

KAMAL SANDESH



2019 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 'NEXT BIG CHALLENGE': AMIT SHAH

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ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS 2017

**BJP'S HISTORIC VICTORY IN
UP & UTTARAKHAND
GOVERNMENTS ALSO IN MANIPUR AND GOA**

**VICTORY WILL CHANGE COURSE OF INDIAN
POLITICS IN COMING DAYS: AMIT SHAH**

**LARGEST SINGLE PARTY VS A
COMBINATION WITH MAJORITY SUPPORT**

**MODIJI WINS HEART AND HEARTLAND;
FOUNDATION FOR BUILDING A NEW INDIA**

BJP Karyakartas led by party President Shri Amit Shah celebrating assembly election victory at BJP headquarters in New Delhi



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CONTENT



06 BJP SCRIPTS HISTORY WITH LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN UP & UTTARAKHAND

The 15-year exile of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh ended with the announcement of Assembly Election Results on 11 March, 2017 as the BJP supported by a colossal Modi wave stormed back to power in the state. Very few political...

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENT

India's unemployment rate sees sharp decline: Report 23

Lok Sabha passes Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 24

VAICHARIKI

A Many-splendoured Personality 25

SHRADHANJALI

Tribute to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru on their

Martyrdom Day 26

ARTICLES

Largest single party vs a combination with majority support 27

Modiji wins heart and heartland; Foundation for building a New India 29

It's Modi... Modi, Amit Shah, and BJP 31

OTHERS

Manipur gets the BJP Government, Biren Singh is new CM 22

Lok Sabha Passes the Admiralty Bill, 2016 28



18 GOVERNMENT WILL BE FOR THOSE WHO VOTED FOR BJP AND THOSE WHO DID NOT: PM MODI

Addressing BJP Karyakartas at the party headquarters in New...

19 PM MODI MOST POPULAR LEADER SINCE INDEPENDENCE

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah while welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji at Party Headquarters...



20 2019 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 'NEXT BIG CHALLENGE': AMIT SHAH

The BJP top leaders set the tone for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls at its...

21 MANOHAR PARRIKAR TAKES OATH AS THE NEW CM

Senior BJP leader and former Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar was...



twitter



@narendramodi

A new India is emerging, which is being powered by the strength & skills of 125 crore Indians. This India stands for development.

@AmitShah

Thank you Pradhan Mantri Shri @NarendraModi ji. Your leadership and vision is inspirational and reason for BJP's ever growing popularity.



@arunjaitley

BJP's landslide victory in assembly elections has again established that people of India want development as pushed by PM @narendramodi ji.



facebook

Gratitude to the people of India for the continued faith, support and affection for the BJP. This is very humbling & overwhelming.



— **Narendra Modi**

From Panchayat to Municipal to Assembly polls the mood of nation is to go with Modi! Prime Minister is seen as the only hope of aspiring India and Indians.



— **M Venkaiah Naidu**

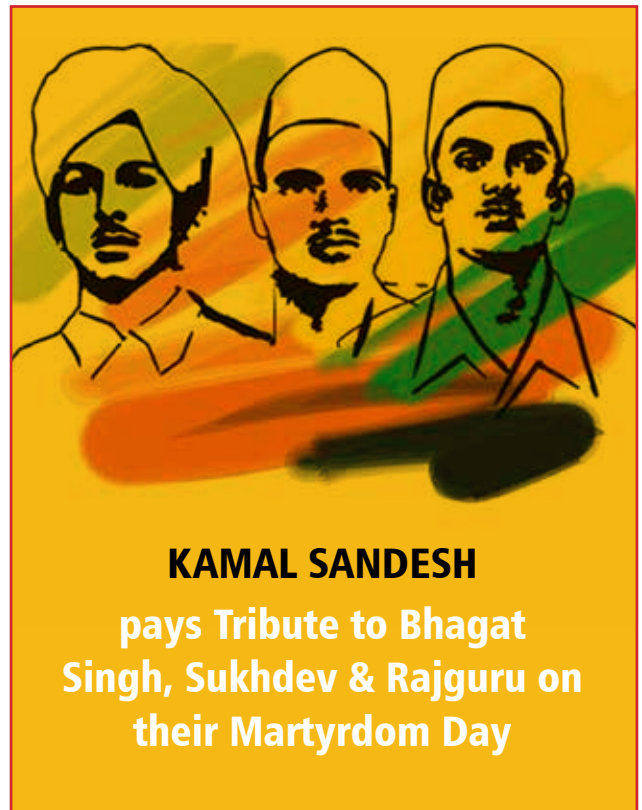
People have placed their trust and faith in the leadership of PM Narendra Modi by giving a resounding mandate to the BJP. I congratulate the PM for his dynamic leadership and transparent and accountable governance. The public stands behind him.



— **Piyush Goyal**



Courtesy: Social Media



Historic mandate to change history!

As the trends of the results of assembly elections started coming in victory celebrations started across the nation. 11 March 2017 became a historic day when a massive change swept the nation. This was the day when the results of keenly contested assembly elections were declared. In Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand the results crossed all imaginations. In Manipur BJP emerged from nowhere to form government with the support of other parties. In a hung assembly in Goa, BJP immediately emerged the most preferred choice for smaller parties and Manohar Parriker was sworn in as chief minister. Congress won the Punjab elections. Out of five states which went for elections, BJP formed government in four. It was huge mandate in favour of BJP. The people in UP and Uttarakhand gave mandates which was even higher than three-fourth majority decimating the opposition to irreparable extent. Political observers were surprised by Manipur result where BJP formed the government expanding its presence in the northeast. No one will deny the fact that the victory is a mandate for politics of performance and development. The Indian people are writing obituary to the caste, religion, dynasty and family based politics. The people are punishing corruption, misrule and non-performance. In the changed scenario BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and National President Amit Shah has become new hope for the nation.

While the political observers will continue to debate and discuss the implications of these results refusal to accept the new reality will further erode the credibility of Marxist-Nehruvian brand of intelligentsia. Their failure

to see the limitations of divisive 'caste-communal-regional' agenda in the garb of a particular 'Secularist-Marxist' paradigm in Indian politics has almost led the Congress and its allies to imminent decimation. The insistence of this particular brand of 'intellectuals' to see India through the borrowed ideas of Colonial-Marxist understanding viewing it as conglomeration of mutually exclusive entities desperate to fell apart at a single stroke has made them grossly misjudge the national reality. They failed to accept India as a nation since ancient times and its people standing united reinforcing the idea of India from time to time. This basic flaw in their understanding is making them more irrelevant academically and professionally in the context of emerging political realities. BJP from the time of Jansangh always believed India as a nation rooted in its ancient past and the path ahead for the India passes through politics of development, good governance and performance. While voting overwhelmingly to BJP the people have given message that they are not divided in castes and religion but they are for national cause, development, good governance, performance and nationalism. The message is that the people have immense faith in democracy, nationalism and they are aspiring for a new India.

The massive mandate has reposed immense responsibilities on BJP. The responsibilities are manifold and with a mandate to not only for changing the system, its functioning, work culture but to change the entire perception about India, its society, culture and its aspirations.

BJP being a political party based on ideology which is rooted in India having a world view which the world today requires so much is expected to play a pivotal role in heralding a new era of constructive change. Unlike many other political parties which are based on borrowed ideas and remain power centric, BJP has a vision much higher and nobler. It's a matter of satisfaction that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it his mission to catapult India into the global arena. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah by making ideology the moving force in the party have given new hope to karyakartas and created people's trust in the party. The responsibility is not only to rescue the states from corruption, misrule, dynasty politics and non-performance but also to give a new dimension to development, good governance and performance. Form a government committed to the poor, deprived and oppressed sections though an umbrella of welfare schemes to the one making India fastest growing economy in the world and making India's presence felt globally – Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created his place in the heart of everyone. The mandate is not only historic but aimed at changing history. ■

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

NARENDRA MODI AND AMIT SHAH BY MAKING IDEOLOGY THE MOVING FORCE IN THE PARTY HAVE GIVEN NEW HOPE TO KARYAKARTAS AND CREATED PEOPLE'S TRUST IN THE PARTY. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT ONLY TO RESCUE THE STATES FROM CORRUPTION, MISRULE, DYNASTY POLITICS AND NON-PERFORMANCE BUT ALSO TO GIVE A NEW DIMENSION TO DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE.



