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*In this world for him no purpose is gained by discharge of actions neither is any sin incurred by non-discharge of actions and among all living being never needs to depend upon anyone*  
— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 18)

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"Central Government Initiatives including MUDRA and Start-up India, were aimed at creating fresh opportunities for the youth."

-Narendra Modi

"The Communist movement has been finished world-wide & the Congress has been finished country-wide...Now, both parties can't do better for Kerala."

-Amit Shah

## Maha Shivratri: March 7, 2016

Mahashivratri is an auspicious and important festival of the Hindus. The Mahashivratri festival is also popularly known as 'Shivratri' or 'Great Night of Lord Shiva', is observed every year in the Krishna Paksha of Maagh according to the Hindu calendar and largely celebrated in India, Nepal, Mauritius and other countries.

Devotees on Mahashivratri throng to temples, holy shrines, 12 Jyotirlingas like Somnath in Gujarat, Mallikarjuna at Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh, Mahakaleswar at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh, Kedarnath in Himalayas, Bhimashankar in Maharashtra, Viswanath at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, Triambakeshwar in Maharashtra, Vaidyanath Jyotirlinga at Deogarh in Jharkhand, Nagnath at Aundha Nagnath in Maharashtra, Rameshwar at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu and Grishneshwar at Ellora near Aurangabad, Maharashtra etc. and Shakti Peethas to offer prayers and please the Lord of destruction Shiva.



According to Hindu tradition, Mahashivratri is Lord Shiva's favourite day. Devotees on this day remain on fast or perform hour long spiritual meditation by following rituals to commemorate Mahashivratri and be blessed with grace. In the early morning, they visit temples to offer cold water, milk and Bela leaves on the Lingam, a symbol for the worship of Lord Shiva. Holy mantras are also recited and special puja ceremonies are held throughout the night to celebrate Shivratri.

Women observe fast and offer prayers both to Lord Shiva and Parvati to shower their grace with a peaceful and blissful married life. Numerous interesting and intriguing religious stories are believed pertaining to the celebration to Mahashivratri.

In a version, devotees believe that Shivratri is auspicious because it marks the marriage ceremony of Lord Shiva and Parvati. However, many believe that Mahashivratri signifies the auspicious night when Lord Shiva performed the dance 'Tandava' that led to the creation, conservation and devastation of the universe. It is believed that the people who fast on this night and offer prayers to Lord Shiva bring good luck into their life. „■



# Editorial...

## BJP is the only hope for the nation!

Congress rule in different states has today become synonymous with corruption and misrule. It's a reality which no one can deny. The recent case of solar scam in Kerala proves this fact again. The Congress has gained expertise in proving this fact again and again. Whether ruling at centre or in states, Congress and Corruption are moving hand in hand. They have become synonymous to each other. Kerala and Himachal Pradesh where Congress is in rule, there are serious corruption charges against its CMs Oomen Chandy and Veerbhadra Singh. In Assam the Congress has lost people's support and looking for alliance partners to somehow win assembly elections. In fact it has failed to bring any substantial relief to people in the states ruled by it and instead its leaders were found involved in corruption every now and then. It is very unfortunate to see that Congress leadership has failed to take any corrective measures even in the face of repeated electoral defeats and as a result we find it getting reduced in different regions with every passing day. It has failed to give corruption free good governance in states like Karnataka, Kerala, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other states where it is in power today. People feel completely cheated and let down in these states.

The Congress led UPA government which was at centre was neck deep in scams, scandals and cases of corruption. Every now and then a new scam used to come to the fore. Every new scam used to beat the earlier one in term of magnitude and involvement of Congressmen in the scam. Coalgate, Adarsh Society scam, 2G spectrum scam were some of the huge scams in which Congress involvement can be understood beyond any doubt. Not only this, the current case of National Herald itself shows how deep corruption is rooted in the entire Congress establishment. Corruption has taken under its grip the Congress from top to bottom. It shows the entire mindset of the party which has embraced corruption as its culture. Wherever Congress comes in power corruption becomes a rule and entire system becomes victim of this distortion. It has also created a kind of political culture which has become very regressive for the entire country with many other parties following the footsteps of Congress and blocking any revival of the fortunes of the country. It has perpetuated anti-development mindset and tried to legitimize the open loot of public money in the name of democracy. Congress has been punished by the people for its culture of corruption and mindset of looting the public money.

BJP has emerged as a hope for the people. Not only Congress but other political parties like TMC in West Bengal have also failed the people. People are now not looking at the communists even as an option as they have already been dumped in the history. In Bihar people are facing the return of 'Jungle Raj' under Lalu-Nitish rule. The status of SP and BSP in Uttar Pradesh is not hidden from the people. Today only BJP is the party which has an army of dedicated activists who work ideologically and are committed to principled politics. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revived the confidence of the nation and creating a framework of governance which is set to usher in an era of good governance and fast pace of development. BJP has become the largest party of the world under the leadership of Amit Shah. He is working to create a model political party dedicated in the service of Maa Bharati. It's time for every BJP activists to prepare themselves to take larger responsibilities to serve the people and make India a great nation yet again. Everyone wants to make 21st century, India's century! ■

BJP rally in Kottayam, Kerala

# People of Kerala want change: Amit Shah

**B**JP President Shri Amit Shah also addressed a public meeting at Nehru Stadium in Kottayam on 04 February, 2016 as part of state party president Kummanam Rajasekharan's ongoing Kerala 'liberation' yatra.

At the meeting, he said people of Kerala desperately desire for a 'parivarthan' (change) in the state administration. Only the BJP would ensure development of Kerala and the people would opt for a change in the next assembly elections.

Virtually launching the campaign for the upcoming Assembly polls in the state, the BJP national president also urged the people to elect a BJP-led government in the state. "People in the state are going to decide who will lead and which party would rule the state for the next five years in the state in a couple of months. Since the previous UDF and LDF governments have done nothing for the state, people wish for a change in administration here. It is inevitable that a BJP-led administration needs to be in place to trigger development in the state," he said.

Stating that Kerala has become a state of violence under the Left regime and corruption under UDF rule, he said the BJP would ensure

justice to all.

Shri Shah also stressed the need for BJP to put in extra effort to woo all sections, including minorities, into its fold to ensure victory in the upcoming polls.

Accusing both LDF and

He also listed the welfare projects initiated by the Modi government including Mudra banking, accident claim, crop insurance project, Skill India, start-up India and Stand-up India initiatives.

BJP state president Shri



UDF for playing votebnk politics in the state, BJP National President said the party would end appeasement and ensure justice to all, if it comes to power. "While Congress has become a synonym of corruption, the Left in the State has gone far away from the basic principles of communism," he said.

Urging people to get ready to take crucial decisions, he said the BJP needed the support of people in the state to resolve some existing crisis like the one in the rubber sector.

Kummanam Rajasekharan said Kerala politics was now at crossroads. "People are fed up with the LDF and UDF. They have realised that only BJP can take them forward. They aspire for a clean and clear administration, which only BJP can give," he said.

Union Ministers Shri J P Nadda, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, party's Kerala President Shri Kummanam and BJP Tamil Nadu President Smt. Tamilsai Soundararajan were among those attended the meeting. ■



BJP rally in Howrah (WB)

## Only chit fund industry is flourishing in West Bengal : Amit Shah

Addressing a grand rally on 25 January, 2016 in Howrah, West Bengal, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah targeted the Mamata Banerjee government, for massive scams and said only chit fund industry is flourishing in the state and that it was turning into a safe haven for anti-national elements and fake currency racket TMC rule.

He said, "The 17 lakh people who have been duped by Saradha and Rose valley chit funds want to know what happened to the money that was siphoned off. In Bengal all industries are closed and only one industry is flourishing – that is chit fund," Shri Shah said apparently sounding the bugle for the Assembly election barely a few months away.

"The people may know her as CM, but the chit fund owners know her as a great painter, whose paintings were bought for crores by them.

