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**RAMNATH KOVIND SET TO BECOME NEXT PRESIDENT OF INDIA** 

Vol. 12, No. 13

01-15 July, 2017 (Fortnightly)

**BJP CREATES HISTORY WINNING SHIMLA MC ELECTIONS** 

THE PRACTICE OF YOGA HAS SWEPT THE WORLD WITH AN ENTHUSIASM NEVER SEEN BEFORE

**INDIAN ETHOS RESONATES** WITH WORLD-VIEW

PM Narendra Modi, BJP National President Amit Shah, Senior BJP leaders Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. MM Joshi and Senior NDA leaders, Chief Ministers from various states accompaning Shri Ramnath Kovind on his way to file nomination for the post of President





BJP National President Shri Amit Shah while inaugurating BJF district office in Kheda Nadiad, Gujarat



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah felicitating women who benefited from various Central State Govt. schemes in Raipur, Chhattisgarh



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paying tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Mumbai



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Congratulations to ISRO on its 40th successful Polar satellite launch carrying 31 satellites from 15 countries. You make us proud!

#### @AmitShah

Dr. Mookerjee's devotion to the motherland and his unwavering commitment to ideology continues to inspire millions of karyakartas till date.





#### @rajnathsingh

Congratulations to @BJP4Himachal on winning Shimla Municipal polls. This shows people's support to BJP's commitment to good governance.

## facebook

I am delighted to see the vigour & enthusiasm with which people are joining the #YogaDay2017 celebrations all across India & the



world. Let us pledge today to make Yoga an integral part of our daily routine & practice Yoga regularly. The benefits are tremendous.

— Narendra Modi

I thank constituents of NDA and all other parties who supported Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji's candidature for President's office.

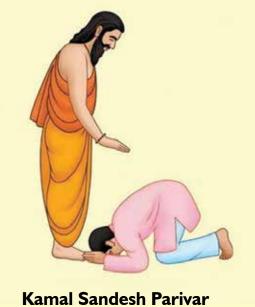


— Amit Shah

Modi government is committed to villagers, poor and farmers. — Radha Mohan Singh







Kamal Sandesh Pariva wishes a very happy GURU PURNIMA (9 July, 2017) to its readers

# Lost opportunity for Congress

s soon as BJP National President Shri Amit Shah declared the name of Shri Ramnath Kovind, the governor of Bihar, as candidate for the post of President of India, support for him started pouring in from different quarters. Apart from entire NDA, TRS, YSRC, JDU, BJD and AIADMK have so far extended their support to his candidature. The kind of support which Shri Ramnath Kovind is getting was unimaginable till a few days back as most of the political observers predicting a keen contest for the post. The credit must go to the NDA leadership for undertaking wide ranging consultation with almost every political party and arriving at a decision broadly acceptable in the current political scenario. In a true democratic spirit and in accordance to the prestige and dignity associated with the post of president the consultations have yielded satisfactory result with most of the political parties rising above their partisan interests backing the decision and supporting the highly deserving candidate for the highest office in the country.

While the process of wide consultation started yielding desirable results the Congress in place of supporting the candidature of Shri Ramnath Kovind has opted for a contest for the post. The Congress which was earlier broaching different names in the media had to declare a Dalit as its candidate in the face of the candidature

THE CONGRESS ALONG WITH COMMUNISTS AND OTHER ALLIES **ARE NOW OFFERING** A TOKEN FIGHT **IN A CONTEST** WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY LOST. THEY COULD HAVE SENT A GOOD MESSAGE **BY SUPPORTING** THE CANDIDATURE **OF SHRI RAMNATH** KOVIND BUT THAT **OPPORTUNITY IS** SEEMINGLY LOST TO THEM NOW.

of Shri Ramnath Kovind. Earlier Congress never had a Dalit candidate in mind, but when it saw the possibility of a Dalit becoming the President of India, it decided to offer a fight with another Dalit as its candidate. But it was too late and too little for the Congress. While Congress along with communists and few other allies started early with stated aim to stop NDA candidate from becoming president of India, its efforts could not yield results as it tried to politicise the presidential elections on partisan lines. Moreover it even failed to galvanize the support of the opposition failing to arrive at internal consensus with different parties moving in different directions. In fact Congress was compelled to go for a candidate whom it never desired in its earlier rounds of discussions and had to choose a candidate under the overt pressure of the likes of Mayawati and others. The Congress along with Communists and other allies are now offering a token fight in a contest which they have already lost. They could have sent a good message by supporting the candidature of Shri Ramnath Kovind but that opportunity is seemingly lost to them now.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah should be congratulated for taking an initiative in building consensus in the country for the post of president. The manner in which wide consultations were carried by senior ministers of the cabinet has further strengthened the democratic process in its real spirit. It was only due to the insistence of Congress, Communists and their allies that

we are now witnessing an election for the highest post in the country. The Congress should do well to realise that it is expected to play a constructive role as opposition and to continuously act as a disrupter is neither good for it nor in the larger interest of the democratic polity. The post of president should be above partisan politics and whenever there are opportunities consensus building exercise should be encouraged and strengthened. But to expect a constructive role from Congress is to expect too much from it when it even feels compelled to oppose International Yoga Day which is celebrated across the world as a gift from India. When it can politicise Yoga how can it spare the post of president. But thanks to the process of wide consultation and support from many political parties across the country, the election to the post of president has been largely consensual with Congress and its allies offering token contest.



# Third International Day of Yoga celebrated across the country

he Third International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country with mass yoga demonstrations taking place in various places. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, participated in the mass Yoga demonstration event in Lucknow where he was joined by a huge number of people.

Addressing the gathering at the iconic Ramabai Ambdekar Maidan in Lucknow on June 21, the Prime Minister reached out to people in all parts of the country connecting through Yoga. He said, Yoga is a practise that binds humanity together and is helping countries across the world to be connected with India. Yoga is a medium to achieve wellness and it has the power to provide health assurance at zero cost, he said.

The event at Lucknow was attended by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik; Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath; Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya; Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister reached out to people in all parts of the country connecting through Yoga. He said, Yoga is a practise that binds humanity together and is helping countries across the world to be connected with India.

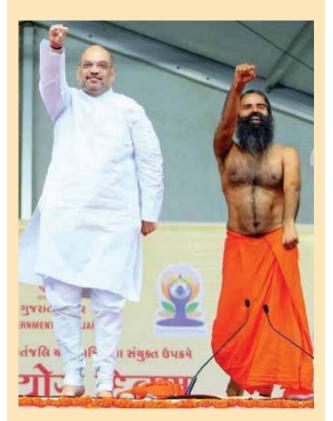
Dr. Dinesh Sharma; State Minister (Independent Charge) Ministry of Ayush, Dr. Dharam Singh Saini.

On the occasion of International Day of

#### **INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**

### Amit Shah along with Baba Ramdev led massive yoga event registered in Guinness book of World Record

BJP National President Amit Shah along with with Baba Ramdev and Gujarat chief minister Vijaybhai Rupani takes part in yoga on the occasion of international yoga day at Gujarat University ground in Ahmedabad where thousands of people performed pranayam, yoga and meditation to celebrate the International Yoga Day. The event in Ahmedabad entered the Guinness World Record in which more than 54,000 people participated. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani received certificate of the record from the Guinness Book officials at gandhinagar in the afternoon. The previous record was set in Delhi on 21 June when 35,985 people performed yoga at Rajpath with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.





Yoga, the Ministry of AYUSH organised mass yoga programmes in Delhi in association with NDMC, DDA and eminent Yoga organisations. In Connaught Place, New Delhi, NDMC used drone cameras for aerial photography and videography of the Yoga demonstrations. Many partnership organistations like, Art of Living, Patanjali Yoga Samiti, Vivekanand Yogashram Hospital, Brhamkumari, Isha Foundation and Gayatri Parivar participated in the Yoga day celebrations in various places in Delhi. Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Information & Broadcasting, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu participated in mass Yoga demonstration in Delhi. Other Union Ministers participated in mass Yoga demonstrations in various states of the country.

The Ministry of Home Affairs celebrated the International Day of Yoga across the country including yoga celebrations by BSF, CRPF, CAPF, units of ITBP to mark the occasion. ITBP personnel performed yoga at 19000 feet in Ladhak and at 11600 feet at the Bank of Indus River in Ladhak. Approximately 2000 CAPFs personnel participated in the main event at Ramabai Ambdekar Maidan in Lucknow (U.P.).

The Ministry of Human Recourse Development announced the winners of the 'Yoga Olympiad' held in Delhi from 18 to 20 June, 2017 to promote

#### **INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY**

the awareness of yoga and to build up a network of schools, teachers and yoga practitioners at the national level. The awards were given in four categories which included one award each for Upper Primary - Girls and Boys; Secondary -Girls and Boys.