BJP SCRIPTS HISTORY WITH LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN UP & UTTARAKHAND

OPPOSITION SUFFERS A CRUSHING DEFEAT

The 15-year exile of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh ended with the announcement of Assembly Election Results on 11 March, 2017 as the BJP supported by a colossal Modi wave stormed back to power in the state. Very few political pundits foresaw

the scale of the BJP's victory in Uttar Pradesh. During elections some analysts and election psephologists have termed the fight too close to call. In the end, there was nothing close about the outcome in India's largest and most populous state, where the Modi wave has

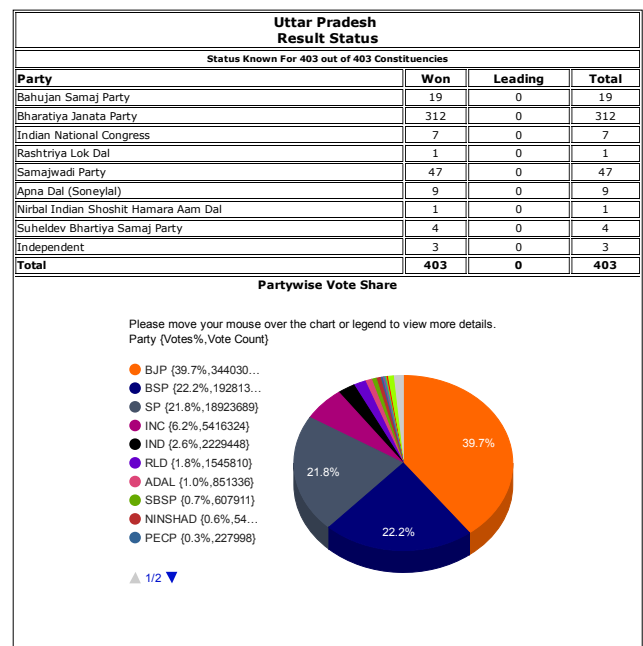


blown away the Samajwadi Party-Congress boat in which Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi floated their hopes. The BJP juggernaut rolled on in Uttar Pradesh and in the neighbouring State of Uttarakhand in such a way that stunned poll pundits, analysts and media persons alike.

UTTAR PRADESH

Powered by an aggressive campaign by PM Shri Narendra Modi and party National President Shri Amit Shah, BJP candidates registered massive victory in whopping 325 out of the 403 constituencies in the state.

The outcome was also a personal triumph for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who led from the front on an election, where the 24x7 media and opposition tried their best to project it as a virtual referendum on Union Government's performance and popularity and the poll analysts who have tried to seen the elections as a ballot on Modi government's historic decision on



demonetization.

The Modi wave not only demolished the dreams of SP-Congress alliance and the BSP, it also surpassed

Gratitude to the people of India for the continued faith, support & affection for the BJP



After the landslide victory Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked the people across India for their support to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state elections of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Punjab. Taking to twitter, the PM said, “Gratitude to the people of India for the continued faith, support and affection for the BJP. This is very humbling & overwhelming.”

Thanking the people of Uttar Pradesh for reposing their faith in the BJP, Shri Modi said that the win in the state was historic and it was the win of development and good governance. He further added, “Overwhelmed by the love and support of people in Kashi. Gratitude to them.” Expressing delight over election results in Uttarakhand, PM Modi thanked people of the state for having given BJP the chance to serve. He said, “Winning in Uttarakhand is very special. I assure the people of Devbhoomi that BJP would leave no stone unturned for progress of the state.”

He specially mentioned BJP National President Shri Amit Shah for taking the party to new heights.

He also replied to tweets from the public.

The Prime Minister in his tweet said, “Am overjoyed that BJP has received unprecedented support from all sections of society. Huge support from the youth is gladdening.” He added, “Every moment of our time, everything we do is for welfare & wellbeing of the people of India. We believe in the power of 125 crore Indians.”

He responded to Swami Ramdev, saying “people voted for development’ and to Kaif saying, “the scale and support is historical.”

“All our time & energy is fully devoted towards fulfilling people’s aspirations,” he said in response to Sri Sri’s congratulatory tweet. “More than my understanding, it is the people who have trusted the BJP & we will never betray this faith,” he replied to Sachin Bansal.

PM Shri Modi even responded to Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi’s tweet, congratulating him for their victory in Punjab, saying, “Long live democracy!”



its previous best records of winning 221 seats in 1991 Assembly polls when it was voted to power for the first time in the State. The BJP had then won 221 seats out of 425 (Then Uttarakhand was part of UP). The BJP got a vote share of 31.5% and Shri Kalyan Singh became Chief Minister for the first time.

In UP the BJP+ won a landslide victory with 42% vote by bagging 325 Assembly seats out of 403, thus effectively decimating its rival Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance to 54 seats and Bahujan Samaj Party to a dismal 19 seats. The result showed that the BJP made big inroads into the traditional dalit and minority vote bank of both SP and BSP and was able to get support from all castes and religions.

The crushing defeat of the opposition is a big setback for the grand old congress party as it had pinned all hopes in the Assembly elections for its revival ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. This election proved to be the second setback for the BSP, after May 2014 Lok Sabha polls when the party drew a blank. The Assembly polls this time has taken the party back to 1991 when it had won 12 seats in the Assembly.

Similar is the case of the ruling SP, which also made a dubious history of its worst ever performance

OUT OF 85 RESERVED DALIT SEATS IN UP, BJP WON 75

The BJP won even reserved Dalit constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, earlier what was seen as a captive vote bank of the BSP. Out of 85 reserved seats in UP, the BJP won 75. Out of 75 three seats each went to BJP's ally, the Apna Dal and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party.

This came as a surprise because the Dalits comprising 21% of the state's population were seen as hostile to the BJP and favoring the BSP, which ended up with just two seats. The Samajwadi Party-Congress alliance secured seven and a lone independent won. The BJP victory decimated the conventional logic that SC do not vote for the BJP and, instead, try to defeat the BJP.

BJP SECURED MASSIVE VICTORIES IN MUSLIM DOMINATED AREAS IN UP

Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav have all reasons to be upset with the Uttar Pradesh poll results. Not only their parties failed to return to power, the BJP secured massive victories in Muslim dominated areas – where SP and BSP used to enjoy lead in previous polls. From all six constituencies of Muzaffarnagar to Deoband in Saharanpur, Bareilly, Bijnor and Moradabad where Muslims dominate the demography, the BJP swept the polls.



Both in Western and in Eastern UP, BJP has found strong support from Muslim community. There was huge turnout of Muslims in PM Shri Modi's rally in Varanasi. In Mirzapur and Varanasi, Muslims constitute the strong weaver force of the handloom sector. Political analysts believe that Modi Government's recent flagship programmes like Gurur-Shishya Parampara programme offering paid training to unemployed Muslims is likely to have helped the party win minorities' support in the state election.

VICTORY WILL CHANGE COURSE OF INDIAN POLITICS IN COMING DAYS: AMIT SHAH

Happy over the sweeping BJP victory, party National President Shri Amit Shah said the results will end the politics of “caste, dynasty and appeasement”. “This victory will change the course of Indian politics in the coming days. It will end the politics of casteism, parivaarvaad and appeasement,” he said.

Shri Shah said voters of Uttar Pradesh have rejected the politics of casteism, of family one-upmanship and appeasement. They have voted for performance based politics and governance.

He said, “I am glad that people gave such a massive mandate to the BJP and to the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi”.

Shri Amit Shah said, “The BJP will form the government in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa”. He said even opposition will have to accept Narendra Modi who has emerged as the most popular leader post independence.

In four states we are going to form government, we have lost Punjab but we have got more than 30 percent votes, he said. The historic mandate given to Bharatiya Janata Party in all five states will give a



new direction to Indian polity, he said.

The BJP President also responded to tweets as well, thanking people for their wishes and kind words. “People have chosen “Politics of Development” over Vote bank politics,” he said.

in its 25 years of existence. In 1991, Assembly polls, the SP won only 30 seats. But the worst was in store for the Congress as its tally was reduced to lowest ever of seven seats in the UP Assembly. The previous lowest ever Congress number in the Assembly was in 2007 when they had won 22 seats.

In an outcome unmatched over the last 40 years, the BJP on its own won 312 out of 403 (77.4%) seats in India’s largest state assembly, increasing its vote

share to a jaw-dropping 25 percentage points from the 2012 assembly elections to 39.7 % in 2017. Its alliance partners AD(S) got 09 seats with 1% of votes and SBSP got four seats with 0.7% of votes and combinely took the total to 325 seats.

The BJP almost repeated its performance from the 2014 parliamentary elections, when it won 42.7 % votes and 73 (more than 90%) of 80 Lok Sabha seats. This vote share and seats won as a percentage of total



seats, is the best by any party after 1977, when, in the wake of the Emergency being lifted, the Janata Party won 352 seats of 425 (82.8%) seats and garnered 47.8% votes in Uttar Pradesh (Then Uttarakhand was a part of UP).

BJP hailed the spectacular victories of the party in Uttar Pradesh as a vindication of PM Shri Narendra Modi's popularity and his pro-poor and pro-development policies.

Party National President Shri Amit Shah, who crafted and conducted the election strategy in UP said the results have catapulted Shri Modi to the stature of the tallest leader since Independence. "The only factor for the win is the performance of the Modi Government at the Centre," Shri Shah said.

Congratulating the BJP National President, PM Shri Narendra Modi in a Twitter post said, "Congratulations

to Amit Shah Ji, party office bearers & state units for their exemplary work in taking the party to new heights".

After the election victory Uttar Pradesh BJP President Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya said, "It is a Modi wave. The wave which started with 2014 Lok Sabha elections is continuing in 2017 and the momentum will go beyond the 2019 general elections".

UTTARAKHAND BJP's vote share climbs from 33% in 2012 to 46.5%

Like in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP also stormed back to power in Uttarakhand securing a similar three-fourth majority win. The vote share climbs from 33% in 2012 to 46.5% this time.