Shri Shah said, "The people are not fools didi, they know very well that chit funds are running in connivance with TMC".

Attacking TMC, the BJP president said, "Its vote-bank politics has turned Bengal into a hub for anti national elements. Regular bomb blasts proved how anti-national elements and fake currency rackets have turned it into a safe haven. Infiltration is encouraged for the sake of vote bank politics."

He too attacked the TMC government on the issue of violence in Malda and alleged, "It was mishandled by the TMC government."

"The entire country is worried about Malda violence but the Chief Minister is saying it is a result of scuffle between BSF and locals.

It is not true. The morale of police has been brought down. The police station was attacked and police vehicles were burnt.

"I want to ask are you Chief Minister of the entire state or only for those goons?" Shri Shah asked.

### Netaji's grandnephew joins BJP

On the occasion Shri Chandra Kumar Bose, grandnephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, joined the BJP, just two days after 100 secret files which could throw some light on the mystery over Netaji's death, were made public by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 119th birth



anniversary.

He had attended the ceremony in Delhi, where 100 files on Netaji were declassified by the BJP led NDA government on January 23 and had said, "We welcome this step by the Prime Minister wholeheartedly. This is a day of transparency in India."

At the Delhi event last Saturday, Shri Bose had said, "We feel that certain very important files were destroyed during the Congress regime in order to hide the truth. We have documentary evidence to understand this. So, we feel the Indian government should take steps to ensure the release of files lying in Russia, Germany, UK and USA."

Among others senior BJP leaders who attended the rally include BJP National General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, BJP National Secretary Shri Rahul Sinha, State President Shri Dilip Ghosh, state Co-Conveners Shri Sidharth Nath Singh and Shri Suresh Pujari and Union Minister Shri Babul Supriyo. ■

## BJP declares Sarbananda Sonowal as CM nominee for Assam election

The BJP Parliamentary Board, which met on 28 January, 2016 after Shri Amit Shah was re-elected the party's National President for a full three-year term, took the decision to project Shri Sarbananda Sonowal as the party's CM face in Assam. The announcement was made at the meeting in New Delhi where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah were present.

"The people of Assam know Shri Sarbananda Sonowal as a national hero. The parliamentary board has decided that the party will fight the Assam polls under his leadership," Union Minister and Parliamentary Board Member Shri J P Nadda told reporters after an hour-long meeting of the BJP's top panel. He said the announcement of the Chief Ministerial candidate is significant as it is going to further boost the morale of party workers in the state.

The BJP Parliamentary Board also felicitated Shri Amit Shah who was elected unopposed for a fresh term as the party National President on January 24.

"We will work with a spirit of camaraderie by taking everyone in the party into confidence so that we can form a strong and transparent government," Shri Sonowal told to the media persons in New Delhi. ■



### Tamilisai Soundararajan will continue as Tamilnadu State President

National President Shri Amit Shah on February 6 announced that Smt. Tamilisai Soundararajan at present BJP State President of Tamilnadu would continue as State president.

A workaholic and a vocal campaigner during the recent Lok Sabha polls, Ms. Tamilisai will also be the first-ever woman to steer the BJP leadership in the State. She takes over the reigns at a crucial juncture when the party is aiming for a larger presence in the State ahead of the 2016 Assembly elections.

"Our party president Shri Amit Shah has already announced that the focus would be on developing the BJP outside the Hindi heartland. This automatically makes Tamil Nadu crucial," she told Media persons. Her nomination brings to end the prolonged wait on who would take over the responsibility from Pon. Radhakrishnan, who had to give up his party post after he became a Union Minister in May.

The 53-year-old Ms. Tamilisai, a doctor by profession, rose through the ranks after starting off as a local medical wing secretary of the party. Despite the BJP's ups & downs, Ms. Tamilisai stood her ground as a staunch party worker. ■



# Paradip will now become 'Vikas Dweep' for Odisha: Narendra Modi

**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the state of the art Paradip Refinery in Odisha, to the nation on 07 February, 2016.

Addressing the large gathering on the occasion, the Prime Minister said he appreciated the participation of a such a large number of people in an official programme related to development. Remembering former Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Biju Patnaik, the Prime Minister said Paradip will now become "Vikas Dweep" - the island of development for the people of Odisha. He said youth would benefit from employment opportunities, and poor women across the country who depended on firewood for fuel, would get access to LPG.

Shri Narendra Modi said Government initiatives such as Mudra and Start Up India are benefitting the youth of India.

The Prime Minister, visited the Main Control Room and the Indmax Unit built with indigenous technology, before arriving at the inauguration venue. Taking a dig at the Congress for the delay in the implementation of projects, Shri Narendra Modi said he

is trying to bring a change in such a work culture. "We are trying to bring a work culture where projects are conceived in time and completed on time. The initiatives have to be futuristic and completed before the designated time period," he said.

The Prime Minister said that generations pass before

Now the oil refinery will usher in development of the entire area, he said and added that it will be the gateway of energy for Eastern India. Poor women across the country who depend on firewood for fuel will have access to LPG because of the refinery, he said and added that it will create one lakh employment



a project is grounded after it is conceived. Tendering, agitations and unnecessary processes delay projects and plans as this affects people, he said and added that this results in cost overrun and loss to the exchequer.

'Modi-Modi' chant reverberated the meeting place when the Prime Minister started to address huge gathering.

opportunities.

Shri Modi said he was happy to dedicate the refinery to the nation for which Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the foundation stone in 2000. Giving another example how projects and other initiatives were implemented during the previous regimes, the Prime Minister said around 26 lakh cooking gas connections were given in Odisha during the



## Government's Achievements



last 60 years after independence. During the one year period of PNG minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan 11 lakh connections have been given, he said and added that this is the way work should be done.

The oil refinery will bring down the country's dependence on import of oil, Shri Modi said and added that he has asked oil marketing companies to reduce oil import dependence by 2022, the year when India will compete 75 years of Independence, with increase in use of bio fuels like ethanol produced from sugarcane and diesel from Jatropha. The refinery will manufacture 78 crore kg of LPG, 500 crore litres of petrol, 660 crore litre of diesel, 250 crore litre of kerosene and ATF, 27 lakh quintal of sulphur and 120 lakh quintal of petroleum

coke.

Stating that the government is promoting skill development, providing finances to youth under the MUDRA scheme and giving incentives under 'Start Up India, Stand Up India' initiatives, the Prime Minister said instead of job seekers, the government wants the youths to be job creators.

Prior to the inauguration the PM Shri Narendra Modi also visited Jagannath Temple in Puri and took the blessings of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Goddesses Subhadra in the morning.

Among others Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik, Union Ministers Shri Jual Oram and Dharmendra Pradhan were present on the occasion. ■

## PM dedicates NISER, Bhubaneswar to the nation

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the National Institute of Science Education and Research to the nation on 7 February, 2016 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said innovation is the need of the hour for every society and every era. In this context, he mentioned India's space programme, which had begun from scratch, and the whole world was now taking note of. He called upon young scientists to be similarly inspired to achieve and to serve the people through their work. He said it is important to develop a scientific temper among students.

The Prime Minister hoped that an environment of innovation would be fostered among scientific institutions. In the context of NISER, situated in Odisha, he mentioned the possibilities for innovation in areas such as coal gasification and clean energy, the blue economy, and housing for all by 2022.

The Prime Minister urged the students of NISER to work towards making NISER India's greenest campus, and a zero-emission, zero-discharge campus which uses only renewable energy. ■





## India attracted 1.14 lakh crore investment in telecom sector under 'Make In India'

### *Mobile phone manufacturing base reaches 100 million units*

**U**nder 'Make In India' Mobile phone production in India has reached 100 million with leading companies setting up their manufacturing base in the country.

Addressing the Global Business Summit in New Delhi Telecommunication Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad revealed the fact that in December, Rs 1.14 lakh crore investment has come in electronic manufacturing in India. Under 'Make In India' the country have attracted around 15 new mobile plants.