The Ministry of Defence organised Yoga sessions across the country with troops of The Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Navy conducted at Pahalgam, Srinagar, Kargil. Sriganganagar, Nagpur, Leh, Bidar, Chennai, Bengaluru, Mangalore, Dibrugarh, Dehradun, Kolkata, Ahmednagar to name of few. The Indian Navy did Yoga session on board INS Vikramaditya,

### PM Modi takes part in third International Day of Yoga

On the occasion of International Day of Yoga – 2017, the Prime Minister today participated in a mass Yoga demonstration event in Lucknow.

Thousands of people gathered for the event at the Ramabai Ambedkar Maidan despite continuous rain in the city.

Addressing the enthusiastic and vociferous gathering, the Prime Minister conveyed his greetings from Lucknow to all those joining the Yoga Day celebrations across India.



Shivalik, Kamorta, Jyoti, INS Jalashwa & INS Kirch in the Indian Ocean & the Bay of Bengal and the Coast Guard on board ICGS Sarathi, ICGS Samrat. Cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC) participated in Yoga Day function at DG NCC Camp, Delhi Cantt.

The Ministry of External Affairs, through it Indian embassies abroad, celebrated the International Day of Yoga at iconic locations like, at the Abraham Lincoln Monument, Sylvan Theater Washington DC, La Villette Paris, France, at the backdrop of Sheikh Zahid Mosque in Abu Dhabi. Yoga gurus He said that today, Yoga has become a part of many people's lives. He said Yoga's popularity is high even outside India; and Yoga has connected the world with India.

The Prime Minister said he is glad to see several Yoga institutes take shape over the last three years, and noted that the demand for Yoga teachers is increasing. In addition to fitness, wellness is important, the Prime Minister said, adding that

Yoga is a medium to achieve wellness.

Urging everyone to make Yoga a part of their lives, the Prime Minister said that Yoga is about health assurance, and it is not even expensive to practice.

Earlier, welcoming the Prime Minister to Lucknow, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, said that Yoga is a part of our tradition and it integrates us.

conducted seminars and discussions on Yoga in many countries across the world.

# BJP is not merely a political party but it is mission for an ideology: Amit Shah



JP National President Shri Amit Shah as a part of his 110-day pravas on June 8 arrived in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur. Here, he held talks with BJP MPs, MLAs, office-bearers and workers and discussed with them on ways to strengthen the party's agenda ahead of next year's assembly polls and for the 2019 general elections. During his three day pravas Shri Shah offered prayers at Giroudpuri Dham, a popular pilgrimage site of Satnamis, a ST community, in Balodabazar district. He also visited Sonakhan village, the birth place of freedom fighter Shaheed Veer Naravan Singh in the same area. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Raman Singh, party's state unit president Shri Dharamlal Kaushik, other senior leaders of the party and state ministers. Giroudpuri, located around 130 kms from the state capital, is the birth place of Satnami saint and social reformer Guru Ghasidas Baba.

A 253-ft-tall 'Jaitkham' has been erected at the pilgrim centre, which is touted as the highest concrete tower in the country.

After arriving at Giroudpuri, Shri Shah and other leaders offered prayers at the 'dham' and also met seers of Satnami community there. On the occasion Shri shah said ""The massive 'Jaitkham' built at the birthplace of Guru Ghasidas Baba is spreading the messages of truth, non-violence, and philanthropy."

Shri Shah subsequently went to Sonakhan where he addressed a gathering of people.

"The valorous land of Sonakhan is sacred for every patriot. I feel fortunate to have visited this place of Chhattisgarh, where freedom fighter Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh was born. Singh had made a tremendous contribution in the freedom struggle in year 1857.

"His love for the country and compassion for poor people is inspiring for entire humanity," he said.

On the occasion, the chief minister Raman Singh announced that a life-size bronze statue of the martyr will be erected in Sonakhan.

Shri Shah and other leaders also visited the 'samadhi' of Veer Narayan Singh and paid a floral tribute.

Earlier in Raipur he interacted with local intellectuals, opinion makers and journalist.While interacting with them he said "The BJP is not merely a political party but it is mission for an ideology".

# Amit Shah appeals to uproot the congress from Gujarat

n his second day of Gujarat Pravas on June 20 Shri Amit Shah addressed the Panna Pramukh Sammelan of Saurashtra Zone at Agriculture University Ground, Junagadh. While addressing the panna pramukh Shri Amit shah appealed to uproot the congress from Gujarat. Before his address to the Panna Pramukh Shri Shah participated in Yoga Sivir and also inaugurated the new BJP office of Kheda district in Nadiad. He also visited Sardar Patel's birth Place Desai Vago in Nadia.here Shri shah paid tribute to Patel.

On the occassion he said about one lakh 25 thousand panna pramukh from 10,550 booths of central Gujarat of Central Gujarat gathred at the birth Bhumi of Sardar Patel. It ensures our victory in coming assembly elections. He said, Media must publish the photo of this grand gathering of our activists so that the Congress party gets to realize coming BJP`s grand victory in the state.

The BJP was launched as Jansangh with 10 members has become the party which has, now, more than 11 crore members. He added, "Today, there are 13 states where BJP is in power and

Due to hard work of our karykartas 'Vikash Yatra' has continued in Gujarat since 1995. BJP in Gujarat would win over 150 seats in this year's assembly polls which would be contested not for victory but to uproot Congress.

four states more ruled by with the help of allies. The party has 330 members of parliament and full majority government under the leadership of Narendra Modi. The glory achieved by the party has become possible by dint of the hard work of



innumerable booth Karykartas."

In Bharatiya Janata Party People like Narendra Modi, who born in poor family having no political background becomes Prime Minister of the country, he added.

Shri Shah also illustrated his political journey from a booth karykarta to the party's national president.

He said, "Due to hard work of our karykartas 'Vikash Yatra' has continued in Gujarat since 1995."

On the first day of his visit to Gujarat he addressed a karyakarta rally in Junagadh. Here,he reiterated that ruling BJP in Gujarat would win over 150 seats in this year's assembly polls which would be contested not for victory but to uproot Congress.

Addressing the rally he said " Congress leaders like Kamalnath says that Narendra Modi goes to foreign trips quite frequently. Yes, I know why he feels it. Former PM Manmohan Singh also went on foreign trips like US, Russia, China, Korea etc. carrying a two-page written speech. These were so alike that he delivered speech meant for Thailand in Malaysia and vice-versa. These trips were never noticed. But case of Modi is very different. Wherever he goes thousand gather to welcome him on Airports. It is infact the honour of 125 crore Indians. The whole world takes notice of his trips. He has increased prestige of India in the world.

## BJP believes in action, achieving targets & delivering on the development agenda: Amit Shah

he BJP National President Shri Amit Shah was on three-day pravas in Maharashtra. He arrived on June 16 in Mumbai.

It is noteworthy that Shri Amit Shah is currently on 110-day nationwide tour covering all states to take stock and strengthen the party organisation across India.

He held a series of meetings with Party karykartas. He also met leaders of the allies, Republican Party of India (A), Rashtriya Samaj Party, Shivsangram Party and Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana and Shiv Sena.

On the last day of his Pravas, Shri Shah also addressed groups of citizen, civil society and opinion makers.

While interacting with the groups he extensively discussed Modi government policies and its achievements of three years. Shri Shah said that in multy party system the parties must be evaluated on three basis-first inner party democracy, second principle of the party and third working style of party after coming in power. "In the country there are 1650 political parties including all small and big. He said only the BJP has inner party democracy. The parties which lack inner party democracy can not uphold India's democratic ethos. Emergency type situation does not come through notification that comes just because of mentality of party leaders.

Shah slammed Congress and said that the BJP believed in action, achieving targets and delivering on the development agenda.

Attacking the Congress and other political parties over dynasty politics, Shah said, "You don't have to be born in a particular family or belong to a caste to become the national president of the BJP. If we want to save our democracy, we have to select the party that still has its internal democracy intact."

He reiterated that Congress party was devoid of principles and a special purpose vehicle to attain



freedom." "The Congress was not formed on principles; people from different ideologies came together to fight for freedom. After independence the Congress stayed in politics just for power," said Shri Shah.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, president of Maharashtra's BJP unit Raosaheb Danve, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, and Union Minister of State Independents for Power Piyush Goyal also attended the address. Shah also praised Fadnavis for transforming Mumbai with various infrastructure projects.

After his arrival in Mumbai Shri Shah visited Shivaji Park straight from the airport paying respects to the statue of Maratha warrior king Shivaji, Veer Savarkar, Sena founder Balsaheb Thackeray and then heading to Chaityabhoomi to do the same for Dr BR Ambedkar.

