

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



**INDIA-ISRAEL
INKS 7 IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS**



**RAMNATH
KOVIND**

BECOMES 14th

PRESIDENT OF INDIA

**NO PARTY WOULD BE ABLE TO COME
CLOSE TO THE PERFORMANCE OF BJP...**

**REFLECTIONS AS
THE PRESIDENT RETIRES**

**IS MAMTA'S TMC FAST BECOMING
JINNAH'S MUSLIM LEAGUE?**



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paying floral tribute to the martyrs of Kargil War on Kargil Vijay Diwas



Delhi BJP President Shri Manoj Tiwari, Union Minister Dr. Harshvardhan and other senior leaders welcoming BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on his Vistrit Pravas in Delhi



Gujarat CM Shri Vijay Rupani and other senior BJP leaders welcoming BJP National President Shri Amit Shah to the Panna Pramukh Sammellan at Anawal Panchkakda, Gujarat

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@AmitShah

Congratulations to Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji on being the unanimous choice of NDA for the office of Vice- President of India.

@rajnathsingh

Indian Army is a disciplined, determined and dedicated force. Kargil Vijay Diwas is a celebration of India's exemplary defence capabilities.



@JPNadda

Ministry will develop its own quality assurance programme that will talk about service provision, patient rights, etc.

facebook

Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji on being elected the President of India! Best wishes for a fruitful & inspiring tenure.



— **Narendra Modi**

It is our great privilege that 1st time BJP had an opportunity to nominate a President on its own, a member of Dalit community was chosen.



— **Amit Shah**

Many congratulations to Shri #RamNathKovnid ji on taking oath as the 14th President of the Republic of India. @rashtrapatibhvn.



— **Arun Jaitley**



Courtesy: Social Media



Kamal Sandesh Parivar
wishes a very happy
INDEPENDENCE DAY
(15 August, 2017)
to its readers

From mud house to Rashtrapati Bhavan

As Shri Ramnath Kovind takes oath as 14th President, Indian democracy gets even more mature and stronger. His election to the post symbolizes that Indian democracy has the strength to make possible that a person from the most humble background can adorn the highest office of the country. It symbolizes that Indian democracy is not only integrationist and liberating but also committed to the process of social change and societal reform. The rise of Shri Ramnath Kovind from poor Dalit family of a little known village in UP to Rashtrapati Bhavan seems to be a miracle but it's the Indian democracy which is making it happen. When a Ramnath Kovind becomes President and a Narendra Modi becomes Prime Minister, it reassures the poorest of the poor in the country that the nation is marching in right direction and unleashing the forces emancipating and empowering every section of the society. It also reaffirms the commitment of BJP to the principle of Antyodaya and the upliftment of the last man in the society.

The new President of India in his address immediately after taking oath has rightly emphasised on the unique diversity which India celebrates. Recalling the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Deendayal Upadhaya he has emphasised the need for all round development of the country and need to build an egalitarian society. The nation has responded by giving huge victory to Shri Kovind who polled more than 65% of the votes. Unfortunately the Congress could not rise

above its narrow politics in criticizing the newly elected president on baseless grounds. The Congress should learn from Shri Pranab Mukherjee who was applauded for his commitment to the high office he held. The kind of farewell he received from Prime Minister and other ministers speaks volumes of his integrity and high stature in public life. Shri Kovind's journey from mud house to Rashtrapati Bhavan reassures poorest of the poor of the country that their representative is in India's highest office to safeguard and promote their interests.

BIHAR GETS NDA GOVERNMENT

Bihar once again gets NDA government with Nitish Kumar as CM and Sushil Kumar Modi as Deputy Chief Minister. The situation in Bihar under Mahagathabandhan was turning from bad to worse as cases of corruption by Laloo Yadav and his family kept hogging limelights in media. While cases of huge corruption including acquisition of benaami property and money laundering were being investigated by investigating agencies, Bihar also dwindled on the parameters of development and good governance. The intransigence of Laloo Yadav in not clarifying his position on the charges and take responsibilities of the misdeeds became a huge embarrassment for Nitish Kumar. The credibility of the government was getting eroded as Laloo Yadav and his sons and daughter refused to give any explanations on the charges of corruption. It was a very difficult time for Bihar.

