

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



UP HAS BECOME INDIA'S "CRIME CAPITAL" UNDER SP RULE



TRANSFORM, ENERGISE & CLEAN INDIA

'LOK KALYAN SANKALP PATRA' FOR UP RELEASED

OUR AGENDA IS "TRANSFORM, ENERGISE AND CLEAN INDIA"

BUDGET 2017 GIVES WINGS TO A BILLION DREAMS

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressing election rallies in UP & Uttarakhand



FIROZABAD (UP)

BJP National President, Shri Amit Shah hoisting the National Flag on the occasion of Republic Day at BJP headquarters in New Delhi



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CONTENT



OUR AGENDA IS "TRANSFORM, ENERGISE AND CLEAN INDIA" : ARUN JAITLEY

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley presented the General Budget 2017-18 in Parliament on 1st February, 2017. This is the first of its kind which included the Railway Budget, does not have...

VAICHARIKI

One of Many Gems 13

SHRADHANJALI

Former Rajasthan BJP President Ramdas Agarwal 14

ARTICLES

Budget 2017 gives wings to a billion dreams 24

Standing on the Strength of the People - Jana Shakti 28

INTERVIEW

Babul Supriyo 18

PRESIDENT'S PRAVAS

Noida Rally 20

Dhaulana Rally 31

OTHERS

Comparison of 2017-18 Budget with last year's Budget 15

BJP worker killed in Kerala by CPI(M) activists 21

It was people's strength that enabled a son of poor

mother to become PM of the country: Modi 26

UP has become India's "crime capital" under SP rule 32

India's foreign exchange reserves rise for the third

straight week 33



06 BJP will form the next government in UP with two third majority: Amit Shah

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah released the party manifesto named...



12 Focus is on agriculture, rural development and infrastructure: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi praised finance Minister Shri Arun...



22 Swachh-Swasth-Sarvatra

The impact and direct correlation of poor sanitation and lack of potable water on disease burden is not only...



twitter



@narendramodi

“Swachh Bharat Mission has changed mindsets. People have wholeheartedly blessed this Mission. Sanitation coverage in rural India has risen.”

@AmitShah

“PM and FM’s focus on providing social security, healthcare and affordable housing [1crore] for the poor and underprivileged is commendable.”



@rajnathsingh

Higher Budgetary allocation to strengthen rural economy, healthcare, Railways & infrastructure will have a multiplier effect on our economy.



facebook

Now, work culture has changed tremendously. UPA government in its tenure had built 10.83 lacs houses per year whereas NDA government has built 22.27 lakhs per year.



— **Narendra Singh Tomar**

Infrastructure status to affordable housing reflects Government’s commitment to people’s welfare.



— **M.Venkaiah Naidu**

Every BJP ruled state has more than 10% growth rate but growth rate of Uttar Pradesh is negligible before BJP ruled states.



— **Thawar Chand Gehlot**



Courtesy: Social Media

Transformative and Futuristic Budget

The Union Budget 2017-18 will be remembered for breaking from the past in taking innovative measures, bold initiatives and visionary approach. While shaking off the yoke of colonial legacy the budget laid the foundation of optimal utilization of the funds allocated for various projects by advancing the budget by one month. At the same time the plan and non-plan classifications have been given up in favour of a holistic view of the allocation of resources to various sectors. The integration of the railway budget with the main budget has also created a more professional approach in addressing the transportation sector in a comprehensive manner. The budget signifies the political will of the government to usher in an era of transformative initiatives which may catapult the economy at global level. An economy which was seen trapped in the quagmire of crony capitalism, unprofessionalism and favouritism, the credit to bring transparency and objectivity by systematising it through initiatives to make it a formal and policy oriented economy goes to Modi government.

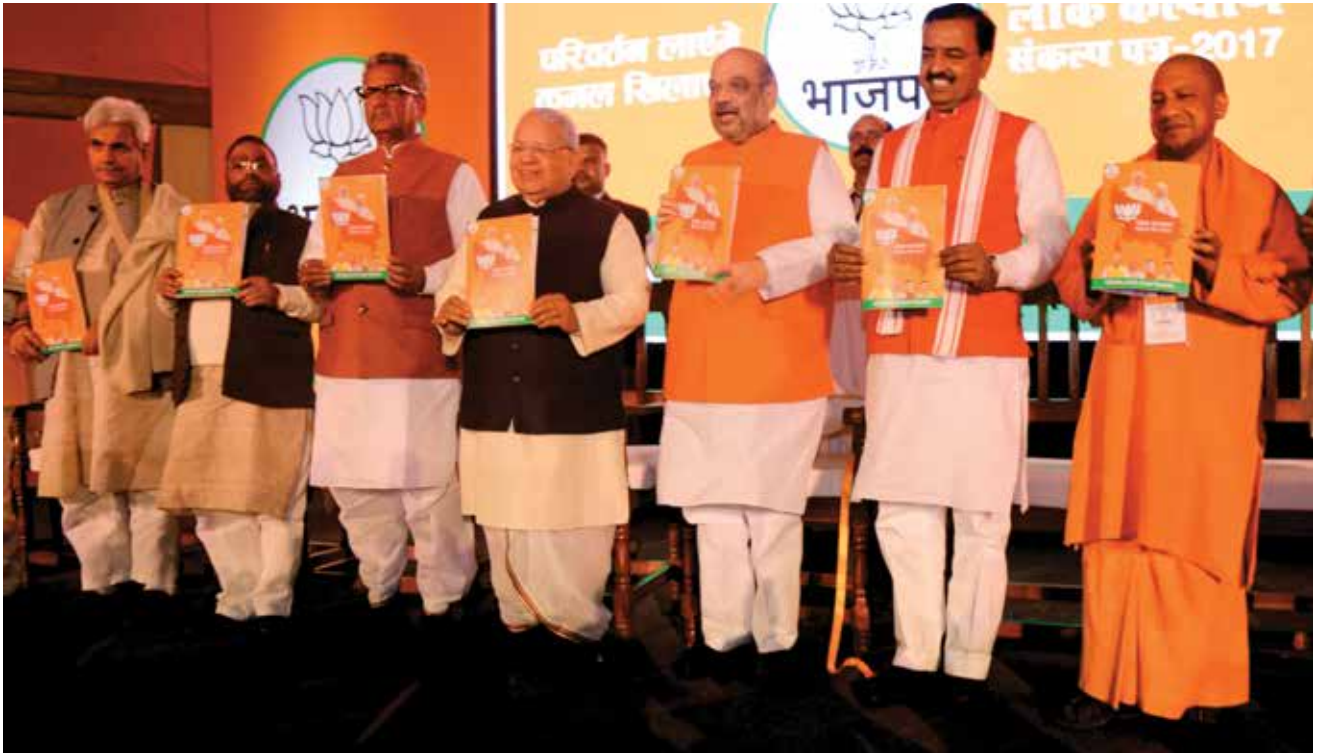
As the Union Finance Minister stood to present his fourth budget he rightly emphasised the agenda of 'Transform, energise and clean India' for the coming year. The Modi government has focussed on bringing a qualitative change in governance and service delivery mechanisms. This qualitative change has infused a new energy in the society by empowering the weaker and deprived sections, youth and women who are now getting new opportunities to contribute to the national life. The Modi government has also launched a war against black money, corruption, and parallel economy prospering at the cost of poor of the country. The unwillingness of the Congress to take steps to cleanse the system and attempts to protect the vested interests created therein has caused huge damage to the prospects of the Indian economy.

This year budget has given further impetus to the rural sector by infusing huge money into various schemes targeted towards rural poor, farmers, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, marginalised and deprived sections, women and youth. It is for the first time that the rural problems are being addressed in such a massive way and rural economy is being prioritized as main focus in the union budget. The neglect of rural sector in the past has weakened the very foundation of our economy leading to agrarian distress and migration of rural poor to urban centres. It has also led to crisis in the erstwhile self sufficient village economy making them dependent on urban centres. The process of migration from villages has created pressure on urban centres while bringing entire economy under strain. It has led to a huge socio-economic crisis in India. The Modi government by taking initiatives aimed at doubling farmers' income by 2022 through huge investments in irrigation, MNREGA, agricultural loans, crop insurance and various technology related measures seeks to undo the past wrongs.

Even the critiques have accepted that the budget this year is transformative and futuristic. While taking care of macroeconomic parameters the budget has paved path for future growth and development. A new narrative of transformative, energising and clean economy is being created which is set to take Indian economy to new heights. The most important message is that the government is willing to act and determined to change the way problems were approached in India. The laid back approach in which corruption, tax evasion and parallel economy were taken as a way of life is now being replaced with fiscal prudence, macroeconomic stability, result oriented governance. As a result we see that double digit inflation stands tamed, sluggish growth has been replaced by high growth and a war against corruption and black money has been launched. Today India has emerged as a bright spot in global economy amidst global economic slowdown and has earned the place of fastest growing economy in the world. The Budget 2017-18 will further strengthen the Indian economy which is ready to take a giant leap. ■

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THIS QUALITATIVE CHANGE HAS INFUSED A NEW ENERGY IN THE SOCIETY BY EMPOWERING THE WEAKER AND DEPRIVED SECTIONS, YOUTH AND WOMEN WHO ARE NOW GETTING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL LIFE.



‘Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra’ for UP released

BJP will form the next government in UP with two third majority: Amit Shah

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah released the party manifesto named ‘Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra’ (Pledge for People’s Welfare) for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly polls 2017 on 28 January, 2017 in Lucknow. On the occasion Shri Amit Shah was accompanied by other senior leaders like Union Minister Shri Kalraj Mishra, party state Prabhari Shri Om Prakash Mathur, BJP State President Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shri Yogi Adityanath and others while unveiling the document.

While releasing the manifesto, Shri Shah said the SP and BSP have ruled Uttar Pradesh but there was no development in the state. This time BJP will form the next government in the State with two third majority, he said.

He accused the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for plundering the state for 15 years and said the BJP has come with a pledge to transform the state. He said the Central government had sanctioned Rs1 lakh crore to Uttar Pradesh but no development was seen on ground, law and order was at its nadir. He added that Akhilesh Yadav would have to answer for problems faced by state where ruling party Goondas have grabbed land.