In a separate meeting on the day of arrival Shri Shah addressed the party leaders and called for 'shat pratishat BJP ' or 100% BJP in Maharashtra for 2019 Assembly, ruling out mid-term polls.

He also met with actors and artists in the evening. The BJP president held organisational meetings with representatives of 19 different wings and fronts of the party on June 17 in Mumbai.

## **Ramnath Kovind set to become next President of India**



he BJP Parliamentary Board held a meeting on June 19 and decided to proposed the name of Bihar governor Shri Ram Nath Kovind's name for India's next President. After consulting with allies of NDA BJP National President Shri Amit Shah in a press conference announced the name of Shri Ramnath Kovind as its candidate for the post of president. 71 years old and a former lawyer was elected two times for Rajya Sabha. In the party he held responsibility of BJP SC Morcha President and later he became national spokesperson of the party. Shri Kovind was born on 1 October 1945 in Kanpur Dehat district. Uttar Pradesh. His father was a farmer. Shri Kovind holds a Bachelors degree in commerce and a LLB from Kanpur University. After graduating in law from a Kanpur college, Kovind went to Delhi to prepare for the civil services examination. He passed this exam on his third attempt, but he did not join as he was selected for an allied service instead of IAS and thus started practicing the law. He was Central Government Advocate in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979 and served as a Central Government standing counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993. In 1978, he became an advocate-on-record of the Supreme

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, a farmer's son, comes from a humble background. He devoted his life to public service & worked for poor & marginalised with his illustrious background in the legal arena, Shri Kovind's knowledge and understanding of the Constitution will benefit the nation. I am sure Shri Ram Nath Kovind will make an exceptional President & continue to be a strong voice for the poor, downtrodden & marginalised.

#### — NARENDRA MODI, PM

I believe that all political parties will come forward and support NDA's candidate for the President's office.

- AMIT SHAH, BJP National President

Court of India in 1978. He practiced in the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court for about 16 years until 1993. He was also enrolled as an advocate in 1971 with the bar council of Delhi. As an advocate he provided free legal aid to weaker sections of society, women and the poor under the Free Legal Aid Society in New Delhi. He also served as the personal assistant of Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai in 1977-1978.

## Cabinet approves Interest Subvention to banks on Short-Term crop loan to farmers



he Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved on June 14 the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) for farmers for the year 2017-18. This will help farmers getting short term crop loan up to Rs. 3 lakh payable within one year at only 4% per annum. The Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 20,339 crore for this purpose.

The interest subvention will be given to Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Private Sector Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on use of own funds and to NABARD for refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks.

The Interest Subvention Scheme will continue for one year and it will be implemented by NABARD and RBI.

The objective of the scheme is to make available at ground level, agricultural credit for Short Term crop loans at an affordable rate to give a boost to agricultural productivity and production in the country.

The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

(a) The Central Government will provide interest subvention of 5 per cent per annum to all prompt payee farmers for short term crop loan upto one year for loan upto Rs. 3 lakhs borrowed by them during the year 2017-18. Farmers will thus have to effectively pay only 4% as interest. In case farmers do not repay the short term crop loan in time they would be eligible for interest subvention of 2% as against 5% available above.

(b) The Central Government will provide approximately Rs. 20,339 crore as interest subvention for 2017-18.

(c) In order to give relief to small and marginal farmers who would have to borrow at 9% for the post harvest storage of their produce, the Central Government has approved an interest subvention of 2% i.e. an effective interest rate of 7% for loans upto 6 months.

# India's spice exports rise 12% to record all-time high in value and volume in 2016-17

eeting stringent food safety regulations imposed by countries across the globe, Indian spices and spice products surged to a record export growth worth Rs.17664.61 crore (US\$ 2633.30 million) and a volume of 9,47,790 tonnes in 2016-17, sustaining their robust demand in international markets in face of stiff competition.

The buoyancy in exports of spices and related products, both in terms of value and volume, compares favourably with figures of 8,43,255 tonnes valued at Rs.16238.23 crore (US\$ 2482.83 million) in 2015-16, thereby registering an increase of 12 per cent in volume, nine per cent in rupee terms and six per cent in dollar terms.

Chilli continued to be the most demanded spice in FY 2016-17 with exports of 4,00,250 tonnes amounting to Rs 5,070.75 crores, registering an increase of 15 per cent in volume and 27 per cent in value.

Cumin was the second-most exported spice, recording an increase of 22 per cent in volume and 28 per cent in value. A total volume of 1,19,000 tonnes of cumin valued at Rs.1963.20 crore was exported from India in 2016-17. The increase was largely due to the mandatory checks on cumin and its byproducts implemented by the Spices Board in the backdrop of rapid alerts from importing countries.

"India has surpassed all previous export records and has fulfilled the increasing international demand for its quality spices in the face of tough competition in global markets. More satisfying was the fact that the appreciable increase in exports came in the face of strict food safety regulations that now define and determine the international commodity trade," said Spices Board Chairman Dr A. Jayathilak.

Increased global demand for turmeric, especially in the pharmaceutical sector, drove its exports to attain figures of 1,16,500 tonnes in volume and crossed Rs 1,241 crores in value terms in 2016-17.

The spice which showed the maximum increase as compared to the previous financial year was fennel, registering a 129 per cent increase in volume and 79 per cent in value.



## Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Kochi Metro

#### **KOCHI METRO REFLECTS VISION OF 'MAKE IN INDIA'**

erala's first metro line was flagged off in Kochi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 17. PM Modi, along with Kerala Governor P Sathasivam, Union minister M Venkiah Naidu, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other dignitaries, travelled by the metro.

E Sreedharan, better known as India's "metro man", also accompanied PM Modi during the maiden ride. PM Modi travelled in the metro coach, which has green coloured seats from Palarivattom to Pathadippalam.

While beginning his speech in Malayalam Shri Narendra Modi said "Kochi, the queen of the Arabian Sea, is an important spice trading centre. Today it is known as the commercial capital of



Kerala. Kochi ranks first in the total number of international and domestic tourist arrivals in Kerala. Hence it is fitting that Kochi should have a Metro rail facility."

Kochi Metro Rail Limited is a fifty - fifty Joint Venture of Government of India and Government of Kerala. The Union Government has so far released over two thousand crore rupees for Kochi Metro. The phase being inaugurated today will operate from Aluva to Palarivattom. It will cover 13.26 kilometres and eleven stations.

He said "It is the first metro project to be commissioned with a modern signalling system called the "Communication Based Train Control Signalling system".

"Kochi metro integrates the city's entire public transportation network into a single system," Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who began his speech in Malayalam, said at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium during the formal inauguration. He said the coaches of the metro reflect the 'Make in India' vision. Chief Minister Vijayan presented a handcarved wooden model of the Kochi Metro car to the Prime Minister.

"Over the last three years, my Government has placed special focus on overall infrastructure development of the nation. Railways, roads, power have been our priority areas. In PRAGATI meetings, I have personally reviewed nearly 175 projects worth more than eight lakh crore rupees. We have resolved bottlenecks and significantly improved the average rate of implementation in these sectors. Now, we are also focusing on next generation infrastructure, which includes logistics, digital and gas."

"A number of initiatives have been taken by us to enhance public transport particularly in the cities. Foreign investment has been invited in this sector. Fifty cities in India are ready to implement metro rail projects."

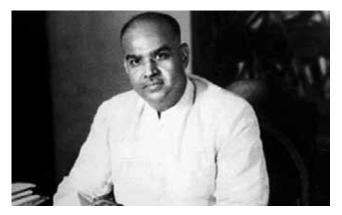
The Rs. 5,180-crore project was completed in a record four-year period and the metro line was thrown open to public from June 19. The foundation stone was laid in 2012 and the work -commissioned to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation - began the next year. When Modi government came to power made work speedier. The first phase of Kochi metro has 11 stations and covers 13.2 km.

# **Mookerjee and Tandon**

#### PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA

t is neither right nor safe to draw comparisons between great personalities for in a world so dissimilar, each individual has characteristics and distinctive traits, the parallel of which is not possible to find. In the case of great people these peculiarities are so pronounced and developed that each becomes a type by himself. Nevertheless Babu Purushottam Das Tandon and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee both belonged to a category of great men who look great not only from a distance but grow greater still as you approach them. There are others and their tribe is legion today who is artificially elevated to the position of greatness. Through press and propaganda and by practising the art of leadership, they acquire greatness and remain great so long as you are fortunate enough not to see them from a point of acquaintance. A closer analysis will reduce these titans to tiny-gods. Too much contact with them might turn you into a cynic with no interest in life. On the other extreme are those whose fate has been mourned by Gray in his famous elegy. They are really great people, genius of the purest ray, serene, but they die unknown and unsung in the dark unfathomed depths of the ocean where they lived and worked. But Dr. Mookerjee and Tandon belonged to neither category. They had real worth coupled with public fame and name. But it is true that public recognition of their merit and services lagged far being the reality. They could acquit themselves well in any office they held. In fact in their case it was not office that gave them prestige but on the contrary they who lent glory to the office they held.