"Earlier in 2014, 68 million (mobile phones) were being manufactured and now 100 million are being manufactured," Shri Prasad said at Global Business Summit in New Delhi.

Smartphone sales in India also reached 100 million by the end of December, 2015, he added.

"All the major companies in the world namely Panasonic, Mitsubishi, Nidec, Samsung, Bosch, Jabil, Flextronics, Continental are in India besides all the top Indian companies who are already here," Shri Prasad said.

Mobile phone production in the country has increased by 95 per cent in the ongoing financial year as compared to the previous fiscal.

Government has made sincere efforts to boost mobile phone production in the country. The new investment has created 30,000 new jobs in the country and state governments have shown keen interest in attracting these investments.

Shri Prasad said penetration of Internet is rising rapidly and increased by 100 million in a year to 400 million, including through mobile phones.

"With God's blessing, I am confident that at this growth rate we will cross 500 million," he added.

The minister reiterated his support for experimentation of new technologies in the

country, including that of Project Loon by Google and White space spectrum use for broadband by Microsoft.

"Once the pilot becomes successful, then



depending on security concerns, final call will be taken," Shri Prasad said.

"We have scaled up optical fibre laying work by 500 times (compared to work done under previous government)," Shri Prasad said.(With inputs from Agency) ■

### India delivers the first batch of Metro Coaches to Australia

Under 'Make In India' Indian manufacturing sector has created a history after Mumbai

shipped the six metro coaches that was built in Baroda. This is the first time India exported metro coaches for the Australian government. The

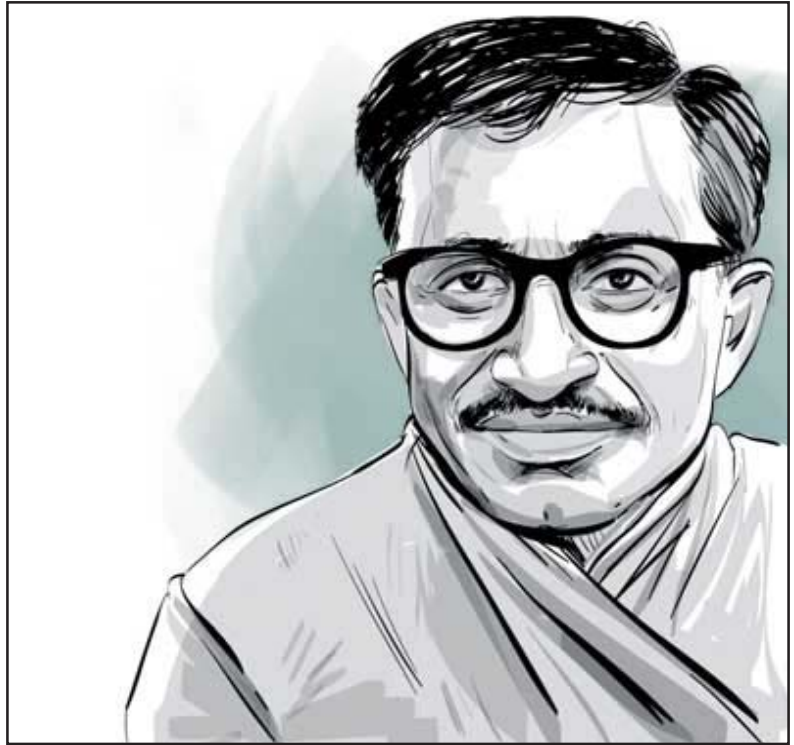


coaches measured 75 feet length and weighted 46 tonne each. Over the next two and half years 450 Made in India metro coaches will be exported to Australia. This is marked as the first export India is doing after the launch of Make in India. ■

# POLITICS IN INDIA

By Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

Indian politics cannot be thought apart from the culture and philosophy of life of this country. Indian culture is integrationist. In spite of accepting the superficial differences in the various parts of the world and in various aspects of life it seeks their internal unity and synthesizes them. Both socialism and democracy are the results of class struggle. Although the objective of both is to end this struggle and establish unity the way they have adopted for this purpose has only changed the form of these classes, not ended them, and hence this struggle has become more acute. Democracy held that the struggle between the King and the Subjects is eternal and therefore it put an end to the King. But a struggle between the different classes of the people has been permanently accepted by democracy. Socialism made the struggle between the haves and the have-nots its basis. The classes changed but the struggle did not end, because all systems of thought of the West spring from Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest. The world goes on not because of strife but because of synthesis and cooperation. The world is created and continues not because of the conflict between 'Purush' and



'Prakriti' but because of their inter-dependence. Hence all actions should be discussed and analysed not on the basis of class struggle and class antagonism but on the basis of interdependence, complementariness and mutual cooperation.

## People Make Parties

If you are a democrat do not be dictated by anybody but your conscience. Political parties that stand for the people also stand on the strength of the people. If the people want that nobody should bend them the people should lend them their strength. It is the people who

are the architects of political parties, and through them of their political destiny.

## A Good Party

Which is a good party? Evidently the one that is not simply a collection of individuals but is a body corporate with a distinctive purposeful existence different from its desire to capture power. Political power should be a means rather than an end to the members of such a party. There should be devotion to a cause in the rank and file of the party. Devotion leads to dedication and discipline. Discipline does not mean simply outward

conformity to certain do's and don't's. The more you impose discipline from above the less is the internal strength of the party. Discipline is to a party what Dharma is to a society.

**Philosophy for Political Parties**

Let the different political parties try to evolve a philosophy for themselves. Let them not be mere conglomerations of persons joined together for some selfish ends. It should be something different from a commercial undertaking or a joint stock company. It is also necessary that the philosophy of the party is not kept confined to the pages of the party manifesto. Members should understand it and devote themselves to translating it into action.

#### **The Question of Discipline**

The question of discipline in the rank of a party is important not only to keep the party in perfect health but also because of its bearing on the conduct of the people in general. A government is primarily an instrument of conservation and protection and not of destruction, or change. To inculcate a reverence for law in the people demands that the parties who aspire to be guardians of law should themselves set an example in this direction. The essence of democracy is a spirit of, and capacity for, self-governance. If the parties cannot govern themselves how can they hope to create in the community a

**A government is primarily an instrument of conservation and protection and not of destruction, or change.**

**To inculcate a reverence for law in the people demands that the parties who aspire to be guardians of law should themselves set an example in this direction.**

desire for self-governance? While on the one hand it is essential for the community to guarantee and protect individual freedom it is desirable on the other hand, for the individual to willingly submit to the general will. The greater this submission the less will be the coercive power of the State. In a party whose affairs are regulated not by any state law but by the decisions voluntarily accepted by the party units, one can set an example of how best individual freedom and social responsibility can be balanced. It is, therefore, necessary for the parties to prescribe a code of conduct for their members and to strictly follow it.

#### **Duty of Electorate**

A bad candidate cannot claim a premium just because the party he belongs to is good. An evil is an evil and, like the proverbial ill-wind,

cannot blow good to anyone anywhere. The party High Command in giving a ticket to such a man might have acted on a partisan basis or, with the best of intentions, it might have committed an error of judgment. It is the duty of a responsible electorate to rectify such a mistake.

#### **Vote is a mandate**

People should also realise that a vote is not an instrument of expressing gratefulness to any candidate but a mandate to carry out their wishes.

#### **Minority Phobia**

Frank Anthony maintains that English should find a place in the Constitution because it is the language of a minority i.e. the Anglo-Indians. If Shri Anthony feels as a national he should cease to think in terms of minorities and majorities. After all, this dichotomy has a restricted purpose in parliamentary democracy. We cannot extend it to plague our entire national life. If we do so there will be a number of minorities as we go on changing our basis of classification, with the result that everybody will belong to some minority or other. There can be religious minorities, linguistic minorities, political minorities, racial minorities, occupational minorities and so on. ■

*(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Raje.)*



# We accept the challenge

By Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Come, let the drops of Panditji's blood serve us as marks of sandal-paste on our foreheads and inspire us to march firmly towards our goal. Let us bear a spark from his pyre in our hearts and exert ourselves to our utmost. Let us make out of the bones of this Dadhichi our thunderbolts to attack the *vritrasuras* of our times and to protect this holy land from all dangers.