The BJP President promised to waive off the agricultural loans, free education up to Class XII and 24 hours power supply if the party voted to power in the upcoming assembly polls.

He said a BJP government in UP would press for an early solution to the Ram Janma Bhumi temple tangle



within the ambit of the constitution.

The manifesto has been divided into 9 key segments and mainly focused on the issue of law and order and overall development of the state.

With a segment titled 'Gunda Mukht Uttar Pradesh-Bhrashtachar Mukht Uttar Pradesh', the manifesto, also targets the corruption that has been prevailing in the state under the Samajwadi Party rule. Other key issues that the party has promised to tackle and deliver results include better education, schemes for girl child, health and employment generation for the youth.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MANIFESTO:

- BJP promises to increase strength of the police force to 1 lakh in the State and it will ensure that the communal clashes that happen in the state will reduce and set up a separate force to deal with the issue.
- The party also promised to raise anti-Romeo police battalions to tackle crimes against women.
- All appointments to grade 3 and grade 4 jobs will not entail an interview version promises manifesto.
- It promises to give free laptops with 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' tag, to all college students with one 1 GB free internet a month.
- There will also be the setting up of more than 10 international standard universities in the state with free Wi-Fi in all campuses. The party will also set up the Madan Mohan Malviya Sanskrit University.
- A 'Gareeb Kalyan' card will be given to the poor with a guarantee of availability of Rs 6 lakh for constructing cemented houses.
- BJP promises to waive off loans for small farmers of the state.
- The BJP also promises to ensure 100 percent electrification in the state under the 'Ujwala Yojana'.
- It promises for the provision of LPG gas and toilets to every house and ensure that every village has access to a bank.
- BJP to set up Metro Services and helicopter services via Pawan Hans helicopters in all major cities of the state.
- BJP will set up six IT parks in the state.
- The party will work to enhance the security and



development of women.

- Shri Amit Shah said, "We are waiting for the Supreme Court's order on the Triple Talaq issue. Whatever, the result BJP will work for the development of Muslim women."
- The BJP will set up six new AIIMS hospitals in the state.
- Ram Janma Bhoomi construction will be ensured as per constitutional means.
- The manifesto said the party will take the opinion of Muslim women over the Islamic divorce practice of Triple Talaq.
- Promises to close down illegal slaughter houses in the state.

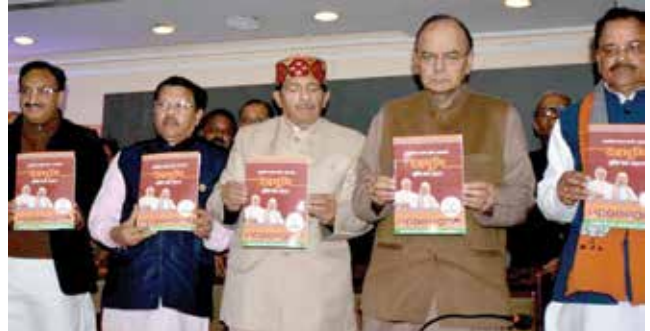
Noteworthy, the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections will take place in 7 phases beginning from February 11 and will extend up to March 8th. The counting of the votes will take place on March 11th, 2017. (FOC) ■

BJP would focus on education, employment and corruption-free governance: Arun Jaitley

Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley released the BJP manifesto for Uttarakhand on 05 February, 2017 in Dehradun. He took a jibe at the ruling Congress, suggesting that Uttarakhand had seen more infighting than development in the past five years under the party. He stressed that BJP would focus on three main issues- education, employment and clean, corruption-free governance.

Shri Jaitley repeatedly attacked the Harish Rawat-led government, stating that it had failed on the two most essential counts of development and stability.

Shri Jaitley said BJP had a special connect with the hill-state and its people as it was formed when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. He further called for the formation of a BJP government in the state that would



benefit the people of Uttarakhand because the BJP was in power at the Centre as well.

He gave a call for transforming Uttarakhand into a hub for tourism and education. Aiming to bring governance “to the last man” in the state. ■

Highlights of Manifesto

- For students, especially those from economically weaker sections, the manifesto promises free education till the post-graduate level to girls from economically weaker sections, free wi-fi connectivity to all state-based universities
- BJP will regularise guest and contract teachers.
- Building boarding schools for girl students in the districts is also on top of the party’s agenda.
- The vision document also vows to take effective steps to stop commercialisation of education and put an end to corruption prevailing in the sector.
- Smartphones and laptops were also promised for academically outstanding students, who excelled in their fields.
- Further, the manifesto called for prioritizing the study of Sanskrit, medicine and astrology in the state.
- The BJP manifesto has also promised to start tele-medicine, air-ambulance and e-tendering services, if elected to power in the up-coming elections.
- Manifesto also promises 24-hour electrification, creation of an anti-corruption cell and framing of a youth-specific policy
- BJP will formulate a road map for Uttarakhand’s development.
- BJP releases manifesto, promises laptops and smartphones for meritorious students
- Existing medical colleges will be provided better facilities and efforts will be made to set up new ones. In view of the state’s tremendous potential in the tourism sector, steps will be taken to boost medical tourism by putting up health resorts, yoga and ayurvedic centres.
- Home stay schemes will be made more effective besides finetuning facilities for tourists at the pilgrimage centres dotting the state.
- Organic farming will be given impetus and interest free crop loans will be given to farmers besides giving preference to run of the river projects to tap the state’s huge hydro-electricity potential without interrupting the flow of the rivers, the vision document said.
- Suitable infrastructural facilities will be created at Gairsain and consideration will be given to announcing it as the summer capital of the state by evolving a consensus over the subject.

Our agenda is “Transform, Energise and Clean India” : Arun Jaitley

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley presented the General Budget 2017-18 in Parliament on 1st February, 2017. This is the first of its kind which included the Railway Budget, does not have Plan and Non-plan classifications and has been advanced by a month to the beginning of February. The budget reflects the approach of development of every section of society and every sector of economy. First time in the history of Indian economy, in the budget special attention has been given to rural sector, agriculture, farmers, poor and underprivileged section of society. By reducing existing rate of tax from 10% to 5% on income between 2.5 lakhs to 5 lakhs gives relief to middle class and lower middle class. In his Budget speech Shri Jaitley said that the agenda is “Transform, Energise and Clean India” (TEC)- to transform the quality of governance for better quality of life. The aim is to energise various sections of society, especially the youth and the vulnerable and to clean the country from the evils of corruption, black money and non-transparent political funding. He said, the government will spend more in rural areas, on infrastructure and poverty alleviation while maintaining fiscal prudence. Economic reforms will be continued to promote higher investments and accelerate growth for the benefit of the poor and the underprivileged. Total expenditure in Budget for 2017-18 has been placed at Rs.21.47 lakh crores. Here we are publishing the highlights of Union Budget for our reader's.



HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET 2017-18

DEMONETISATION

- It will have a great impact on the economy and lives of people .
- Demonetisation is a bold and decisive measure that will lead to higher GDP growth.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- A sum of Rs. 10 lakh crore is allocated as credit to farmers, with 60 days interest waiver.

- NABARD fund will be increased to Rs. 40,000 crore.
- Government will set up mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras for soil testing.
- A dedicated micro irrigation fund will be set up for NABARD with Rs 5,000 crore initial corpus.
- Irrigation corpus increased from Rs 20,000 crore to Rs 40,000 crore.
- Dairy processing infrastructure fund will be initially created with a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore.
- A model law on contract farming will be prepared and shared with the States.

RURAL POPULATION

- The government targets to bring 1 crore households out of poverty by 2019.
- During 2017-18, five lakh farm ponds will be taken up under the MGNREGA.
- Over Rs 3 lakh crore will be spent for rural India. MGNREGA to double farmers' income.
- Will take steps to ensure participation of women in MGNREGA up to 55%.
- Space technology will be used in a big way to ensure MGNREGA works.
- The government proposes to complete 1 crore houses for those without homes.

- Will allocate Rs. 19,000 crore for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in 2017-18.
- The country well on way to achieve 100% rural electrification by March 2018.
- Swachh Bharat coverage has gone up from 42% in Oct 13 to 60% now.

FOR YOUTH

- Innovation fund for secondary education.
- Focus will be on 3,479 educationally-backward blocks.
- Colleges will be identified based on accreditation.
- Skill India mission was launched to maximise potential.
- 100 India International centres across the country.
- Courses on foreign languages will be introduced.
- Will take steps to create 5000 PG seats per annum.

FOR THE POOR AND UNDER PRIVILEGE

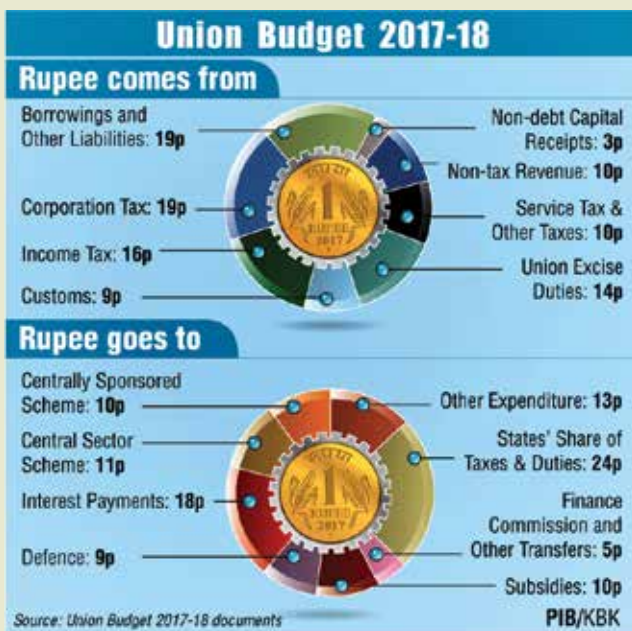
- Rs. 500 crore allocated for Mahila Shakthi Kendras.
- Under a nationwide scheme for pregnant women, Rs. 6000 will be transferred to each person.
- A sum of Rs. 1,84,632 crore allocated for women and children.
- Affordable housing will be given infrastructure status.
- Owing to surplus liquidity, banks have started reducing lending rates for housing.