Dr. Mookerjee was honoured as a Minister of the Central Cabinet but he rose much higher in the veneration of the people when he came out of the Cabinet, like a true karmayogi.



#### TANDON

When he came the President of India National Congress lent a sublime halo to an office which today nobody is prepared to accept. That year there was a keen contest. And Tandonji won making it clear that he commanded a considerable and faithful following in the organisation. But when he relinquished office he gave evidence of his real greatness for he did so without any rancour orally–will. Like a true Karmayogi, without any attachment, he staked his all in the contest, but renounced the so eagerly converted prize as if he had nothing to do with it.

Tandonji was great as the Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly but became greater as an Ex–Speaker. He was great as President of the Congress and became greater as Ex–President after his resignation.

Tandonji and Mookerjee both represented and fought for upholding the cause of Bharatiya Sanskrti and Maryada. An effort was a foot to supplant the true culture of India by some hybrid variety. Tandonji and Mookerjee were both against this attempt. And they resisted it, one from within the Congress and the other from without. Whether through the Hindu Mahasabha or, due to changed circumstances, though Jana Sangh, Dr. Mookerjee sought to build up this resistance of the nationals of Bharat against the on slaughter of the 'composite



culturists.' Tandonji fought this battle in the name of Hindi both before and after independence.

#### TANDONJI & LANGUAGE

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about Tandonji's espousal of the cause of Hindi, specially amongst the non–Hindi speaking people. They think that Hindi is sought to be enforced throughout the country as a rival to, and ultimately to take the place of regional languages. In fact the issue has been, and is not. Hindi versus regional languages but Hindi versus Hindustani and Indian languages versus English. Those who take up the cause of English mistakenly harbour an idea that English as an all–India language will not harm the growth of regional languages. If English countries, the days of all the great languages of India are unnumbered.

What ever the English–maniacs may say, no power can retain English in India so long as the virile and rich languages of Bharat are there.

The day of execution may be delayed but the judgement has been delivered the day when Britishers quit India.

#### HINDUSTANI A COMPROMISE WITH SEPARATISM

The real issue is between Hindi and Hindustani. There has been, and is, no such language as Hindustani. It is the product of a policy of appeasement and compromise with the separatist and anti–national forces, culminating in the establishment of Pakistan.

A language is not simply a vehicle of expression but is also concerned with the life–values of the people who seek to us it. In this respect the national languages of India are so perfect that you can use any one of them without losing your cultural moorings.

If a man from Mathura goes to Madras and settles there and in the course of ages begins to speak Tamil instead of Hindi, he loses nothing in content. The final product will be the same. But not so with English or French.

And what is Hindustani? It is a language

like Esperanto seeking to provide a vehicle of expression not to all the people of India but only to those the north that has a fairly large vocabulary of Arabic and Persian. Such a language if it can be artificially put up will be as far away from the people as English. To most of the Hindi people and to all the non-Hindi people it will be as unintelligible as Latin and Greek. Moreover, it is a part of the big schemes of deculturising the people of Bharat. If this attempt succeeds in the case of Hindi, it will not leave untouched and untrained other Bharativa languages, for the basis and content of all of them is the same culture, which is being displaced from the Hindi region. It is a process of annihilation by degrees. Will not the protagonists of composite culture demand that Marathi and Bengali, Kannada and Tamil should also be overburdened with Arabic and Persian words and that they should also like Hindustani be written in two scripts? Tandonji believed in one culture and therefore he took up the cause of Hindi. The cause of Hindi is the cause of all the Indian languages.

#### **OUR DUTY**

Now that these valiant fighters for these noble causes are no more with us, it is our duty to see that the tigth does not end. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee had bequeathed us an organisation that can legitimately strive to become a strong and fitting instrument of resisting subversion of our culture and heritage. Unfortunately, Tandonji, fighting as he was from within the Congress, has not left any organised body to take up his cause.

So long as he was there Congressmen could rally round him. But today there is no such central figure.

There only homage to Rajarshi Tandonji can be to see that his services to Hindi and Bharatiya Culture do not go in vain, and now that the other side is resolutely trying to by pass the will of the people, they should organise themselves and in the tradition of Tandonji put up a fearless and successful fight.

(The article was published in Organiser, 16 July, 1962)

# Swami Vivekananda born with a yogic temperament

wami Vivekananda, known in his pre-monastic life as Narendra Nath Datta, was born in an affluent family in Kolkata on 12 January 1863. His father, Vishwanath Datta, was a successful attorney with interests in a wide range of subjects, and his mother, Bhuvaneshwari Devi, was endowed with deep devotion,



strong character and other qualities. A precocious boy, Narendra excelled in music, gymnastics and studies. By the time he graduated from Calcutta University, he had acquired a vast knowledge of different subjects, especially Western philosophy and history. Born with a yogic temperament, he used to practise meditation even from his boyhood, and was associated with Brahmo Movement for some time.

During his travels all over India. Swami Vivekananda was deeply moved to see the appalling poverty and backwardness of the masses. He was the first religious leader in India to understand and openly declare that the real cause of India's downfall was the neglect of the masses. The immediate need was to provide food and other bare necessities of life to the hungry millions. For this they should be taught improved methods of agriculture, village industries, etc. It was in this context that Vivekananda grasped the crux of the problem of poverty in India (which had escaped the attention of social reformers of his days): owing to centuries of oppression, the downtrodden masses had lost faith in their capacity to improve their lot. It was first of all necessary to infuse into their minds faith in themselves. For this they needed a life-giving, inspiring message. Swamiji found this message in the principle of the Atman, the doctrine of the potential divinity of the soul, taught in Vedanta, the ancient system of religious philosophy of India. He saw that, in spite of poverty, the masses clung to religion, but they had never been taught the life-giving, ennobling

principles of Vedanta and how to apply them in practical life.

Thus the masses needed two kinds of knowledge: secular knowledge to improve their economic condition, and spiritual knowledge to infuse in them faith in themselves and strengthen their moral sense. The next question was, how to

spread these two kinds of knowledge among the masses? Through education – this was the answer that Swamiji found.

One thing became clear to Swamiji: to carry out his plans for the spread of education and for the uplift of the poor masses, and also of women, an efficient organization of dedicated people was needed. As he said later on, he wanted "to set in motion a machinery which will bring noblest ideas to the doorstep of even the poorest and the meanest." It was to serve as this 'machinery' that Swamiji founded the Ramakrishna Mission a few years later.

He founded on 1 May 1897 a unique type of organization known as Ramakrishna Mission, in which monks and lay people would jointly undertake propagation of Practical Vedanta, and various forms of social service, such as running hospitals, schools, colleges, hostels, rural development centres etc, and conducting massive relief and rehabilitation work for victims of earthquakes, cyclones and other calamities, in different parts of India and other countries.

On 4 July 1902 Vivekananda awoke early, went to the chapel at Belur Math and meditated for three hours. He taught Shukla-Yajur-Veda, Sanskrit grammar and the philosophy of yoga to pupils, later discussing with colleagues a planned Vedic college in the Ramakrishna Math. At 7:00 p.m. Vivekananda went to his room, asking not to be disturbed; he attained mahasamadhi (passed way) at 9:10 p.m. while meditating.

# Modi turns politics on its head, makes it people centric, propoor and development driven

#### DR R BALASHANKAR

ompared with any other popular Prime Ministers of India, Narendra Modi is a study in contrast. Through demonetization he has impacted the life of every Indian as no other central government policy has in the past. By undertaking the famous surgical strike he made every Indian proud. But it is neither of these that have ensured him a place in history in such a short span. It is that in three years Modi has changed the lives of at least one fourth of India's population through his numerous welfare schemes whose benefits have directly reached an estimated 350 million Indians and this has catapulted Modi as the messiah of the poor.

Modi played the bountiful God Ploutos for the hapless BPL families when he introduced the Ujwala scheme to award free cooking gas connections to 50 million families. His Jeevan Bheema and Jeevan Suraksha Yojna have ensured life and health cover to as many as 300 million people. The number of toilets built under the Swatch Bharat Abhiyan is 45 million. An estimated 40 lakh families have already availed the facilities of Pradhanmantri Aawas Nirman Yojana. And about 350 million new bank accounts have been opened under the Jan Dhan Yojna. Over 20,000 villages have for the first time received electricity connection under the Ujala Scheme. All these have changed the life and style of rural India as never before. Add to this the 100 Smart City scheme for which Rs 3 lakh crore have been allotted plus the massive infrastructure building scheme of the Modi government, one need not much break one's head to find why Modi remains more popular today than



ever before.