The Nanda-deep has been put out. Now we shall have to burn our lives bright to fight the forces of darkness.

The moon has been eclipsed. Now we have to seek our way in whatever light the twinkling stars shed.

We have lost our friend, companion, leader and guide. He will remain enshrined in our hearts as we advance, which we must, towards our goal.

Panditji's was a dedicated life. Every moment of his life, as every atom of his body, was an offering at the feet of the nation, which was his God.

The whole country was his home and the whole people his family. Only one dream filled his eyes, only one vow permeated his life.

Politics for him was a means, not the end, a way, not the goal. He wanted to spiritualize politics. He derived inspiration from India's glorious past because he wanted to build a glorious future. Though his ideas received their vital nourishment from the age-old and inexhaustible springs of our national culture, he was far from being a traditionalist. He wanted to lay the foundation of a glorious future by making India a prosperous, modern nation.

He was a great thinker. He never allowed his thinking to fall into a ready-made rut. He has taught us to be proud of the past but at the same time ready to accept the challenges of the future. What Jana Sangh is today is all his creation.

No office could ever tempt him. Though never an M.P. himself, he was a maker of M.Ps. He never sought any honour or position, and it was with

great difficulty that he was persuaded to be the president. He gave us the call of awakening, saying "Let us move beyond the Vindhyas till we reach Kanyakumari, where the sea washes eternally the feet of Mother India, and awaken the people with the mantrap of unity. It was under his leadership that we pledged ourselves to carry the message of unity throughout the length and breadth of the country.

We attended the successful session of the party under his presidentship at Calicut, which brought home to the people the historic mission of the Jana sangh. It gave people new hope and new confidence. People inside as well as outside India were impressed, and said there is a transformation in the party. But they were wrong. The transformation had not come over Jana Sangh, it had come over their own eyes. Some of these eyes were eyes full of sin; of jealousy, of angry violence. They could not tolerate this glory of our success, and so Panditji was taken away from us.

Nobody exactly knows the circumstances of his death. The man at whose call hundreds of thousands would have readily suffered death was cut away from life in the darkness of the night, was taken away from his followers, was separated from his countrymen and thrown into the jaws of death, into the void of the unknown. This fact we shall never forget, this wound will ever remain unhealed in our hearts, this barb will ever rankle in our minds.

Panditji has fulfilled the vow of his life by his martyrdom. His work was the mission of his life and he lived and gave his life for it. But his dream still remains unfulfilled, his work remains still incomplete.

The attack on his life is an attack on the life of the nation. Each wound on his body is a blow struck at democracy. We accept this challenge of the enemies of the nation and of democracy.■

*(From Funeral oration on February 18, 1968 at Prayag)*

## Current political climate in Kerala is conducive for BJP to come to power : Amit Shah

Addressing BJP's Kerala core committee meeting on 4 February, 2016 at Aluva, National President Shri Amit Shah said the Vimochana Yatra led by state BJP President Shri Kummanam Rajasekharan had received a positive response from the people and last year the party got massive support in civic body elections.

He said the current political climate in Kerala is very conducive for BJP to come to power. BJP National President also urged party Karyakartas to make special efforts to woo various sections, including minorities, to ensure its victory in the coming assembly elections.

Shri Shah wanted the cadres to make maximum use of the situation and reach out to all sections in the state, including the minority communities. "Now we have to generate confidence among the people that the party will wipeout Congress and Left and, come to power in Karela," he said, while calling for an action plan at the ward level to galvanize the party.

On the occasion Shri Rajasekharan, said the party would soon constitute a 15-member election committee to finalise the candidate list.

Several prominent personalities will be in the list, he said.

Stating that BJP's doors were open and it was ready for alliance with like-minded parties, Shri Rajasekharan said the party, however, had not started the process of discussion in this regard with anyone so far. But, he said, they will hold talks soon with various parties, including BDJS (Bharat Dharma Jana

Rajasekharan said, "So, we are confident that we will get people's vote. The effort is to garner the support of new voters."

He said the party had a 15 per cent vote share presently and it needed to increase that and added the BJP was contesting the polls this time to win and rule. BJP is making all out efforts to break the bipolar politics of UDF and LDF, he added.

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Sena), formed recently by the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP) led by Vellapally Natesan. The immediate task before the party is to ready the organizational machinery to face the polls, he said.

Hitting out at ruling Congress-led UDF and CPI(M)-headed LDF opposition, whose successive governments had ruled alternately and allegedly ruined the state, Shri

The party had received a shot in the arm in the civic polls held in November last year as it increased its vote base and made inroads in several areas.

Besides the State Presidents of Kerala and Tamilnadu, Union Ministers – Shri Prakash Javadekar, in-charge of party affairs in Tamil Nadu, Shri J P Nadda, in-charge of Kerala, and Shri Pon Radhakrishnan – were among those who attended the meetings.■

# An atmosphere of trust has been created in the country: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on February 2 addressed a public meeting in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. Speaking at the event, the PM said that a new ray of hope has emerged in the country and an atmosphere of trust has been created in the country. This, he said, was in contrast to the situation that prevailed two years back. "Whenever someone watched TV two years back, there was news of scams, corruption and frauds", the PM added.

Taking a jibe at the Congress party, Shri Narendra Modi mentioned that they had always played politics in the name of poor but were now unable to accept that a person from the backward sections of society became the PM. Shri Modi held them responsible for not letting the Parliament function properly as a result of which crucial bills concerning the poor were pending in the Rajya Sabha. He further added, "Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was forgotten by them. When we made his ideals popular and worked for marginalised they got worried."

To move ahead, PM said that India needed Ekta, Shanti and Sadbhavana that would take the country to newer heights of progress. The PM spoke about several Government schemes that were transforming lives of people at the

grassroots. He talked about the special package given for sugarcane farmers through their Jan Dhan accounts. He also highlighted the Union Government's decision of MSP on pulses. He said that this step gave the farmers the much needed strength in just sixteen months what



**Shri Narendra Modi said that India's real strength was in the personal sector and to boost that the Government had launched the MUDRA Yojana. He said that the NDA Government had recently unveiled the Start-up India movement to power the dreams of millions of youngsters in the country.**

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# 'Paris to Pathankot are challenges for us'

*French & Indian officials sign more than a dozen agreements*

French President Francois Hollande came to India for attending Republic day Celebration as chief guest. The French President arrived on January 24 in Chandigarh, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi joined him and lauded France's decision to invest \$1 billion every year in India in various sectors. Chandigarh was designed in the 1950s by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier and is one of three places France has decided to help develop as so-called "smart cities" - with clean water supplies, efficient sewage disposal and public transportation.

On January 25 French and Indian officials signed more than a dozen agreements. Hollande and French business leaders met with their Indian counterparts to boost bilateral trade, which in 2014 totalled \$8.6 billion.

In joint press conference Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi said on Rafale jets, except for the financial aspects, we have an inter governmental agreement on the 36 jets. "We will resolve the financial aspects soon." Shri Modi added "Paris to Pathankot are challenges for us. Terrorism is against



humanity. To fight this, we have to unite." He added "Paris to Pathankot are challenges for us. Terrorism is against humanity. To fight this, we have to unite. At the COP 21, thanks to your leadership an agreement was signed. This has allowed us to establish a new environmental framework." He also invited French businessmen to invest in India. India and France are committed to a secure and successful future.