Nitish Kumar should be congratulated for standing by his conscience and in the interest of the people of Bihar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly welcomed him for joining the fight against corruption. People have fond memories of NDA government in Bihar which brought the state on the national map by scoring big on almost all developmental parameters. An alliance with Laloo Yadav and Congress again led to worsening of governance and the state was haunted by the return of Laloo's jungle raaj. Nitish has rescued Bihar once again by taking a bold stand and calling off the Mahagathabandhan. No one will doubt that Bihar will now resume its march towards good governance and development. It is after a long time that government at centre and in state belongs to same alliance and this may prove a golden opportunity for Bihar. Bihar is a state with immense possibilities and now NDA government is in position to take Bihar to new heights.

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

THE RISE OF SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND FROM POOR DALIT FAMILY OF A LITTLE KNOWN VILLAGE IN UP TO RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN SEEMS TO BE A MIRACLE BUT IT'S THE INDIAN DEMOCRACY WHICH IS MAKING IT HAPPEN. WHEN A RAMNATH KOVIND BECOMES PRESIDENT AND A NARENDRA MODI BECOMES PRIME MINISTER, IT REASSURES THE POOREST OF THE POOR IN THE COUNTRY THAT THE NATION IS MARCHING IN RIGHT DIRECTION AND UNLEASHING THE FORCES EMANCIPATING AND EMPOWERING EVERY SECTION OF THE SOCIETY.



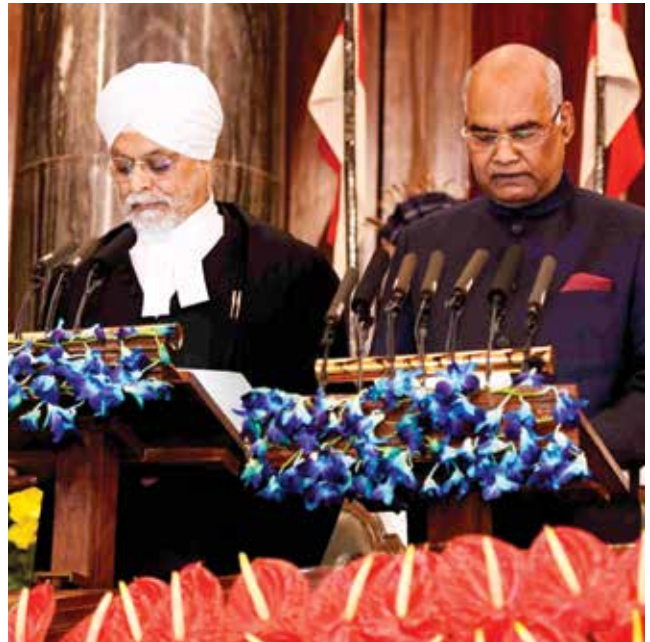
**RAMNATH
KOVIND
BECOMES 14th
PRESIDENT OF INDIA**



NDA's nominee Shri Ramnath Kovind won presidential election by more than two-thirds of the total electoral college votes. Shri Ramnath Kovind secured over 65% of votes over rival Meira Kumar, who was backed by the Congress and other opposition parties. Shri Kovind received 2930 votes with a value of 7,02,044. He became the first BJP member who was elected as the President of India.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi personally met President elect Shri Ramnath Kovind and congratulated him.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah hailed as "historic" the election of NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind as the next president and said "It is a victory for the poor, downtrodden and marginalised and their aspirations".