All opinion surveys have found Modi still is at the peak of his popularity and that his charisma and mass appeal intact. The Opposition has lost ground and their contrived accusations of intolerance, polemics and cow vigilantism have no takers.

In three years Modi has worked wonders by making politics growth centric, governance mass oriented and development policy driven. In three years the Narendra Modi government has secured India's position as the spring board of world economic growth. India is growing at 7.9 per cent when the world is growing at 3.1 per cent. The stock market is booming. India is for the first time surplus in power and coal production. Energy scenario is promising. India is successfully developing alternative sources of energy at a time when oil prices are down. Inflation is low. Lending rates are coming down. Loan off-take is looking up. The country is witnessing the highest ever public investment in infrastructure. And all the economic fundamentals are promising a sustained economic growth that will push India as one of the most vibrant large economies of the world.

Modi government has really retrieved the India story which had fallen into a morass of policy paralysis, crony capitalism and corruption. Modi has proved that good economics is good politics. He has made development the central theme of Indian political debate. This in fact is the greatest achievement of the past three years of the present government.

Every poll of late is being fought on development plank. Public response has forced parties to take moralistic stance and address the concerns of the aspirational India. This is how the Prime Minister has reshaped polity. Sab ke saath sab ka vikas. Development for all with everybody being a stake holder. For this the Modi government moved in the direction of Team India where every state became the bulwark of economic growth, competing with each other for investment promotion and creating atmosphere for ease of doing business. For this, the Centre substantially increased allocation for states on the lines of the 14 Finance Commission recommendations. In the Constitutional scheme of things, all major aspects of growth, bijali, paani, sarak, land and education are in the state or concurrent list. The redefining of the role of planning through NITI Ayog was a step to promote state initiative for healthy growth match between states. As a result states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Bihar posted double digit growth trajectory in agriculture, pushing up the national farm growth.

What Modi government achieved in three years is a total attitudinal change in the approach to growth. The government has made phenomenal savings in public funds be it through elimination of oil subsidy, rationalization of service charges, better tax collection, ensuring windfall earning through coal blocs and spectrum bids which the previous government had claimed as zero value assets. By this the Prime Minister has not only kept his word that he will guard national treasury as a sentinel but also put an end to cronyism in public life. Prudent economic planning was at the root of the idea of a cashless society and digital transaction. Policy driven, credible, targeted and people-centric have been the approach so far. The regime of entitlements, privileges and mai baap ka sarkar is a thing of the past. India has notched up points in index of ease of doing business in these years. Few months ago in a cover story titled India Online The Economist said, "Every second, three more Indians are experiencing internet for the first time. By 2030 more than one billion of them will be online. ...India boasts the world's fastest growing large economy and the planet's biggest population of millennials -and you can see why the likes of Facebook, Uber and Google are falling over themselves to establish footholds..." Clearly India under NDA is a revenue multiplier, investment destination. Of late the job market too has started looking up.

Successful start-ups are making India the

What Modi government achieved in three years is a total attitudinal change in the approach to growth. The government has made phenomenal savings in public funds be it through elimination of oil subsidy, rationalization of service charges, better tax collection, ensuring windfall earning through coal blocs and spectrum bids which the previous government had claimed as zero value assets.

manufacturing hub of the world. Democracy, credible institutional frame work, graft free and transparent systems have helped India to take a leap over China on investor confidence. Modi has turned a new leaf for India which inspired the 30 million plus NRIs to trust the India growth story and bring huge remittances home. In three years Modi has turned despair into hope, and as World Bank noted India still is the sole silver line in a sea of darkness. Modi has proved one man can make a big difference and that if his actions are sincere he can change the course of destiny.

(The writer is a senior journalist and political analyst)

# BJP creates history winning Shimla MC elections Foretells victory in Himachal Assembly poll

#### AMBA CHARAN VASHISHTH

ith a historic win in Shimla Municipal Corporation elections in June BJP has maintained its winning streak in Himachal Pradesh too. For the first time BJP has won majority and grabbed Mayor and Deputy Mayor's posts 31 years after elections were held to the country's oldest urban local body since the days of the British Empire when the city enjoyed the privilege of being the summer capital of both the then Government of India and the undivided Punjab.

For 26 years consecutively Congress had ruled Shimla MC and during the last five years it was CPM which controlled it as the party won both the mayor and deputy mayor's post which were then filled through direct election.

BJP won 17 (50 percent) of the seats and its toll rose to about 56 percent with one BJP rebel rejoining the party and one newly elected Congress councillor joining the party.

In another historical first BJP candidate Kusum Sadret, a Dalit, won the Mayor's post getting 19 votes while Rakesh Kumar Sharma scored 20, with one Congress member cross-voting in favour of BJP.

It is also for the first time that more than 50 percent (18) winners are women out of which 10 belong to BJP, 7 to Congress and the lone CPM winner.

Congress Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh, himself facing corruption charges in court, seems to have seen the writing on the wall and that is why he ordered postponement of the elections on the pretext of "revising the electoral rolls". Former Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhuamal had described the act



as unconstitutional. The decision was challenged in the High Court which ordered the Virbhadra Government to order elections immediately.

The results are a great personal setback to CM Virbhadra Singh as he had personally campaigned in the elections cancelling his pre-scheduled engagements. Congress lost the Totu seat which falls in Singh's assembly constituency. In the adjoining seat of Boileugunj BJP marked its win where CM's son and HP Youth Congress President Virkramaditya Singh campaigned extensively.

On the BJP front, former CM P. K. Dhumal, Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda and State President Satpal Satti held the fort and campaigned extensively. It is also a welcome gift for Shri Mangal Pandey who assumed charge of Himachal over a month back.

The election results are being seen as a curtain raiser for the outcome of the state assembly elections which are just a few months away in October-November this year. BJP is bound to romp home to victory and form the next government with a thumping majority. The State capital of Shimla has sent a message loud and clear. The results have sent shocks of shivers down the ruling Congress.

#### ARTICLE

# Indian Ethos Resonates with World-View

#### **RATNADEEP BANERJI**

he vivacious culture of India is elevating to the entire planet, both humans and nature. Down the memory lane, Indian culture has manifested in various realms across Asia and beyond and is still found flourishing overseas. The Government of India has been reaching out to dozens of countries to bring out this lost link and to give a glimpse of India though a series of India Festivals in respective countries. India's vast culture flows in rural panorama and the Ministry of Culture has been holding folk and tribal festivals across India also including metros and tourist destinations to revive dying arts and promote tribal artists and performers. The citizens of India are getting to know Gandhiji and Netaji with yet more profound insight. Our last three years has instilled this realization of inheriting a rich legacy and also the citizen's incumbent responsibility to preserve it.

#### **NETAJI PAPERS DECLASSIFIED**

The Government of India decided to declassify files pertaining to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to meet the long standing public demand and place it in public domain. Files were received by the National Archives of India from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs. On the occasion of 119th birth anniversary of Netaji on 23rd January 1916, digital copies of 100 files were released in public domain by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In all, 303 files have been put in public domain till now on www. netajipapers.gov.in.

The National Archives of India had received 990 declassified files pertaining to the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) from the Ministry of Defence, way back in 1997. Thereafter, in 2012,



271 files from the Khosla Commission and 759 files from Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry, in total 1030 files were received from the Ministry of Home Affairs. All these files are already open to the public under the Public Records Rules of 1997.

#### STOLEN TREASURE RETRIEVED BACK

Three ancient stone sculptures of Seated Buddha, Goddess Pratyangira and Worshippers of Buddha were stolen and smuggled out of India and inadvertently acquired by the National Gallery of Australia. At a special event at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture & Tourism was handed over these artifacts. One Bronze object of Nataraja and one Stone object of Ardhanarishwara from Australia have also been retrieved. Prime Minister's visit to USA in June 2016 facilitated the return of 17 antiquities smuggled out of India to USA. One stone object of Parrot Lady from Canada and one stone object of Durga from Germany have also been retrieved.

#### **WORLD HERITAGE**

India has been active on the UNESCO front, receiving due cognizance. Yoga being India's one of the ancient practices has now been inscribed as an element in the UNESCO's list of Intangible



Cultural Heritage of humanity during the 11th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. During this session, India's proposal for inscribing Yoga as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity was unanimously supported by all the 24 members of the Intergovernmental Committee.

Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim and The Capitol Complex in Chandigarh were announced as World Heritage Sites during the 40th session of the World Heritage Council held at Istanbul in Turkey in 2016.

#### **CULTURAL MAPPING OF INDIA**

To nurture, hand-hold and train upcoming artistes on a sustained basis there needs to be grant of scholarships, fellowships, pensions, and other forms of assistance. To reach far and wide comprehensively, there is a need to have database of such art forms and artists, referred to as Cultural Mapping. So far, profiles of more than 1 Crore artists has been collected.