In a state that has always witnessed close contests in the assembly polls since its formation in 2001, this

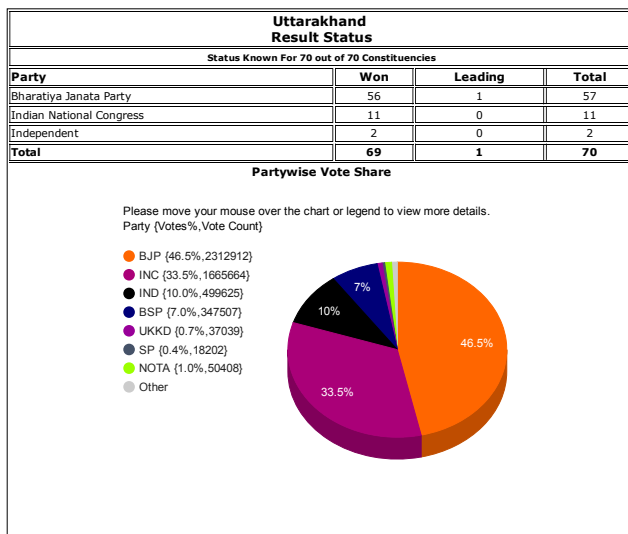
A RECORD 32 WOMEN MLAS OF BJP OUT OF 38 ELECTED TO UP ASSEMBLY

When the 17th Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly convenes, there will be a record 32 women MLAs of BJP out of 38 attend the house since Independence. Victory of 32 women MLAs from one political party is also a record in UP. BJP gave tickets to 43 women, the highest among all the parties. Of these, 32 won. From BSP and Congress, two women won, while one each from the Samajwadi Party and Apna Dal were also elected.



According to records available with the Election Commission, in 2007, the number of elected women MLAs were a mere three, but in 2012 a record 35 were elected. In 2017, this number has gone up even further, which is a welcome sign.

According to records available with the Election Commission, in 2007, the number of elected women MLAs were a mere three, but in 2012 a record 35 were elected. In 2017, this number has gone up even further, which is a welcome sign.



allowed the BJP to sweep the state with a 13 percentage point lead over the rival Congress. The BJP added to its share essentially by eating into the vote of all others.

In Uttarakhand, the BJP bagged 56 out of 70 seats reducing the Congress to just 11 seats. It is for the first time in the 16-year history of Uttarakhand that a party has emerged with an impressive tally like that recorded by the BJP.

BJP changed the political narrative with this win: Rajnath Singh

Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh described the BJP's performance in assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand as "mega victory", saying the party has changed the political narrative in the country with the win.



Shri Singh said the BJP's win in the elections is a win of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credibility in the public, his able leadership and party's commitment to good governance. The credit of victory goes to organizational ability of our national President Shri Amit Shah and the hardwork of party workers.

Politics will shift from caste and religion to development: Venkaiah Naidu

Union Minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu said that BJP's success in UP would now ensure the shift of state politics from a caste-based and religion-based one to one that is development-oriented. Commenting on the overwhelming verdict of the voters for UP, he said that it was clearly a verdict for not only development, but also one that favoured the developmental agenda of Shri Narendra Modi.



Poor people and farmers shown faith in our party and supported: Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP President Shri Amit Shah and party workers for their efforts for BJP's massive victory in Uttar Pradesh. The most important thing is the poor people and farmers have shown faith in our party and supported us, despite what was said about the demonetization drive.



Election victory is people's endorsement of note ban: Arun Jaitley

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley termed the Bharatiya Janata Party's big win in assembly polls as people's endorsement of demonetization and asserted that it was seen as pro-poor, reformist and the sole defender of the nationalist constituency in the country.



Noting that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's extensive campaign in Uttar Pradesh gave the party cutting edge. Historic victory of BJP in UP and Uttarakhand assembly elections shows people's support for development agenda of PM, he said.

Victory reflection of people's faith in PM Modi: Shivraj

Enthused by BJP's unprecedented victory in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that it was not a "Modi wave" but a "Modi Storm" which swept a grand electoral victory in party's favour.



He said that people have immense faith in Shri Modi and they consider him as God's blessing for development. Praising the poll strategy of BJP National President, he said Shri Amit Shah took every matter seriously, planned strategy and implemented with full dedication. This is also a victory of his leadership capacity, he said.

This is the victory of people: JP Nadda

Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda said the victory goes to PM Shri Narendra Modi for his hard work, for his vision, for his pro-poor agenda and to the people. Credit also goes to BJP President Shri Amit Shah and Karyakartas of the party. Shri Shah's strategy was absolute micro management at every booth level and BJP got its benefit in every state.

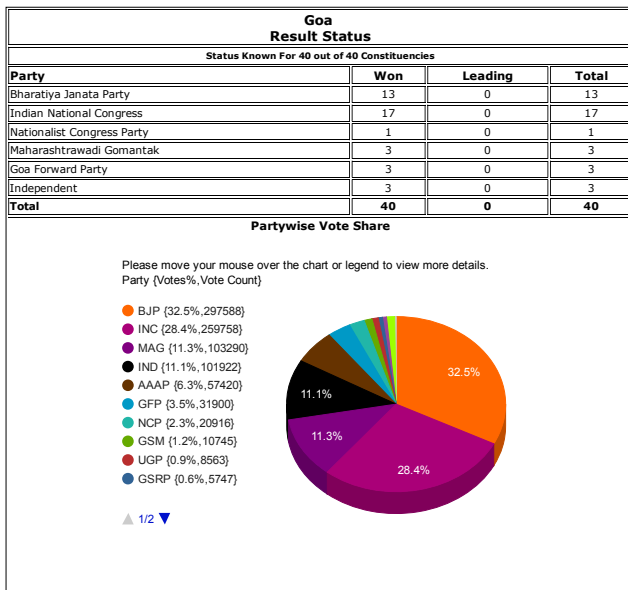




GOA BJP got 4% more vote share than Congress

The Bharatiya Janata party was successful in securing 32.5% of the total votes in Goa. As per the data released by the Election Commission, the Congress, which bagged 17 seats in the 40-member House, secured 28.4% of the total votes.

BJP won 13 seats, falling eight short of getting the absolute majority. Maharashtra Gomantak Party, which won three seats, polled 11.3% of the total votes,

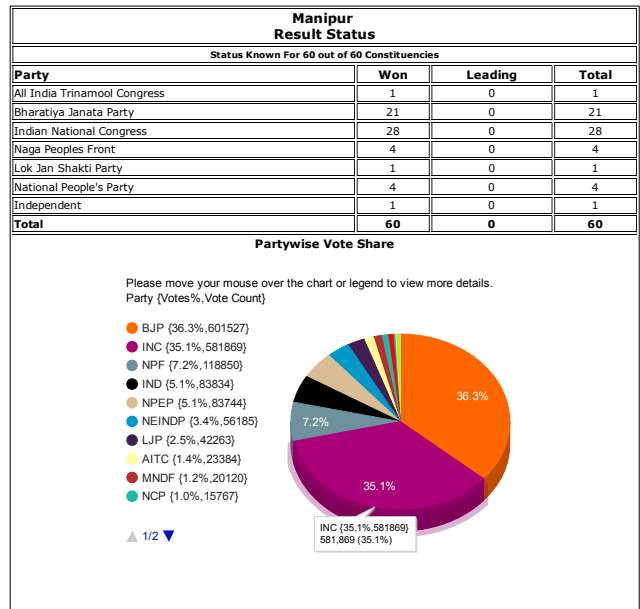


the data showed. 1.2% people opted for NOTA. The BJP along with its alliance partners like the MGP, the Goa Forward and Independents who won three each, got the majority in the state.

Aam Aadmi Party, which hit the State with a big fanfare, drew a blank with almost all the candidates lost their deposits.

MANIPUR BJP becomes the single largest in terms of vote share

In Manipur, the BJP has become the single largest



party in terms of 36.3% vote share. Like in Goa, the mandate in Manipur was fractured with ruling Congress bagging 28 out of the total 60 seats and BJP getting 21. The Congress, which had won 42 seats in the 2012 Assembly poll, suffered a jolt. The BJP, on the other hand, took a giant leap forward capturing 21 seats as the party had not a single member in the outgoing House.

PUNJAB

In comparison to these states the BJP contested much fewer seats in Punjab. The BJP-SAD combine got around 31% vote share. However, the Congress lost vote share in majority of the states.

After the huge BJP victory political analysts concluded that the key reason for the victory of the party was PM Shri Narendra Modi's enduring appeal. Apart from it the pro-development, pro-poor agenda of the Union Government, India's strong economy, high GDP growth, low inflation, shrinking fiscal deficits, record-high foreign investment flows, for which 80% people feel the economy is in good shape and the country is on right track under the leadership of PM Shri Modi, have been other major factors for the decisive victory. ■

Foreign media hails PM Modi on historic win

Foreign media across the globe has reported the thumping victory in Assembly polls and hailed the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The Reuters

Wrote that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party has declared a landslide victory in crucial assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state. The agency has reported that the month-long, fiercely fought vote in Uttar Pradesh and four other states have been seen as a referendum on PM Modi's nearly three-year-old rule, especially after his ban last year on high-value notes.....