How the change of guard at the Rashtrapati Bhavan unfolded

Shri Ramnath Kovind took oath on July 25 as President of India in grand ceremony attended by highest dignitaries like Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari, Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and members of parliament and other dignitaries.

The elaborate ceremony for change of guard in India's highest Constitutional office started with a gentle knock on the door of President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind's Akbar Road residence.

It was Military Secretary to the President, Major General Anil Khosla, inviting 71-year-old Kovind and his wife Savita to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Pranab Mukherjee was waiting for them in the study.

The two leaders then went to the grand Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt where they were escorted to the saluting dais.



Shri Mukherjee took the last salute of the President's Bodyguard (PBG) with President-elect Kovind standing to his left.

He and his successor then drove down Raisina Hill to the Central Hall of the Parliament in a black limousine. Escorting them was grand equestrian procession by the PBG, dressed in white ceremonial uniforms and blue turbans with gold ornamental work.

The road from Rashtrapati Bhavan to Parliament was lined with jawans of the armed forces. (With inputs from PTI)

@narendramodi

“Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji on being elected the President of India! Best wishes for a fruitful & inspiring tenure. Gladdened by the extensive support for Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji among MPs & across various states. I thank members of the electoral college. I also congratulate Meira Kumar Ji for her campaign, which was in spirit of the democratic ethos & values we all are proud of.”



PROFILE



A lawyer, veteran political representative and long-time advocate of egalitarianism and integrity in Indian public life and society, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was born on October 1, 1945, in Paraunkh, near Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. His parents were Shri Maiku Lal and Smt Kalawati.

Before assuming charge of the office of the 14th President of India on July 25, 2017, Shri Kovind served as the 36th Governor of the state of Bihar from August 16, 2015, to June 20, 2017.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Shri Kovind completed his school education in Kanpur and obtained the degrees of B.Com and L.L.B. from Kanpur University. In 1971, he enrolled as an Advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi.

Shri Kovind was Union Government Advocate in the Delhi High Court from 1977 to 1979 and Union Government Standing Counsel in the Supreme Court from 1980 to 1993. He became Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court of India in 1978. He practised at the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court for 16 years till 1993.

PARLIAMENTARY AND PUBLIC LIFE

Shri Kovind was elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in April 1994. He served for two consecutive terms of six years each till March 2006. Shri Kovind served on various Parliamentary Committees like Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes; Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs; Parliamentary Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas; Parliamentary Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment; and Parliamentary Committee on Law and Justice. He was Chairman of the Rajya Sabha House Committee.

Shri Kovind also served as Member of the Board



@AmitShah

“Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji for the emphatic victory in the 2017 Presidential elections. His victory is truly historic. I am sure Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji will distinguish himself as an exceptional President of our nation. The election of Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji is a victory for the poor, downtrodden & marginalised and their aspirations. I thank BJP members, NDA family, other valued parties and leaders who supported Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji,” said Shah.



of Management of the Dr B.R Ambedkar University, Lucknow, and Member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He was part of the Indian delegation at the United Nations and addressed the United Nations General Assembly in October 2002.

POSITIONS HELD

- 2015-17: Governor of Bihar
- 1994-2006: Member of the Rajya Sabha, representing the state of Uttar Pradesh
- 1971-75 and 1981: General Secretary, Akhil Bharatiya Koli Samaj
- 1977-79: Union Government Advocate at the Delhi High Court
- 1982-84: Union Government Junior Counsel in the Supreme Court

PERSONAL DETAILS

Shri Kovind married Smt Savita Kovind on May 30, 1974. They have a son, Shri Prashant Kumar, and a daughter, Miss Swati. An avid reader, the President has keen interest in reading books on politics and social change, law and history, and religion.

During his long public career, Shri Kovind has travelled widely across the country. He has also visited Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom and the United States in his capacity as a Member of Parliament.



BJP Senior leader Shri L K Advani congratulated President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind on his victory. Soon after he came to know of Shri Kovind's win in the presidential election, Shri Advani spoke to him and gave him his best wishes.