HEALTH CARE

- Elimination of tuberculosis by 2025 targeted.
- Health sub centres, numbering 1.5 lakh, will be transformed into health wellness centres.
- Two AIIMS will be set up in Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- Will undertake structural transformation of the regulator framework for medical education.
- Allocation for Scheduled Castes is Rs. 52,393 crore
- Aadhaar-based smartcards will be issued to senior citizens to monitor health.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND RAILWAYS

- Rs. 39,61,354 crore has been made for infrastructure.
- Total allocation for Railways is Rs. 1,31,000 crore.
- No service charge on tickets booked through IRCTC.
- Raksha coach with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore for five years (for passenger safety).
- Unmanned level crossings will be eliminated by 2020.
- 3,500 km of railway lines to be commissioned this year up from 2,800 km last year.
- SMS-based "clean my coach service" is put in place.
- Coach mitra facility will be introduced to register all coach related complaints.
- By 2019 all trains will have bio-toilets.
- 500 stations will be made differently-abled friendly.
- Railways to partner with logistics players for front-end and back-end solutions for select commodities.
- Railways will offer competitive ticket booking facility.
- Rs. 64,000 crore allocated for highways.
- High speed Internet to be allocated to 1,50,000 gram panchayats.
- New Metro rail policy will be announced with new modes of financing.



ENERGY SECTOR

- A strategic policy for crude reserves will be set up.
- Rs. 1.26,000 crore received as energy production based investments.
- Trade infra export scheme will be launched 2017-18.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

- FDI policy reforms - more than 90% of FDI inflows are

now automated.

- Foreign Investment Promotion Board will be abolished.
- Computer emergency response team for financial sector will be formed.
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana lending target fixed at Rs 2.44 lakh crore for 2017-18.
- Digital India - BHIM app will unleash mobile phone revolution. The government will introduce two schemes to promote BHIM App - referral bonus for the users and cash back for the traders.
- DBT to LPG consumers, Chandigarh is kerosene-free, 84 government schemes are on the DBT platform.
- Head post office as the central office for rendering passport service.
- Easy online booking system for Army and other defence personnel.
- For big-time offences - including economic offenders fleeing India, the government will introduce legislative change or introduce law to confiscate the assets of these people within the country.

FISCAL SITUATION

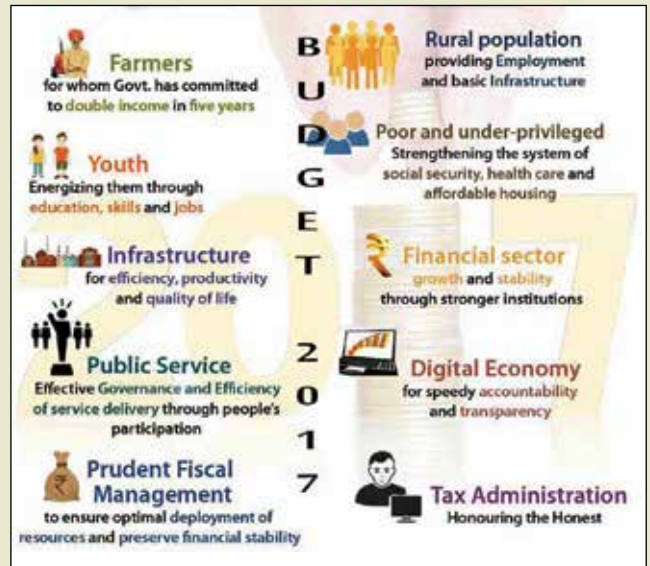
- Total expenditure is Rs. 21, 47,000 crore.
- Plan, non-plan expenditure to be abolished; focus will be on capital expenditure, which will be 25.4 %.
- Rs. 3,000 crore under the Department of Economic Affairs for implementing the Budget announcements.
- Expenditure for science and technology is Rs. 37,435 crore.
- Total resources transferred to States and Union Territories is Rs 4.11 lakh crore.
- Recommended 3% fiscal deficit for three years with a deviation of 0.5% of the GDP.
- Revenue deficit is 1.9 %
- Fiscal deficit of 2017-18 pegged at 3.2% of the GDP. Will remain committed to achieving 3% in the next year.

FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES

- The maximum amount of cash donation for a political party will be Rs. 2,000 from any one source.

DEFENCE SECTOR

- The defence sector gets an allocation of Rs. 2.74,114 crore.



TAX PROPOSALS

- Between November 8 to December 30, deposits ranging from Rs. 2 lakh and Rs. 80 lakh were made in 1.09 crore accounts.
- Net tax revenue grew by 17 percent in 2015-16
- Out of 76 lakh individual assesseees declaring income more than Rs 5 lakh, 56 lakh are salaried.
- 1.95 crore individuals showed income between Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh.
- Proposal to have a carry-forward of MAT for 15 years.
- Capital gains tax to be exempted for persons holding land from which land was pooled for creation of the state capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- Proposal to reduce tax for small companies with a turnover of up to Rs 50 crore to 25%.
- The government proposes to reduce basic customs duty for LNG to 2.5% from 5%.
- The Income Tax Act to be amended to ensure that no transaction above Rs 3 lakh is permitted in cash.
- The limit of cash donation by charitable trusts is reduced to Rs 2,000 from Rs 10,000.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX

- Existing rate of tax for individuals between Rs. 2.5- Rs 5 lakh is reduced to 5% from 10%.
- People filing I-T returns for the first time will not come under any government scrutiny. ■

Focus is on agriculture, rural development and infrastructure: PM

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi praised finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and his entire team for this historic budget. He said budget has provisions to fulfil the expectation of everyone- from construction of highways to expansion of I-ways, from the cost of pulses to the data speed, from the modernization of railways to simple economic constructions, from education to health, from entrepreneurs to industry, from textile manufacturers to tax deduction.

Highlights of PM's statement:

- This Budget is a reflection of the development measures undertaken by the Government over the past two and a half years and the vision to carry forward the momentum in this direction.
- The merger of the Railway budget with the Union Budget will help in integrated planning of the transport sector.
- The focus of the budget is on agriculture, rural development and infrastructure which is also a

reflection of the Government's commitment to raise investment and create employment opportunities.

- Government's aim is to double the farmers' income by 2022 and the policies and schemes have been designed keeping this in mind.
- Maximum emphasis in this budget has been on the farmers, villages, poor, dalit and the underprivileged sections of the society.
- There has been a considerable hike in the allocation of budget for health and higher education.
- This budget will provide an impetus to the housing sector in rural as well as urban areas.
- Railway Safety Fund has been set up.. ■



Restricting cash donation to political parties will bring cleanliness in political funding: Amit Shah

C ommending the budget presented by Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and his entire team, BJP National President Amit Shah said, "It is a budget aimed at all-round development. On the one hand it is pro-village and pro-farmers and on the other it also provides new possibilities for youths willing to strike out on their own. It has given relief to middle class and will also help realise the dream of the poor and lower middle of owning a house," he said.

He also called the announcement to restrict cash donation to Rs 2,000 to a political party from one source historic, saying it will bring transparency and cleanliness in political funding and expressed hope



that all parties will welcome it.

"Outlay of 10 lakh crore for agriculture credit, micro irrigation fund of 5000 crore, increase in PM Fasal Bima Yojana will all help the farmer. Increased allocation for MNREGA at 48,000 crore, from Rs 37,000 crore earlier, will help create assets in rural India.

"The Prime Minister's and Finance Minister's focus on providing social security, health care and affordable housing for the poor and underprivileged is laudable. Tax concession provided to middle class, who earn between 2.5 lakh-5 lakh will go a long way in improving their spending," he said. ■

ONE OF MANY GEMS

| SRI GURUJI

ACCORDING to an anecdote about a very great leader of our country, when an old man went to see him the leader bowed to him very respectfully. On being asked why he did so, he said the old gentleman had been his teacher in the primary school. He added, “Because of the education that he gave me and because of his blessings I have become what I am today”. The teacher of course knew that his capacity was only that of a primary school teacher, and he did not have the learning to impart to the leader the deep knowledge that the latter had later acquired. I would say that my relationship with Pandit Deendayalji was more or less the same as that of this primary school teacher.

A speciality of our Deendayalji was that whenever he spoke or wrote about something he discussed even a topical subject from a permanent, ideological level. It was not in his nature to stop with discussing only the contemporary aspects of any problem. I knew him as a student of basic thoughts. Even when writing or speaking about a topical problem he never forgot that there was some enduring principle behind it.

His writings as the leader of an opposition party had a certain gentleness. Even when he criticised a party or an individual, he never had a feeling of disrespect or distance about the subject of his criticism. Rather, he had an attitude of affection. For if a party or a person was going the wrong way, not only would that party or person suffer, but ultimately the country itself would suffer, because that party or person was after all a part of our country.

Pandit Deendayal was the leader of an opposition party. He considered it his duty to express a clear opinion about whatever he thought was improper or wrong in the country, and he always discharged it. But none of his writings has any bitterness in it. He was full of love and sweetness. He was not angry even with those who did harm or damage. He was like Yudhishtir, who used to call Duryodhana ‘Suyodhana’ because he did



not wish to pronounce ‘Dur’, which means bad.

COMPREHENSIVE OUTLOOK

The democracy that we have inherited from the British has now-a-days been called finally the best system of government. But Deendayalji’s pith in democracy was a discerning one. When he wrote on democracy he not only discussed its qualities and the way franchise should be exercised and of course wrote in favour of his party, but at the same time stated basic principles which were applicable to all people and all parties for all time. Such comprehensive thinking was necessary for successful democracy, and Deendayal showed his capacity for it. The thoughts he expressed on politics and economics in his writings are deep and are such as would provide food for thought to those who read them. A student of Deendayal’s writings can achieve the capacity to think for himself and to make his own contribution to the democratic structure of the country as a whole.