The Al-Jazeera

In its report writes that the triumph vindicates PM Modi's decision to turn the campaign into a referendum on his own performance after his decision last November to abolish high-denomination banknotes, a move he framed as a gift for the poor.....

The Washington Post

Says India's ruling party won landslide victories in results announced on 11 March from key state legislative elections that are seen as a referendum on the performance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nearly 3-year-old government.....

The BBC

Says in its report that, PM Narendra Modi's party has won a landslide victory in one of India's key states, a boost for the prime minister halfway through his first term. The Bharatiya Janata Party took control of northern India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh - with the biggest majority there since 1980.....

The Telegraph

Writes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party was on course for a landslide victory in India's most important battleground state, in a personal triumph that will strengthen his claim to a second term as national leader.....

The CNN

Says that India's ruling political party has won a crucial state election, strengthening its ability to push through a development agenda in the world's fastest growing major economy.....

The New York Times
Narendra Modi
 News about Narendra Modi, including commentary and archival articles published in The New York Times.

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR
Why Winning a State Election Will Strengthen Modi's Populism
 The Indian prime minister pledged "minimum government" in 2014. But victory in a state election on Saturday will make him more of a populist.
 By RICHARD SHARPLE

TIMES VIDEO
Landslide Victory for Modi's Party in India
 Supporters of Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party celebrated a landslide victory in India's most populous state on

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
 Home World U.S. Politics Economy Business Tech Markets Opinion Arts Life

WORLD | ASIA
BJP Victory Boosts India's Modi
 Leader has fresh political capital after party's triumph in India's most-populous state

By NIBHARIKA MANDHANA and RAYMOND ZHONG
 Updated March 12, 2017 9:23 p.m. ET
 NEW DELHI—Prime Minister Narendra Modi is riding into the second half of his term with more political capital to expand his anticorruption crackdown and promote economic development after his party's resounding electoral victory in India's most-populous state.

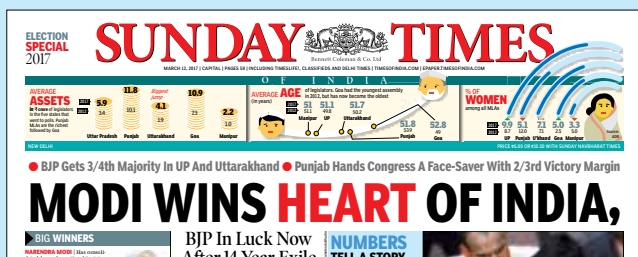
ANN
 ASIA NEWS NETWORK

EDITORIAL: BJP's massive victory in Uttar Pradesh
 DHAKA (The Daily Star/ANN) - We wonder whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be able to maintain the secular edifice of India.
 Given the tectonic shift in Indian politics as one senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has said, it is fair to ask as to what the massive BJP victory implies for Bangladesh and for the region of South Asia as a whole.
 There are two issues that enter our thoughts.
 Firstly, now that the victory further strengthens the BJP's stronghold on all-India politics, it being in control of more than a third of the Union's 29 States, ...

The Daily Star
 12 Mar 2017 12:48
 316



Indian Newspapers covered BJP's Mammoth Victory



The BJP decimated every other political party in Uttar Pradesh and bagged a whopping 325 seats in the state and the front-pages of most newspapers echoed exactly the same sentiment. PM Shri Narendra Modi, according to most editorials and political commentators, is responsible for BJP's clean sweep in the state.

The Indian Express

“Now the Modi-Amit Shah led BJP’s sweep confirms that what UP is seeing is a new phase of politics. Now BJP is setting the agenda, certainly, but, more than that, it is becoming what the people want it to be.”

The Reuters

The BJP had a finger in each electoral pie -- caste, religion, development...

The Times Of India

Explaining the Indira Gandhi connection, it added: “After transforming from the Hindu Hriday Samrat of Gujarat to Development Man in 2014, UP 2017 saw Modi again re-invent himself as a pro-poor welfarist.

The Telegraph

“A combination of factors that included a pro-poor Modi, meticulously crafted caste arithmetic in ticket distribution, a division of anti-BJP votes among the SP-Congress alliance and the BSP, tremendous hard work put in by the Shah-led army of party workers for several months before the elections helped the party achieve its unprecedented win”.

The Hindu

The BJP rode the ‘Modi wave’ to claim victories not just in Uttar Pradesh, but in Goa and Uttarakhand as well.





Foreign leaders and eminent personalities congratulate PM Modi

After the BJP's impressive performance in the assembly elections, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has received felicitations from prominent personalities and foreign leaders including the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and French President Francois Hollande.

French President Francois Hollande



Francois Hollande called up Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to congratulate him over BJP's good showing at the recently held Assembly polls.

"French President, HE Mr. @fhollande called PM @narendramodi to convey his felicitations at the election results. @Elysee".

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Dhabi



Spoke to PM Shri Narendra Modi. In a tweet, the PMO said, "HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, spoke to PM to convey his felicitations to PM at the election results."

Former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper

"Congratulations to @narendramodi and @BJP4India on decisive victories in UP and state elections! Courageous leadership, endorsed by Indians," Harper said in his tweet. Shri Modi also thanked former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his wishes. "Gratitude for the good wishes," the prime minister responded.



Legendary Singer Lata Mangeshkar



"Namaskar. Aadarniya @narendramodi ji, @AmitShah ji aur BJP ke sabhi karyakartao'n ko is shaandaar jeet ki bahut badhaai".

Film actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui

In his Tweet Nawazuddin said, "Congratulation to @narendramodi ji, for the mega VICTORY."



Spiritual Guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Sri Sri in his tweet said, "Congratulations @narendramodi @AmitShah for the victory in state elections. The mandate comes with a big responsibility for good governance."



Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev



Congratulations to @narendramodi Ji & @AmitShah Ji for the mega victory. Indian democracy is coming out of the trap of caste and religion. Narendra Modi added, Thank you. People are voting for development.

Cricketer Mohammad Kaif

Former Team India batsman Mohammad Kaif also congratulated PM Modi Ji, "Congratulations @BJP4India and @narendramodi ji for a spectacular victory in UP and Uttarakhand. UP victory is massive." The prime minister responded, "Thanks a lot. Yes, the scale and support is historical."



Flipkart Co-Founder Sachin Bansal



"More than my understanding, it is the people who have trusted the BJP & we will never betray this faith," Shri Modi replied to Sachin Bansal.

Film actress & MP Hema Malini

Modiji's unquestioned leadership, strong decision making and personal charisma combined with Amit Shahji's planned strategy have contributed to victory. When I went on the campaign trail, thousands came to the meetings -- there was a total Modi surge, demand for 'vikaas' everywhere and hope that only BJP can deliver.



KARYAKARTAS' VICTORY CELEBRATION

The imminent victory triggered widespread celebrations all across Uttar Pradesh, in other states of the country and as well as at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

Immediately after the trends indicated huge victory, celebrations erupted outside BJP offices in every state and BJP Central Office in New Delhi with party workers dancing and splashing each other with Gulal and flowers.

Overjoyed BJP workers, leaders and supporters hugged each other and raised victory slogans in the BJP office as counting trends indicated a comfortable victory for the party in the crucial Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

In UP the Bharatiya Janata Party office is just across the road of the sprawling Vidhan Sabha building. In that entire Vidhan Sabha area the BJP Karyakartas celebrated and raised slogans there, like “Chappa Chappa Bhajpa”, “Kahan pade ho chakkar mein, koi nahin hai takkar mein” and “Modi Modi”. Some were also carrying posters of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who most feel acted as the game changer in BJP.



Karyakartas welcome PM at BJP Headquarters

Government will be for those who voted for BJP and those who did not: PM Modi



Addressing BJP Karyakartas at the party headquarters in New Delhi, PM Shri Narendra Modi said the election results in five states are a mandate for the foundation of a new India where the poor get opportunities, rather than dole, and lighten the burden of the middle class. PM said the BJP must make all efforts to meet expectations. He reminded the party, that its leaders depended on hard work and not legacies to rise in politics.

“Ek naye Hindustan ke darshan ho rahe hain mujhe. (I can see the vision of a new India),” Shri Modi said, adding that BJP’s big success in UP, with the large population and size, could help set the country in a new direction. “The five states are the foundation of a new India. The poor are saying they will rather work than receive. Give me the opportunity, I will work hard, they are saying,” the PM said.

Shri Modi also praised BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, saying equal credit should go to him and party cadres for BJP’s success. “Under Amitbhai, the party has not only won polls but has grown by leaps and bounds, spreading across the country and we can proudly claim to be part of the largest party in the world,” he said. Shri Modi said the BJP government would take everyone along as “in democracy, governments are formed with a majority but run with consensus”.

Speaking at BJP headquarters, PM Shri Narendra Modi recalled his 2014 speech while unveiling the manifesto and reminisced how it was criticized. “I had said I am new, can commit mistakes but will do nothing with ill intention. Hard work and transparency were the other pledges I had taken in the speech.”

The PM asked the party to be humble in victory, a conciliatory message to the opposition after a bitter



campaign and ahead of a Parliament session where the Centre hopes to pass the GST law. Fruits make a tree stoop, nature inspires us that when the fruits of victory are in sight, we should stoop the most. We should not lust for office, he said.

