

# KAMAL SANDESH

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**33** | NEED OF THE HOUR IS  
COLLECTIVITY, CONNECTIVITY AND  
CREATIVITY: NARENDRA MODI



## ‘MODI GOVT WORKING IN CONSONANCE WITH DEENDAYALJI’S IDEA OF ANTYODAYA’

‘DEMONETIZATION WILL REDUCE  
GAP BETWEEN RICH & POOR’

MACABRE KILLING FIELDS OF KERALA TELL  
THE STORY CPM POLITICS GONE BERSERK

BJP & ALLIES POISED FOR A SWEEP  
IN ASSEMBLY ELECTION IN 5 STATES

# BJP National President Shri Amit Shah visits Lord Jagannath in Puri, Odisha



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**@narendramodi**

For the world, India will remain a beacon of peace & progress, stability & success and access & accommodation.

**@AmitShah**

I salute the indomitable courage and valour of our Army. It is because of their dedication & determination we feel safe & proud.



**@arunjaitley**

The GST, to be implemented this year, will provide for better indirect tax administration & will be an efficient law against tax evasion.

**facebook**

We believe that investment in universal health coverage, including for aged population, should be considered as a smart investment for future. India is committed to achieve universal health coverage for all age groups.



— **J.P Nadda**

“Uttar Pradesh under SP rule has become state of losing hopes. The SP government by doing food scam of 3,500 crore has not even spared the grain of poors` plate.”



— **Arun Singh**

“Every Child has a right to education. We need to ensure they get this right and become carriers of light.”



— **Piyush Goyal**



Courtesy: Social Media



## People set to vote for politics of performance and development

**O**n the coming months five states are going to elect their new governments. The election process has already been set in motion with the announcement of dates by Election Commission and the counting is slated to take place on 11 March 2016. The people in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur are going to exercise their franchise in different phases to elect assemblies in these states. It is a massive political exercise which is set to determine the course of future of these states. India is passing through major transformation under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The elections are crucial for these states as these states need to associate themselves with the transformative initiatives of the Prime Minister in more effective and meaningful manner. As India aspires to grow fast and become a vibrant economy keeping pace with fastest growing countries of the world, the people in these states are set to vote for good governance and development.

It is perhaps for the first time that a ruling party has conceded defeat even before the start of elections. Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh is now contesting assembly elections in alliance with Congress. It is the same party which had gone to elections alone five years back and formed the government with clear majority. What has gone wrong in last five years that it has been now forced to seek an alliance with the Congress? The misrule, corruption and goondaraj of last five years are haunting the SP which is finding difficult to face the electorate now. Congress is a party rejected repeatedly by the people of Uttar Pradesh and now hoping to survive on the piggyback of SP. Any alliance with Congress is not going to salvage the fortunes of SP. Both parties stand discredited as party of goons, scamsters and power brokers. People in Uttar Pradesh now not only looking to break the cycle of SP-BSP rule but to herald an era of change, dynamic progress and development. People have realized that Congress-SP-BSP are the parties mainly responsible for the backwardness, lawlessness and regressive politics in the state. While people rejected BSP last time, this time they have the opportunity to reject SP-Congress together. By forging an alliance with the Congress, SP has accepted that it was not in a position to face the electorate alone but its choice has further weakened its position in the eyes of electorate.

Apart from Uttar Pradesh, the political scenario in Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur are also appearing bright for BJP. In Uttarakhand, the Harish Rawat government has completely failed to deliver as per the expectations of the people in the state. Corruption, factionalism and dissensions have become the hallmark of the Congress in Uttarakhand. In Goa people are showing enthusiasm due to the good work of the BJP government in the state. SAD-BJP alliance has become a credible force in Punjab which is taking state to newer heights. In Manipur this time people fed up with Congress rule are looking for an alternative in BJP. The expansion and consolidation of BJP under the visionary leadership of National President Shri Amit Shah has further strengthened the party in every nook and corner of the country. The charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given new hope and trust in the future of India. The people are seeing their aspirations realized under the able leadership of Prime Minister who has given a new direction and purpose to governance in the country. In the states also people are aspiring to elect government dedicated to the service and welfare of people. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP has emerged as a new hope for the nation and people are extending overwhelming support to decisions of the BJP led NDA government at the centre. In the ensuing elections to the state assemblies, people are set to vote for politics of performance and development defeating the forces representing divisive and regressive politics. ■

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IN THE ENSUING ELECTIONS TO THE STATE ASSEMBLIES, PEOPLE ARE SET TO VOTE FOR POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT DEFEATING THE FORCES REPRESENTING DIVISIVE AND REGRESSIVE POLITICS.

# BJP govt. will launch a movement for political probity, black money in politics and electoral reform: Amit Shah



**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah said the NDA government would soon launch initiatives to effect electoral reform, probity in political life and address black money in politics. Speaking at the release of a book on the life and times of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay on 10 January, 2017 in Patna, the BJP National President said BJP would be way ahead of other political parties in adopting probity. The book ‘Deendayal Upadhyay Sampurna Wangmaya’ has already been released by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah in Delhi and currently being released in all capital cities of states.

Shri Shah said recent initiatives launched by the Modi government had been in consonance with Deendayal Upadhyay’s idea of Antyodaya (serving the last man in the queue). Our PM has decided to observe the centenary year of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay as

welfare year for the poor, he said.

Shri Shah said it was because of Deendayal introducing sound methods to run a political party that a “small party worker like me could become the national president of the biggest party of this country”.

Praising the Centre’s note ban move, the BJP President said that while some people would say that the decision was taken to please dhannaseth (rich). In reality, this move was not to please the ultra-rich people but for the benefit of the 80 crore poor people of India and to check tax theft.

Shri Amit Shah said there had been a lot of discussion on probity in political life and black money in politics. “Hamari sarkar rajnitik suchita, chunav sudhar aur rajniti mein kale dhan ko khatm karne ke liye aandolan karegi aur jald hi yojana layegi (Our government will launch a movement and initiate schemes to address political probity, black money in



politics and effect electoral reforms),” Shri Shah said. He said the BJP government was trying to explore if elections could be conducted without any expenses.

He said, “After attack on black money through demonetization, some thinkers and experts asked Modiji what about bringing an electoral reform, set high standard of probity in political life and weeding out black money from politics”.

Shri Amit Shah said after a successful strike on black money through demonetization, BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has already started campaign to weed out black money from politics and bring major electoral reforms.

“By stopping theft of cash, volume of budgetary provision for welfare of poor would be enhanced,” he said, adding the beneficiary programmes after demonetization would provide a platform to empower the poor.

Shri Shah said the BJP has already set up a team to suggest widespread electoral reforms as how to achieve less expensive elections and make political donation transparent.

He said the fundamental difference between the views of Congress and BJP was that while the former from the beginning after Independence has been working for “nav nirman” (new foundation) of the country on the basis of ideas influenced by the West, the latter always stressed on “punah nirman” (re-foundation) on the basis of the high ideals already

existing in India.

The BJP National President said BJP is the only party which launches andolan not keeping in mind some personality but on issues concerning poor and masses, he said and referred to the Ayodhya agitation and recent campaign to surrender gas subsidy so that poor could get LPG connections. BJP is the only party where election takes place on time within the organisation, he added.

Praising the Modi government, Shri Shah said the Central government has set a target to provide bank accounts to 60 crore people who are still deprived of it, even after 70 years of Independence. So far 27 crore bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojna have

already been opened. On appeal of the PM, over 1.37 crore people have already given up subsidy on LPG to help poor get LPG connections, Shri Shah said.

The editor of the book Dr. Mahesh

Chandra Sharma, Indira Gandhi National Art Center Chairperson Shri Ram Bahadur Rai and other guests were also present on the occasion.

The BJP President, who arrived at the Patna Airport at 11:00 am, first paid a visit to the Patna Saheb Gurudwara to pay his respect to Guru Govind Singh, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs. He was warmly welcomed by hundreds of party leaders and workers, shouting slogans with flags and head bands. Over 100 BJP supporters on motorcycles escorted Shri Amit Shah from the Patna airport.

The BJP National President made a brief stop at the BJP state headquarters on Birchand Patel Marg in Patna where he was welcomed by BJP state President Shri Nityanand Rai. The BJP President Shri Amit Shah talked to state party leaders at the party office. Bihar BJP President Shri Nityanand Rai, Union Ministers Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Shri Ravishankar Prasad, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi and other senior leaders were present on the occasion. ■

**AFTER A SUCCESSFUL STRIKE ON BLACK MONEY THROUGH DEMONETIZATION, BJP, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI, HAS ALREADY STARTED CAMPAIGN TO WEED OUT BLACK MONEY FROM POLITICS AND BRING MAJOR ELECTORAL REFORMS.**



## BJP releases manifesto for the Punjab Assembly elections

**U**nion Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley on January 22 released Bharatiya Janata Party's manifesto for the Punjab Assembly elections in Jalandhar. "Our poll manifesto is based on the infrastructure and social upliftment of the people of Punjab," Jaitley said on the occasion. BJP's manifesto is mainly focused at improving the social infrastructure in Punjab. While releasing the manifesto along with Shri Arun Jaitley BJP national Vice President & the party's Punjab incharge Shri Prabhat Jha, Punjab BJP President Vijay Sampla and other state leaders were also present on the occasion. ■

### Highlights of the manifesto

- Under the 'Ek parivar, ek rozgaar yojana', a house for every poor, besides 2kg ghee and 5 kg sugar for blue card holders
- Free education for girls of poor families till PhD
- Implementation of the 7th pay commission
- Raising the retirement age of government employees to 60 years
- Opening of five new Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI)
- A Farms Income Commission will be constituted which will provide an assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the families of traders or farmers in the event of their sudden death.
- Rs 5 lakh relief money would be given to every family who got affected by terrorism in the state
- A group housing scheme for journalists
- Houses to the poor, land to Dalits and backwards, besides assuring Rs five lakh assistance to the families affected by militancy.