As a Swayamsevak of the Sangh I saw him grow from a boy. It was at the request of the late. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who wanted workers for a political party he wanted to found, that we gave him Deendayal. The growth of the Jana Sangh proved what a great

worker he was.

DESTINED FOR EMINENCE

I knew Deendayal's capacity, his qualities and intellect. I experienced his great skill in the art of organisation as a Pracharak of the Sangh. I knew that because of his sweet tongue, affectionate behaviour and wonderful mental and intellectual balance he would attain extraordinary heights in the field he had entered. He had already attained a high place in the country and could and would have attained a higher one. He would have even achieved a place of high eminence in the whole world, but before he could do so he left us. We lost him so early perhaps because, it is said, 'those whom the gods love die young...'

The way Deendayal left us was tragic. But the fact that the facts of the event could not be found out is still more tragic and shameful. Rather, in my opinion, the investigation that was done was meant to cover up what actually happened. I think this was most unfortunate. For if this happened with one party, can one say it won't happen with another? Therefore, such a situation has to

be guarded against in the first place. It is necessary to create an atmosphere in which no individual or group of individuals would dare to raise a hand against any party or person promoting democracy in the country. My grief is that this was not done.

MORE GEMS WILL FOLLOW

But what has happened has happened. There is no time to weep. This is the time for work. And what if we have lost one gem? This our earth is the mother of many such gems. Our society has produced many extraordinary personalities one after the other. Deendayal was not the last one. Rather, he was an assurance that great men like him would be born again. So let us keep the hope and confidence in our heart that our dedication to our ideal and our endeavours would enable this society to produce such eminent workers and thinkers again. We shall again have such symbols of sacrifice among us, and our first duty is to strive for their rise.

(Based on speech in Bombay on May 17, 1968 while presiding over release of Deendayalji, book "Political Diary")
(Courtesy: 'Destination' published by Deendayal Research Institute on 18 January, 1978)

SHRADHANJALI

Former Rajasthan BJP President Ramdas Agarwal no more

Senior BJP leader and former Rajya Sabha member Ramdas Agarwal is no more. He died at the age of 80 after prolonged illness on January 26. He is survived by wife and three sons. He was a three-time Rajya Sabha MP. He held posts of national vice-president and national treasurer of the party two times. Shri Agarwal was also the Rajasthan BJP president for several years.

Condoling his death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted: Demise of Shri Ramdas Agarwal is saddening. His contribution towards building the BJP in Rajasthan will be remembered. RIP.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah tweeted on the leader's death: Deeply saddened to hear the passing of senior BJP leader and former Rajasthan



state BJP President Shri Ramdas Agarwal ji. He added, Ramdas ji played a vital role in strengthening the BJP in Rajasthan. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.


Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, BJP State President Shri Ashok Parnami also condoled the death of Ramdas Agrawal.

Smt. Raje in his condolence message said "Agrawal played important role in the development of the state as an MP. His role was crucial also in strengthening the party." He said Agrawal's contribution in politics and society would always be remembered. Condoling Agrawal's death Shri Parnami said the former Rajya Sabha MP had raised several important issues pertaining to the state in parliament. ■

COMPARISON OF 2017-18 BUDGET WITH LAST YEAR'S BUDGET

Budget at a Glance

(Figures in ₹ crore)



	2015-16 Actuals	2016-17 Budget Estimates	2016-17 Revised Estimates	2017-18 Budget Estimates
Revenue Receipts	11,95,025	13,77,022	14,23,562	15,15,771
Capital Receipts	5,95,748	6,01,038	5,90,845	6,30,964
Total Receipts	17,90,783	19,78,060	20,14,407	21,46,735
Scheme Expenditure	7,25,114	8,01,966	8,69,847	9,45,078
Expenditure on Other than Schemes	10,65,669	11,76,094	11,44,560	12,01,657
Total Expenditure	17,90,783	19,78,060	20,14,407	21,46,735
Revenue Deficit	3,42,736	3,54,015	3,10,998	3,21,163
Effective Revenue Deficit	2,10,982	1,87,175	1,39,526	1,25,813
Fiscal Deficit	5,32,791	5,33,904	5,34,274	5,46,532
Primary Deficit	91,132	41,234	51,205	23,454

Source: Budget 2017-18 documents

PIB/KBK

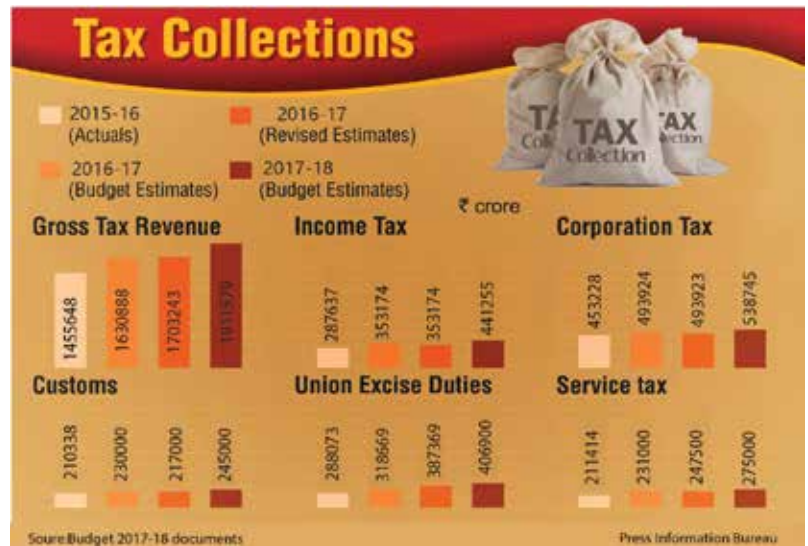
HIGHLIGHTS

- In the last two and half years administration has moved from discretionary, favouritism based to system and transparency based.
- Inflation brought under control. CPI-based inflation declined from 6% in July 2016 to 3.4% in December, 2016
- Economy has moved on a high growth path. India's Current Account Deficit declined from about 1% of GDP last year to 0.3% of GDP in the first half of 2016-17.
- FDI grew 36% in H1 2016-17 over H1 2015-16, despite 5% reduction in global FDI inflows. Foreign exchange reserves have reached 361 billion US Dollars as on 20th January, 2017
- War against black money launched
- Government continued on path of fiscal consolidation, without compromising on public investment.
- The Indian economy has been robust to mild shocks and IMF forecasts, India to be one of the fastest growing major economies in 2017.
- In Budget 2017-18 the rate of taxation has been reduced from existing 10 per cent to 5 per cent for individual assesses between income of Rs 2.5 lakhs to Rs 5 lakhs. This would reduce the tax liability

of all persons below Rs 5 lakh income either to zero (with rebate) or 50 per cent of their existing liability.

SOCIAL SECTOR

- Last year for MGNREGA (2016-17) Rs. 38,500 crore was allotted, Now, 48,000 (2017-18) crore was allotted. This is the highest allocation since its inception in 2006. The new budget proposes of using space technology in a big way to plan & execution MGNREGA works.
- In the last budget Government has proposed to launch a new initiative to provide cooking gas to BPL families with state support and set the target of giving 5 crore connection under this initiative. By February 4, under the initiative called 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' government has released 1, 66, 86,876 (One crore sixty-six lakhs eighty-six thousands eight hundred seventy six) gas connections.
- The budget 2017-18 proposes a hike of 8000 crore in Pradhan mantra Awas Yojana-Gramin(rural) from 15,000 crore in 2016-17 to 23,000 crore in 2017-18, which aims to build 10 million homes by 2019 for those without a house of their own and those living in mud houses.
- The Government in the budget has proposed to increase the allocations for Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihood Mission for promotion of skill development and livelihood opportunities for people in rural areas to Rs 4,500 crore in 2017-18.
- The allocation for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and Credit Support Schemes has been increased more than 3 times.
- The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) has made tremendous progress in promoting safe sanitation and ending open defecation. Sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up from 42% in October 2014 to about 60% and such villages are now being given



priority for piped water supply.

- There is provision in the budget for imparting new skills to the people in the rural areas, mason training will be provided to 5 lakh persons by 2022, with an immediate target of training at least 20,000 persons by 2017-18.

AGRICULTURE

- The coverage of National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) will be expanded from the current 250 markets to 585 APMCs.
- The coverage of Fasal Bima Yojana will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19.
- Issuance of Soil Health Cards has gathered momentum. Till 31 January 2017 Government has issued 5 crore 5 lakh 9 thousand four hundred ninety-five (5,05,09,495) cards. The Government has decided to set-up new mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country.
- The pace of construction of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, (PMGSY) roads has accelerated to reach 133 km roads per day in 2016-17, as against an average of 73 km during the period 2011-2014. The Government is committed to complete the current target under PMGSY by 2019 and a sum of Rs 19,000 crore has been provided in 2017-18 for



this scheme.