On his reference to legacy politics, he said BJP should be grateful to a string of members who had sacrificed their all over generations. “Atalji, Advaniji, Kushabhau Thakre and Jana Krishnamoorthy have done everything to spread the party ideology.”

Referring to the record turnout in the five states, the PM asked political pundits to change the discourse. “Political pundits should review how the party won with an overwhelming majority after a record turnout. I have seen a few experts discussing the verdict but they should change the discourse as how record turnout happened without an emotional issue in play,” he said.

He said that rising poll percentage was a good sign for democracy. Asking people to take a pledge every year till 2022 when the country completes 75 years of independence, he said, “If 125 crore people of the

country take a pledge every day, the country will not lag behind in the race for development.”

Striking a conciliatory note, he added, “This government is of those who have voted for it and also those who have not. Of those who have walked along, and also of those who have not.”

Expounding his formulation, Shri Modi said, “Today, middle class has to bear the greatest burden of taxes, of rules and regulation, and observe social norms. The quantum of economic burden for the middle class is the most. This should reduce, the middle classes want hurdles to be removed so that they can be achievers. Once the poor begin to carry their own burden, the burdens on the middle class will reduce. This is new India.”

He said the poor had come out of a mindset where they looked up to a patron or benefactor, an apparent reference to “mai-baap” politics he has often accused Congress of. Shri Modi said BJP saw the mandate it had received as a “sacred direction” from the people to serve. “Work relentlessly to fulfill the aspirations of the janta janardhan,” he said. ■

PM Modi most popular leader since Independence

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah while welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji at Party Headquarters in New Delhi and addressing the Karyakartas during victory celebrations after the party’s massive sweep in Uttar Pradesh and other states said election results prove that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the most popular leader since Independence.



The results are very encouraging for the BJP, we are going to form government in four states - UP, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur, he said, thanking voters and party workers in all five states where assembly elections were held. He said the results were a victory of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s leadership and the mandate would “take the country’s politics in a new direction.”

“The outcome has shown the faith the poor have reposed in Modi Ji. Even his political rivals will have to admit that he has emerged as the tallest leader in the country since independence,” he said.

“This is a win for people, for their determination. This is a win for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership and it is a win for the hard work and efforts of our party workers,” BJP President said.

The BJP, along with allies, has won 325 of UP’s 403 seats, leaving very few seats to be shared by all other parties. It has also swept Uttarakhand, adjacent to UP. Goa and Manipur, which saw direct contests between the Congress and BJP, have not given any party a majority and the BJP is in with a chance to form government with the support of others.

BJP Parliamentary party meeting after poll victory

2019 Lok Sabha elections 'next big challenge': Amit Shah

The BJP top leaders set the tone for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls at its Parliamentary Party meeting on with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi asking party leaders to reach out to youths. BJP President Shri Amit Shah said the parliamentary elections are the next big challenge for the party following its win in the recently concluded state polls.

The first BJP Parliamentary Party meeting after the announcement of the assembly polls results was an occasion for celebration, thanksgiving and mapping out the path ahead for the party. Keeping up with its outreach to Dalits, a substantial chunk of whom is believed to have voted for the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh polls, it has decided to launch various week-long events from Bhim Rao Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary on April 14.

The party will observe the week-long exercise in every panchayat and ward. It will also celebrate its foundation day on April 6 during which its leaders and workers will take part in 'Swachh Bharat' campaign. Shri Modi asked party leaders to work during the week to give a boost to the use of BHIM app, a digital payment application, by educating the masses about it and helping them download it, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Ananth Kumar told reporters after the meeting.

They were also asked to publicise Ambedkar's works and contributions. The Prime Minister said youths should be made ambassadors of the Union government's public welfare works and good governance.

Shri Modi said youngsters depend on mobile phones more than on newspapers and TV channels to get information and stressed on the need to use this medium of communication to tap them. He also asked the party leaders to contact them while they are in



Class XII.

Shri Amit Shah said the party's win in the recently concluded assembly polls was an outcome of people's vote against casteism, family rule and corruption and in favour of Modi's leadership under which public welfare and good governance is the agenda.

Noting that the five-state elections were cited as the BJP's biggest electoral challenge following 2014 Lok Sabha polls victory, he asserted that the next parliamentary elections in 2019 is the next big challenge and asked the party leaders to make preparation for it. The BJP's win underlined people's support for the welfare schemes launched by the Central government and a brave decision like demonetization, Shah claimed.

The BJP Parliamentary Party also passed a resolution thanking voters for their support and also party's workers for their efforts under the leadership of Shri Modi and Shri Shah. It also expressed hope that the BJP governments in these states will provide good governance and run public welfare programmes. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh proposed the resolution and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley supported it, which was passed unanimously, Shri Kumar said. The party leaders were also distributed 'prasad' of the Tirupati temple. ■



Swearing in ceremony, Goa



BJP formed government in Goa and Manohar Parrikar takes oath as the new CM

Senior BJP leader and former Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar was sworn-in for the fourth time as the Chief Minister of Goa on 14 March, 2017. Shri Parrikar also inducted nine MLAs two from the BJP and seven from his coalition partners, into his Cabinet.

Shri Parrikar resigned as Defence Minister on 13 March, 2017 and a day after he was invited to form the Government by Goa Governor Dr. Mridula Sinha.

Speaking to reporters at the Raj Bhavan after the swearing-in ceremony

Shri Parrikar said, that while the mandate given to the BJP in the 04 February State Assembly elections, was not sufficient, the post-poll alliance with the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, Goa Forward and three Independent legislators, takes the cumulative

vote-share of the ruling alliance members to more than 50 per cent of the votes polled.

He said, “This Government will work 24x7x365 days for the development of Goa”.

Among the Ministers inducted in the Cabinet are Shri Sudin Dhavalikar and Shri Manohar Azgaonkar of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party, Shri Vijai Sardesai, Shri Vinod Paliencar and Shri Jayesh

Salgaonkar of Goa Forward, Shri Francis D’Souza, Shri Pandurang Madkaikar of the BJP and Independent legislators Shri Govind Gawde and

Shri Rohan Khaunte. The swearing-in was attended by BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and Union Ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu and Shri JP Nadda, among others and top dignitaries of the State. ■



@narendramodi

Congratulations to @manoharparrikar and his team on being sworn in. My best wishes in taking Goa to new heights of progress.

Swearing in ceremony, Manipur

Manipur gets the BJP Government, Biren Singh is new CM



Manipur on 15 March, 2017 got its first BJP ministry, with BSF soldier, turned journalist, turned politician Shri N. Biren Singh taking oath as the Chief Minister.

Governor Dr. Najma Heptullah administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Biren Singh and eight other ministers. Shri Y. Joykumar of the National People's Party (NPP) was given the Deputy Chief Minister's post.

The other cabinet ministers are Shri Thongam Bishwajit, Shri Langpoklakpam Jayentakumar, Shri Karam Shyam, Shri L. Haokip, Shri L. Kiisi, Shri Thounaojam Shyamkumar and Shri L. Dikko.

Shri Shyamkumar was originally elected on Trinamool Congress ticket. However, he backed Shri Biren Singh in front of the Governor.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, the NPP, the Naga People's Front, Trinamool Congress and the Lok Janshakti Party are represented in the government.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and cabinet



@narendramodi

Congratulations to Shri N Biren Singh and his team on taking oath. I am sure this team will work tirelessly towards Manipur's development.

minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu attended the event. Former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh was one of the guests at the function.

The BJP justified its claims to form governments in Goa and Manipur, saying it has both "legitimacy and the numbers. BJP spokesperson G V L Narasimha Rao said, "We have both the legitimacy and the numbers to form the government in Goa and Manipur,"

"We definitely have genuine numbers, we have allies who were a part of the BJP government in the state and we have four per more votes than the Congress.

The BJP spokesperson said, "What is more important to form a government is the legislative majority which the party has by way of support from these parties. ■

India's unemployment rate sees sharp decline: Report

Contrary to market perception, India's unemployment rate halved from 9.5 per cent in August, 2016 to 4.8 per cent in February this year and among major states, a sharp decline was registered in Uttar Pradesh. According to the SBI Ecoflash, during August, 2016 to February, 2017, unemployment rate in Uttar Pradesh registered the maximum decline from 17.1 per cent to 2.9 per cent, followed by Madhya Pradesh (10 per cent to 2.7 per cent), Jharkhand (9.5 per cent to 3.1 per cent), Odisha (10.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent) and Bihar (13 per cent to 3.7 per cent).

"We believe this decline is primarily due to the government's efforts in providing new employment opportunities in rural areas," said the report compiled by State Bank of India research team led by Group Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh. The report further noted that the decline was also explained by household demanded/allocated work under MGNREGA, which increased from 83 lakh households in October 2016 to 167 lakh households in February 2017.

Moreover, the number of works completed under MGNREGA increased by a whopping 40 per cent to 50.5 lakh in 2016-17 compared to 36.0 lakh in 2015-



16. Notable increase was registered in the works of anganwadi, drought proofing, rural drinking water, and water conservation and harvesting.