French President Shri Hollande said "This is witness to outstanding relations between India and France. He added "I am proud to celebrate with you the birth

anniversary of your Constitution. This is a new chapter in our strategic partnership which was launched in 1988. We are working on deal, these same jets are fighting ISIS. There remain some financial issues that will be sorted out in a couple of days."

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and the President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande on January 25 travelled by metro train from Delhi to Gurgaon, for the foundation stone laying ceremony of the International Solar Alliance.

In his address at the event, the Prime Minister



**The Prime Minister said the International Solar Alliance will work as a lifeline for people facing the brunt of climate change. In this context, he mentioned small island nations facing the threat of rising sea levels. The Prime Minister emphasized that the International Solar Alliance will be an independent organisation, just like the United Nations.**

recalled how the world has been thinking of how to tackle the challenge of climate change. He mentioned that on the sidelines of the CoP 21 meeting in Paris, two significant initiatives were taken. One of these was "Mission Innovation" which aims to make clean energy more easily accessible for people through innovations in technology. The other was the International Solar Alliance, which aims at bringing together countries with abundant sunshine, to harness the power of the sun.

The Prime Minister said

the International Solar Alliance will work as a lifeline for people facing the brunt of climate change. In this context, he mentioned small island nations facing the threat of rising sea levels. The Prime Minister emphasized that the International Solar Alliance will be an independent organisation, just like the United Nations.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and President Mr. Francois Hollande paid a joint visit to the Government Museum and Art Gallery in Chandigarh, as part of their engagements during the State

Visit of President Hollande to India on the first day of arrival.

The two Leaders viewed the displays of archaeological findings from the foothills of the Himalayas which suggest human activity possibly dating back to 2.6 million years ago, making them among the oldest known remnants of human existence. This significant discovery is the result of seven years of extensive research and collaboration between the Prehistory Department of the National Museum of Natural History of France and the Society of Archaeological and Anthropological Research of Chandigarh

French military contingent took part in the republic day parade on 26th January. It was the first time in the history of India's Republic Day, a foreign military contingent took part in the annual parade in New Delhi.

On the day a 123-member French army contingent marched down Rajpath, Delhi's own Champs Elysees, and presented a ceremonial salute to President Pranab Mukherjee.

France's president, Francois Hollande, the guest of honour for the Republic Day parade this year, applauded as his country's contingent marched past on a cold and foggy morning.

After viewing the parade on January 26 Hollande attended a reception at India's sprawling presidential palace.■

# BJP will make Assam Number one state : Narendra Modi

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi on February 5 interacted with tea plantation workers in Moran, Assam. At a public meeting, PM Narendra Modi said that Assam was known over the world not only for its tea but also for the hard work and dedication that people put into their work.

He noted the fact that tea cultivators of Assam spent generations and made India proud through their work but the state did not flourish as the government did not work for uplifting the labourers and the poor. He urged the people of Assam to elect a BJP Government that would fulfil the aspirations of poor in the state. "Give an opportunity to the BJP and we will make Assam the Number 1 state", said the Prime Minister. Shri Narendra Modi said there could be no politics when it comes to people's welfare. He mentioned that the pride of Assam and well-being of the state's youth was most important for his Government.

The Prime Minister noted that crores of rupees for welfare of the poor were lying idle in the Government treasury. He said that his Government was dedicated to welfare of the labourers and hence created a law for bonus to labourers but the opposition was not determined to let things work.

Taking a dig at the Congress party, the PM said, "Those who have been defeated and reduced to around 40 seats are determined to not let things work. There are leaders and parties that don't support the BJP still they want Parliament to work. But one party does not want that to happen." The Prime Minister added that a bill on National Waterways was passed in the Lok Sabha that would benefit



Assam but was stuck in the Rajya Sabha.

PM Narendra Modi talked about the newly launched Fasal Bima Yojana. He said that the initiative was purely for the welfare of farmers. He added that the entire world now reposed faith in India and was enthusiastic about the country.

During a day-long visit to the state Shri Modi addressed four functions - including the inauguration of the 12th South Asian Games in Guwahati and a Rs 9,965-crore gas cracker project near Dibrugarh & the workers' rally in Moran near Sivasagar, about 400 km from Guwahati. ■



## 'Rapid industrial development is necessary to create employment for India's youth'

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on February 5 dedicated to the nation, Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, a petrochemical complex, at Lepetkata, near Dibrugarh. He also dedicated to the

projects to the nation, there was joy (Anand) across the country and all-round joy (Sarbanand) in Assam.

Highlighting the importance of completing projects in time, the Prime Minister said this would

round development of India. In this context, he said the Union Government is paying special attention to the North-Eastern region by boosting infrastructure and connectivity.

The Prime Minister said



nation, the wax plant of Numaligarh Refineries Limited.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the two projects being dedicated to the nation today, are important for two reasons - (a) for the value addition they would achieve for natural raw materials; (b) for the employment opportunities they would create for the youth of Assam. He said that with the dedication of these

ensure employment generation, and avoid massive cost overruns. He said rapid industrial development of the country is necessary to create employment for India's youth. In this context, the Prime Minister mentioned his PRAGATI initiative, which he said is giving impetus to stalled projects worth lakhs of crore rupees.

The Prime Minister reiterated that eastern India must develop, for the all-

that the initiatives of the Union Government, including MUDRA and Start-up India, were aimed at creating fresh opportunities for the youth. He said employment opportunities have to be created not just in big cities but in smaller towns too. He said the Union Government is working on the principle of cooperative federalism, and both the Centre and States have to work together for development. ■

## Prime Minister praises two women from Rajasthan for weaving cloth with solar charkhas

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his first 'Mann Ki Baat' programme of 2016, on January 31<sup>st</sup> once again appealed to the people to increasingly adopt khadi, which he said has become a "symbol" and has great potential to create employment.

Shri Modi also called for technological upgradation of the industry and noted with joy that the solar energy was now being used to power the loom. He also noted that youth were developing attraction for Khadi which was now very much in vogue as a symbol of fashion.

Media reported that the government was flooded with over four lakh missed calls from citizens on the new mobile number announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 'Mann Ki Baat' address on the day. The mobile number, 8190881908, will now allow people to listen to the Mann Ki Baat broadcast any time on their mobile phones after leaving a missed call, the PM announced.

Prime Minister mentioned the work of Meerut-based NGO Pahal - Ek Prayas in his radio programme. "Cleanliness is now being linked to beauty. For many years, we kept expressing our anguish towards filth, but it continued to remain as it is. Now, people of the country have started talking about cleanliness rather than discussing filth. The work of cleaning is constantly going on in some or the other way. But now, the citizens have taken a step further; they have now linked beauty with cleanliness and it is all the more effective. This is specifically visible on railway stations. With local art in focus, wall

graffiti, beautiful paintings, making attractive and artistic sign boards, having things that spread awareness, a lot is being done," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat address, while visuals of Pahal - Ek Prayas volunteers painting the walls in the city were played in a half-screen space on



Doordarshan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised two women from Rajasthan. While talking

**"Cleanliness is now being linked to beauty. For many years, we kept expressing our anguish towards filth, but it continued to remain as it is. Now, people of the country have started talking about cleanliness rather than discussing filth. The work of cleaning is constantly going on in some or the other way.**

about how khadi can provide jobs to crores of Indians, he mentioned Geeta Devi (50) and Komal Devi (40), both

from Dausa, for weaving the cloth with 'solar charkhas'.

Geeta Devi and Komal Devi began attending training sessions on 'solar charkhas' at the office of Khaadi Samiti in Dausa three months ago, part of pan-India initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).■

# My goal is “reform to transform”

*Delivering his speech on January 29 at the Economic Times Global Business Summit (ETGBS) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi discussed at length on progress of Indian economy & business environment in India. He also glimpsed the achievements of different sectors of governance. The following is full text of the speech:*

I am very happy to be here today. The global economy is going through a period of uncertainty. At a time like this I am glad that so many participants not only from India, but also from abroad have taken the time to come here. I am sure all of us in India will benefit from the experience of other countries. I will take this opportunity to present to you some of my thoughts on the progress of the Indian economy and on the business environment in India.