INFRASTRUCTURE

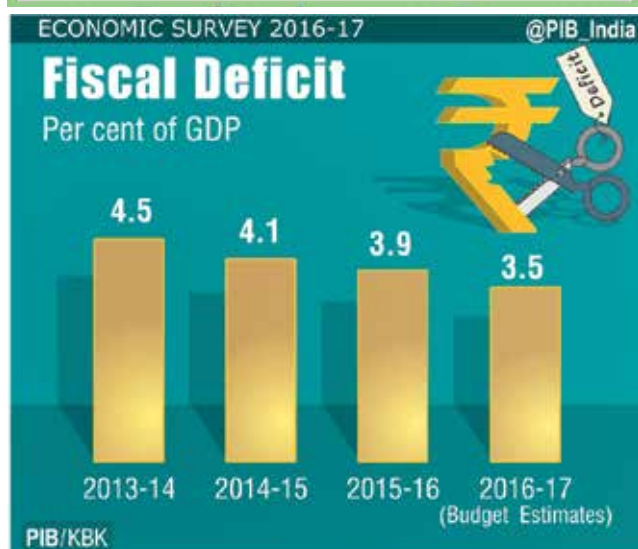
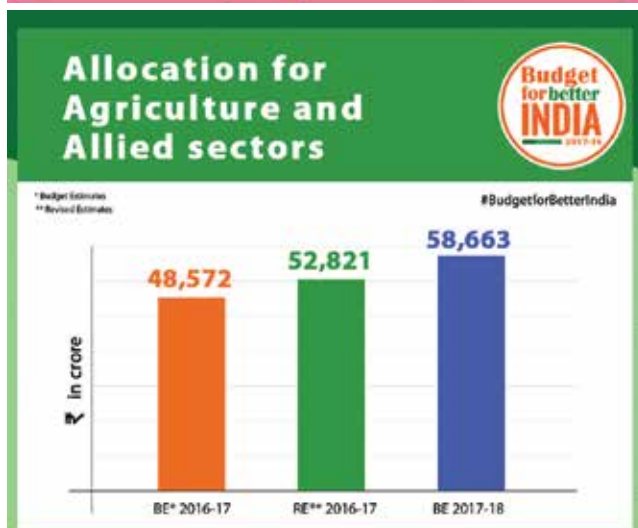
- The total allocation for infrastructure development in 2017-18 stands at Rs. 3,96,135 crores. In the road sector, the Budget allocation has been stepped up for Highways from Rs. 57,976 crores in BE 2016-17 to Rs. 64,900 crores in 2017-18. Further, 2,000 kms of coastal connectivity roads have been identified for construction and development to facilitate better connectivity with ports and remote villages.
- The finance minister budget speech discloses that the total length of roads, including those under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), built from 2014-15 till the current year is about 1,40,000 kms which is significantly higher than previous three years.
- The recent spectrum auctions have removed spectrum scarcity in the country. For the BharatNet Project, the allocation has been stepped up to Rs.10,000 crores in 2017-18 and 1,55,000 kms of Optical Fiber Cables have been laid. By the end of 2017-18, high speed broadband connectivity on optical fiber will be available in more than 1,50,000 gram panchayats, with wifi hot spots and access to digital services at low tariffs. A DigiGaon initiative will be launched to provide tele-medicine, education and skills through digital technology.
- For strengthening Energy sector, in the budget the Government has decided to set up Strategic Crude Oil Reserves. In the first phase, 3 such Reserve facilities have been set up and in the second phase, it is proposed to set up caverns at 2 more locations, namely, Chandikhole in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan. This will take the country's strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT.

DEFENCE

- In 2016-17 budget Defence allocation was 2.46 lakh crore. Now The 2017-18 budget defence allocation has been increased to 2.74 lakh crore. ■

(Compiled by- Vikash Anand)

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TMC is spreading 'Kichhad' in Bengal, which will create a favorable climate for lotus to bloom: Babul Supriyo

Union Minister Shri Babul Supriyo represents the energetic youth leadership of BJP in West Bengal. Starting his career as a playback singer and actor in Bollywood, Shri Supriyo won the 2014 Lok Sabha elections as the BJP candidate from Asansol in West Bengal and was inducted in the Modi government as the youngest Union Minister. Before assuming the charge of Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, in the Government of India on July 2016 he handled the responsibility of the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation successfully as its State Minister.

Known for his frankness and innovative approach in implementing various welfare schemes of the Union government with great success, he faced many challenges in his own State which has been in news in recent times for rising cases of violence, crime, administrative chaos and underdevelopment.

As West Bengal is getting exasperated under the burden of Mamata Banerjee led TMC's misrule, **Shri Babul Supriyo** divulged in an interview with Associated Editor of Kamal Sandesh, **Ram Prasad Tripathy**, the lawlessness and anti-democratic rule of the present dispensation and the state of preparedness in the BJP to uproot the TMC from West Bengal. Excerpts;



Once upon a time Bengal was the cultural and industrial powerhouse of the country and was the land that produced some of the tallest leaders of our contemporary society. It was known for spearheading cultural and intellectual revolutions that inspired the nation. It had emerged as an island of hope for millions of youth and job seekers during 1940s & 50s. However, the scenario has completely reversed in the past 40 years. What factors do you think are responsible for the overall deterioration of Bengal?

Sadly, I have to agree. Bengal produced some of the greatest human beings of our society like Sri Chaitanya, Ramakrishna, Vivekananda, Tagore, Subhash Bose, Dr. Mookerjee and many more freedom fighters and social reformers. During the pre-independence period Bengal was the epicenter of the freedom movement and was a major hub for industry and education. However, when the Left parties came to power the decline of the state started. Disregarding the responsibility bestowed upon them by the masses, they lost their Vivek or Commonsense and indulged in violence and misgovernance. In around four decades of Left rule, corruption and crime ruled the state. Instead of development, the Left took it backwards and ruined the very backbone of West Bengal. To hide their non-performance and failure, they perfected the art of winning elections through violence and by suppressing the



voice of opposition.

After the destructive Left rule, power passed to the hands of the TMC. All were hopeful that Under Mamata Banerjee West Bengal will regain its glory and can emerge as a developed state. But unfortunately, CM Mamata Banerjee betrayed Bengal. Instead of cooperation with the Central government for the faster development of the state, the TMC government has adopted a confrontationist approach for narrow political gains. Now, the irony is, TMC government is not even responding to the Central Government. CM is not even attending meetings called by non-other than the Prime Minister of the country. Its Ministers are not attending the Central Meetings. The Left definitely ruined West Bengal and they have taken the State to the point of no return but this Government has touched a new low so far as its political behavior is concerned.

Instead of overall development, Mamata Banerjee is indulging in vote bank politics. She came with the slogan of 'Parivartan', but 'Parivartan' has not happened anywhere in the state. Agriculture is ruined, businesses collapsed, industries closed down, job has dried up from the state and finally people are forced to migrate from the state. If any 'Parivartan' has taken place, than it is visible in the life style of TMC leaders itself.

The CM is trying to choke the throat of democracy even for genuine opposition. Now Bengal is known for its anti-democratic activities and there is lot of degeneration in the political culture of the state. As Bengalis we are feeling ashamed for this act of the government. Under this government Bengal is deteriorating further and it symbolizes the decline of a great state.

From the recent incidents one thing is clear that TMC workers are attacking the opposition leaders, their houses, party offices and supporters of opposition parties. What message the TMC wants to give through state sponsored terrorism and hooliganism?

As you know, in the recent past the TMC workers attacked State BJP headquarters in Kolkata, attacked senior BJP leaders like Smt. Krishna Bhattacharya, burnt the houses of Hindus in Dhulagarh village in Howrah district, Malda and other places of the state.

It seems that, under CM Mamata Banerjee the law and order situation in the state has been worsening day by day.

Secondly, the language which the political leaders sitting at the helm of affairs in the state are using, their behavior against the opposition, their attitude towards the Union Government and the law and order situation in the state shows that the Mamata Banerjee led TMC Government has already deviated from the Democratic path. Their way only leads to Corruption, Crime and hooliganism. So, whatever is happening in Bengal the responsibility lies with none other than the CM.

Thirdly, it appears as if there is a competition going on between the TMC politicians, from bottom to top, in the use of abusive low grade language against the opponent leaders. Even the TMC high command was rewarding those people who are attacking the activists of the other political parties. The State Police is seen either remaining silent or supporting the goondaraj of TMC workers. In one hand the TMC workers didn't spare a Central Minister, attacked me with stones, but state police was mute spectator to the entire event. However, on the other hand Bankura Superintendent of Police, Bharati Ghose has given speeches from the dias of CM Mamata Banerjee in her presence supporting her party. It shows and confirms the involvement of West Bengal government and police in all these criminal offences that has been taking place in the state.

TMC has imitated the Left way of rule in Bengal and Kerala. Therefore, the only motive behind these criminal activities of the ruling party is to create fear in the minds of the people and suppress and choke the throat of the opposition.

As a responsible opposition party how BJP will bring the state out of the vicious cycle of violence, crime and chaos?

BJP is rising day by day and Mamata Banerjee is getting scared to see the phenomenal rise of the organisation. That's why she is instructing her workers to physically attack our student leaders and political activists. However, violence and crime has no future in a democratic setup.

Our leaders like Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah always believe in constructive politics and they believe that development is the only solution for all problems. Therefore, for us development, development and development is the only solution for all the problems of West Bengal.

Our Karyakartas spreading the consciousness among the citizens and trying to unite the Bengalis in the State against TMC sponsored violence and crime. I am hopeful that consciousness will come among the public very soon and in a democracy the public will give the fitting reply to this lawlessness and anti-democratic rule of Mamata Banerjee.

Sharadha to Rose Valley, many mega chit fund scams surfaced under Mamata Banerjee rule in the state. CBI found the involvement of Ministers and MPs of TMC in these scams and some of them are in jail. What's your reaction to it?

In Sharadha, Rose Valley and other chit fund scams there are enough evidence available against the people who are involved. These are white collar financial crimes. So, the CBI after proper investigation has arrested some of them and will definitely nab those culprits who are still outside the orbit of law. Once upon a time, Mamata Banerjee fought against corruption but now she protects the corrupt and corruption. In the coming days it will ruin the TMC and will allow the BJP to rise and emerge as the biggest Political force in the State.

As the Union Minister from West Bengal, what is your vision for the development of the state?

Once upon a time Bengal led other states in Industrialization but now it is going backwards. Nobody is showing interest to invest in West Bengal. Industrial units have already closed down. Employment opportunities are shrinking by the day. Majority of Youth are unemployed and frustrated. Farmers and industrialists are hopeless. So in this atmosphere of gloom the BJP as an organisation and me as a minister have been trying our best to spread awareness among the common people regarding various developmental schemes of the Central Government and our objective is the overall development of a backward State like West Bengal.

We believe the welfare schemes launched by the

Union government, are meant for the transformation of the state and for the upliftment of the youth, the women, the poor, the farmers and the weaker section of our society. Therefore, our main focus is on spreading the message of development among the public. Recently, I organised a 'Sansad Mela' in my own constituency to spread the awareness about welfare schemes launched by the Central government and the people of the state shown enormous interest in it, responded and participated enthusiastically. We will organize it in other places in the future and certainly it will help the state to come out of the atmosphere of despair.