## Union Govt. decides to observe 'Prakash Parva' across the country and will renovate places associated with Guru Gobind Singh: Amit Shah

**A**ddressing huge gathering of Sikhs and common people on the 350th birth anniversary celebration of Guru Gobind Singh, observed as 'Prakash Parv' the BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said Narendra Modi led Central Government has decided to observe Prakash Parva across the country and is committed to spread the message of the religious leader. He said the union government will also renovate the places associated with Guru Gobind Singh.

Shri Amit Shah lauded Guru Gobind Singh's contribution in protecting Hindus, and that of the Sikh community in nation-building and safeguarding the country's frontiers. When Guru Gobind Singh was nine years old he asked his father Guru Tegh Bahadur to protect Hindus from the then ruler, Shri Shah said on January 8, 2017 in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP President said "There are very few persons in history who inspired their father to fight for a social cause." Shri Shah touched upon various historical facts



related to Guru Gobind Singh in his speech and praised the role of Sikh community in making the country self sufficient in food grains and protecting the borders of the country. He said that maximum number of Sikhs have sacrificed their life for the country.

Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP National General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya and other senior leaders of the party attended the 350th Prakash Parv in Jabalpur. ■



# Indian economy projected to grow by 7.7% in FY 2017: UN report

**I**ndia is projected to grow by 7.7 per cent in 2017 fiscal year, remaining the fastest growing large developing economy, as it benefits from strong private consumption and gradual introduction of significant domestic reforms, a United Nations report said.

The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 report released on 17 January, 2017 said India's economy is projected to grow by 7.7 per cent in fiscal year 2017 and 7.6 per cent in 2018, benefiting from strong private consumption.

The report said India has positioned itself as the most dynamic emerging economy among the largest countries and is expected to remain the fastest growing on the back of robust private consumption and significant domestic reforms gradually being



implemented by the government. It estimated that in the 2016 fiscal, India grew by 7.6 per cent.

In India, "investment demand is expected to slightly pick up, helped by monetary easing, government efforts towards infrastructure investments and public-private partnerships, and the implementation of domestic reforms such as the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill," the report said.

It added that the GST reform constitutes a "major change" by establishing a new uniform tax rate. The reform should promote investment in the medium term through lower transaction and logistic costs and efficiency gains. Its effective implementation requires adequate capacity building of the tax administration. ■

## Central Government disburses Rs 6,000 crore as arrears under OROP scheme

**T**he NDA Govt. is committed to the welfare of military veterans, and has already disbursed Rs 6,285 crore as arrears under the 'one rank, one pension' (OROP) scheme till now, said minister of state for defence Shri Subhash Bhamre.

"Veterans are an essential part of the armed forces family, who are the keepers of our values and culture. It's our duty to respect and honour them as they are an unbreakable link between the present and the past," said Shri Bhamre, addressing the inaugural armed forces veterans' day function at Delhi cantonment.

"Our Prime Minister and defence minister are sensitive towards all your questions. We will try to address your grievances but unfortunately some elements are making wrong statements regarding defence affairs and creating myths, which are not right," he added.

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS DISBURSED RS 3,995 CR IN THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF ARREARS TO 19,69,385 EX-SERVICEMEN. IN THE SECOND INSTALLMENT, RS 2,291 CR WAS DISBURSED.

Dwelling upon the different welfare measures being undertaken for ex-servicemen, the minister said the NDA government had implemented the OROP scheme, a demand of veterans that was languishing for the last 40 years, which had been notified in November 2015.

In all, 20,72,457 ex-servicemen are eligible for OROP. While the payment of arrears entails a total of Rs 10,925 crore under the OROP scheme, the annual recurring expenditure will be Rs 7,489 crore. ■

# Cabinet approves amendment in Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme

**T**he Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for amendment in the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) to further incentivize investments in Electronic Sector and moving towards the goal of 'Net Zero imports' in electronics by 2020.

Besides expediting investments into the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in India, the amendments in M-SIPS are expected to create employment opportunities and reduce dependence on imports. The projects already received under the scheme have the potential to generate employment to the extent of upto one million persons (direct and indirect).

The Policy covers all States and Districts and provides them an opportunity to attract investments in electronics manufacturing. So far, 243 applications have been received under the scheme, out of which 75 applications have been approved involving investment proposals of Rs. 17,997 crore.

## The salient features of the amendment are:

- The applications will be received under the scheme upto 31st December 2018 or till such time that an incentive commitment of Rs 10,000 crore is reached, whichever is earlier. In case the incentive commitment of Rs 10,000 crore is reached, a review will be held to decide further financial commitments.
- For new approvals, the incentive under the scheme will be available from the date of approval of a project and not from the date of receipt of application.
- The incentives will be available for investments made within 5 years from the date of approval of the project.
- Approvals will normally be accorded to eligible applications within 120 days of submission of the complete application.
- A unit receiving incentives under the scheme, will provide an undertaking to remain in commercial



production for a period of at least 3 years.

- The Appraisal Committee recommending approval of project will be chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- A separate Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary and comprising of CEO, NITI Aayog, Secretary Expenditure and Secretary, MeitY will be set up in respect of mega projects, envisaging more than Rs. 6850 crore (approx. USD 1 Billion) investments.

The Cabinet had, in July, 2012 approved the M-SIPS to provide a special incentive package to promote large scale manufacturing in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector. The scheme provides subsidy for capital expenditure - 20% for investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs. The Scheme was amended in August, 2015 for scope enhancement and simplification of procedure. The Scheme has attracted investments in the ESDM sector to the tune of Rs. 1,26,838 crore, of which investments of around Rs. 17,997 crore have been approved by the MeitY. The M-SIPS has been able to create positive impact on investment in electronics sector. ■



# Rabi Crops Sowing Crosses 616 Lakh Hactare

**A**s per preliminary reports received from the States, the total area sown under Rabi crops as on 13th January 2017 stands at 616.21 lakh hectares as compared to 581.95 lakh hectare this time in 2016.

Wheat has been sown/transplanted in 309.60 lakh hectares, rice in 14.92 lakh hectares, pulses in 155.35 lakh hectares, coarse cereals in 54.87 lakh hectares and area sown under oilseeds is 81.47 lakh hectares.



CROP	AREA SOWN IN 2016-17	AREA SOWN IN 2015-16
Wheat	309.60	289.07
Rice	14.92	19.48
Pulses	155.35	139.93
Coarse Cereals	54.87	58.40
Oilseeds	81.47	75.06
Total	616.21	581.95

Lakh hectare

## App named 'SEZ India' launched by Commerce Ministry

**M**obile app named "SEZ India" has been launched by the Commerce Secretary on 06th January 2017. SEZ Division, Department of Commerce under its broader e-Governance initiative i.e. SEZ Online System, has developed mobile app for Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Commerce Secretary launched the app and mentioned that the App would help the SEZ Units and Developers to find information easily and track their transactions on SEZ Online System. Now the SEZ Developers & Units can file all their transactions digitally through SEZ Online system and track the status on the go through the SEZ India mobile app.



The app is available on Android Platform for use by SEZ Developers, Units, officials and others. The app has four sections i.e. SEZ Information, SEZ Online Transaction, Trade Information, and Contact details. Salient Features of the four sections are as under:-

**SEZ INFORMATION:** This is a compendium of the SEZ Act, 2005, SEZ Rules, 2006, MOCI Circulars, details of SEZs and Units etc. It gives up to date comprehensive details on all the above aspects.

**TRADE INFORMATION:** This provision gives access to important information / tools such as Foreign Trade Policy, Hand Book of procedure , Duty Calculator , Customs & Excise Notification and MEIS Rates.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** We see that the contact details of all Development Commissioners Office, DGFT, DG System, DGCI & S and SEZ online.

**SEZ online Transaction:** This is a dynamic submenu that tracks the Bill of Entry/Shipping Bill processing status and also does verification. The app also helps the Importers / Exporters to track the status of 'Bill of Entry / Shipping Bill" integration and processing in the EDI system of the ICEGATE. ■

# DEENDAYAL- INDIA'S GIFT TO THE BEWILDERED

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was the first political leader of the country who added yet another dimension to the traditionally defined 'nation'-concept. Every nation has its soul, its 'Chiti' he declared. The strength and energy activating the nation is its 'Virat'. It is channelised by 'Chiti'. The place of 'Virat' in the life of a nation is similar to that of 'Prana' in the body. Just as 'Prana' infuses strength in various organs of the body, refreshes the intellect, and keeps body and soul together, so also in a nation, with a strong 'Virat' alone can democracy succeed and the government be effective.