Some of you may recall what I have said before – that true reforms are those which result in transformation in the lives of citizens. As I have said before, my goal is “reform to transform”. Let me start with the basics. What should be the basic guiding principles of economic policy in any country?

Firstly, we have to improve the use of our natural and human resources, to increase the value addition we can get from them. This means increasing the efficiency in allocation of resources. It means greater managerial efficiency. It means removing unnecessary controls and distortions.

Secondly, we should create new opportunities for citizens to progress and also give them a choice of opportunities. Opportunity is like oxygen to the aspirational citizen and we are keen that this is never in short supply. In simple terms, it means *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*.

Thirdly, we have to increase the quality of life of the common citizen and even more so, the quality of life of the poor. Quality of life may have an economic aspect, but it is not economics alone. If a government is

progressive, and runs an honest and efficient administration, the biggest beneficiaries are the poor. I know from my experience, that poor governance hurts the poor more than it hurts others. Therefore, improved governance is as important as economic reform.

We live in a globally connected world. Actions of one country affect another. Such actions are not only based on trade and investment but also in matters of pollution and environment. A poet had said that no man is an island. Today it can be said that no country can live alone. It is often said that all politics is local. To me, all economics is global. Indeed the distinction between domestic affairs

and foreign affairs is increasingly losing relevance. For a country in the modern day, it is not sufficient that its economic policies should only address its domestic priorities. To me, India's policies must be such that they make a positive contribution to the rest of the world.

Many of you are aware of the contribution India can make to the global economy at a time of economic stagnation in many parts. For the last four quarters, India has been the fastest growing large economy in the world. In 2014-15, India contributed 7.4% of global GDP in purchasing power terms. But it contributed 12.5% of global growth. Thus its contribution to growth is 68% higher than its share of the global economy. FDI in India has increased by 39% in the last 18 months, at a time when global FDI has fallen.

But a country's contribution goes beyond





economics. Protecting our planet from climate change is one of the most important tasks for this generation. If one country reduces its environmental footprint, it creates benefits for all others. It is for this reason that in the COP 21 Summit, India made far reaching commitments towards the larger welfare of the planet. In history, every country that has grown has increased its per capita emissions footprint. We are committed to re-writing that history. We are committed to reducing the emission intensity of our GDP by 33% by 2030 even while growing at a fast pace. For a country which is already at a very low base of per capita emission, this is a very ambitious target. We have committed that by 2030, 40% of our electric power capacity will be from non-fossil fuel. We have also committed to building an additional carbon sink of over 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This will be done by creating additional forest cover by 2030. This commitment is from a country with a very low per capita land availability. We have taken the lead in launching an international solar alliance, involving 121 countries falling between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This initiative will help many developing countries, from Africa to South America, to take advantage of developments in renewable energy around the world.

Let me now return to the three policy objectives I mentioned. I will start with the performance of Indian economy. Economists talk about GDP growth, inflation, investment, and the fiscal deficit as key economic parameters. Since this government took office, growth has increased and inflation has decreased. Foreign investment has increased and the fiscal deficit has decreased. And despite a slowdown in global trade, the balance of payments deficit has also decreased.

Yet, such broad statistics give only a partial picture of what we are attempting, and what we are achieving. It is often said "the devil is in the detail". But I believe that God is in the proper execution of many so-called details. It

is these so-called details which, when done well, add up to a big picture.

You may be interested to know that When I give these figures, it is important to remember that in the preceding years, many of these indicators were moving in the opposite direction. Not only have many indicators improved, but they have improved by large margins. For example, in *2013-14, the total number of National Highway kilometers awarded was about 3500. This more than doubled in the first year of this government to nearly 8000 kilometres, an all-time high. This year we are planning to award 10,000 kilometres.*

*Let me give you more examples of quantum leaps. The Shipping Corporation of India which made a loss of '275 crore in 2013-14 made a profit of '201 crore in 2014-15. This is a turnaround of '575 crore in one single year.*

In 2013-14, India accounted for just 0.1% of global demand for energy efficient LED lighting. In 2015-16, it is 12%. Indian LED bulbs are now the cheapest and most competitive in the world, costing less than a dollar versus a global average of 3 dollars. In 2013-14, India commissioned 947 megawatts of solar power plants. In 2015-16, this will rise to over 2500 megawatts. It is expected to reach 12,000 megawatts in 2016-17. India's share of the global solar energy market will rise from 2.5% in 2014 to 18% in 2016. India's contribution here is not merely in increasing the share of clean energy. Its other contribution is that the huge increase in scale has enabled producers to cut prices benefitting the whole world. In 2013-14, 16,800 kilometers of transmission lines were added. In 2014-15 this rose to over 22,000, an increase of 32%. In the power sector as a whole, the cost of power has declined by over 30%.

Let me turn to the second aspect - improving opportunities. I believe in the politics of empowerment. I believe in empowering the people to improve their own lives. We undertook the world's largest and most successful financial inclusion programme. It has brought over two hundred million

unbanked people into the banking system. In the early days of this programme, sceptics felt that these accounts would have no balances. You will be surprised to know that today these accounts have a balance exceeding Rs 30,000 crore or over \$4 billion. We have also issued a record number of debit cards to them. India is now one of the few countries where the market share of an indigenous credit card brand exceeds 33%. We have introduced a new and comprehensive program of crop insurance. This empowers farmers to give their best, with the state providing cover against risks beyond the farmer's control.

We have introduced soil health cards to empower our farmers. The card will tell every farmer the exact character of his soil. This will enable him to increase crop yield, reduce over-use of chemical inputs and fertiliser and restore soil health.

Entrepreneurship is one of India's traditional strengths. It was sad to see it neglected in the last few years. "Business" and "profits" had become bad words. We have changed that. We need to value enterprise and hard work, not wealth. Our programs ranging from MUDRA to Start Up India and Stand-Up India provide opportunity to the hard working and to the enterprising. In so doing, we have placed special emphasis on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and women. We are empowering them to become masters of their own destinies.

Creating opportunities for cities and towns to grow is very crucial. Urban areas are an engine of growth. A key initiative for urban transformation is the Smart City Mission. The Mission has several 'firsts'. It is the first time that certain areas in cities will be comprehensively developed in a systematic and qualitative way. These areas will act as 'light houses' which will eventually influence the rest of the city. It is the first time that there has been such extensive citizen consultation. Nearly 2.5 million people participated through contests, discussions, polls, blogs and talks on the MyGov platform.

This is a major break from the top-down approach to urban planning. It is the first time that allocation of funds in a government scheme is done not by decisions of ministers or officers but on the basis of competition. This is a good example of competitive and cooperative federalism.

As I mentioned earlier, the role of a government does not end with the economy alone. There are many non-economic dimensions which are vital for ensuring the welfare of the citizens. Good governance is crucial. We have taken numerous steps which have transformative potential. We have ended the era of high level corruption. This is a fact acknowledged by Indians and foreigners, and by critics and supporters of this government. This is not an easy achievement. We have ended political interference and crony capitalism in nationalized banks. We have for the first time appointed several heads of public sector banks from the private sector. Transparent auctions have cleaned up the natural resources sector which was riddled with scandals.

Many experts have commented on the need to reduce subsidies. The new universal access to banking through the *Jan Dhan Yojana*, has enabled plugging of huge leakages in subsidies. In developing countries, fuel subsidies are generally very difficult to tackle. We have successfully decontrolled cooking gas prices. We are now operating the world's largest direct benefit transfer scheme for cooking gas. Subsidies are transferred to the bank account of households. Through electronic verification, multiple and bogus connections are eliminated. This enables genuine beneficiaries to get what they deserve while eliminating those who are not eligible. This has substantially reduced the subsidy.