What is the future of BJP in West Bengal?

Future of BJP is very bright in West Bengal. Common people know it very well that their Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working round the clock, more than 18 hours a day for their development. Nobody has labeled a single charge of corruption against him or his government or its ministers after about three years of rule at the Centre. And there are no issues for the Opposition to attack the Government. Only for that the popularity and vote percentage of BJP is growing day by day in Bengal and across the Country.

Secondly, in West Bengal, people are gradually realising that BJP is the only party which can bring development without any discrimination. If BJP forms the Government it can take the state on the path of development. PM Shri Narendra Modi has already shown it in Gujarat as CM and now as PM at the Centre. The States with a BJP led Government are also developing at a rapid pace in comparison to other states of the country. Everywhere, BJP's mission is development. So, in reality we are setting examples and showing the rest of the country that development is possible even in the most backward areas of the country.

Therefore, I can foresee the bright future of the State and my party. The TMC is spreading the 'Kichhad' which will create a favorable climate for the lotus to bloom in Bengal. The day is not far when the BJP will rekindle the glorious past of West Bengal and usher an era of rapid economic progress and faster development which has eluded the state in the past four decades. ■

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BJP worker killed in Kerala by CPI(M) activists

Don yet another incident of political violence in Kannur, a Bharatiya Janata Party worker was stabbed to death allegedly by Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)) activists at Andaloor in Dharmadam, the constituency of chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The attack on Santosh (52) took place when he was alone in his house. Santosh, a booth worker of the BJP, is survived by his mother, wife and two children.

In another incident, a country bomb was hurled at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Karyalaya at nearby Thaliparamba. The office was damaged. Though Santosh was rushed to the hospital, he died on the way.

The district unit of the BJP, outraged at Santosh's murder, had organised a hartal in Kannur on the 23 January and squarely put the blame for the incident on the ruling CPI(M). They also demanded an explanation from Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who hails from Kannur. During the hartal in the district Shops and businesses have downed shutters and vehicles are off the roads. BJP wanted to take out the funeral procession of Santosh but the administration denied them permission. On January 30 BJP observed fast in all district headquarters of the state.

Noteworthy, there have been eight political murders after the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government came to power in May 2016. In the constituency of the chief minister, who looks after the home portfolio, four political murders had taken place



BJP observed fast in all district headquarters and organised hartal in Kannur

SIX CPM MEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH BJP WORKER'S DEATH

Six men affiliated to the CPI(M) were arrested in connection with the murder of BJP worker Santosh in Kannur district of Kerala. Police said the accused, aged between 25-31, were Marxist party workers and sympathizers hailing from Andaloor, from where the victim also belonged.

so far. Within two months of peace talks chaired by the chief minister, four BJP workers had been killed and several others seriously injured.

BJP state president Shri Kummanam Rajasekharan said at Kottayam that central forces be deployed to bring peace in Kannur in north Kerala. The party will make this demand before the home secretary. In Kannur city when government is organizing the school arts festival, CPI(M) workers are killing people in party controlled villages, he alleged.

He said eight stabbing incidents were reported in January and country-made bombs were thrown at the house of a BJP worker in Thalasserry.

Shri Kummanam Rajasekharan said that the party would make it a national issue. The BJP has taken a serious note of recurring cycle of violence in Kannur. Union urban development minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, asked the CPI(M) to fight BJP ideologically not through violence. He had warned the party of serious consequences if it continued to unleash political violence on its rivals. ■



@PMuralidharRao

Visited family of BJP worker murdered by CPM in Neyyantinkara, Kerala. Also met Mahila morcha karyakarta Asha Sherin who was manhandled.

Swachh-Swasth-Sarvatra



I JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA

The impact and direct correlation of poor sanitation and lack of potable water on disease burden is not only high but preventable. Diarrhoeal diseases are the fifth most common cause of death in India across all age groups. Lack of potable safe water and good sanitation practices greatly reduce economic productivity and contribute to 5% of all Disability Adjusted Life Years - DALYs, equivalent to every Indian losing eight healthy days every year only due to poor water and sanitation. (Source: Fewtrell et al. 2007). Unsafe water and inadequate sanitation disproportionately impact the poor. This disease burden also affects mostly children, causing repeated illness, compromising their growth and development. It also affects women for whom the lack of access to safe sanitation facilities results in direct and indirect health consequences, including gender based violence.

UNICEF reports that around 564 million people, which is nearly half the population of India, defecate in

the open. India accounts for 90 per cent of the people in South Asia and 59 per cent of the 1.1 billion people in the world, who practise open defecation. The adverse impacts that unsafe water and inadequate sanitation have on human health, and general well-being, require intersectoral action. The disease burden of poor sanitation has a direct consequence on health care facilities, by increased patient loads and overcrowding. Conversely, poor quality hygiene and lack of sanitation in the government health facilities result not only in poor health outcomes but also in communities choosing the private sector for healthcare, owing to perceptions of better quality, thereby resulting in high out-of-pocket expenses.

‘Clean water and sanitation- ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all’ is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as ratified in the UN Summit on September 25, 2015. One of the targets under the SDG 6 is ‘achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to



the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations by 2030'. This is an important determinant of health. Achievement of SDG 6 has a causal bearing on SDH 3 which is the health related goal.

The launch of the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2 October, 2014 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister could not have come at a more opportune time. The Mission with two sub-missions, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) is the vehicle to achieve the aim of Swachh Bharat by 2019, as a fitting tribute to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. In 2015, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, as part of its contribution towards the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, rolled out the Kayakalp Award scheme for central government hospitals and for public health facilities in States/UTs under the National Health Mission (NHM). It aimed at encouraging and incentivizing public health facilities in the country to

demonstrate high levels of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices through a cycle of periodic assessments and certification. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

launched its 'Total Swachhata Campaign' encompassing safe drinking water, proper disposal of human excreta, environmental sanitation, personal and food hygiene, solid and liquid waste management activities and making gram panchayats/urban areas Open Defecation Free (ODF) through construction of toilets and behavioral change.

As a marked departure from existing efforts at inter-ministerial convergence, the Swachh-Swasth-Sarvatra has been launched as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 29 December, 2016. This initiative envisages leveraging the synergy between implementation strategies of both ministries to achieve a common, shared vision. The three key components of Swachh-Swasth-Sarvatra are – support to Community Health Centres (CHC) under NHM in ODF Blocks

to achieve Kayakalp certification; prioritising gram panchayat of Kayakalp award winning Primary Health Centre (PHC) to become ODF; and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) training to be provided to CHC/PHC nominees. In those blocks, where, through efforts of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and local community, open defecation has been eliminated, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will provide their CHC, a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to ensure that the facility achieves high quality benchmarks of sanitation, hygiene and infection control with a minimum score of 70 under the Kayakalp assessment. Simultaneously, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation will undertake ODF activities in the gram panchayat of PHCs that have been assessed as Kayakalp award winning facility. Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation will also provide WASH training to nominees of those CHCs and PHCs. In the

first phase, during 2017-18, the CHCs located in over 700 blocks that have been declared ODF and Gram Panchayats/Nagar Panchayats within which the Kayakalp award winning PHCs (one in each district) are located

will be covered in the initiative. The envisaged activities will culminate in a process of certification by the end of the financial year. Such CHCs and PHCs would be designated as Swachh Ratna CHC and Swachh Ratna PHC. Subsequently, the scheme would be progressively extended to additional blocks and public health facilities.

The Swachh-Swasth-Sarvatra initiative is a unique initiative in the sense that both ministries will embark on a twin strategy that will leverage the achievements and strength of each ministry and bring in a complementarity that will enable stakeholders to work together and become accountable for common goals. Better community behaviour and a clean public health facility are envisaged to complement each other by reducing the disease burden related to sanitation deficit and water borne diseases. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, GoI)

**THE MISSION WITH TWO SUB-MISSIONS,
THE SWACHH BHARAT MISSION (GRAMIN)
AND THE SWACHH BHARAT MISSION
(URBAN) IS THE VEHICLE TO ACHIEVE
THE AIM OF SWACHH BHARAT BY 2019, AS
A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH BIRTH
ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI.**

Budget 2017 gives wings to a billion dreams

Futuristic, Reducing the gap between Rich and Poor; Urban and Rural

I DR R BALASHANKAR

Big bang, visionary, block buster, bold, bite the bullet, dream budget. These are some of the clichés we have often heard describing annual budgets in the past. This word play in the wake of liberalization had come to represent a world economic architecture that has of late lost currency with neo-nationalism and protectionism becoming the key words in the post-Trump era. The momentous demonetization of November 8 further generated an element of uncertainty, expectancy and hope, also whetted by the opposition clamor to postpone as it would influence voters in the five states going to polls soon. The Opposition was afraid that the budget would be populist and dole out freebees to attract voters in favour of the NDA. There was scope for that in the hands of a Finance Minister like P Chidambaram for whom Budget was nothing but “fudging of figures”. The hall-mark of Arun Jaitley’s budget is that he has restored the credibility of budgetary process.

There is a philosophy behind the budget. Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated it with poetic poise and finesse. “This budget is a reflection of our dreams. This is futuristic. This will change the face of India” Yes, rebuilding India, wiping tears from every eye, total eradication of poverty is the cardinal principle of this government.

That it is in earnestly translating the dreams of the Prime Minister and giving wings to a billion dreams is Arun Jaitley’s budget and he deserves kudos. Brick by brick, budget after budget he built the economic rationale and template that illustrated the idea of Antyodaya.

The budget for 2017 is the culmination of a thought to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor and the divide between the urban and rural India.

For the last four budgets of the Narendra Modi



government laid more stress on accelerating growth through creating investment climate, controlling inflation, reducing lending rates, building infrastructure and ensuring last mile connectivity. When the new budget talks of digital connectivity for more than 1.5 lakh villages in the next one year, it is about ensuring the facilities of the cities in villages.

What is fascinating is that never in history has the allocation for agriculture loan been doubled. The same has happened in the matter of allocation for rail and road building. The budget has promised to give electricity to all villages by 2018 and provisions have been made to achieve this.