I D. B. THENGDI

**P**ANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA was a nationalist to the core. He loved not only the abstract concept of "Nation" but also the nation in flesh and blood. But his patriotism did not prevent him from being an internationalist. Rather inter-nationalism was only the natural evolution of his enlightened nationalism. He had realised that affinity of an individual with different organisms, ranging from family to the Universe, was only an outward manifestation of the evolution of his consciousness. The more developed the consciousness, the larger and higher would be the organism with which one is identified. But this being a process of evolution, the higher level of consciousness does not preclude the previous lower levels. It is inclusive, not exclusive, in character. One can be equally and simultaneously attached to all the organisms without doing injustice to any one of them. What is needed is a realistic, an integral view of things.

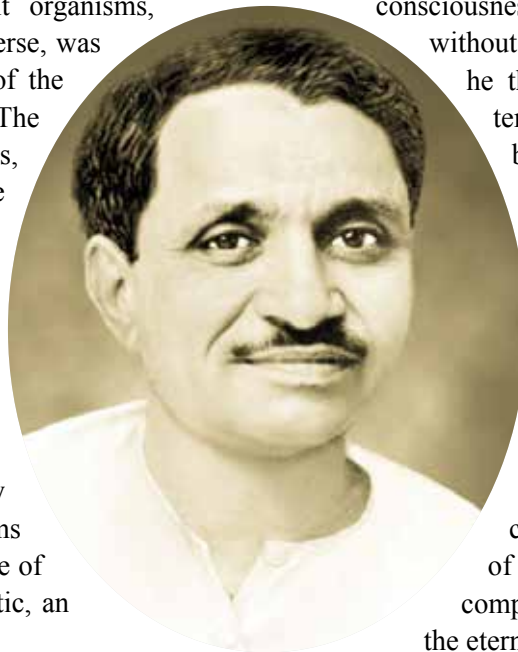
Even a human being must be considered in an integrated way; the body, mind, intelligence and soul of a person must not be thought of separately.

This realisation led Deendayalji to expound his theory of "Integral Humanism", which is in direct contrast with the compartmentalised thinking of the West. The latter has given rise to strife and struggle at

all levels in all departments of life. The seed, the sprout, the trunk, the branch, the leaves and the fruit constitute one single, continuous process of evolution. They are not mutually conflicting or exclusive.

In fact, Panditji's comprehension was not confined to the human species. His integral-ism indicated the flowering of the human consciousness into universal consciousness. That is why he was a humanist without being homocentric. Consequently he thought that the more appropriate term for his thought-system would be "Integralism". But in view of his field of practical activity he considered the term "Integral Humanism" more convenient in the immediate context, as a compromise between his ultimate concept and the common level of understanding in the field, even as his use of the term 'ism' was, again, a similar concession to the common level of understanding which could not comprehend the grand 'ism'-lessness of the eternal Dharma.

He was the first political leader of the country who added yet another dimension to the traditionally defined 'nation'-concept. Every nation has its soul, its 'Chiti' he declared. The strength and energy activating the nation is its 'Virat'. It is channelised by 'Chiti'. The place of 'Virat' in the life of a nation is similar to that of 'Prana' in the body. Just as 'Prana' infuses strength in





various organs of the body, refreshes the intellect, and keeps body and soul together, so also in a nation, with a strong 'Virat' alone can democracy succeed and the government be effective. "When the 'Virat' is awake, diversity does not lead to conflict, and people cooperate with each other like the various limbs of the human body, or like the members of a family." Panditji was, again, the first political leader in post-independence era to declare unequivocally that what 'mankind needed most was a Dharma-Rajya, not merely a rule by majority. He took pains to explain how Dharma was different from Religion and Dharma Rajya from theocracy. But Dharma alone is supreme. State is one of the several institutions or instruments of Dharma an important one, but not above Dharma. It is subject to Dharma. Sovereignty vests in Dharma. Dharma sustains the Nation. Even the Consitution Must be in tune with Dharma. The Articles of the Constitution violating Dharma must be considered null and void to that extent. Both the Legisla-ture and the Judiciary are on an equal plane. Neither is superior to the other. Dharma is higher than both; both are governed by Dharma. The people have a right to elect their own government. But neither the government nor the people have any right to act against Dharma.

Panditji was a votary of 'Bharatiyata' not only because it was his national heritage. He was convinced that the maladies of humanity in general and India in particular could be remedied only on the strength of Bharatiya culture. Is it possible for the West to reconcile individual liberty with social discipline? In the materialistic West, liberty soon degenerates into licentiousness, and discipline into regimentation. The West could never conceive of basic organic unity in the midst of apparent diversities, for it mistook uniformity for unity. It could never appreciate the merit of the Bharatiya socio-economic order, for it mistook our stability for stagnation and its own adventurism for dynamism. Western thinkers could not conceive

of a unitary form of government with maximum decentralisation of adminis-trative authority, because it is beyond their comprehension that there can be set up a central state authority without statism, and with regional, industrial and civic self-governments — which has been the special characteristic, of the Bharatiya social order. The West considered national self-reliance incompatible with the spirit of international co-operation. In the West, nationalism can degenerate, into imperialism and inter-nationalism into disloyalty to one's own nation. The 'integral humanism' expounded by Panditji has exposed the inadequacies, lopsidedness, imbalance and futility of the compartmentalised thought-systems of the West. His integralism-enabled him to visua-lise the emergence of a World State enriched by the growth and contribution of different national cultures, and evolution of 'Manava Dharma enriched by the perfection of all religions, including 'materialism'.

Deendayalji was a 'Drashta', a seer, not merely a philosopher. Because of his 'Sadhana, his identification with Dharma, he could, like a Time Machine, roll himself back and forth in the centuries and stand

face to face with the ancient seers as well as unborn generations. He worked out for us the solutions of modern problems in the light of ancient wisdom. He foresaw and diagnosed maladies that would afflict humanity in the distant future; and prescribed for them the remedies tested with success by 'Sanatana Dharma'.

It has been said that people without a vision perish. A nation without its 'Drashta' is doomed to decay and death. But our Dharma is Sanatana, i.e. endless as well as beginningless. It has, therefore, been the sacred mission of Bharat Mata to give birth, in every age, to Drashtas who deliver a message of hope to the otherwise frustrated mankind pursuing false ideals. In this age, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya has been the precious gift of this Dharma Bhumi to the bewildered. ■

(The article by Late D. B. Thendi was published in Manthan in 1979.)

**PANDITJI WAS A VOTARY OF  
'BHARATIYATA' NOT ONLY BECAUSE  
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HE WAS CONVINCED THAT  
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BHARATIYA CULTURE.**

# We Accept The Challenge

I ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

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

## Muslim leaders delegation meets PM

# ‘Fight against corruption will benefit the poor and minorities the most’



**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 19 January, 2017 met a delegation of Muslim leaders and conveyed to them that youth in India has successfully resisted radicalization, asserting that the credit for this must go to India’s long and shared heritage. The delegation comprising of Muslim Ulemas, intellectuals, academicians and other eminent people called on the Prime Minister and congratulated him on the steps taken by the Union Government for inclusive growth, socio-economic and educational empowerment of all sections of the society including minorities.

Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Union Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar were also present on the occasion. The delegation was also appreciative of the Saudi Government’s decision to increase the number of Haj pilgrims from India and thanked the Prime Minister

for having successfully pursued the same.

Extending their full supported to the campaign launched by the Prime Minister against corruption and black money, the delegation agreed that the fight against corruption will benefit the poor people including the minorities the most.

Praising the Indian youth in resisting radicalization, Prime Minister Modi conveyed to the leaders that the culture, traditions and social fabric of India will never allow the nefarious designs of the terrorists, or their sponsors, to succeed.

The Prime Minister stressed on the importance of education and skill development, which is the key to gainful employment, and upliftment from poverty.

Appreciating the Government of Saudi Arabia for its decision to increase the number of Haj pilgrims for India, the Prime Minister asserted that there is a positive image of Indian Muslims abroad. ■

# Swachh Bharat Mission: The Road Ahead

Removing bottlenecks and addressing critical issues that affect outcomes is the new thrust of this rural sanitation mission, which aims to provide all rural households with individual latrines; and construct cluster and community toilets on public-private partnership mode.



UMAKANT LAKHERA

**T**wo incidents from the South African years of Mahatma Gandhi stand out distinctly. The first is the worst kind of racial discrimination that he suffered on the first class compartment of a train. He was heckled and thrown out of the train by a snobbish European at Pietermaritzburg station.

The second is related to cleanliness and sanitation. When Gandhi saw South Africa's poor Black men, cleaning the toilet of others, and carrying buckets of excreta and leftover on their heads, he was deeply moved. It stirred his conscience in no small measure. That very day, he vowed to clean his own toilet. His vow resonated in his insightful remark: "If we do not keep our backyards clean, our Swaraj will have a foul stench."

Apparently in keeping up with the ideals of Gandhi pertaining to cleanliness, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose October 2, 2014 Gandhi's birth anniversary, as the day to launch the Swachh Bharat

Mission. The Prime Minister's idea and vision of Swachh Bharat epitomizes the "Stench-Free Swaraj" articulated by the Father of the Nation.

