCE OCT 2020

**I**ncreased economic activities have resulted in higher GST collection which stood above Rs 1 lakh crore for five months in a row since October 2020, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Thakur said in the Rajya Sabha on 23 March, 2021.

He said this could be possible on the back of the measures taken by the government to boost economic activities over the last year to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“GST collection has increased. If you see e-way bill data, numbers... activities have increased,” the minister said.

“GST collection has witnessed above Rs 1 lakh crore for a stretch of five months since October 2020... The GST collection during the period has been higher than the collection in the same period last year,” he said.

On the economy, he said

V-shaped recovery is being seen as the third quarter GDP numbers are positive and trade is getting better.

The Indian economy had seen a contraction of 24.4% in the June quarter of FY21, impacted by COVID-19.

After two consecutive quarters of contraction, the country's GDP entered into a positive territory with a growth of 0.4 per cent in the October-December quarter of the current fiscal.

“When COVID-19 pandemic erupted... -24.4 growth rate was recorded in April-June. The Central government has initiated several good steps with a positive result and 0.4% growth was in the third quarter,” He said.

He also listed various steps taken by the government during the pandemic to boost the economy, including stimulus packages under Aatmanirbhar Bharat programme, emergency



credit line and loan moratorium.

Noteworthy, the GST collection in any particular month depends upon the total taxable value of goods and services supplied in that month.

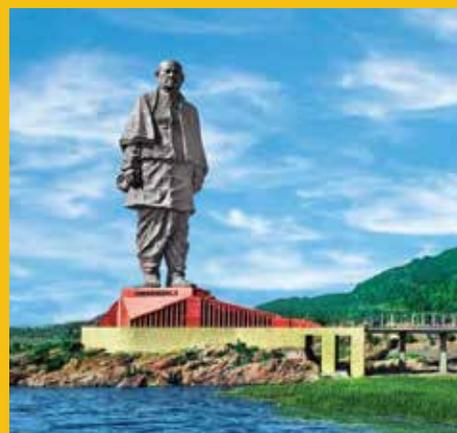
Moreover, the number of e-way bills generated in the current fiscal is almost equal to the number of e-way bills generated last year in spite of a dip in the number of e-way bill generated during April and May 2020, the statement said.

The monthly GST collection trend and the generation of e-way bills are clear indicators of increase in the economic activity, he said. ■

### INDIAN RAILWAYS ENSURES 100% COMPLIANCE OF PAYMENT TO CONTRACT WORKERS

Indian Railway Shramik Kalyan e-application has been developed and launched on 1st October, 2018. E-Application ensures the compliance of provisions of Minimum Wages Act and also ensures that contractual workers working in Indian Railways get their rightful due by enforcing the contractors to regularly upload wage payment data into e-application. This helps Railways as Principal Employer, in keep vigil over wages disbursed by contractors to contract workers.

As on 09.03.2021, total 15,812 contractors and total 3,81,831 contract workers are registered on this portal. Along with this, total 48,312 no. of letter of acceptance (LOA), Rs. 349590 lakh (More than Rs3495 crore )wage amount and about 6 crores man-days are also registered on this portal across Indian Railways. ■



**STATUE OF UNITY CROSSES 5 MILLION VISITORS MARK IN JUST 553 WORKING DAYS, MAKING IT A GREATLY POPULAR INTERNATIONAL TOURIST DESTINATION !!**

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# INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES SURPASSES RUSSIA

**I**ndia's forex reserves increased for the second consecutive week, touching \$ 584.554 billion as of February 26, up by \$689 million, the Reserve Bank said on March 5. The overall reserves had increased by \$169 million to \$583.865 billion in the previous reporting week. The reserves, which have been steadily increasing over the last few months, had touched an all-time high at \$590.185 billion for the week ended January 29 this year. India has the 4th



largest foreign exchange reserves in the world, after China, Japan and Switzerland. It surpassed Russia whose reserves stood at \$580.1 bn on

March 14. India's reserves are sufficient to cover 18 months of imports. ■

## OVER 680.68 LMTS PADDY PURCHASED DURING CURRENT KMS

Paddy procurement for Kharif 2020-21 is continuing smoothly in the procuring States & UTs of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Karnataka, West Bengal and Tripura with purchase of over 680.68 LMTs of paddy up to 15 March, 2021. This is an increase of 13.98 % against the last year corresponding purchase of 597.18 LMT. Out of the total purchase of 680.68 LMT, Punjab alone has contributed 202.82 LMT which is 29.79 % of total procurement. ■



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**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi, at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi releasing a Manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on shlokas of the Srimad Bhagavadgita in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi receiving the greetings of the people at a huge rally in Karimganj, Assam



PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing a massive rally in Kharagpur, West Bengal



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the Chief Ministers on Covid-19 situation, through video conferencing in New Delhi



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## Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed in Rajya Sabha

### Salient Features

- Allows abortion to be done on advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories between 20 and 24 weeks
- Sets up state level Medical Boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities

### To facilitate

- Access to comprehensive abortion care under strict conditions
- Step towards safety and well-being of women
- Ensure dignity, autonomy, confidentiality and justice for women



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'जल ही जीवन है'

On World Water Day, we commit ourselves to support PM Modi's clarion mission to provide access of clean water to every household



## The Jal Jeevan Mission

Over **3.91 crore** households provided with tap water connection since launch of the mission on 15th August, 2019



/BJP4India @www.bjp.org



As per WHO's Global Health Observatory, India succeeded in reducing premature NCD-related mortalities from 503 to 490 per 1 lakh population between 2015 and 2019

-Following uniquely Indian steps to reduce underlying NCD risk factors.

Replacement of fuelwood by LPG across rural households has significantly reduced household pollution, thereby reducing risks of cancer and chronic lung diseases

Promoting an active life worldwide through activities like Yoga which can address the risk of cardiovascular diseases



## INDIAN ECONOMY REBOUNDS

IMF PROJECTS INDIA AS THE ONLY COUNTRY TO REGISTER DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH IN 2021



| Countries      | (Estimate) | (Projection) |
|----------------|------------|--------------|
|                | 2020       | 2021         |
| India          | -8         | 11.5         |
| China          | 2.3        | 8.1          |
| Spain          | -11.1      | 5.9          |
| France         | -9         | 5.5          |
| United States  | -3.4       | 5.1          |
| United Kingdom | -10        | 4.5          |
| Canada         | -5.5       | 3.6          |
| Germany        | -5.4       | 3.5          |
| Japan          | -5.1       | 3.1          |
| Italy          | -9.2       | 3            |