AIADMK's Panneerselvam expressed “great joy” on Shri Kovind winning the presidential polls. “Having been elected as the first citizen of India, we wish Mr Ramnath Kovind name and fame due to his skill and service,” Panneerselvam said in a statement. ■

@arunjaitley



"Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji on being elected the 14th President of the Republic of India. I wish him success & the very best."

@nitin_gadkari

"I congratulate Ram Nath Kovind ji for his victory. It is a victory of the democracy."



@NitishKumar



"Congratulations to Shri Ramnath Kovind Ji on being elected as the President of India."

@PawarSpeaks

"Hearty congratulations to the President-elect Shri Ram Nath Kovind. Best wishes for a successful tenure."



@Naveen_Odisha



"Congratulate Shri Ramnath Kovind ji on being elected President of India. We look forward to work under his leadership at Rashtrapati bhavan."

@ncbn

"Best wishes to the Hon Sri Ram Nath Kovind Garu, President of India. May the Indian democracy thrive under his able leadership."



@sureshprabhu

"Congratulations to Shri Ram Nath Kovind Ji on being elected the 14th President of India!"

@drmmjoshibjp



"Congratulations, hope he will be a successful president & will work for marginalised & poor ppl"

@SushilModi

Congratulations to Shri Ramnath Kovind Ji for taking oath as the President of India.



@byadavbjp



"I would like to thank 116 MPs & MLAs of the other side who listened to their conscience & voted in favour of Kovind ji."

@drramansingh

"Congratulate Kovind Ji, his nomination for President post was a sign that govt is determined to bring Dalits in mainstream. His election to the highest post is a sign of the policies and ideologies of BJP"



@S_MahajanLS



"Confident that he (Ram Nath Kovind) will work for all from his position. Had very good experience with Pranab Da."

@MehboobaMufti

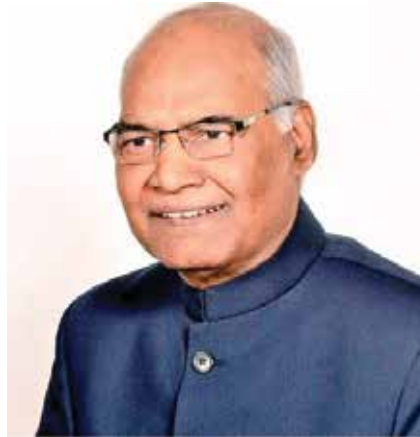
"His victory marks an important milestone in political history of India. It reflects empowerment of weaker sections of society. I hope the tenure of Mr. Kovind would prove to be inspiring, encouraging and egalitarian."



“The key to India’s success is its diversity”

We are publishing English version of the Honorable Shri Ramnath Kovind’s speech on his assumption of office as President of India for our esteemed readers. He delivered original speech in Hindi.

I thank you for electing me to the responsibility of the President of India, and I enter this office with all humility. Coming here to Central Hall has brought back so many memories. I have been a Member of Parliament and here, in this very Central Hall, have had discussions with many of you. Often we agreed, sometimes we disagreed. But we learnt to respect each other. And that is the beauty of democracy.



I grew up in a mud house, in a small village. My journey has been a long one, and yet this journey is hardly mine alone. It is so telling of our nation and our society also. For all its problems, it follows that basic mantra given to us in the Preamble to the Constitution – of ensuring Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and I will always continue to follow this basic mantra.

I bow to the 125 crore citizens of this great nation and promise to stay true to the trust they have bestowed on me. I am conscious I am following in the footsteps of stalwarts such as Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, and my immediate predecessor, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, whom we address out of affection as ‘Pranab Da’.

Our Independence was the result of efforts by thousands of patriotic freedom fighters led by Mahatma Gandhi. Later, Sardar Patel integrated our nation. Principal architect of our Constitution Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar instilled in us the value of human dignity and of the republican ethic.