"This is a welcome trend and will contribute greatly for developing rural infrastructure a sine qua non for sustained agri growth," the report said. In the Union Budget FY18, MGNREGA scheme has been allocated a budgetary resource of Rs 48,000 crore.

During FY 2017-18, another 5 lakh farm ponds will be taken up, compared to expected 10 lakh during FY 2016-17. This single measure will contribute greatly to drought proofing of gram panchayats. The unemployment rate was estimated by BSE and CMIE from data collected regarding the employment/unemployment status of all members of 15 years and more of a sample of randomly selected households. ■

India retains fastest-growing economy tag despite cash crackdown

Despite demonetization drive India retained the tag of world's fastest-growing economy. India's economy grew faster in 2015-16 than earlier estimated. India's economy surprised economist's expectations on February 28 to retain the title of the world's fastest-growing major economy. Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to an annual 7.0 percent in October-December from 7.4 percent the previous quarter. Analysts polled by Reuters had expected a 6.4 percent growth rate. India's growth was higher than China's 6.8 percent for the last three months of 2016.

The federal statistics office retained its growth forecast for the fiscal year ending in March 2017 at 7.1 percent.

Prime Minister reacting on growth rate in a public rally said "On the one hand they talk of what people at Harvard say, on the other, a poor person's son through his hard work is trying to grow the economy".

Earlier, opposing the demonetization drive Harvard economist & Nobel Laureate Shri Amartya Sen had said "Demonetisation is a disaster on economy of trust. In the last 20 years, the country has been growing very fast. But it is all based on acceptance of each other's word. ■



Lok Sabha passes Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Lok Sabha passed on 9th March, 2017 the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which inter-alia includes increasing maternity benefit to woman covered under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 from 12 weeks to 26 weeks up to two surviving children in order to allow the mother to take care of the child during his/her most formative stage, providing maternity benefit of 12 weeks to Commissioning mother and Adopting mother, facilitate “work from home” to a mother with mutual consent of the employee and the employer, making mandatory in respect of establishment having fifty or more employees, to have the facility of crèche either individually or as a shared common facility within such



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has lauded the passage of Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha and has called it a landmark moment in the efforts towards women-led development. “Passage of the Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha is a landmark moment in our efforts towards women-led development. Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill ensures better health and wellbeing of the mother and child. Increase in maternity leave is a welcome provision. Employment of women is protected thanks to Maternity Benefit Amendment Bill. Mandatory provision of crèche in offices is laudable.”, the Prime Minister said.

Highlights of the Bill

- The Act provides maternity leave up to 12 weeks for all women. The Bill extends this period to 26 weeks. However, a woman with two or more children will be entitled to 12 weeks of maternity leave.
- The Bill introduces maternity leave up to 12 weeks for a woman who adopts a child below the age of three months, and for commissioning mothers. The period of maternity leave will be calculated from the date the child is handed over to the adoptive or commissioning mother.
- The Bill requires every establishment with 50 or more employees to provide for crèche facilities within a prescribed distance. The woman will be allowed four visits to the crèche in a day.
- An employer may permit a woman to work from home, if the nature of work assigned permits her to do so. This may be mutually agreed upon by the employer and the woman.
- The Bill requires an establishment to inform a woman of all benefits that would be available under the Bill, at the time of her appointment. Such information must be given in writing and electronically.

distance as may be prescribed by rules & also to allow four visits to the crèche by the woman daily, including the interval for rest allowed to her and every establishment to intimate in writing and electronically to every woman at the time of her initial appointment about the benefits available under the Act.

The bill was presented in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State (IC) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya. The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 11th August, 2016. These changes will have major impact on the health, well-being and growth of the future generation in the Country. It will have positive impact on women's participation in labour force and will improve the work-life balance of the women workers. The Maternity Benefits (Amendment) Act, 2016 will come into the force only after the President's assent. ■

A Many-splendoured Personality

I BALA SAHEB DEORAS

(This is the last part of the article on Deendayal Ji)

On the other hand Pandit Deendayalji took the stand that those old things which deserved to be retained would be retained, and those new things which may be beneficial would also be accepted. He meditated on these lines, and through this meditation emerged Integral Humanism, the political, economic and social philosophy that he found most acceptable and which he put before the people.

The importance of Deendayalji's comprehensive thinking is now being realised. For example, when our plans were drawn up in the beginning people were told to fell trees and bring the land under cultivation. But now it is being realised that felling trees would actually have a detrimental effect on agriculture.

Even in other respects thinking in our country had become compartmentalised. Some said everything that a man did has a same urge. Others said the urge is economic. But man cannot be divided into compartments like this. We have to think of man as a whole. All our great thinkers like Lokmanya Tilak, Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi propounded this comprehensive nature of the human being in their philosophy. And it is on these lines that Deendayalji's concept of an allround life of the individual is based.

CLARITY OF THINKING

'Deendayalji was quite clear in his opinion that any inequality in society was undesirable and should be removed. He did not hesitate to say that if the Varna and caste system created differences of high and low in the society it would be overthrown.' On the other hand he also said that people today are very much given to thinking of money. He said both an absence and an abundance of money create problems and should be guarded against.

Similarly Deendayalji accepted that the machine age has come to stay, but he held that only that much



machinery should be allowed as would not bring problems in its wake. It would not do to keep the examples of Russia and America before us while drawing up our plans. They are geographically very big countries with small populations and still possess a lot of virgin land. On the other hand we have a very big population and have been tilling our land for thousands of pots. Consequently the western pattern

cannot serve our purpose.

Pandit Deendayal emphasised that our manpower was our greatest asset and hence all our plans should be labour intensive. It would not be proper to instal big machines and hand over everything to the capitalist. This concept of a decentralised economy was forcefully advocated by Deendayalji.

FOR AND OF THE PEOPLE

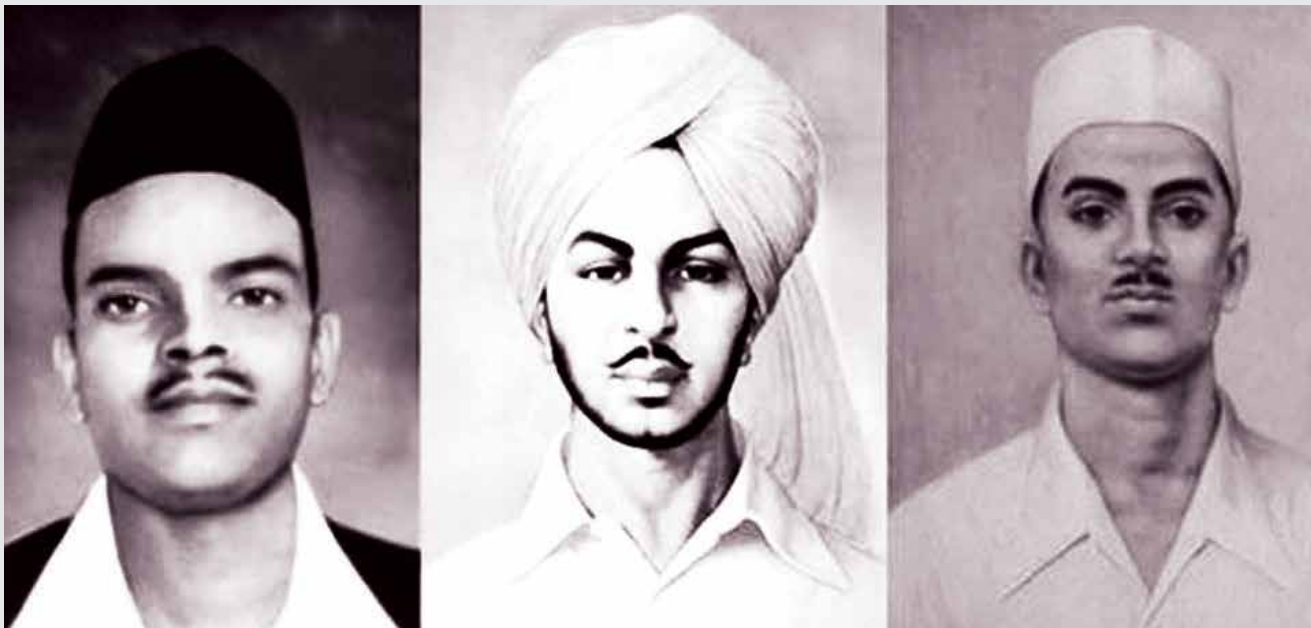
Those who carefully study the ideology propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya would realise that its basic theme is ancient. Without doubt he did the work of highlighting what was enduring in what was old. At the same time he did not hesitate to point out what was transitory. It was through the process of transition and through the acceptance of new ideas that he placed before the people a clear political, social and economic ideology.

The decentralised economy that our planners now want to emphasise by giving importance to cottage industries is the treasure house of thought that Deendayalji placed before the people. This shows how comprehensive and deep his thinking was.