The Mission, which is the Central Government's largest-ever sanitation programme, has been subdivided into Urban and Rural components. The principal resolve of the Mission is to make India open defecation free by October 2, 2019- Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

Coming to Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), it is overseen by the Ministry of Urban Development and is mandated to provide sanitation and household

toilet facilities in all 4041 statutory towns with a combined population of 377 million. The estimated cost is Rs 62,009 crore

over five years with the centre slated to assist with Rs 14,623 crore. The Mission aims to cover 1.04 crore households, provide 2.5 lakh community toilet seats, 2.6 lakh public toilet seats and set up in all towns solid waste management facilities. At the core of this mission lie six components :

**THE RURAL MISSION, KNOWN AS SWACHH BHARAT GRAMIN, AIMS TO MAKE VILLAGE PANCHAYATS FREE OF OPEN DEFECTION BY OCTOBER 2, 2019.**





1. Individual household toilets;
2. Community toilets;
3. Public toilets;
4. Municipal Solid Waste Management;
5. Information and Educating Communication (IEC) and Public Awareness;
6. Capacity Building

The Urban mission seeks to eliminate open defecation; convert insanitary toilets to flush toilets; eradicate manual scavenging; and facilitate solid waste management. This mission lays special emphasis on bringing about a behavioral change relating to healthy sanitation practices by educating people about the environmental hazards emanating from the strewn garbage, the harmful effects of open defecation etc. Towards these objectives, urban local bodies are being ushered in and being strengthened to design, execute and operate systems for fostering an enabling environment for private sector participation in capital and operational expenditure.

The Rural mission, known as Swachh Bharat Gramin, aims to make Village Panchayats free of open defecation by October 2, 2019.

**R e m o v i n g** bottlenecks and addressing critical issues that affect outcomes is the new thrust of this rural sanitation mission, which aims to provide all rural households with individual latrines; and construct cluster and community toilets on public-private partnership mode.

Considering the squalor and unhygienic conditions in village schools, this programme lays special emphasis on toilets in schools with basic sanitation amenities. Construction of Anganwadi toilets and management of solid and liquid waste in all Village Panchayats is the object of the mission. Nodal agencies will monitor the construction and use of toilets at the Village Panchayat and household levels. The rural scheme envisages building 11.11

crore toilets at an estimated cost of Rs.1,34,000.

Under the provision of Individual Household Latrines, villagers belonging to BPL and APL categories are given incentive - after construction and use - of Rs 9000 and Rs 3000 respectively for each toilet by Central and state governments. In the north-eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir and special category areas the incentive amount is amount of Rs 10,800 and Rs 12000.

There would be regular review of implementation. Results exceed expectations. The records show that 58,54,987 latrines were built against the expected outcome of 50 lakh in 2014-15. Achieving 117 per cent of the target is praiseworthy. During 2015-16, 127.41 lakh toilets have already been constructed against target of 120 lakh. In 2016-17, against a target of 1.5 crore latrines, 33,19,451 have been constructed as on August 1, 2016.

Under the Rural mission, 3,21,79,686 household toilets have been constructed since October 1, 2014. In the same period, sanitation coverage has been scaled up from 42.05 percent to 53.60 percent.

However, eventually, what matters is behavioural change in sanitation practices. This is a monumental task which requires capacity building of key stakeholders such as Collectors, CEO, Zila Panchayats, Chairmen of Zila Panchayats. This is being carried out in different states by roping in key resource centers for state-level workshops related to cleanliness drive.

Last but not the least, the Prime Minister has put his personal weight behind Swachh Bharat Mission. The coordination between the Centre and the states is enhanced by his representatives visiting the states and attending the coordination meetings. Swachh Bharat Mission is on the right track. ■

**(The writer is a senior freelance journalist based in New Delhi.)**

# Advancing Budget to Feb 1 will ensure quality in Govt expenditure



**The first and foremost goal is and should be to achieve the quality of expenditure and the way the Central schemes and projects are executed would certainly change when the money allocated to each of them is approved by Parliament well in time and transferred to the concerned departments or ministries.**

**I PRAKASH CHAWLA**

**T**he Central Government earmarked close to Rs 20 lakh crore on the expenditure head of the Budget for 2016-17. It would be safe to assume that for the financial year 2017-18, the total expenditure to be allocated by Finance Minister Mr Arun Jaitley would be between Rs 22 lakh crore and Rs 23 lakh crore. This would be about 14 per cent of India's Gross Domestic Product at current prices.

Unlike in the past when the Budget was presented to Parliament on the last working day of February, the Finance Minister would do the honours on February 1, for 2017-18. Without going into any political debate, an independent analysis would certainly make out a strong case for advancing the Budget presentation, purely on the ground that it would help the government to achieve two most important objectives.

The first and foremost goal is and should be to achieve the quality of expenditure and the way the Central schemes and projects are executed would certainly change when the money allocated to each of them is approved by Parliament well in time and transferred to the concerned departments or ministries. The second achievement following from the first would be the difference a quality government spend makes to the country's GDP growth. The government expenditure in excess of Rs 20 lakh crore would make a huge difference to revival of investment and boosting consumer demand, also helped by implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission report for the Central Government employees.

Under the system prevalent so far, the Budget is presented in the Lok Sabha on the last working day of February and a vote on account is obtained from Parliament to draw money from the Consolidated



Fund of India from April 1, the opening day of the new financial year.

The Budget session is divided into two phases and it is in the first phase that the Vote on Account is obtained to enable uninterrupted functioning of the government while the full and final Parliamentary go-ahead is available some time in May towards the end of the second phase of the Budget session. While the Finance Minister's Budget Speech comprising tax and non-tax proposals at the time of the Budget presentation is considered an important policy direction of the government of the day, quite often his closing speech at the end of the exhaustive parliamentary debate on the Budget is used at times to make any amends, depending on the popular response to the Budget proposals.

But by the time the full and final outlays are available, at least first quarter of the financial year is over and out. It is in the second quarter that the departments begin work on implementing the projects and programmes as announced in the Budget, the most important blue-print of the government. The government funds cannot be spent just like a private business house does. It must follow well laid down procedures which can stand scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and various other agencies like the Central Vigilance Commission, besides Parliamentary committees. No wonder, the bureaucrats tasked with the implementation of the programmes and policies would rather err on the side of caution. The entire procedure of floating tenders, finalizing the deals etc can take another few months, making it possible for the departments to place the orders with the contractors only in the middle or end of the third quarter in most cases. The money gets spent in the last quarter and somehow, has to be spent by March 31.

Naturally, the pressure is back-loaded on the

system, resulting at times in dilution of the quality of expenditure, not by design but by default.

All that would change for better with advancement of the Budget, which should now get passed in the first phase of the Budget session even after demands for grants of different key ministries are adequately debated in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The intention of the government is to begin the spending programmes right in the beginning of the fiscal, making the Budget implementation front-loaded, rather than back-loaded.

While such an option is always welcome, the requirement of it is much more urgent at this state of economy which has to deal with the issue of revival in consumer demand and boost investment, which has to be led by the government, given the fact that the private sector is over-leveraged with idle capacity in

**WITH AN EXPECTATION OF GREAT FOCUS  
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several key sectors. As is well conceded by senior ministers in different economic wings of the government, the state expenditure in sectors like roads, airports, ports, shipping, agriculture infrastructure etc would show the way to the economic revival in the fiscal 2017. Once a momentum is built, the private sector should then get a multiplier effect and the entire virtuous cycle would see a transformation.

With an expectation of great focus on the rural landscape in the Budget, the government programmes relating to agriculture and the allied sectors should really be catalytic in the GDP momentum in the coming months.

So, the entire Budget exercise must get completed sooner than later. The issues relating to the GDP relating to the current fiscal which become the basis for the next year's Budget estimates can get sorted out with advance statistical tools and techniques. What matters is the intent. ■

**(Prakash Chawla is a senior New Delhi-based journalist writing mostly on political-economic issues)**

# Demonetization will reduce gap between Rich & Poor: Virendra Singh Mast

Newly appointed BJP's Kisan Morcha National President & Lok Sabha MP from Bhadohi SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH MAST spoke to VIKASH ANAND, Associate Editor, Kamal Sandesh on issues of farmers at length. As UP BJP Kisan Morcha President he had launched 'Gaon Chalo Abhiyaan' to promote awareness among farmers and villagers especially in the field of agriculture. In the interview he discussed how Modi led NDA government is bringing changes in farmer's life. Here, excerpt of the interview is being published for our esteemed readers.



**W**hat is the impact of demonetization on farmers?

“The Demonetization drive is as per Shashtra”. Shastra gives the message that we should not be miser. We should be economical, not having quality of extravagancy. As far as the Indian farmer is concerned, Rabi has been sown. Before rabi, sowing of Oil seeds had been completed. Work of irrigation is going on smoothly. Some work of irrigation is being done by electric pumps; some are being done by solar pumps, with a vast majority of farmers still dependent on rains.