Another subsidized fuel is kerosene, used by the poor for cooking and lighting, and distributed by state governments. There is clear evidence that a large quantity of subsidized kerosene is misused and diverted. We have begun a pilot in 33 districts where kerosene will be sold at market prices. The

difference between market price and the subsidized price will be transferred directly to bank accounts of those who are poor. The poor will be properly identified through bank accounts and biometric identification through Aadhaar. This will eliminate duplicate, non-eligible and bogus consumers. This elimination will reduce the total subsidy. We have decided that 75% of the savings from this will be passed on to the states. Thereby, we have encouraged state governments to implement this in all districts.

The experience of Chandigarh, shows that this is possible. In April 2014, there were 68,000 beneficiaries of subsidized kerosene in Chandigarh. A campaign was launched to issue gas connections to all eligible families. 10,500 new gas connections were issued. Kerosene quotas were stopped for 42,000 families who already had gas connections. By 31st March, 2016, Chandigarh will be declared kerosene-free. Believe it or not, till date, the saving achieved in kerosene consumption through this initiative is 73%! Two days ago at a meeting with Chief Secretaries of the States, I was reviewing implementation of various pension schemes. I was pleasantly surprised to see that there had been noteworthy reduction in leakage, simply by eliminating those who were double counted and who were ineligible. In some states, a reduction of 12% in subsidies has been achieved without any harm to the poor.

Another major subsidy is on fertilizer. A substantial quantity of subsidized urea is diverted illegally to use in the production of chemicals. We have introduced a simple but effective technical solution: neem-coating of urea. The organic neem coating makes the fertilizer unsuitable for diversion. We have now achieved 100% neem coating in both domestic and imported urea. A significant side benefit has also happened. The collection of neem leaves for urea has become a new income earning opportunity for rural women.

I know that several of you are economists. Economists generally believe that human beings are rational. They believe people will not give up a benefit for which they are

entitled. Last year, I gave a call to citizens. I asked them to give up their cooking gas subsidies, if they felt they were not poor enough to get it. We also made a promise. Every connection given up, would be used to give a new gas connection to a poor family. Poor women in rural India use firewood or biomass and suffer greatly because of smoke. This scheme is entirely voluntary. You may be surprised to learn that nearly 6.5 million people in India have responded to my call. It warms my heart, to see that so many of them have come forward, with no compulsion to benefit the poor and give up their subsidies. Already, over 5 million new connections have been given to the poor. It is a sign of the public spirit and the self-respect which prevails among Indians and shows the potential of citizen action. Another example where citizens have responded is in the case of Khadi. In October 2014, I had appealed to all Indians to buy at least one Khadi garment. In response, Khadi sales have increased substantially.

We have taken a creative approach to tackling the problem of loss making power distribution companies. Under the UDAY programme, short term debt relief is given by state governments taking over bank loans. But this is accompanied by strong long term conditions to hold both the distribution companies and the states. This will create the conditions for rolling out 24x7 power supply.

Our country suffers from an excess of old and unnecessary laws which obstruct people and businesses. We began the exercise of identifying unnecessary laws and repealing them. 1,877 Central laws have been identified for repeal. Out of these, 125 have already been repealed. Bills for repealing another 758 have been passed by the Lok Sabha and are awaiting the approval of the Upper House.

I have given just a few examples of the potential of improved governance. The benefits of improved governance and reduced corruption are lasting and profound. If our policies are studied closely, you will find that many are popular, but none are populist. Every one of the changes we have made is in the



direction of good governance and rationality.

I have been referring to cooking gas, fertilizer and kerosene subsidies. I must confess that I am surprised by the way words are used by experts on this matter. When a benefit is given to farmers or to the poor, experts and government officers normally call it a subsidy. However, I find that if a benefit is given to industry or commerce, it is usually called an “in centive” or a “subvention”. We must ask ourselves whether this difference in language also reflects a difference in our attitude? Why is it that subsidies going to the well-off are portrayed in a positive manner? Let me give you an example. The total revenue loss from incentives to corporate tax payers was over Rs 62,000 crore. Dividends and long term capital gains on shares traded in stock exchanges are totally exempt from income tax even though it is not the poor who earn them. Since it is exempt, it is not even counted in the Rs 62,000 crore. Double taxation avoidance treaties have in some cases resulted in double non-taxation. This also is not counted in the Rs 62,000 crore. Yet these are rarely referred to by those who seek reduction of subsidies. Perhaps these are seen as incentives for investment. I wonder whether, if the fertiliser subsidy is re-named as “incentive for agricultural production”, some experts will view it differently.

I am not arguing that all subsidies are good. My point is that there cannot be any ideological position on such matters. We have to be pragmatic. We have to eliminate bad subsidies, whether or not they are called subsidies. But some subsidies may be necessary to protect the poor and the needy and give them a fair chance to succeed. Hence my aim is not to eliminate subsidies but to rationalize and target them.

In 19 months, much has been achieved. Much more is expected of us. And there are challenges ahead. Yet, I am now confident that we can successfully go forward that we can successfully go faster, and that we can do so in a way that will benefit the common people.

When the people of a nation make up their minds to go forward and when the power of the people is with us, hard challenges become huge opportunities. This confidence of mine is not formed in a vacuum, but founded on my experience over the last 19 months.

We inherited a struggling economy, just recovering from a currency crisis. In less than two years, we have taken India to the top of global league tables of foreign investment and growth. Friends, we have a long way to go but I feel ours is a journey well begun. Like all long journeys, there may be obstacles on the way, but I am confident we will reach our destination. We have created a platform for a new future and for a new India: An India where every child is born safely and maternal and infant mortality are below world averages. ♦ An India where no person is houseless, ♦ An India where every town and every village, every school and every train, every street and every house, are clean and sanitary ♦ An India where every citizen has access to good health care ♦ An India where every village has 24x7 electricity ♦ An India where every city is vibrant and livable ♦ An India where girls are educated and empowered ♦ An India where every boy and every girl is skilled and ready for productive employment ♦ An India where agriculture, industry and services provide well-paying jobs to all who need them ♦ An India where farmers know the nature of their soil, have the best inputs and reach global levels of productivity ♦ An India where enterprises, large and small, have access to capital and credit ♦ An India where start-ups and other businesses provide innovative solutions ♦ An India which is at the forefront of a global digital economy ♦ An India which leads the world in clean energy ♦ An India where every citizen has basic social security and a pension in old age ♦ An India where citizens trust Government and are trusted by Government ♦ And above all, a transformed India where all citizens have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Thank you. ■

# Smart City Challenge has kick-started a revolution in urban landscape

By M. Venkaiah Naidu

**T**he proposal for building smart cities was mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 as part of 'Mission Transform Nation'.

The announcement of 20 smart cities selected from a list of 97 for funding in the first phase is the first time investment in urban development is being made based on a competition.

The Smart City Challenge has states nominating cities through an objective and transparent competition without any central intervention.

All the cities that have not qualified are still on the list of potential smart cities, and can 'move up' by revisiting and revising their proposals and participating in the second round of the challenge.

Twenty cities are funded in the first phase, 40 in the second phase, and 40 more in the third, making it a total of 100. The 20 cities in the first stage will get Rs 200 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 100 crore each year for the next three years, the total amounting to Rs 500 crore. All 97 cities were given Rs 2 crore by the Centre to make their smart city plan proposals with technical

assistance by national and international agencies. BJP-ruled states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Goa could not make it into the top 20. This speaks of the unbiased nature of the selection system.

The Smart City Mission

participating cities.

MyGov.in enlisted an unprecedented response from citizens and other stakeholders with 2.5 million people sharing their views and suggestions. Another 11.7 million availed of other



marks the beginning of a 'bottom up' approach in urban planning.

Citizen participation has been mandatory for the preparation of smart city plans for which a weightage of 16% was given while evaluating the city-level plans. A total of 15.20 million citizens have participated in the preparation of plans at various stages, accounting for about 12% of the total population of the 97

forums like state government portals, town hall and neighbourhood meetings, and different competitions.