The budget has provided for building 10 million houses for the poor. The built up area of the poor man’s housing has been increased. The budget has laid great focus on building rural connectivity through Grameen Sarak Yojna. The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said he was making the highest ever allocation of Rs 48000 crore for rural job guarantee scheme.

Creation of new jobs has been one of the most urgent priorities before the government. The Finance Minister rightly pointed out he was planning to do this through increased public investment. There are many schemes and



big allocations for skill development and strengthening the employability of Indian youth. Many projects, including international skill development institutes promised in the budget are designed to achieve this goal. As Jaitley pointed out when roads are built, railway is expanded, new health infrastructure is created and more money is spent on rural job guarantee and farm sector naturally more jobs will be made available.

The budget is particularly focused on ensuring health for all. Equally laudable is the health care schemes for women, children and senior citizens with specially targeted initiatives. Two new AIIMS in Gujarat and Jharkhand have raised demands for more such specialty health care centres in other states.

The budget has identified tourism as a major growth propellant and job multiplier. Modernization and rebuilding of 25 selections and making another 300 stations modern and increasing transportation facility netting tourist destinations are significant steps in this direction.

Though the demonetization has swelled the government's coffers, unlike the previous UPA regime the Modi government is no spent thrift. Financial discipline and check on deficit are the core areas of the NDA development mission. May be because of this approach Modi government has been able to reduce subsidy burden, reduce inflation to an all time low of below three per cent and prices of essential food items have come down in many years. The budget for 2017 is unique in many ways. Not only that the advancing of it will generate an environment for better execution of schemes but it has given a swadeshi, nationalist touch. Clubbing the Railway budget has given scope for a more planned approach to infrastructure building.

Considering the fact that the salaried middle income group is the core of the taxpaying community more concessions to this segment was expected, to reward honesty and incentivize compliance. But whatever relief offered to them will go a long way in protecting the

goodwill and the urban vote bank of the party. Another area where the Finance Minister has been generous was in the tax concession to the SME sector. This will greatly enhance India's position as a manufacturing hub, in which India already enjoying the sixth position in the world. The decision to double allocation for Mudra loans will further incentivize this sector.

Equally laudable is the decision to confiscate the property of loan defaulters like Vijay Mallaya who have fled the country. The government so far has been lenient on the NPA issue which accumulated during the ten year UPA misrule. Some estimate talk of the NPA, existing and written off to the tune of 15 lakh crore. This is a monumental scam. The culprits often go scot free due to political patronage.

In this context the government should be applauded for its bold decision to clean up political funding. This is the single most area of black money. A step in whitening the black is the decision to reduce the funding and donations to trusts. Another parking place for black

money. These highlight the government's sincerity to eliminate black money.

The new budget will give more money in the hands of common man to help him spend more. The

budget in that sense is consumer friendly and growth oriented. It should spur demand and induce productivity.

One has often wondered as to what is the big fuss about an annual exercise which after all has a life span of only 12 months. For decades of Congress Finance Ministers had reduced budget making into a routine where pronouncements made only to be repeated year after with no change on the ground. Modi government has changed all that and given meaning to budget as a blue print in nation building. It is targeted, goals fixed and policy driven, credible. Narendra Modi government's fourth budget presented by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is once again a marvel in making political ideology making grass roots transformation a reality. ■

(Writer is Member, BJP Central Committee on Training, and Committee on Publications. He can be contacted at Balashankar12@gmail.com)

THE BUDGET IS PARTICULARLY FOCUSED ON ENSURING HEALTH FOR ALL. EQUALLY LAUDABLE IS THE HEALTH CARE SCHEMES FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SENIOR CITIZENS WITH SPECIALLY TARGETED INITIATIVES.

Speaking on the motion of thanks on the President's address in Lok Sabha on 7th February, 2017 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "We all have to carry forward this country on the path of development. There is an opportunity for India in today's world order. We can fulfill the dreams of our forefathers if we stand united before the world comity."

He also said early presentation of budget would be helpful for early implementation of government schemes & policies. Here, we are publishing synopsis of the speech for our esteemed readers:



It was people's strength that enabled a son of poor mother to become PM of the country: Modi

Dextend thanks from the core of my heart to the hon. President for his address to both the Houses of Parliament. He has underlined the significance of the power of people. We all are aware that the power of people has always been of utmost importance to the political system, be it democratic or undemocratic system. In 1975 when the emergency was proclaimed in the country, as a result of which the entire India was converted into a prison, millions of people along with reputed senior political leaders like Jayprakash Babu were sent behind the bars, newspapers were banned. But it was the power of people which restored the democracy despite all their efforts to trample it down in the country. It was people's strength that enabled a son of poor mother to

become the Prime Minister of the country.

When we alienate ourselves from the people we lose the confidence of people. Over 1.20 crore people of the country voluntarily came forward to give up LPG subsidy in response to my call to this effect. It signifies nothing else but the power of people.

It is very natural for budgetary issues to come up during the discussion on the President's Address. But the discussion was mainly focused on the early presentation of the budget. This is an effort to come out of the British practice and a step towards ensuring the timely utilization of the budget. At the same time, it also aims to discontinuing the practice of spending government fund indiscriminately from December to March. The decision to prepone the presentation of



budget was taken on the basis of the recommendation made by the committee constituted by none other than the previous government.

We need to understand one thing about the railway that it was the only mode of transportation 90 years ago when the rail budget was presented. We will continue to face the problems unless the issue of transport is not taken into account comprehensively. This will bring the railway to the mainstream of the economy.

Through this august House, I would like to convey my feelings to my countrymen that I am committed for the welfare of the poor and will continue to fight for their betterment. Again no one can deny the fact that a parallel economy had developed and it is not that this has not come to their notice before. This subject was suggested by the committees constituted by that government itself. In this regard the then Prime Minister had said that it seems that congress is not willing to contest the elections. But we are not concerned about the elections instead we are concerned about our country. This is why we have taken this decision. People from certain quarters have expressed their apprehension as to why this decision was taken when the economy was robust. Here I would like to say that since the economy of our country was robust it was the appropriate time to go ahead. It succeeded only because the economy was in good shape. Secondly, do not assume that this decision was taken in haste.

Crop Insurance Scheme was being implemented for a long time but the farmers were not coming forward to take benefits of this scheme. I request all the Members of this House to go through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and find out as to how farmers of their constituency can get benefits under this scheme. A farmer is entitled to get compensation under this scheme even if he fails to sow his crop due to natural calamity.

A farmer is also entitled to get compensation under this scheme even if his crop is damaged due to any natural calamity within 15 days of harvesting. The hon. Members should make the farmers aware of Soil Health Card and I would like that small entrepreneurs should come forward in this sector and they should establish their private labs and gradually employment opportunities should be created in the villages through these certified labs. The issue of providing employment to youths has been discussed here. The Government has provided loan to more than two crore persons under MUDRA Yojana without any guarantee and with the help of that money they have become self-reliant and provided employment to other persons also. Our policies should be employment-oriented and the Government has adopted the same. The Government has focused on Skill Development. There is potential to create employment opportunities under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga Yojana. The Government has taken a number of initiatives in textile and footwear sectors as a result of which employment opportunities have been created in these sectors and a number of important decisions have also been taken in this regard.

The issue of Surgical Strike has been raised here. During the first 24 hours of Surgical Strike, political leaders had given bizarre statements but when they found that the mood of people is different they had to change their tone. No amount of praise of our Army will suffice. It has conducted Surgical Strike successfully. Our Army is fully capable of defending this country.

We all have to carry forward this country on the path of development. There is an opportunity for India in today's world order. We can fulfill the dreams of our forefathers If we stand united before the world comity. Concluding my speech, I once again I sincerely thank to the hon. President for his Address. ■

THE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED LOAN TO MORE THAN TWO CRORE PERSONS UNDER MUDRA YOJANA WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEE AND WITH THE HELP OF THAT MONEY THEY HAVE BECOME SELF-RELIANT AND PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT TO OTHER PERSONS ALSO.

Standing on the Strength of the People – Jana Shakti

For the BJP, for Prime Minister Modi and for BJP national president Amit Shah, the issue of election funding, the menace of black money in elections and the over-arching issue of election funding has always been an issue of focus. By inviting a discussion on simultaneous elections, by undertaking the demonetization route towards curbing black money and its influence in our elections, the BJP, under Prime Minister Modi, has set the tone for a larger public discourse on the issue.



DR. ANIRBAN GANGULY

Among the many striking things that the Union Budget 2017 did was to put the spotlight on election and party funding in the country. Naturally those who have always looked the other way or thought it prudent to keep silent on the issue of political funding have chosen to again keep silent or put the lid over the entire debate.

For the BJP, for Prime Minister Modi and for BJP national president Amit Shah, the issue of election

funding, the menace of black money in elections and the over-arching issue of election funding has always been an issue of focus. By inviting a discussion on simultaneous elections, by undertaking the demonetization route towards curbing black money and its influence in our elections, the BJP, under Prime Minister Modi, has set the tone for a larger public discourse on the issue. In fact, BJP president Amit Shah, in a television discussion sometime in December clearly spoke of the need to curb the influence of black money on elections and pointed out how the BJP since



the Jana Sangh days were committed to achieving this objective.

Throughout his election campaigns, on the floor of the House, in his address to the nation Prime Minister Modi has always stressed on the need to clean up the system of political and election funding, while BJP president Amit Shah has continually and publicly called for the need to clean up the system. Ironically most other parties are silent on the issue, especially those, like Trinamool Congress and the Communist parties, which have always put up pretence of probity in public life. What is strange is that these parties, along with the Congress were the most vocal against demonetization, knowing full well that the process has dealt a massive blow to fake currency racketeering, to black money, to terror funding, to human trafficking – all clear threats to our national security. Are these political parties then not really concerned with safe-guarding India's sovereignty and security and are more concerned about their aggrandizement is the moot question.