Thus Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was a many splendoured personality. But perhaps his essential quality as a leader has been described in that Shloka of the Geeta which Shri Nath Pai quoted in his tribute to Deendayalji: "He was one from whom the people did not turn away, and who did not turn away from the people". ■

(Based on speech by Late Shri Balasaheb Deoras, the then Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on the occasion of Deendayal Upadhyaya Birthday Celebrations in Nagpur on 25th September, 1977)

Tribute to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru on their Martyrdom Day



When the British Govt implemented an act to suppress freedom struggle, it gave the British Police a free hand to carry out arrests without any permissions. In order to protest against this act, Bhagat Singh and his friends carried out a plan to use low intensity bomb inside the assembly hall and at the same time ensure that there are no deaths. Immediately after the bombing, Bhagat Singh and his friends voluntarily surrendered and taken to trial. They were charged with attempt to murder and sentenced to 14 years life in 1929.

Further investigation by the Police led to discovery of other members, some of who turned into informants and helped police to connect Bhagat Singh with an alleged murder of a British Officer. Singh was again arrested and sent to another jail where he faced discrimination between British & Indian prisoners and that led to his protest in the form of hunger strike against the discrimination.

In the meantime, the ongoing investigation of

framing Bhagat Singh for the alleged murder of a British Officer in the past was hastened by the Viceroy, Irwin in 1930. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru & Sukhdev were sentenced to death and the execution date was fixed to 24th March 1931.

On 17th March, a telegram was sent to Home Dept preponing the execution date to 23rd March, and was hanged to death at 7.30pm on 23rd March 1931.

The execution was a great blow to the sentiments of Indians who in turn were deeply moved and held demonstrations all over the country.

The sacrifice of such martyrs which motivated other freedom fighters to relentlessly persuade the movement which finally resulted in Indian Independence.

Every year, 23rd March is observed as Martyrs' Day in honor of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru & Sukhdev. A salute to our martyrs for giving up their lives during freedom struggle so that subsequent generations could live in peace & prosperity. ■



LARGEST SINGLE PARTY vs A COMBINATION WITH MAJORITY SUPPORT

| ARUN JAITLEY

The Congress Party complains a bit too much. It accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of ‘stealing’ the mandate in Goa. It unsuccessfully petitioned before the Supreme Court. It attempted to raise issues in the Lok Sabha. What are the facts?

The Assembly Elections in Goa produced an inconclusive verdict. There was a Hung Assembly. Obviously in a Hung Assembly post-poll alliances will be formed. The BJP managed to form an alliance and presented to the Governor 21 out of 40 MLAs. They appeared before the Governor in person and submitted a letter of support. The Congress did not even submit a claim to the Governor. It had only the

support of 17 MLAs. The Congress Party protested at the Governor’s decision to invite Mr Manohar Parrikar to form the Government with support of 21 out of 40 MLAs and described it as ‘a murder of democracy’.

In the face of claim of these 21 MLAs led by Mr Manohar Parrikar, the Governor could not have invited the minority of 17 MLAs to form the Government. There are several precedents which support this decision of the Governor.

- In 2005, BJP won 30 out of 81 seats in Jharkhand. The JMM leader Shri Shibu Soren with a support of 17 MLAs of his Party plus others was invited to form the Government .
- In J&K 2002, the National Conference won 28 MLAs but the Governor invited the PDP &

Congress Combination of 15 + 21 MLAs to form the Government.

- In 2013 the BJP won 31 seats in Delhi, but the AAP with 28 MLAs with support of Congress was invited to form the Government.

There are other precedents on the same lines available in 1952 (Madras), 1967 (Rajasthan) and 1982 (Haryana).

The debate between the largest single party lacking majority versus a combination of parties constituting a majority was answered by the former President Shri KR Narayanan in his communiqué in March, 1998 when he invited Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee to form the Government. The President had said “when no party or pre-election alliance of parties is in a clear majority, the Head of State has in India or elsewhere, given the first opportunity to the leader of the party or

combination of parties that has won largest number of seats subject to the Prime Ministers so appointed obtaining majority support on the floor of the house within a stipulated time. This procedure is not, however, all time formula because situations can arise where MPs not belonging to the single largest party or combination can, as a collective entity, out-number the single largest claimant. The President’s choice of Prime Minister is pivoted on the would be Prime Minister’s claim of commanding majority support.”

The Governor in Goa had only one claim of 21 MLAs out of 40 elected MLAs with Shri Manohar Parrikar as their leader. The 17 MLAs of Congress did not even make a claim nor elected their leader. How could the Congress ever be invited to form the Government? ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance & Defence, GoI)

Lok Sabha Passes the Admiralty Bill, 2016

The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 10 March, 2017. The Bill aims to establish a legal framework to consolidate the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, arrest of vessels and related issues. It also aims to replace archaic laws which are hindering efficient governance. The Bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India and this jurisdiction extends upto territorial waters.

Introduced during the winter session of Parliament, the Bill came up for discussion in the Lok Sabha yesterday. The Minister of State (RT&H, S, C&F), Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, presented an overview of the Bill in the House, highlighting the need for repealing five obsolete British statutes on admiralty jurisdiction in civil matters, which are 126 to 177 years old. The Bill provides for prioritization of maritime claims and maritime liens while providing protection to owners, charterers, operators, crew members and seafarers at the same time. During the course of discussion, thirteen members presented their views and raised various questions which were replied to by Shri Mandaviya. The Bill was then passed by the House. ■



Modiji wins heart and heartland; Foundation for building a New India

| DR R. BALASHANKAR

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a very significant observation regarding the magnificent electoral mandate from the people of UP, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa, which came half way through his first term in office. He said, “these victories, where the voter has expressed his resounding endorsement is the laying of the foundation of a New India”. The PM was addressing the mammoth victory rally at the BJP head quarters on Ashoka Road, New Delhi on March 12. The historic performance of the BJP in these polls, which one national daily headlined as “Modi’s March”, was seen as the party stealing a head-start for the 2019 polls. Modiji gave a clarion call for a samarth, sresht Bharat by 2022, when India completes 75 years of independence on this occasion. He passionately reiterated the commitment to serve the poor, build India of the dreams of Deendayal Upadhyaya, whose centenary year happens to be the year the BJP grabbed the stunning three fourth majority in the UP assembly poll.

Modiji has won the heart of India by winning UP and Uttarakhand that shook the confidence of his opponents. Of the five states that went to polls BJP swept two and came close to majority in two others. It established Modi as the most popular, most respected leader of India, prompting Economic Times to banner its lead “ghar ghar Modi”, saying Rang de basanti Narendra Modi works wonders winning hearts in the heartland and cementing his stature as the most popular leader in the country. An emphatic splash in Uttarakhand and a stunning run in Manipur sent the Opposition running for cover. “Namo passes DeMo test with flying colours,” ET added. PM in fact repeated the 2014 show in UP, Congress got Punjab winning 77 seats in the 117 member assembly and the ambitions of AAP was dashed both in Goa and Punjab.

India is surely and firmly Modified at last. There



is great pride and happiness in stating this. Because though the modification happened actually in May 2014, and again in the state elections in October same year, Indian media, anti-BJP intellectual and political class remained self-deluded believing it a temporary voter aberration. So they failed to notice the tumultuous saffron tide building up in the last many months and hoped the drowning cycle held by the shaky hand will push the tide back and it will be game as usual.

What Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah have achieved in this round of election has no parallel and this has finally and convincingly consolidated the gains of the past three years making everybody acknowledge the BJP as the party of India’s future.

In all but two of the five states that went to polls the BJP has made big gains. In UP 325 seats out of 403 and 57 out of 70 in Uttarakhand and 21 seats in Manipur where the party had no member in the assembly are historic gains. In Goa and Manipur the BJP is likely to form governments with other smaller parties and independents. Everywhere but in Goa the BJP substantially increased its vote share. The huge success in UP where the party is coming to power after a gap of 15 years is creating a national buzz in favour of BJP. Omar Abdullah who is no friend

of the BJP told his friends in the anti-BJP camp not to try to replace BJP in 2019 as it is impossible but concentrate on elections in 2024. Lalu Yadav blamed Nitish Kumar for not campaigning against the BJP in UP. Akhilesh Yadav blamed the voters who according to him got swayed by the Prime Minister. Mayawati who was reduced to just 19 seats in UP and failed to open account in Uttarakhand where BSP played king maker in the past five years blamed voting machines for her humiliating defeat. She cannot get elected to Rajya Sabha when her term comes to an end early next year and is facing a prospect of political oblivion.

Akhilesh Yadav who was the media tiger taking on BJP is reduced to 47 seats, less than the number of his clansmen occupying positions in his party of the family. The Congress is reduced to an all time low of seven seats in the assembly of which three have come from family turf Rae Bareilly, where too it lost six of the ten seats. In Rahul Gandhi's Amethi Congress lost all seats. The SP and BSP lost in all these strongholds.

It was a resounding verdict against caste and communal and dynastic politics. It was a verdict for Modi whom the people saw as a messiah of the sole ideological pole to transform India as the super power of the century.