## Citizens Become Netizens

A key element of the Smart City Mission is the use of information and communication technology to leverage citizen participation for urban planning by ensuring constant exchange of information personalised to the citizens' needs and preferences.

The ministry, in consultation with Bloomberg Technologies, states and urban local bodies, has evolved a template with a set of 43 questions to assess smart city plans based on merit, irrespective of the size and type of the city or town. This standardised format enabled the cities and towns to express themselves fully, bringing out distinguishing and unique features of each city, which

based city profiling and key performance indicators (5%), and processes followed (4%).

In these 20 smart cities, a total investment of Rs 50,802 crore has been proposed during the five-year period. Of the 20 cities, 18 have come forward with retrofitting proposals; one city with both retrofitting and redevelopment, and another to take up only redevelopment.

**Many cities in the proposed list of 98 smart cities also qualify for the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (Amrut), the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (Hriday) and the Housing Mission. This convergence leads to integrated development.**

otherwise may have been missed out.

The Smart City Plans, all received by December 15, 2015, have been handed over to three teams of evaluators comprising Indian and foreign experts.

The competition was based on the implementation framework, including feasibility and cost-effectiveness, which has a weightage of 30%, followed by result orientation (20%), citizen participation (16%), smartness of proposal (10%), strategic plan (10%), vision and goals (5%), evidence-

A total area of 26,735 acres will be taken up for improvements in these 20 cities, including redevelopment of 425 acres.

#### **Smartly Flexible**

Eleven states and the Union territory (UT) of Delhi have made it to the top 20. With Jammu & Kashmir still to decide on its choice, 23 states and UTs are still to be covered under the Smart City Mission. We are giving the top-ranking city in each of these 23 states and UTs an opportunity to upgrade their smart city proposals in a fast-track round of competition.

They will be given time till April 15, 2016, to submit their upgraded proposals.

The normal Round 2 of the competition for the remaining 54 cities and towns will begin on April 1, 2016. Those who do not make the grade in fast-track competition will also join this second round.

Many cities in the proposed list of 98 smart cities also qualify for the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (Amrut), the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (Hriday) and the Housing Mission. This convergence leads to integrated development.

The mission's implementation at the city level will be done by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) that will be formed for each of the cities, to identify all the potential partners from public and private sectors. Each SPV of a smart city will be headed by a CEO and will have nominees of the central and state governments, and of the urban local bodies on its board.

The Smart City Mission aims to provide world-class infrastructure, technology-enabled services, sustainable public transport and affordable housing in Indian cities. Nobody can stop an idea whose time has come. The smart city is such an idea.■

*(The writer is Union Urban Development Minister.)*



# India to host the first ever Global Maritime Summit

**P**riime Minister Narendra Modi on February 7 said the Indian Ocean region is one of his foremost policy initiatives. Addressing the gathering at the International Fleet Review in Visakhapatnam, he also said oceans were critical for global energy security.

“It is a tribute to the city that within 14 months, you have risen against all odds to welcome the Navies from across the continents in this International Fleet Review. A little over a year ago, we saw the full fury of the ocean. Today, thanks to the spirit of the people of Visakhapatnam, we are discussing how the oceans can be a source of economic prosperity for all of us.”

He added, “For me personally, witnessing the harmony among the best of International Navies here has been a rewarding experience. Just over three months earlier in October, we welcomed in Delhi, for the first time ever, all the 54 African nations, including over 40 Heads of State for the 3rd India-Africa Summit.”

“A few weeks earlier in August 2015, India had hosted in Jaipur 14 Heads of the State for the Second Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation. Just day before yesterday, we welcomed all the SAARC countries for the 12th South Asian Games in Guwahati. And today it is our pleasure to welcome 50

foreign Navies from every corner of the globe at India’s second International Fleet review- the first one on India’s East Coast. Your participation is a message of cooperation and friendship that we deeply cherish.”

On behalf the people of India Shri Modi thanked all participants from different countries for accepting our invitation and joining in this event with great enthusiasm.

The oceans and world’s waterways are global commons. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam– the concept of whole world as a family – is perhaps most vividly witnessed on the oceans of the

planet, that connect us all, Shri Modi said. The last time India hosted the International Fleet Review was in the year 2001, in the city of Mumbai.

“Over 90% of global merchandise trade is carried on the oceans. The threat of natural disasters like tsunamis and cyclones is ever present. Manmade problems such as oil spills, climate change continue to risk the stability of the maritime domain. A peaceful and stable maritime environment is, therefore, critical for the regional and global security. It is also a must to harvest the riches of the oceanic ecosystems.” ■

## Amit Shah inaugurates new library building in BJP central office

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah inaguarded on February 2,2016 the party’s new library building at its headquarters. The library,

spread over 3,000 square feet, has 2,000 books and as many digital books, besides subscription to around 100 national and international journals. On the occasion Shri Shah pointed out that the library should reflect not only nationalistic literature but also include other

socio-political literatures and records of the literature related to other political parties & social movements. He added, this type of facilities of the library should make available in the states office and the district party office.■



# HAPPINESS

By Sri Swami Sivananda

## Pleasure is the cause of pain

The cause of pain is pleasure. The man who is addicted to taking tea, and is in the habit of taking fruits and milk after meals, feels very miserable when he cannot get tea, or fruits and milk, in a certain place. When the wife dies, the husband is drowned in sorrow, not because of the loss of his loving partner in life, but because he cannot get sexual pleasure now.

The cause of pain is pleasure. The cause of death is love for sensual life. Give up all sensual pleasures, if you do not want pain. Give up sensual life, if you do not want death.

Enjoyment cannot bring satisfaction of desire. On the contrary, it aggravates and intensifies desires and makes the mind more restless through sense-hankering or Trishna, just as the pouring of ghee or oil aggravates fire. The fewer the wants, the greater the happiness.

Many rich persons, in spite of their immense wealth and possession of two or three wives, are extremely miserable and unhappy. I have come in contact with several rich landlords. They are all discontented, restless, peevish and very miserable. It is evident, therefore, that happiness does not lie either in money, objects or woman (or man).

## The source of happiness

There is no happiness at all in any of the objects of the world. There is not an iota of happiness in objects, because they are insentient. Even the sensual pleasure is a reflection of the Atmic bliss only. It is sheer ignorance to think that we derive any pleasure from the sense-objects or from the mind.

When there is a desire in the mind, the

mind is filled with Rajas. It is in an agitated condition. It is restless and unpeaceful. It will be restless till the desired object is attained. When the object is attained and enjoyed, when the desire is gratified, the mind moves towards the Inner Soul. It ceases functioning. It is filled

with Sattva. All thoughts subside for a split second; the mind rests in the Soul within. The Soul's bliss is reflected in the intellect. But the ignorant man thinks that he is getting the happiness from the object; just as the dog which is biting a dry bone imagines that it is getting the pleasure from the bone, that the blood is oozing from the bone, whereas in

reality, the blood comes from its own palate.

## Real happiness is within

Real happiness is within you. It is in the Atman. It is subjective. It manifests when the mind is concentrated. When the Indriyas are withdrawn from the objects outside, when the mind is one-pointed, when there is Vasana-kshya and Manonasa, when you become desireless and thoughtless, Atmic bliss begins to dawn, spiritual Ananda begins to thrill.

The musk is in the navel of the deer, but it runs here and there to smell it. The chain is in the neck of the damsel, but she runs hither and thither in search of it. The precious diamond is within you, but you run after the broken glass-pieces in vain. Even so, the ocean of bliss is within you; the fountain of joy is within you; and yet, you run here and there in search of it. The Sun of suns is ever shining in you, but your blind eyes cannot behold it. The eternal sound is ringing within you, but your deaf ears cannot hear it.

To be continued .....

Courtesy: The Divine Life Society