#### PROJECT MAUSAM

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) along with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the National Museum is bringing out the historic diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean extending from East Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, the Indian Subcontinent and Sri Lanka to the Southeast Asian archipelago including the study of Maritime Routes.

#### SATELLITE MAPPING OF ASI MONUMENTS

Archaeological Survey of India along with National Remote Sensing Centre of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is preparing satellite based maps of all its 3686 centrally protected monuments indicating prohibited and regulated areas clearly for the information of public and also to facilitate procedure for grant of permissions for construction related activity within prohibited and regulated areas.

#### NATIONAL VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF INDIA

National Mission on Libraries has embarked on building National Virtual Library of India as the digital platform which would bring together all information generated in India and about India and make such information accessible to the citizens through user friendly search interfaces.

The construction of National Dandi Memorial at Dandi has been initiated. Also, construction of the Heritage path relating to 21 night halt places is under progress.

Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission has been refurbishing Gandhi Ashram Trust at Noakhali in Bangladesh, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya at Barrackpore in Kolkata and also laying out permanent exhibition at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station, South Africa. Approximately 2, 255,090 pages have been uploaded on Gandhi Heritage Portal on www.gandhiheritageportal.org.

#### **PROMOTION OF FOLK CULTURE**

The organizing of 8-day long Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is an exemplary endeavour to bring together the culture of all states on a single platform proving a cherishing realization for national integration besides giving due dignity to art forms and also bolster folk traditions. All seven Zonal Cultural Centres of the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts come together to promote our cultural inter-linkages amongst the states.

In a bid to exclusively give impetus to the traditions of the marginalized, National Tribal and North East Conclave has begun to be organized by Lalit Kala Akademi.

Artists and performers put forth the soft power of a country. Culture transcends all barriers and pervades bonhomie amongst us all endowing a rare insight of oneness. This cultural appreciation of the populace cutting across their ethnicity and religion is intended in our secular democratic state.

(The writer is a senior journalist and a radio documentary maker.)

#### ARTICLE

# The practice of yoga has swept the world with an enthusiasm never seen before

#### INDRANILL BASU RAY

Coauthored by Mona Rawal, PhD

hile Yoga flourishes, its essence really needs to be understood to avail of its real benefit, otherwise you will always be in the fringes.

The practice of yoga has swept the world with an enthusiasm never seen before. Yoga has achieved the status of a mass cultural phenomena, as shown by the fact that there are around 300 million yoga practitioners in the world and it is an 80-billion-dollar market. As the fourth fastest growing industry in the USA, it generates 30 billion dollars annually (16 billion from yoga facilities and 10 billion from yoga mats and other yoga props).

To start with, these numbers are indicative of a sudden surge in the business of this archaic philosophical tradition of India. None of the other Ancient Arts of world civilizations have survived, been sustained and soared to the heights that yoga has. The credit for this goes to its applicability to every age that the human species has survived. Yoga is one of the rarest of the rare sciences, to have survived through scientific revolutions, technological innovations, and modernizations! The fact that yoga is recognized and revered in a world progressing towards evidence-based, result oriented and relational practices only makes it a science par excellence.

The prodigious popularity and the overwhelming universal adoption of this Indian discipline demands a special celebratory day to mark the significance of its health benefits (on both mental and physical levels) for common humanity and hence, World Yoga Day has been celebrated annually on 21 June, since its inception in 2015. An international day for yoga was announced by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 11 December



2014. The prime minister of India, Narendra Modi suggested the date because it is the longest day of the Northern Hemisphere. It is the day of summer solstice, which marks the journey of the sun towards the south, a period of six months which is most favorable for spiritual practices, according to certain scriptures. One hundred seventy-five nations, including the USA, Canada, and China cosponsored the resolution of World Yoga Day. It had the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA Resolution of this nature.

Yoga has in recent connotations been associated with incredible health benefits (like weight loss, blood pressure control, cholesterol lowering, cardiac health, diabetes management, metabolism regulation, promotion of flexibility and endurance, muscle strengthening, sight and height improvements, etc.) and that has contributed to the sudden love for the routines and physical postural regiments in every part of the world. Undoubtedly, yoga does serve the purpose of keeping the body in shape and balanced, but there is much more to it than just the physical aspect. It is important to live beyond the mat! Posture simulated yoga is just a fraction of the 5000-year-old philosophical wisdom which is buried under the huge popularity of the



yoga-sticks of the modern world. The yoga known to the world today is what has been reinvented from the past 150 years by various yogis and markets, keeping in mind the demands of the time. It is imperative to know the other aspects of yoga in order to understand how it results in physical fitness.

Sage Patanjali is considered to be the father of the yogic system. Patanjali organized the teachings into 196 short aphorisms or sutras known as the "Yoga Sutra" in the second century. This text describes the path of Raja Yoga, often called "classical yoga". Yoga arrived in the west in the late 1800s and early 1900s, when yoga masters began to travel to the West for the first time, introducing the yogic wisdom and its relation to spiritual attainments. A special mention goes to the 1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago, when Indian Philosopher Swami Vivekananda amazed the attendees with his lectures on yoga and the universality of the world's religions, thereby introducing and popularizing the heritage of yogic wisdom to the common people of the West.

In contemporary times, the business of yoga is progressing towards style, convenience, and amusement, rather than the classical purpose of spiritual enlightenment with the help of physical balance and control. Today, there are some very strange forms and derivations of Yoga practiced in various fanciful studios, such as the Co-Ed Completely Nude Vinyasa Yoga (practice yoga in nude), Hot Yoga (studios are heated to 105 degrees Fahrenheit and 40% humidity), Dogs (doing yoga while holding your dog in various positions), Yoga (yoga with "vogueing," or dancing/enjoying popular music), Snowga (yoga in the snow), and Laughter Yoga, to name a few. These techniques are inventions for making yoga fit your preferences of workout style, but they lack the very attitude and spirit of the science which was predominantly devised for spiritual empowerment in its inception.

Spirituality is one of the most fundamental aspects of yoga and this aspect has been overshadowed by the progression of the physical aspect of yoga. Volumes of texts on yoga sutras provide an insight into millions of questions about



human sense and sensibilities, human sufferings and human connectedness to the world. From wisdom about coping with the stresses of everyday life to attaining emancipation from worldly desires and attaining the highest form of spiritual self by following various paths recommended by yoga, this humongous science has so much to offer.

According to a popular legend, a renowned sage named Vyasa once sent his son Shuka, a perfect being in every sense, to King Janaka. Janaka was a great king and was called "Janaka Videha" which means "without a body". Although a king, he had entirely forgotten that he had a body; he felt that he was a spirit all the time. When Shuka arrived at the palace, no one noticed him and he was treated like an ordinary insignificant being who received no attention, even being the son of one of the most renowned sages. The guards made him sit for three days and nights without speaking with him or serving him. The next day was a game changer when suddenly, Shuka was bestowed with the best honors and treats, adorned with perfumes and accessories, along with other royal luxuries. Having lived for a few days in extreme pleasure, Shuka was brought to King Janaka for the first time. The king asked Shuka to hold a full cup of milk and walk seven times around the hall without spilling a drop. While Shuka walked the hall, he met beautiful women dancing, playful music and beautiful arts, but Shuka remained unaffected and walked impeccably with the milk, not dropping any. When he brought the milk back to the king, the king said, "What your father has taught you, and what you have learned yourself, I can only repeat. You have known the Truth; go home." This is the spirit of yoga!

Our contemporary times and troubles are overwhelming in a way that taking care of the body but neglecting the spirit does not work in favor of balanced living. When once asked, "What is misery?" Vivekananda answered: "To every action, there is an equal reaction. If a man strikes me and wounds me, it is that man's actions and my body's reaction. Suppose I have so much power over the body that I can resist even that automatic action". Can such power be attained? The ancient Indian philosophy says "yes you can". "However If you stumble on [it], it is a miracle. If you learn it scientifically, it is Yoga."

Yoga philosophy incorporates the senses, the intellect, the ego and the body into one whole reality. It suggests that our misery and our happiness are our own productions. No situation is either good or bad, but our reaction makes it so. Everything is in the senses. It is the touch of the senses that creates pleasure or pain. If we can control the senses and

Yoga philosophy incorporates the senses, the intellect, the ego and the body into one whole reality. It suggests that our misery and our happiness are our own productions. No situation is either good or bad, but our reaction makes it so.

order what we shall feel, without letting them control and have command over us, if they become our servants, then the problem is solved. Our senses make us experience the world and mastery over them is the key to successful living, which can happen with mindfulness attained by yoga. This leads you to gain the union with your own self. You are not the body, but the universal soul! You learn to control, rather than being controlled, and this is the magic of the science of yoga. Make you mind your means to salvation, by attaining freedom from being affected by the life conditions which are neutral in themselves.