As early as 1961, when the era of big election spending had already started thanks to the Congress party's extravaganza and profligacy, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya had pointed out how this was causing damage to the entire electoral process and to governance as well. He had warned that if steps are not taken to mend them, powerful lobbies will emerge in the country's legislatures and political decisions will hardly be taken in an objective manner taking into consideration only the welfare of the people and furtherance of national interests. The parties that want to develop into major parties should be careful not to sacrifice principles for quick gains." Over the years however the art of sacrificing principles for quick gains was mastered by the Congress and up until 1967 when it was the single dominant party across the country it corrugated and corrupted the systems and frameworks

beyond redemption.

So deep was its interest rooted in opportunism and in eroding institutions that it resisted bringing about any major reform or change – how could it, after all it was the party that destroyed our state institutions by corrupting mechanisms and methods. The priority for the party was winning elections somehow and the perpetuation in power. It carefully avoided any major step that would clean up the system, inject new vigour and transparency in it and ensure probity in public life and dealing. The holding up of action against Benami properties for decades is a case in point while no progress had been made on the issue of black money and non-compliance with taxation was tolerated. All this resulted in a miniscule section benefiting with patronage from a section of the political class, while

the majority of toiling Indians suffered and continued to face marginalization.

Prime Minister Modi's approach to the issue has been drastic as well as nuanced. Drastic because with the sledge-hammer of

BJP PRESIDENT AMIT SHAH, IN A TELEVISION DISCUSSION SOMETIME IN DECEMBER CLEARLY SPOKE OF THE NEED TO CURB THE INFLUENCE OF BLACK MONEY ON ELECTIONS AND POINTED OUT HOW THE BJP SINCE THE JANA SANGH DAYS WERE COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING THIS OBJECTIVE.

demonetization he has hit hard at the root of black-money and terror funding and nuanced, because he has called for a national discussion on election funding and through his own party has set the ball rolling. This he could do, as he boldly stated in the Lok Sabha, because he cared not for election results but for probity and cleanliness in the system.

Peoples' power – Jana Shakti – has been immensely benefited by these steps and it is this peoples' power that will eventually rise in support of every effort to cleanse the system. As Deendayalji wrote, "political parties that stand for the people also stand on the strength of the people." In the last three months or so, Prime Minister Modi has clearly shown what it means to stand "on the strength of the people." ■

(The writer is Director, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi & Co-Convenor Library & Documentation Department of BJP)

'We will ensure that our girls are safe in the state from Samajwadi Party goons'



Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah took on both the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP) alliance and also the prevailing law and order situation in the state. Addressing a rally in Noida on 03 February, 2017 he alleged that an alliance between the two will give rise to more corruption.

Shri Shah led an attack on the construction of the Agra-Lucknow Expressway developed by the SP government. He said that highways being constructed by the Central government cost nearly ₹18 crore per kilometer, while the Agra-Lucknow Expressway cost nearly ₹31 crore per kilometer. Under SP rule the 'lo and order karo' (take and give orders) culture gained importance. He said, "I want to ask Akhilesh where ₹13 crore has gone. Whether, it went to the uncle or the nephew.

He said during the 10-year rule of the Congress, many scams came to light. Now, the Congress has come together with Akhilesh. Think what will going

to happen if they come to power, he said.

He claimed that one party looted the nation while the other looted the state. He also questioned the SP about the development that it took after the Central Government sent nearly ₹2.5 lakh crore to the state.

Amit Shah made a reference to slaughterhouses and said, "An aggrieved elderly citizen belonging to the Jat community once visited our office to register his complaint. He told me that one morning, while he was carrying his sugarcane in a bullock cart to the nearby market for sale, he stopped mid-way to buy guavas. When he came back with the guavas, his bull was missing. I told him to register a complaint with the police because the UP police was already tracking Azam Khan's lost buffaloes. But then he revealed that his bull was stolen by the slaughterhouse people," Shri Shah said.

As the crowd cheered to his statement on slaughterhouses, Shri Shah announced that the BJP, when it is voted to power, will come down on slaughterhouses from Day 1.

He also attacked Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav saying that he asks for the caste and religion of the people before giving them free laptops but BJP will not discriminate people on their caste or religion, he added.

HE SAID DURING THE 10-YEAR RULE OF THE CONGRESS, MANY SCAMS CAME TO LIGHT. NOW, THE CONGRESS HAS COME TOGETHER WITH AKHILESH. THINK WHAT WILL GOING TO HAPPEN IF THEY COME TO POWER, HE SAID.

In his speech, Shri Shah discussed issues ranging from the development of the state, job creation for youth to cow slaughter and anti-Romeo squads to safeguard women. "We

will ensure that our girls are safe in the state from the Samajwadi Party goons. Every police station will have anti-Romeo squads, which will hang these SP goons upside down and teach them a lesson," Shri Shah said. ■

‘There is a similar Modi wave in UP like there was in the 2014 elections’



Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah was in the textile hub in Pilkhuwa and arrived in support of former MP Dr RC Tomar who is contesting from the Dhaulana assembly segment and pitted against SP's sitting MLA Dharmesh Tomar.

Addressing a huge rally he said, “During the last 15 years, the state has also suffered on account of the repeated governments of the SP and the Bahujan Samaj Party. If you get a BJP-Government, you will see the development for yourself but your state has lagged behind. I have been roaming around in UP for six months now, and there is a similar Modi wave in UP like there was in the 2014 elections”.

He also attacked the law and order situation in the

state and cited the example of killing of policemen in violent incidents at Jawahar Bagh in Mathura in June last year. “Once, the BJP comes to power, we will get all illegally occupied land freed up from mafia within 15 days. We will get the pending payment of sugarcane farmers done within a time frame. I have

ONCE, THE BJP COMES TO POWER, WE WILL GET ALL ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED LAND FREED UP FROM MAFIA WITHIN 15 DAYS. WE WILL GET THE PENDING PAYMENT OF SUGARCANE FARMERS DONE WITHIN A TIME FRAME.

come to know that there is pending payment to be made to farmers in Dhaulana, amounting to nearly ₹200 crore. The first thing we will do is get all the mechanical slaughter houses closed down if we come to

power,” he added.

Shri Shah also said that BJP government, if it comes to power, will check the issue of migration of families like the one allegedly that took place in the Kairana town of Shamli district last year. ■

UP has become India's "crime capital" under SP rule

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah on 03 February, 2017 called off his 'Padyatra' in Meerut following a brutal murder of a person in the city and lashed out at the Samajwadi Party government, saying Uttar Pradesh has become India's Crime Capital under it. Citing the recent killing of a businessman in Lucknow and other crimes took place in the state he said such murders have become a common occurrence in the state and an atmosphere of fear and terror reigns there. The morale of criminals is so high in the state, even police personnel are not safe let alone the common man.

Earlier in the day, Shah had cancelled his in Western UP's Meerut district to protest the murder of a city trader who was shot dead by robbers a day ago. In Meerut, he also attacked the the state.

Interacting with media persons he said the way incidents of crime against the common man have risen under the Akhilesh Yadav government, an atmosphere of fear and terror prevails in the state. "BJP will fight for the issue of law and order in the streets of Uttar Pradesh. Restoring the law and order and sending criminals behind bars will be our priority after a BJP government is formed," he said.

Citing figures, he said cases of 24 rapes, 13 murders, 33 kidnappings, 19 riots and 136 thefts occur daily in the



state, leading to 7,650 incidents of crime per day. "UP has become the country's crime capital," he said.

While the entire state is witnessing lawlessness, both princes, Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, are busy in political rallies. Why are both princes are silent? Do they like this 'goondaraj'? he asked.

Protesting the incidence even BJP MPs raised the issue in Lok Sabha in the next day shouting slogans like 'Akhilesh ka haath goonda-gardi ke sath' (Akhilesh is with goons). They later sat on dharna outside Parliament.

Shri Shah said there has been no law and order in the state in last five years. There was no rule of law in the state and crime graph had steadily risen. He added that time has come to uproot this government and only BJP can bring a positive change in the state

Noteworthy, Abhishek (24) was killed when he was with his father Sushil Verma, who owns a small business, and three workers working in his godown near his house at Sharda road in Brahmपुरi area. Five armed men barged into the godown while two of their accomplices stood outside. The attackers looted the godown at gun point. When Verma and his son resisted their attempt to flee, the gang members opened fire following which Abhishek died on the spot. Verma and three others were injured and were later admitted to hospital. ■

- **Cases of 24 rapes, 13 murders, 33 kidnappings, 19 riots and 136 thefts occur daily in the state**
- **Uttar Pradesh sees 7,650 incidents of crime per day**
- **Murders have become a common occurrence in the state and an atmosphere of fear and terror reigns there**

India's foreign exchange reserves rise for the third straight week

India saw its foreign exchange reserves grow for the third consecutive week ended January 27, 2017. Data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on February 3 showed that forex reserves rose \$782.7 million to \$361.55 billion.

In the preceding two weeks, the reserves increased \$932.4 million (week ended January 20) and \$687.9 million (week ended January 13). The previous reporting week saw the country's forex reserves fall \$1,141.9 million.

Foreign currency assets, which form a major component of India's foreign exchange reserves, rose \$776 million to \$339.21 billion as of January 27, 2017, while gold reserves remained unchanged at \$18.58 billion, according to the RBI's weekly statistical supplement. During the week under review, the Indian rupee dropped mid-week, but recovered later to close at 68.04 to the US dollar. ■



Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017 enables salary payments via cheques or e-mode

With aim to give momentum to idea of cashless-economy Parliament on February 8 passed a bill seeking to enable the Centre and state governments to specify industrial units which will have to pay wages only either through cheques or by transferring into bank accounts. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017, which was passed by voice vote in Rajya Sabha on February 8, also enables the employers to pay wages to workers through cheque or by transferring into their bank account without their written authorisation. Lok Sabha had passed the bill on February 7. The bill replaces the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2016, which was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 15, 2016 and repeals the Payment



of Wages (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 promulgated on December 28, 2016. ■

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APPEAL

You will be glad to know that BJP National President Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the membership campaign of Kamal Sandesh on 6th December 2016 at BJP National Headquarters, New Delhi. Kamal Sandesh is published as a fortnightly magazine in Hindi and English languages.

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