Under the Prime Minister Irrigation scheme, it is planned to provide solar pumps at subsidised rate to farmers from far and wide for irrigation purpose. India has been blessed with an abundance of sunlight. By using solar pumps 45% expenses on farming can be reduced, which can in turn make farming a more profitable business. Inclusion of solar pumps in irrigation is limited to 10%. Under Prime Minister Irrigation scheme intrusion of solar pump in irrigation has to be increased by giving subsidised solar pump to our farmers. Penetration of cheap irrigation and availability of irrigation facilities will not only increase crop cycle from one to two, but also make India a land of Gold.

In fact, the people who are opposing the demonetization drive by saying that it has affected farmers' farming and poor negatively, have been affected badly. Because, the money earned through corruption was stashed in their coffers is now nothing more than a waste of materials. So, the poor farmers are not affected. Now, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is showing concern about farmers by criticizing the demonetization drive. It's quite ironical that this comes from a person who is unable to identify wheat and maize crops, or where potatoes is produced or stored. The aim of demonetization is to make a corruption free society, reducing the widening gap between rich and poor. **Once contribution of agriculture in GDP was bigger, now it is on decline. Why?**

Since independence, the share of agriculture sector in budget has been declining. For the first time after independence a government came at Center which has given 42% of budget to rural and agriculture sector.

This government has been able to achieve a lot in this short span of two and half years, which the Congress Government has been unable to achieve in last 70 years.

The Pandit Nehru's approach was imported which was not fit for the development of the Indian society. Pandit Nehru while laying the foundation of development



of the country forgot that India's majority of population was dependent on agriculture. His focus on heavy industries, at the cost of agriculture sector left majority of population impoverished. If his policy had made farmers strong economically, it would have led to a prosperous and strong economy, ultimately paving the path for industrialization.

Now, Shri Narendra Modi at the helm of affairs is influenced by Indian philosophy. Under his government policies, schemes are made keeping in view the country's socio-economic condition.

**Due to being a non-profitable profession people are leaving cultivation. Is it not necessary to stop this process?**

The Agriculture sector has been non-profitable due to inattention. In spite of knowing that there is no substitute of agriculture which can produce grain, fruits, milk etc. It is one of the noblest professions. Agriculture farming is integral part of Indian life and the Indian farmer has only expectation from the government that the revenue given by them should be properly utilized for their upliftment. Our farmer community is having more patience and will-power.

**How can we check migration from village to town?**

Farming is such a sector where there are unlimited possibilities of employment. Yet this sector has not been properly explored for generating more employment. Now, Modi government is paying proper attention. For making profitable and creating more employment our government has launched Soil Health Card, National Agriculture Market Scheme, National Kamdhenu Breeding Center etc. Now, the Government is encouraging fisheries to bring a blue revolution.

**Should agriculture be given the status of industry?**

Agriculture must be provided facilities like industry but not be given a status of an industry. I have suggested connecting fields to villages. When farmers increase their visits to fields, production will increase automatically.

Now under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, there is provision of connecting fields to villages. Agriculture is not only limited to produce grains rather production of fruits, vegetable, milk etc. Road connectivity can be very helpful to take produced grain, and vegetable to the

market.

**Whether crop is yielded more or less profit goes to middleman?**

Government has launched eNAM portal through which farmers can access market directly bypassing middleman. Through eNAM, the government plans to create a nationwide online market for farm products by linking all mandis and agricultural market trading committees in the country.

**What present Union government has done in two and half year to improve social and economic status of farmers?**

The Modi government has done a lot of work for farmers. I have also mentioned this earlier. Under UPA regime, India used to import pulses in huge quantity. Now, with the encouragement of government, pulse production has been increased. I think in the coming two years there will be no need to import pulses.

Our government has launched a single-window facility for farmers. BJP government in Madhya Pradesh has already implemented single window system for farmers. Land in Madhya Pradesh is not as much fertile as Uttar Pradesh. But Madhya Pradesh is doing well. For the last 15 years UP did not get good leadership at the helm of affairs. At governance level, the state has been facing corruption, bad governance. If the State government only implements central government schemes properly it would be a big thing for farmers.

**How much national cleanliness drive has been successful in villages?**

Cleanliness has been the supreme tradition of our culture. Through the cleanliness drive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it a people's movement. On Modiji's appeal village after village has become part of this movement. When Modiji appealed to the people to leave subsidy, 5 crore people acted on his appeal and left subsidy. As a result, 10 crores poor people got free gas connection.

**When will KisanMorchha team be formed?**

Kisan Morcha has big structure at state and national levels. We are discussing with the States on forming team. Elections are taking place in five states. We will declare the team at the earliest. ■

# Macabre killing fields of Kerala tell the story CPM politics gone berserk

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who usurped power with a promise to undo the CPM mischief seems to have adopted the same trajectory of finishing her political opposition by a mischievous mix of brute force and political power.

DR R. BALASHANKAR

**T**wo states Kerala and West Bengal have in the recent past become notorious for political violence. One under the CPM rule Kerala, has witnessed three gruesome political murders in the Chief Minister's own assembly constituency Dharmadom, in Kannur district. The macabre nature of the political rivalry, their turf and clannish pedigree, brazen political indulgence by the ruling party have become so intriguing that many film scripts have been made of CPM killing fields of Kannur.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who usurped power with a promise to undo the CPM mischief seems to have adopted the same trajectory of finishing her political opposition by a mischievous mix of brute force and political power. She has inherited the violent CPM cadre gone astray after the four decade long Communist regime ended on a bizarre trail. Mamata is muzzling public discourse, banning social and political rallies and instigating her unruly goons to attack opposition party offices and leaders. Dozens of leaders including central minister Babul Supriyo and Rajya Sabha MP Rupa Ganguly have been injured in these violence. At the receiving end in both the states is the BJP and its ideological family as both have a common political tradition and the red is being replaced by the saffron by the people in their endless search for deliverance. May be because the saffronites are bearing the brunt, the national media has largely turned a blind eye to this unprecedented suppression of democratic expression and cringing acts of savage atrocities on innocent BJP sympathizers in both the states.

One Aklaq incident was enough for the media to create a nationwide ruckus to discredit the BJP, though



the party or its affiliates had no link, the state was ruled by Samajwadi Party which claims to protect Muslims and the charge sheet is yet to be filed. Each of the over two dozen political killings in Kerala in the last eight months after the Pinoray Vijayan government assumed office is more chilling, gruesome and result of pre-meditated and diabolic state intimidation. In the third week of the New Year three shocking political murders happened in Kannur and the adjacent Palghat districts. In Kannur in the CM's constituency, Dharmadom, 52 year old E. Santosh Kumar was hacked to death by CPM goons. Two days before in Palghat the house of a BJP sympathizer was torched by the ruling party goondas in which two people were burnt alive. One of the victims, 35 year old Vimala, was the mother of two children. Her brother in law died immediately and her husband, a BJP Panchayat member is serious with burn injuries. The children also received burn injuries. Equally heart rending was the killing of Sujith, a college student.

Ever since the CPM came to power its goons have unleashed a reign of terror in the state. No part of the state is safe political opponents, particularly the RSS-



BJP sympathizers as the CPM views it as the growing force. The party has lost dozens of its workers in CPM attacks which has an organized pattern. In June-July immediately after the Left Front came to power in all its strongholds in Kannur, Palghat, Trissur and Tiruvananthapuram the CPM masterminded a reign of terror against the RSS-BJP workers. The RSS Saha Prachar Pramukh J Nanda Kumar who organized a series of programmes to highlight CPM atrocities nationally calls it “Redtrocities” According to him till August the organization and its affiliates have lost 265 workers since the clashes began several years ago. The CPM has also lost an equal number of lives in these clashes and retaliatory attacks. The victims include women, children, even toddlers and old people. Is it all worth it? One victims Sadanandan Master, whose both legs were hacked away and left to die bleeding, but survived, became the inspiration for Advaita Kala for her touching film on the Kannur turf wars.

It is with savage ferocity that these endemic political atrocities are schemed and executed by the Red brigade. The real culprits are never caught, the

party plans and it decides how to commit the crime, who will execute it, and who will surrender to the police if it becomes inevitable. Because of this criminal-party nexus and their overarching sway on the prison inmates the Kannur central jail have become notorious, becoming the subject of many salacious stories on jail breaks, drug peddling and rule violations with political sanction.

Killing political opponents has been a long time tactics of the CPM. Every party in Kerala, even its own ally, the CPI has been on the receiving end. In May 2016, when the Left Front gained power it was expected that the CPM will turn a new leaf, and the declining graph of the party nationally will force it to modernize and democratize its cadre. That did not happen. Instead it identified the Sangh and BJP as its chief adversaries and as if in a well thought-out strategy

went about annihilating and attacking the BJP cadre. Hundreds of workers of the Sangh were maimed in these attacks. The BJP and RSS held a number of protests throughout the state. On January 21 the women wing of the outfit held dharnas at all district head quarters to protest CPM violence. A delegation led by state chief Kummanam Rajesekharan and veteran lone BJP MLA O. Rajagopal met the Chief Minister and pleaded with him to visit Kannur, hold all party peace meet and restore confidence. Twice the BJP state leaders met the central leaders and pleaded for intervention and placing Kannur under central forces. A number of state leaders have been provided central security as they fear threat to their lives. But these leaders are saying that they want to surrender this cover as their party workers are anyway unsafe.