> (Indranill Basu Ray is a Cardiologist with research in Mind-Body medicine)

# **'APNE SAHNI JI' successfully** lay out life of a true Karmyogi

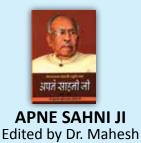
#### PAVAN KUMAR CHATURVEDI

ublished in two volumes Apne Sahni Ji is a compendium of articles based on the memory of various eminent persons who came in touch with the versatile personality of Shri Kedar NathSahniJi (24 Oct. 1924 - 3 Oct. 2012) These articles have been contributed by politicians cutting across party lines, party workers, family members and various other people belonging to different scales of eminence. As one goes through them, one cannot avoid noticing subtle changes which start occurring in one's personality and perspective of life. A study of these two volumes is complete education for leading an exemplary public life and gratifying personal life.

Life of Shri Kedar NathSahniJi was an epitome of public service taken at great personal sacrifice. Although these two volumes do not conform to the rules of strict biographical sketch, however, they touch upon almost all the dimensions of Shri Sahni's varied and eventful life. The book is so absorbing and edifying that it can be made a compulsory reading particularly for those who are interested in leading a life of public service and value-based political activism.

But before proceeding further to bring out the events of Shri Kedar Nath

Sahni Ji's life as narrated between the covers of these volumes, the credit is due to Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, the editor of these volumes, and the same is acknowledged with thankful heart. Dr. Sharma has most skillfully performed the task of editor and has been meticulous in selecting these articles which cover almost all aspects of the multi-dimensional life of Shri Kedar Nath SahniJi. Dr. Sharma has done great service to



Chandra Sharma and published by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Memorial Trust, New Delhi

readers by compiling these articles in the form of books and making them accessible to those who are interested in knowing how the initial Swyamsevaks like Sahni Ji worked so hard and fought so many battles to build a huge organization like Jan Sangh, known as Bhartiya Janata Party today. Not only would the workers of Rastriya Swayam Sevak Sangh and Bhartiya Janata Party benefit from this work, but also those who choose the arduous path of public service and political activism.

The title of the book is truly representative of what has been collected between the covers of these two volumes. As SahniJi selflessly dedicated his whole life for the benefit and service of society to the extent of self-abnegation and he became very much our own, hence the title - " Apne SahniJi". Sahni Ji was such a towering figure and source of strength in the public life that people belonging to both political and apolitical backgrounds sought guidance from him whenever faced with some knotty issues and that is why these volumes contain memories of people working in different areas of life.

Shri Kedar Nath SahniJi was born on 24 October, 1926 at Thatta Village of Rawalpindi in Pakistan. His father Shri Keshav Das SahniJi was Squadron Leader in the Army. The source of his disciplined and courageous life can be traced to his army background. The courage and fearlessness of SahniJi will remain unsurpassed, an instance of which has been narrated by one of his relatives when the Bus in which he was travelling was surrounded by heavily armed terrorists who were going to shoot all the passengers. Sahni Ji showed courage and conviction and

dissuaded the gun-toting terrorists from shooting innocent people and in this way he saved many innocent lives.

After completing his primary education in his hometown, Sahniji came to Jammu in 1942 for further studies in the Prince of Wales College and from here he began his life-long journey of service to society and nation. Sahniji met Shri Prem Nath Dogra ji in Jammu who was the head and the most active worker of the RSS and became greatly influenced by the personality and working style of Dogra Ji. The punctuality of time, the gravity of personality and the clarity of thought in Sahni Ji can be traced to the influence of Dogra Ji.

Sahni ji made Mirpur in Jammu his area of his activity and here his absolute dedication to service of society and organizational skills became noticeable. SahniJi became dedicated Swayamsevak verv of the RSS at the early age of 16 and demonstrated his mammoth capacity for service to the nation. Mirpur in Jammu became witness to his courage and military skills when he took upon himself the daunting task of preparing the local people to repulse the Pakistani invasion of Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of partition.

He was instrumental in accession of Kashmir to India as he accompanied Guru GolwarkarJi to persuade Raja Hari Singh to join the Indian state.

After the assassination of Gandhiji, the RSS was banned for political reasons and many RSS

workers were incarcerated.Sahni Ji also had to spend long time in Hissar Jail, but his love for social service and honesty saw no waning. It can be illustrated by noticeable event which took place in Hissar Jail when some belongings of a Jail inmate was stolen in the Jail; SahniJi took a vow not to take food and water till it was returned and fortunately the same was returned. Jail authorities were impressed by this episode and permitted him to start a Sakha there.

SahniJiwas a vocal advocate and an ardent practitioner of honesty in public life. He did not compromise with his principles even in the most compelling circumstances. He was epitome of rectitude in public life and never used his position to garner any benefit for himself or his relatives and when anybody tried to use his name to take any benefit, he had to face strongest reprimand from SahniJi, An instance of which can be given, when his relatives wanted to buy some flats in Delhi and builder said that if Sahniwould call him, the builder would deliver flats at low price. The relatives approached SahniJi for this purpose, but herefused to entertain them at all.

He came to Delhi in 1954 and was nominated as GeneralSecretary of Jan Sangh in 1957. SahniJiset unprecedented example of building organization from scratch in almost no time.

Sahni Ji tied matrimonial knot with Smt.VimalaSahni in 1961. One anecdote is very famous from this marriage. Hedid not believe in extravagance in the marriage which he considered the cause of many social evils prevalent in Indian society. SahniJi was chief executive counselor of Delhi which was equal to the post Chief Minister when there was no legislative assembly in Delhi. Even after holding such a high position, SahniJi did not have his own house in Delhi.

During the Emergency, SahniJi did not give up his hope for democracy and kept preparing for election. Arrest warrant was issued against him. He escaped to England in disguise and kept organizing people and raising his voice against the imposition of Emergency from there.

While serving as Governor of Goa and Sikkim he set imitable example of maintaining proper Centre-State relation. Sahni Ji left us all for heavenly abode on 3 October, 2012 and plunged us all in deep ocean of sorrow. However,his life will remain a beacon light for those who continue their journey of life and his ideals will keep reminding us to contribute our bit to the upward journey of human civilization.

Life of Sahni Jiis so varied and eventful that it is not possible to confine it in a few pages of these two volumes. However Mahesh Chandra Sharma Ji deserves full commendation for his selection of these articles in these two volumes which successfully lay out the manysplendored life of a true Karmyogiwho was a great worker, strategist, tactician, thinker, administrator, a political philosopher and above all, a great organization-builder.

(The writer is a practicing advocate)



## Ramabhau Mhalgi Prabodhini launches course to create future leaders

or the first in India, a structured Post-Graduate course to comprehensively understand leadership-science, politics and governance has been launched. Mumbai based Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP), a training and research academy working for capacity building of people's representatives, political party workers as well as voluntary social workers has recently set-up Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL) which has launched a one of its kind Post Graduate Programme (PGP) in Leadership, Politics and Governance.

Rajya Sabha MP and Vice Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, said the course aims to "broaden the scope of leadership-science and not confine leadership to from the limited area of management science." He said this PGP was a unique inter-disciplinary course designed to bridge the gap between India's young talent and India's democratic polity and governance.

He further added, extensive exposure, sound knowledge, deeper understanding and collective mentoring are the four main pillars of the academic programme of IIDL.

The course will follow a trimester pattern and have three parts -

- i. Politics and Democracy
- ii. Leadership and Management
- iii. Governance and Public Policy

All the parts will be compulsory and would carry an equal weightage along with having its own set of assignments and examinations to assess the performance of the participants. "What makes this course unique is the approaching to teaching and learning. The teaching methodology will be a mix of academic and experiential learning as IIDL believes it is importance to both classroom teaching and experiential learning" shared Ravi Pokharna, Project Officer, RMP.

Established in 1982 in memory of late Parliamenterian Rambhau Mhalgi, RMP is a unique academy working for training and orientation of socio-political activists & on research projects. RMP has an excellent state-of-the-art training facility known as Knowledge Excellence Centre (KEC) near Mumbai spread over 15 acres of land. RMP-KEC will be the host campus for the PGP course being conducted by IIDL.

This Post Graduate Programme is targeted at students and young professionals who wish to make career in the field of journalism, politics, governance, public affairs and voluntary



organisations. The last day to register for the nine month residential post graduate is June 30 and classes will being from August 1.

## 20 lakh houses for urban poor approved under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna: Venkaiah Naidu

he construction of over 20 lakh affordable houses for urban poor in 4,720 cities and towns has been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban) launched two years ago, Union Urban Development Minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu said on June 19, 2017.