Those who abuses Shri Modi were punished by the voter. Those who unleashed a campaign of calumny bit the dust. Those who built their campaign spreading falsehood on demonetization lost the people's trust. The BJP could win the polls only because of the great performer, Vikas Purush image of the PM and the meticulous hard work of the party chief Shri Amit Shah. The massive parivarthan yatras reaching up to the panchayat level, activating the booth level committees, enrolling millions of active workers in the rural areas, training the party cadre in which over three lakh workers participated, all under the close scrutiny of Shri Amit Shah created the climate for the BJP electoral success. No other party has not put

in this sort of mobilization in the last two years. The central schemes like Mudra yojana in which over 33 lakh loans worth Rs 12,275 crore was distributed, in UP alone, similarly free cooking gas connection to 52 lakh families and 40 million Jandhan accounts all convinced the people the sincerity of Modi government on poverty eradication. Similarly over 3 lakh families received loans under Prime Minister's Aawas Yojana. The loan waiver promise the party made was a big hit.

The poor have embraced Modiji but parties and leaders who worked on vote banks without creating any hope for raising the living standards of the poor could not fathom the Modi connect. Modiji spoke in a modern idiom. His opponents still spoke the language of the sixties. Shri Modi emphasized on delivery. His opponents on promises of freebies. The BJP has changed the matrix of political discourse, its opponents

worked on caste, religious arithmetic.

The opposition built their campaign on opposition to note ban, but the poor figured it as a decisive and bold effort to curb black money fight

corruption and usher inclusive growth.

Today the BJP is ruling two third of the country's population. Since 2014 the party snatched power in nine states seven of them from Congress, whereas the Congress lost power in nine states and gained in one- Punjab. The victories this round make it possible for the party to raise its strength to 70 and Congress strength down to 47 in the Rajya Sabha, The BJP will be in a position to elect its own President and Vice President without much help from others outside the NDA.

With this round too won, the detractors of Modiji, Amit Shahji and the BJP will have to work harder and re-chart their moral standing if at all they have to be taken seriously by the people. For, their style of politics has simply become outdated. ■

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It's Modi... Modi, Amit Shah, and BJP

Bharatiya Janata Party has come out with flying colours in the just concluded elections to five State assemblies. Out of the five, BJP ruled in one State (Goa), in Punjab it was an alliance partner, Uttarakhand and Manipur had Congress governments and UP was ruled by Samajwadi Party (SP). The biggest catch is UP followed by Uttarakhand.



AMBA CHARAN VASHISHTH

Under the magnificent duo of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, Bharatiya Janata Party has come out with flying colours in the just concluded elections to five State assemblies. Out of the five, BJP ruled in one State (Goa), in Punjab it was an alliance partner, Uttarakhand and Manipur had Congress governments and UP was ruled by Samajwadi Party (SP). The biggest catch is UP followed by Uttarakhand. In Goa and Manipur BJP is going to form its government in alliance with local

parties. By count of the States the success may be 80 percent yet in measure the pleasure is hundred percent.

This victory has created history, a revolution that has changed the political scenario in the country. It has stunned into silence BJP opponents who prophesied a Doomsday for the NDA government led by Shri Modi in these elections. BJP detractors had branded the elections as a referendum on demonetisation and what Shri Modi had done or not done during the last about 3 years of his rule. If it was, as they said, the people in these States have given a lie to the false propaganda let loose by these leaders. It only showed how cut off were they from the pulse of the people. The voter has firmly

put his seal of approval for Shri Modi's courageous and historic step.

It is for the first time in the history of independent India that a Prime Minister and his government have maintained their rapport with the people even after about three years in office. BJP has now won almost the same number of assembly constituencies and the same percentage of votes when it recorded win in 73 Lok Sabha seats in UP in May 2014.

In 1980 Congress had won 309 seats in a 425-member undivided UP house. It fell short of three-fourth majority. BJP has smashed this 37 year old record by winning 312 out of 403 seats recording three-fourth majority. BJP alliance partner Apna Dal won 9 seats. Interestingly, the national party Congress which fought the election as an ally of the ruling Samajwadi Party (SP) was squeezed to just 6. In 2012 Congress had won 28 seats fighting against SP and gave the credit squarely to present Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi. But this time no one in Congress is willing to give the credit for 6 seats to him despite the fact that he had all alone campaigned tirelessly and extensively alongside Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

The present elections have been very harsh on the dynastic politics. Dynastic campaign by the Congress trio of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has received a severe drubbing. All the four constituencies falling in Rahul's Amethi parliamentary constituency and the two in Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's Rae Bareilly constituency Congress contested were lost to BJP.

The worst has been the Akhilesh clan. None of his family members who contested on SP ticket were elected. His estranged uncle Shivpal Yadav did win.

Prior to the close of campaigning for the last and 7th phase of UP poll, PM campaigned in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi for three consecutive days but not as PM but its representative. As a common

leader he undertook road shows to mix with his constituents caring a fig for his personal security. This paid dividends. BJP won all the eight seats, including one by its ally.

The results have put a question mark on SP's UP CM Akhilesh Yadav future. Miss Mayawati's re-election to the Rajya Sabha next year has been doomed.

PM Narendra Modi has emerged as the tallest leader of the country since independence. No leader in the past enjoyed that much clout in so short a time. It is the result of the way Shri Modi has conducted himself in running the affairs of the nation and ushered in all round progress in the country touching and benefitting every section of society, particularly the poor and the neglected sections irrespective of their caste, creed, sex and region.

Shri Modi has lifted the level of his performance and campaigning so high that he has made appeals by certain political parties to caste and community irrelevant. He has earned universal appreciation and support from all. He has now become the

BJP VICTORY IN CONSTITUENCIES OVERWHELMED BY CERTAIN CASTES AND COMMUNITIES, LIKE DEOBAND, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE HAD THE DOMINANT CASTES AND COMMUNITIES NOT VOTED FOR IT.

doyen of every section's eye in society. BJP victory in constituencies overwhelmed by certain castes and communities, like Deoband, could not have been possible had the dominant castes and communities not voted for it.

For 2014 Lok Sabha win, PM Modi had described the then BJP national president Rajnath Singh as the captain with Shri Amit Shah as the Man of the (election) Match. This time it was the collective team of Shri Modi and Shri Shah that has worked the wonder of catapulting the BJP to a pan-India party ruling in almost every region of the country.

Prime Minister Modi has hailed Shri Amit Shah as the most successful BJP chief who has turned the party as the largest political organization in the world with a membership of about 11 crores. This was following by winning State after State in successive elections. It is during his stewardship that BJP, for the first



time, extended its hold in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, J&K, Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Assam and Manipur. The organizational part of marshalling the party machinery for realizing the objective in view and putting the strategy in operation was looked after by national general secretary organization Shri Ramlal.

In fact, PM Modi and BJP President Amit Shah have now come to be hailed as Jodi No. 1 by the media. Both seem to be made for each other for strengthening the party and ushering in development and good governance in the country.

The people have put breaks on the inflated ego and high aspirations of Delhi CM Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party. His boast to form governments in Punjab and Goa has proved a damp squib. Party failed to open its account in Goa. It contested 39 seats and 38 of its candidates, including the chief ministerial candidate, lost their security deposit.

In Punjab it was reduced to a distant second with just 20 seats in a 117 house and a vote percentage of 23.7. SAD was a close third with 18 seats but with a higher percentage of votes (25.2). In alliance BJP had contested just 23 seats, winning 3 with vote percentage of 5.4. If the alliance votes are counted together, its vote percentage swells up to 30.6, about 7% more than AAP.

In the electoral mathematics practiced in India 2+2 is not always 4; it could be 5 or 3 also. That is why in Goa while BJP scored a higher percentage (32.5) of votes it could win only 13 seats while Congress with just 28.4 percent got 17 seats.

This election will go down in the electoral history of India as the worst one in which the opposition debased the election campaign to the lowest level bordering on calling names and hitting below the belt. The results have given a befitting reply to the opposition by rejecting their no-holds-barred campaign. Perhaps the opposition will take the results as a lesson.

From Sharmila, who made headlines in the country

and abroad for her relentless fast for over 16 years demanding withdrawal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), terminated her fast a few months back and decided to enter electoral politics. She waited upon Delhi CM Kejriwal who promised her every help though he fell short of adopting her as AAP candidate. She contested against Manipur CM Ibobi Singh and ended up getting just 90 votes. Perhaps it is a message to anti-AFSPA activists in J&K.

In Manipur, it is for the first time that BJP has been able to form its government in alliance with other partners. In the past it had no representation at all in the assembly. Earlier, BJP formed its own government in Assam. It is already in alliance with the ruling parties in Arunachal and Nagaland. Manipur has extended party's presence in the north-east. It is expected to go a long way in ushering in an era of development, good governance and justice in the region.

The success of BJP strategy not to project a chief ministerial candidate while going to the elections had paid

rich dividends in Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. It proved a success in the current elections in UP and Uttarakhand too.

Shri Modi has taken the BJP to such a great height that it now looks unstoppable. The future elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in the last quarter of the current year, in Karnataka early in 2018 and in the later half in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan quite appear to be a foregone conclusion of a big win for BJP.

It is because of this reality that one of the anchors during the ongoing debate on election results put a very cogent question to the panelists: Who is going to challenge Shri Modi and BJP in 2019? Nobody was prepared to hazard a guess.

The results have also given a spurt to BJP's strength and confidence. It can now have a President of its own choice in July this year when the tenure of the present incumbent Shri Pranab Mukherjee expires. ■

(The writer is a Delhi based Political analyst)

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