On January 24 the RSS-BJP workers are holding a protest march at Jantar Mantar which is going to be addressed by Sangh Saha Sarkaryavah Dattatreya

**IT IS PUZZLING THAT THE TWO STATES WHICH ARE IN THE FOREFRONT OF LIBERAL AND PROGRESSIVE VALUES ARE TODAY REELING UNDER INTOLERANT DESPOTISM AND POLITICAL MAYHEM.**

Hosebole. Drawing the national attention to the CPM atrocities has been the strategy of the pariwar. It can fight the CPM lumpens at the local level but how can

it fight the state power which is hand in glove with these lumpens. The BJP central leadership has sent two party teams to study the situation in the recent past. It did the same in the case of West Bengal as well. In Bengal too BJP workers are not safe. Mamata Banerjee even tried to ban the Makar Sankranti rally of the RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagawat. Later the high court intervened and allowed it.

It is puzzling that the two states which are in the forefront of liberal and progressive values are today reeling under intolerant despotism and political mayhem. Willy-nilly these regimes are not only becoming self defeating but also they are inviting central intervention to restore People’s safety. The state governments are clearly failing in their primary duty. ■

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# BJP & Allies Poised for a Sweep in assembly election in 5 States

The main issues in the elections are likely to be demonetisation, Modi government's offensive against black money and corruption, daring surgical strike against Pakistan, India's rising stock in the world, major advances recorded in the field of development and strengthening India's defences.

I AMBA CHARAN

**T**he five States of Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Manipur are already in election mode.

By-elections to various vacant assembly seats in other States are also being held. But the by-election to Amritsar Lok Sabha seat is attracting great interest. It has been caused by the drama of the sitting Congress MP Amarinder Singh by resigning in protest against the Supreme Court judgement upholding the right of Haryana to its share of water in the composite Punjab before its bifurcation in 1966. Lok Sabha membership had become a hindrance in his claim to the post of chief minister in the eventuality of Congress being voted to power. This resignation has made him a 'martyr' giving strength to his wish to reclaim this post.

The main issues in the elections are likely to be demonetisation, Modi government's offensive against black money and corruption, daring surgical strike against Pakistan, India's rising stock in the world, major advances recorded in the field of development and strengthening India's defences.

Opposition-for-opposition-sake attitude adopted by the opposition boomeranged on the opposition. First, it raised doubts on surgical strikes against Pakistan. Many of the opposition leaders appeared to be speaking the language of Pakistan which had been denying it initially. Their statements came handy for Pakistan to buttress its denial of the strikes. They figured prominently on Pakistan media. Ultimately, Pakistan had to concede the fact and our opposition had to acquiesce into silence.

On demonetisation too, opposition outcry failed to cut ice with the people at large. People bore with the



government. They appreciated PM Modi's bold step curb corruption and black money. Opposition failed to incite the people against government. The protests remained confined to political rallies of party workers to the exclusion of general masses.

In by-elections to Parliament and various State assemblies and urban local body and panchayat elections poll for which was held after November 8 demonetisation decision, people have given a big hand to BJP by putting their stamp of approval for the historic decision of PM Modi.

The election is crucial both for Congress and BJP. In Goa BJP is in power and in Punjab it is sharing power with its age-old ally Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). Congress too is in power in two States of Uttarakhand and Manipur. Mulayam Singh's —now his son Akhilesh Yadav's —Samajwadi Party (SP) is ruling the country's largest State of Uttar Pradesh .

The most interesting is the State of Punjab where both Congress and Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are dreaming to be voted to power dethroning SAD-BJP alliance in power for the consecutive second term for the last ten years. On the other hand, the ruling alliance is





leaving no stone unturned to hit a hat trick on the strength of its achievement in ushering in fast development of the State. PM Modi's plank of good governance and development is likely to stand in good stead to the ruling alliance. The present NDA government at the Centre is also a source of great hope to the people of Punjab.

Like the 2012 elections, there is great media hype this time too. Majority of the media and opinion polls had to cut a sorry figure when the final results were out. It was then projected that no political party will be able to get absolute majority and Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal's estranged nephew Manpreet Badal's People's Party of Punjab will hold the balance of power making to make any political party or alliance form a government. But results reversed the predictions. Manpreet is out of the media glare this time.

The media hype this time is divided between cricketer-turned politician Navjot Singh Sidhu. While resigning from BJP he declared: You will find Sidhu where Punjab's interest is. It looks as if Punjab's interest lay hidden in his pocket. First he took it to BJP which he joined and won Amritsar Lok Sabha seat. He fell out with Akalis with whose support he had won all the three elections. He wanted his party to ditch SAD. When it didn't, he cut his umbilical cord with BJP which he once called his mother. Then he found Punjab's interest lay in forming a new outfit led Awaz-e-Punjab (Voice of Punjab) which died in its infancy because of lack of public life support and political malnutrition. Then he wanted to take Punjab's interest to AAP's doors. He waited upon party supremo and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. When he found jilted and dejected, he was left with no other option but to take 'Punjab's interests' with him to Congress. Sidhu called it 'homecoming' and Capt. Amrinder Singh welcomed him saying his DNA lay in Congress as Sidhu's father had unsuccessfully contested two assembly elections on Congress ticket. The question remains why did Sidhu

betray his DNA.

The opposition is trying to encash on the charges of corruption and increasing drug-addiction in Punjab. So far, no concrete charge of corruption has been made out by opposition. There is no denying the fact that drug addiction in the state has increased. But which state is free from this curse? Punjab stands at 5th place in the quantum of drug abuse. According to official figures, 29,247 cases under the Drugs Act were registered in 2012 against 29,048 in previous year. "The trend analysis showed 0.7 percent marginal increase from the average of last five years (2007-2012)".

Kejriwal has declared he would make Punjab free of drugs in two months after coming to power. But his record in Delhi remains dismal. In two years he has not achieved the target in Delhi where he is chief minister but boasts to do so in Punjab in two months.

**THE MEDIA HYPE THIS TIME IS DIVIDED BETWEEN CRICKETER-TURNED POLITICIAN NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU. WHILE RESIGNING FROM BJP HE DECLARED: YOU WILL FIND SIDHU WHERE PUNJAB'S INTEREST IS. IT LOOKS AS IF PUNJAB'S INTEREST LAY HIDDEN IN HIS POCKET.**

Amarinder Singh has tried to raise a great hype by daring to contest against SAD stalwart and chief minister Parkash Singh Badal from latter's home constituency Lambi. It is only a half-hearted token fight. It

would have made sense had he not contested from his safe own home constituency of Patiala.

Interestingly, so far Congress has also not declared Amarinder as party's chief ministerial candidate.

The other main challenger is AAP. Delhi CM Kejriwal is staying put in the State. But the party's chances have been marred by splits and dissensions. The splinter groups of AAP are putting hurdles in its ambitions. AAP has still not been able to announce its chief ministerial candidate although it effuses more confidence than others in forming a government.

Two important trends cannot be easily gloated over because these are a barometer of the voter's mind in Punjab. Last year in February Akali Dal candidate wrested Khadoor Sahib seat from Congress in a by-election caused by the resignation of sitting Congress MLA in protest against "sacrilege of Guru Granth Sahib".

Although both Congress and AAP made a great issue of such incidents, both did not deliberately contest the by-poll. Opposition parties at the fag end of a government in power do wish to encash on the anti-incumbency and a win gives them a stick to say that the government has lost mandate. Their boycott was a drama following a writing on the wall of their sure defeat. Akali candidate won by a huge margin of more than 65 thousand votes over a Congress rebel candidate.

Another is a spectacular win of 21 seats by BJP and one by SAD in a 26-member Chandigarh municipal corporation elections held less than a month back. Congress was relegated to 4 from its earlier strength of 11. Chandigarh is not only the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana but also the nerve centre of Punjab and pulse of its people.

Like, Punjab Goa too is witnessing primarily a triangular fight between ruling BJP, Congress and AAP. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party is also in the fray. AAP has put up candidates many of whom, including its chief ministerial candidate Elvis Gomes are facing criminal charges. The ruling BJP has no anti-incumbency and is well placed on the strength of its record of development and good governance record. The image of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar who earlier served as CM is another asset. Above all, is the popularity of PM Narindra Modi among people of Goa. The State is set to give BJP another chance to serve and accelerate the pace of development.

In Uttarakhand BJP is poised to dethrone the present government which is sitting on a heap of corruption, failure to come up to the expectations of the people, disaffection among Congressmen and ire of people. There is a great resentment in Congress factions in allotment of ticket. On the other hand, BJP is fighting the election unitedly as one man. It has been blessed by the veteran of Uttarakhand politics, Shri N. D. Tiwari, a father figure having been chief minister of undivided UP

and of Uttarakhand.

The electoral scene in UP continues be hazy because of the see-saw family drama of once division and then unification of Mulayam Singh family being staged continuously. Whether the Samajwadi Party (SP) supremo father, chief minister son and party stalwart uncle are one or at loggerheads is not easy to say. Mulayam Singh and Shivpal Yadav boycotted the release of party manifesto by chief minister Akhilesh Yadav. People have started making a fun of goings-on in the family and party. Some important SP leaders have started jumping out of the sinking ship of SP. Some have joined BJP and others Mayawati's BSP.