Naidu termed the goal of ensuring housing for all by 2020 as a "challenging task" and expected the political and administrative leaderships in the states and city governments to rise to the occasion.

The construction of over 20 lakh affordable houses for urban poor in 4,720 cities and towns has been approved under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (Urban) launched two years ago, Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said today. The scale of housing activity has picked up in the three years of the Narendra Modi government, the minister said while participating in a foundation laying ceremony for 1,09,000 houses under the Yojna in Andhra Pradesh's Vijaywada town.

The significance of this scale of housing activity is marked by the fact that the previous UPA regime had approved the construction of only 13,82,768, houses during its 10-year rule, he said. "If something done in 10 years by others could be achieved in just under three years, I think it is good enough evidence on ground of being a government with a difference," the minister was quoted as saying in a statement.

Naidu termed the goal of ensuring housing for all by 2020 as a "challenging task" and expected the political and administrative leaderships in the states and city governments to rise to the occasion. "The Central government has done all that it could do in the form of putting in place an enabling ecosystem and will fulfill its commitment of central assistance," he said. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu attended the function.

## **PSLV-C38 Successfully Launches 31 Satellites in a Single Flight**

India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV has now reached 209

SRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C38 successfully launched on June 23 the 712 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 30 co-passenger satellites today from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This is the thirty ninth consecutively successful mission of PSLV.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO on its 40th successful Polar satellite launch carrying 31 satellites from 15 countries.

PSLV-C38 lifted off at 0929 hrs (9:29 am) IST, as planned, from the First Launch Pad. After a flight of about 16 minutes, the satellites achieved a polar Sun Synchronous Orbit of 505 km inclined at an angle of 97.44 degree to the equator (very close to the intended orbit) and in the succeeding seven and a half minutes, all the 31 satellites successfully separated from the PSLV in a predetermined sequence beginning with Cartosat-2 series satellite, followed by NIUSAT and 29 customer satellites.

The 29 co-passenger satellites carried were international customer satellites from USA (10), United Kingdom (3), Belgium (3), Italy (3), Austria (1), Chile (1), Czech Republic (1), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (1), Japan (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1) and Slovakia (1).

The total number of Indian satellites launched by PSLV now stands at 48.

After separation, the two solar arrays of Cartosat-2 series satellite were deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) at Bangalore took



over the control of the satellite. In the coming days, the satellite will be brought to its final operational configuration following which it will begin to provide various remote sensing services using its panchromatic (black and white) and multispectral (colour) cameras.

One of the 30 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C38 was the 15 kg NIUSAT, a University/ Academic Institute satellite from Nurul Islam University, Tamil Nadu, India. The remaining 29 co-passenger satellites carried were international customer satellites from USA (10), United Kingdom (3), Belgium (3), Italy (3), Austria (1), Chile (1), Czech Republic (1), Finland (1), France (1), Germany (1), Japan (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1) and Slovakia (1).

With the successful launch, the total number of customer satellites from abroad placed in orbit by India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV has reached 209.

## Atal Pension Yojana (APY) can now be subscribed digitally

eNPS Channel ("APY@eNPS) involves complete digital enrolment process

ension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has now introduced "APY@eNPS" which involves a complete digital enrolment process. This is the latest in the series of various initiatives taken by PFRDA for expansion of

outreach of Atal Pension Yojana (APY), to give additional push to cover the as yet unreached population at greater ease. PFRDA has conducted meetings with Banks and Deptt of Post at Kolkata, Bengaluru & Mumbai respectively for the earliest



roll out of the facility call.

Shri A G Das, CGM, PFRDA recently addressed the meetings at Mumbai where IT department /Nodal officers of the Banks/Deptt of Post were present. PFRDA had briefed about the benefits of APY@ eNPS platform to the Service

Providers under APY where more than 45 bank officials (IT officials/Nodal Officers) were present. The APY service providers have been briefed to develop APY@eNPS channel features before 30th June 2017.

# Union Government increases MSP of pulses, oil-seeds and cotton

he Union Government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) of pulses, oil-seeds and cotton for the 2017-18 crop year and asked states to procure it by all means so that the farmers are not forced to sell it at low prices. Idea of



this move is to provide remunerative prices to farmers when the prices are under pressure due to supply glut.

The maximum hike in the MSP is fixed for pulses whose output is estimated to be a record 22.40 million tonnes (MT) in the 2016-17 crop year ending June, as against 16.35 MT in 2015-16. The record production was attributed to good monsoon, higher MSP and better procurement arrangement.

The MSP of tur (arhar) is increased from Rs 5,050 per quintal (including bonus) in 2016-17 to Rs 5,450 per quintal (including Rs 200 bonus) in 2017-18 -- a

hike of 400 per quintal.

Similarly, the support price of Urad increased from Rs 5,000 (including bonus) per quintal in 2016-17 to Rs 5,400 (including bonus) per quintal in 2017-18. In case of Moon Dal, it is increased from Rs 5,225 (including bonus) per quintal

in 2016-17 to Rs 5,575 (including bonus) in 2017-18.

Among oilseeds, the government has increased the MSP of groundnut-in-shell (Rs 4,450 per quintal), soyabean (Rs 3,050 per quintal), sunflower seed (Rs 4,100 per quintal), sesamum (Rs 5,300 per quintal) and nigerseed (Rs 4,050 per quintal).

"The prices of various varities of cotton are fixed keeping in view the normal market price differentials between their staple lengths and other technical parameters", said an agriculture ministry's note to the states, informing about the government's latest MSP hike. The ministry wrote to the states on June 13.

# Relaxation in return filing procedure for first two months of GST implementation

ith the objective of ensuring smooth rollout of GST and taking into account the concerns expressed by the trade and industry regarding filing of the returns in GST regime, it has been decided that, for the first two months of GST implementation, the tax would be payable based on a simple return (Form GSTR-3B) containing summary of outward and inward supplies which will be submitted before 20th of the succeeding month. However, the invoice-wise details in regular GSTR – 1 would have to be filed for the month of July and August, 2017 as per the timelines given below –

Month	GSTR – 3B	GSTR - 1	GSTR – 2 (auto populated from GSTR-1)
July,	20th	1st – 5th	6th – 10th September
2017	August	September*	
August,	20th	16th – 20th	21st – 25th September
2017	September	September	



No late fees and penalty would be levied for the interim period. This is intended to provide a sense of comfort to the taxpayers and give them an elbow room to attune themselves with the requirements of the changed system. This not only underlines the government's commitment towards ensuring that all the stakeholders are on board but also provides an opportunity to the taxpayers to be ready for this historic reform.

## PM condoles the demise of Swami Atmasthananda ji

he Prime Minister. Shri Narendra Modi condoled the demise of Swami Atmasthananda ji. "The demise of Swami Atmasthananda ji is a personal loss for me. I lived with him during a very important period of my life. Swami Atmasthananda ji was blessed with immense knowledge and wisdom. Generations will remember his exemplary personality. Whenever I would visit Kolkata, I would always make it a point to seek the blessings of Swami Atmasthananda ji. As President of Ramakrishna Mission set up by Swami Vivekananda, Swami Atmasthananda ji worked tirelessly and spread its influence globally", the Prime Minister said.

Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission President Swami Atmasthanandaji Maharaj passed away on June 18 after a prolonged illness, said the Belur-based Math. He was 98.



## **OUR DISTINGUISHED LIFE MEMBERS**

SHRI NARENDRA MODI Prime Minister of India Shri Amit Shah **BJP** National President Shri Arun Jaitley Union Minister of Finance & Defence Shri Radha Mohan Singh Union Minister of Agriculture Shri Prakash Javadekar Union Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda Union Minister of Health Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi Union Minister for Women & Child Development Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Vishnudeo Sai Minister of State for Steel Shri Babul Supriyo Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries Shri Manohar Parrikar Chief Minister of Goa

Shri Bhupender Yadav National BJP General Secretary & MP (Rajya Sabha) Shri Arun Singh BIP National General Secretary Shri Shanta Kumar Former CM & MP (Lok Sabha) Shri Gopal Narayan Singh MP(Rajya Sabha) Dr. Gokaraju Ganga Raju Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Shri Mahesh Poddor MP (Rajya Sbha) Shri Anil Shirole MP (Lok Sabha) Shri Manoj Rajoria MP (Lok Sabha) Dr. Ravindra Kumar Rai MP (Lok Sabha) Shri Dilipkumar Gandhi MP (Lok Sabha) Shri Gopal Krishna Agarwal National Spokesperson, BIP

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BJP National President Shri Amit Shah along with other BJP leaders paid floral tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee ji on his balidan diwas at BJP HQ



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while addressing at the inauguration of the Synthetic Track of the USHA School, via video conference in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at inagural function at the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow, UP



Special Envoy South Korea, Mr. Jeong Dong-chae, calls on the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi meeting the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan

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