BJP is making a serious bid to gain power about 25 years. It already commands an army of 72 MPs out of 80 it won in 2014 polls. BJP is fighting election on the plank of good governance, promise of a fast pace of

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development as recorded in other BJP-ruled States. It stands by its main plank: justice to all and appeasement of none. The popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, himself an MP from the state, among the masses

and standing in the world politics is another strong point of the party. From all indications, BJP is poised for a big win and form a government on its own strength in the State after a long time.

In Manipur, the contest is primarily between the ruling Congress and BJP. With the growing popularity of BJP and faith in the NDA government at the Centre to usher in justice to the north-eastern part of the country, the people are likely to vote for a BJP government to solve the burning problems of the State. A poll survey by India Today weekly some time back had predicted a BJP government by winning 31-35 seats in 60-member house for the first time in the State.

In all, BJP-led NDA is all set to emerge stronger after results of the assembly elections in five States are out on March 11. ■

(The writer is a Delhi based Political analyst)

# Amit Shah appeals people to re-elect BJP Government to make Goa a model state

**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah on January 23 addressed huge rallies in Vasco and Madgaon in Goa. Addressing the rally Shri Shah appealed the people of Goa to re-elect BJP Government to make Goa a model state. He said that ongoing assembly election was for stability and development of the State. If “BJP is elected it will bring stability and development in Goa. If the Congress wins then corruption & chaos will prevail in the state.” “Corruption exists where there is Congress and development takes place where BJP is at the helm” he said. He confidently said that in all five poll-bound states; Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab, BJP will win with majority. To Goans, the BJP president had a special message and stated that people of Goa should consider that Goa’s government will run on the directions of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.”

BJP National President Shri Shah further said that Goa is transforming under BJP government and the



people of Goa will again vote for Lotus. On why the Goans should vote for BJP, Shri Shah added that one must compare the state 5 years ago to the present situation and the difference is clearly visible. “Our Opposition cannot blame us on the charges of corruption,” said Shri Shah. Praising his own government Shah stated that BJP government stands for the problems of people and for the BJP unit of Goa, Shri Shah said that many schemes have been laid out for the benefit of Goa. “Goa government has done well for the infrastructure of the state,” Shri Shah added. ■

## India’s exports rise 6% in December; trade deficit shrinks sharply

**A**t the first full month of demonetization, India posted upbeat trade data for December 2016. Merchandise exports rose 5.72 percent YoY to \$23.88 billion, imports remained flat at \$34.25 billion, leading to a sharp fall in trade deficit to \$10.37 billion, down from \$11.50 billion in December 2015 and \$13 billion in November 2016. Gold imports dropped 48.49 percent to \$1.95 billion from \$3.80 billion in December 2015. In November, gold imports spurted 23.24 percent to \$4.36 billion from \$3.54 billion in November 2015 and \$3.50 billion in October this year. The November spike was widely believed to be rise in gold purchases in the initial days of demonetization.

Export of engineering goods grew 19.89 percent to \$5.84 billion from \$4.87 billion in December 2015.

Reflecting the increase in crude oil prices as a result of OPEC output cut agreement on November 30 last year, oil imports increased 14.6 percent to \$7.64 billion in December 2016 as against \$6.67 billion in December 2015. Non-oil

imports fell 2.98 percent YoY to \$26.60 billion. Among the 30 export items (categories), 19 registered moderate to significant rise, year-on-year. Gems and jewellery sector registered 27.86 percent growth to \$3.15 billion.

This is the last monthly trade data to be released before the presentation of Budget 2017 by finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley on February 1, 2017. December was hit in a big way as revealed by the PMI surveys for services and manufacturing, though the government cited tax collection figures to counter the data.

For the nine-month period ended in December 2016, exports rose 0.75 percent YoY to \$198.8 billion while imports fell 7.42 percent YoY to \$275.35 billion, resulting in trade deficit of \$76.5 billion.

The provisional trade data was released by the Indian government on January 13, 2017. A weak global economy has hit India's exports hard in the past few months. Exports account for about a fifth of the country's gross domestic product. ■

# Celebrating the Girl Child

Despite having some girls who are really high achievers in various fields, the stark reality for most girls born in India is that they are still deprived of basic rights like equal access to education, health, married off early as child etc.

| BARNALI DAS

**T**he Nation celebrates National Girl Child Day on 24th January every year, we celebrate the girl child, acknowledge her equal status and position in society and together we commit to fight the disadvantages, discriminations and inequalities the girl child faces in our society.

However, it is very unfortunate and extremely alarming that since 1961 the child sex ratio in the country has been declining steadily. This is 2017 and we are nearing the end of the second decade of the 21st century and yet we have not been able to reverse the trend.

For an educated, economically independent woman, respected both at work and at home, it is difficult to imagine the reality that a large number of people from cross sections of the Indian society desire only a son and do not wish to have a daughter. And that they would go to any length to do sex selective elimination of the female foetus.

Despite having some girls who are really high achievers in various fields, the stark reality for most girls born in India is that they are still deprived of basic rights like equal access to education, health, married off early as child etc. As a result, they remain economically disempowered, abused and violated. As per Census data, the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) has declined from 945 in 1991 to 927 in 2001 and further to 918 in 2011. This is a major indicator of women disempowerment as it reflects both pre-birth discrimination manifested through gender



biased sex selection, and post birth discrimination against girls.

Widespread social discriminations against girls, easy availability, affordability and subsequent misuse of diagnostic tools, have cumulatively proved critical in lowering the CSR. This alarming reality had to be addressed, resulting in the roll out of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme which was designed and conceptualized after a series of multi-sectoral pan India consultations.

Launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana, the primary objective of BBBP is to improve the declining CSR and address other related issues of women empowerment, over a life-cycle continuum. This two year old Scheme is a tri-Ministerial effort of Women and Child Development (WCD), Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development; WCD being the nodal Ministry. This Scheme is unique as it systematically challenges mindsets, customs and deep rooted patriarchy prevalent in Indian society.

A multi-sectoral strategy has been adopted to implement BBBP, comprising of a nation-wide awareness and advocacy campaign targeted at changing mindsets, focused community outreach through local innovative interventions; enforcement of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act by the Union Health Ministry and encouraging girl's education through girl friendly infrastructure in schools and



Social Media platforms have also been optimised for enhanced outreach on BBBP, especially amongst the youth, for spreading positive messages about value of girl child in the public domain.

In the second year of implementation of BBBP, the focus is being expanded to the stringent implementation of PC & PNDT Act and also with a special focus by Ministry of Human Resource Development on girls' education. Measures like increased emphasis on early registration of pregnancy, institutionalised deliveries and birth registration are also being taken care of.

As on date, BBBP is getting implemented in 161 districts. The preliminary reports from 100 districts are heartening. It indicates that between April-March, 2014-15 and 2015-16, an increasing trend in Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) is visible in 58 BBBP districts; 69 districts have reported progress in the first trimester registration against the reported ANC registrations and status of institutional deliveries have improved in 80 districts against the total reported deliveries in comparison to the previous year. The Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) touching the 900-mark for the first time in almost two decades in December 2016 in Haryana, notorious for its skewed sex ratio, has been widely reported in the media.

Engaging with Civil Society, International Organizations and Industrial Associations has been consciously undertaken by the Ministry of Women & Child Development to ensure sustained engagement of various stakeholders on the issue. This conscious engagement has motivated the civil society organizations working in this sector to re-align their campaign with BBBP.

For the girl child to flourish in India, it is paramount that BBBP is a roaring success and the success achieved in the first year clearly indicate that it very much possible as all stakeholders have joined hands to remove the stigma of adverse child sex ratio from the country. ■

**(Author is a freelance writer and a development communication professional, currently serving as Head, Communication at SOS Children's Villages of India.)**

effective implementation of the Right to Education.

BBBP was rolled out in 100 Districts across the country initially. During the last one year it has been able to create visibility and buzz in the community through extensive advocacy campaigns run on various media including Radio, Television, Cinema, Digital Media and Social Media. The campaign challenged son-centric rituals and regressive social norms by collective community action such as celebration of birth of girl child, promotion of simple weddings, supporting women's rights to inherit and own property, rewarding

local champions who have defied social norms, engaging youth including men and boys. It succeeded in highlighting the problem of decline in CSR through display of gender disaggregated data

(Guddi-Gudda Boards) on birth of girls and boys.

The campaign engaged with communities for orientation and sensitization at multiple levels through holding dialogues through Gram Panchayats at various levels. Frontline Workers like Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), AnganWadi Worker (AWW), Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Self Help Group members, elected representatives, religious leaders, community leaders etc. were involved in such dialogues.

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# Digital payment promotion gets a boost

**T**he Government's efforts to give a boost to the digital payment systems and the cashless economy, post-demonetization have generated enthusiastic response from the people. People from different age groups, occupations and different walks of life have taken part in a big way in the Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana giving a fillip to digital transactions.

More than 3.81 lakh consumers and 21,000 merchants have been declared the winners of prize money worth Rs.60.90 crore at 24 Digi-Dhan Melas across the country. Giving the details, the Union Minister Law & Justice, Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the Common Service Centres under the Deptt. of Electronics and Information Technology have trained 1.94 crore citizens and 5.93 lakh merchants so far for carrying out transactions through digital payment systems.

The prize money worth Rs. 60.90 crore to over 3.81 lakh winners of NITI Aayogs lucky draw schemes 'Lucky Grahak Yojana, LGY' for consumers and 'Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana, DVY' for merchants has been declared at 24 Digi-Dhan Melas across the country – daily as well as weekly. The lucky winners include 24 year old Ashutosh Mishra, a mobile shop owner in Rampur, Odisha, 24 year old Jadhav Amit Anantrao from Ghatkopar, Mumbai, 27 year old Mangesh Anantrao Jadhav from Nasik, 42 year old Suman Sapra from Ulsoor, Bengaluru, Tripta Devi, a 54 year old housekeeper from Andhra Pradesh, among others. The list includes winners from different walks of life including the small farmers, Anganwadi workers, housewives, labourers, etc.

Data analytics provided by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has highlighted a positive response among the people to adopt digital payments. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have emerged as the top 5 states



with maximum number of winners. Active participation has been seen among men and women while most of the winners were in the age group of 21-30 years.

The two schemes were launched on December 25, 2016 and shall remain open till April 14, 2017. The schemes are aimed at incentivizing the consumers and the merchants to promote digital payments. 15,000 daily winners vie for total prize money of Rs. 1.5 crore at the rate of Rs.1000 per person. Besides, over 14,000 winners qualify for weekly draws with the total prize money of over Rs. 8.3 crore per week.

Customers and merchants using RuPay Card, BHIM, UPI (Bharat Interface for Money/Unified Payment Interface) USSD based \*99# service and Aadhaar enabled Payment Service (AePS) are eligible for participating in the daily and weekly lucky draws.

These lucky draws are being held at Digi-Dhan Melas across the country. Over 100 Digi-Dhan Melas will be held across the country to inculcate digital payment among the people. Till date, 24 Digi-Dhan Melas have been held across the country since 25th December, 2016. These include New Delhi, Gurugram, Ludhiana, Panaji, Dehradun, Lucknow, Ranchi, Raipur, Mumbai, Meerut, Haldwani, Amritsar, Pune, Patna, Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Guwahati, Kochi, Bilaspur, Bokaro, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Bengaluru, Jammu and Hyderabad. The exercise has covered so far 12 states and 3 Union territories. By 1st February, the exercise will have covered the cities from 21 States and 4 UTs. ■

## LED Bulbs distribution under UJALA crosses 20 crore

**S**caling another benchmark India has crossed yet another benchmark of distributing over 20 crore LED bulbs under its flagship UJALA scheme. This assumes significance given the savings of Rs 10,000 crore that will accrue annually in electricity bills of the consumers.

“UJALA crosses distribution of 20 Crore LED bulbs, annual savings of Rs. 10k crore, a milestone in India’s journey towards clean and affordable power” Piyush Goyal tweeted.

“Today India is a world leader in LED consumption and we’re selling 600,000 LED bulbs a day,” union minister of state for power, coal renewable energy Minister Shri Piyush Goyal said on January 18 in New Delhi.

However, in the past two years, the government under UJALA scheme has not only brought down the price of these energy efficient bulbs by almost three times but has also through various means emerged successful in convincing consumers to shift to these energy efficient bulbs.

Under the UJALA scheme, the government plans to replace 77 crore conventional bulbs and CFLs as well as 3.5 crore street lights with LEDs over three years to save 85 lakh kWh electricity consumption every day or 15,000 tonnes of CO2 by. The energy conservation programme of the Government is in line with India’s stand on lower greenhouse emissions ahead of the Paris convention. ■



## India participates on January 20 in the Joint International Taskforce on bringing black money

**I**ndia participated on January 20 in the Joint International Taskforce on Shared Intelligence and Collaboration (JITSIC) meeting held in Paris on 16th and 17th January 2017 where 30 Revenue Authorities shared their findings on investigations arising from the Panama Papers; including the role of tax intermediaries such as financial institutions, advisers etc, who facilitate tax evasion. The meeting included sharing of best practices and information between participating member countries based on legal instruments under the tax treaties and OECD and Council of Europe Multilateral Convention. The sharing of this information within a group of this size is unique and sets the basis for greater cooperation amongst tax administrations.

Since the last JITSIC meeting of this group, significant achievements have been made including the development of uniform approaches to requesting information between treaty partners, clearer understanding of the evasion typologies adapted by intermediaries, and new techniques for collating intelligence. JITSIC will continue to draw on the best intelligence capabilities from tax authorities around the world and share best practices for data analysis and collaboration on intelligence. The tax administrations will, accordingly, continue to share information under existing legal frameworks for exchange. ■

# More Indians trust their Government even as world over trust in Governments falls

**A**ccording to an article published in the Harvard Business Review (HBR), the world we currently live in is facing a serious trust deficit. Quoting a survey by Edelman, the article said that this was the first time in 17 years that the survey had found a decline in trust across all institutions.

Edelman uses four institutions to measure the level of public trust, and these are – Government, Media, NGOs and Businesses. Their survey was done in 28 countries including India, and in almost two-thirds of them, the general population did not trust the four institutions to the average level of trust in all four institutions combined was below 50%’ – the article in HBR said.

However, what could come as good news for the Government of India, India bucked this trend and the trust in government actually saw a significant gain of 10% over the last year.



According to the Edelman survey, 75% of the general population of India trusted the government while globally this average was just 41%. The survey was carried out between October 13 and November 16 last year.

During 2013 and 2014, when the then UPA government was rocked by allegations of massive scams, this trust in government of India was at 57% and 53% respectively. The government of India was the second biggest gainer in trust in 2016, if the survey findings are to be believed.

The biggest loser, globally, was the media that was almost as distrusted as the governments world over. Media took the biggest year-on-year hit and is now distrusted by the majority in 82% of the surveyed countries.

People now view media as part of the elite, Richard Edelman, president of the firm that did the survey, was quoted by Quartz while explaining this lack of trust in the media. ■

## India's surgical strike was a calibrate and responsible move: US

**J**ust when India's new Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said that India will be ready to carry out more surgical strikes if needed against terror launch pads in PoK, the United States has supported India's right to defend itself. For the first time since the surgical strikes were carried out by India following the Uri terror attacks US has spoken out calling India's response a calibrated and responsible one.

A key member of Barack Obama's diplomatic team, Nisha Biswal said that India should act when it is needed to defend its people but also prevent escalation. United States has demanded action against Hafiz Saeed and the terror groups in Pakistan. The outgoing US Assistant Secretary of State clarified that the US justice department placing a bounty for evidence

against Hafiz Saeed followed a clear understanding of his role in the Mumbai attack.

Biswal stressed that action needs to be taken against Hafiz and others and the incoming Trump administration will continue to ask Pakistan to do the same.

United States has also spoken out on China blocking India's move to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist. Nisha Biswal said US is very disappointed with Beijing's move.

China had initially put India's resolution at the Security Council's 1267 committee on technical hold. And later despite support of other co-sponsors like US, UK to the resolution, China used its veto to block the move on December 30 last year. ■



## PM INAUGURATES 'YOUTH FOR DIGITAL INDIA' IN ROHTAK, HARYANA

# Need of the hour is collectivity, connectivity and creativity: Narendra Modi

**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the inaugural event of the 'Youth for Digital India' in Rohtak, Haryana on 12 January, 2017 via video conferencing.

The Prime Minister said that the life of Swami Vivekananda shows what one can achieve at a young age, and added that the work that the youth are doing today will impact the future of the nation.

He expressed happiness that the theme for this National Youth Festival is 'Youth for Digital India.' He urged the youth to guide people on increased cashless



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SHOWS WHAT ONE CAN ACHIEVE AT A YOUNG AGE

THE WORK THAT THE YOUTH ARE DOING TODAY WILL IMPACT THE FUTURE OF THE NATION

NEED OF THE HOUR IS COLLECTIVITY, CONNECTIVITY AND CREATIVITY

NEED OF THE HOUR IS NEW INNOVATION AND WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM OUR YOUTH.

transactions. Corruption and black money adversely affect the progress of our nation, he added.

The Prime Minister said that times have changed due to the influence of technology, and the need of the hour is collectivity, connectivity, and creativity. He said that the support from the youth in the fight against corruption convinces him that it is possible to bring a positive change in the nation.

Shri Modi said times have changed and this is due to the influence of technology. The need of the hour is new innovation and what is expected from our youth. ■

## India & Mauritius Sign MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives

**T**he Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, Govt. of Mauritius, Shri Soomilduth Bholah signed on MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives & related areas in Delhi on January 16. The MoU will enable the two countries to collaborate in this vital sector and can significantly benefit thousands of Mauritians. India offered to exchange its expertise and technology with Mauritius in agro industry, fisheries and dairy sector.



The two ministers expressed satisfaction at the historic, time-tested relationship between India and Mauritius which is anchored in linkages of culture and ancestry has grown from strength to strength over the years, adding that frequent high level visits have added significant momentum to the bilateral relationship between the two countries. ■

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### KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE

# BJP National President addresses election rallies in GOA



ARUN JAITLEY ALONG WITH OTHER LEADERS RELEASING PUNJAB BJP MANIFESTO

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