These leaders did not believe that simply political

freedom was enough. For them, it was crucial to also achieve economic and social freedom for millions of our people.

We would be completing 70 years of our Independence soon. We are also well into the second decade of the 21st century, a century that so many of us intuitively believe will be an Indian century, guided and shaped by India and its accomplishments.

We need to build an India that is an economic leader as well as a moral exemplar.

The key to India’s success is its diversity. Our diversity is the core that makes us so unique. In this land we find a mix of states and regions, religions, languages, cultures, lifestyles and much more. We are so different and yet so similar and united. The India of the 21st century will be one that is in conformity with our ancient values as well as compliant with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. There is no dichotomy there, no question of choice. We must combine tradition and technology, the wisdom of an age-old Bharat and the science of a contemporary India. As the gram panchayat must determine our consultative and community based problem solving, the Digital Republic must help us leapfrog developmental milestones. These are the twin pillars of our national endeavour. Nations are not built by governments alone. The government can at best be a facilitator, and a trigger for society’s innate entrepreneurial and creative instincts. Nation building requires national pride:

- We take pride in the soil and water of India;

- We take pride in the diversity, religious harmony and inclusive ethos of India;
- We take pride in the culture, heritage and spirituality of India;
- We take pride in our fellow citizens;
- We take pride in our work; and
- We take pride in the little things we do every day.

Each citizen of India is a nation builder. Each one of us is a custodian of India's well-being and of the legacy that we will pass on to coming generations.

- The armed forces that protect our borders and keep us safe are nation builders.
- Those police and paramilitary forces that fight terrorism and crime are nation builders.
- That farmer toiling in the blazing sun to feed fellow citizens is a nation builder. And we must never forget that so much of our farm labour comprises women.
- That scientist concentrating tirelessly and 24 x 7 to send an Indian space mission to Mars, or invent a vaccine, is a nation builder.
- That nurse or doctor helping the sick to recover and fighting disease in a remote village, is a nation builder.
- That young person who founds a start-up and becomes a job creator is a nation builder. The start-up could be on a small farm, converting mangoes to pickles. Or in an artisans' village, weaving carpets. Or at a laboratory lit up by giant screens.
- That tribal and ordinary citizen striving to preserve our ecology, our forests, our wildlife, to push back climate change and to advance the cause of renewable energy, is a nation builder.
- That committed and driven public servant who works beyond the call of duty, whether on a flooded road, directing traffic; or in a quiet room, poring over detailed files, is a nation builder.
- That self-less teacher who equips young children and shapes their destinies, is a nation builder.
- Those countless women who take care of families with so many other responsibilities, at

home and work, and raise children to become ideal citizens, are nation builders.

People elect their representatives from the Gram Panchayat to Parliament. They vest their will and hopes in these representatives. In turn, the people's representatives devote their lives to the service of nation.

But, our endeavours are not for ourselves alone. Down the ages, India has believed in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – the World is My Family. It is appropriate that the land of Lord Buddha should lead the world in its search for peace, tranquility and ecological balance.

India's voice counts in today's world. The entire planet is drawn to Indian culture and soft power. The global community looks to us for solutions to international problems – whether terrorism, money laundering or climate change. In a globalised world, our responsibilities are also global.

This links us to our global family, our friends and partners abroad, and our diaspora, that contributes in so many ways across the world. It brings us to the support of other nations, whether by extending the umbrella of the International Solar Alliance or being first responders following natural disasters.

We have achieved a lot as a nation, but the effort to do more, to do better and to do faster should be relentless. This is especially so as we approach the 75th Year of our independence in 2022. What must also bother us is our ability to enhance access and opportunity for the last person and the last girl-child.

The citizens of this country are the real source of strength to me. I am confident that they will continue to give me the energy to serve the nation.

We need to sculpt a robust, high growth economy, an educated, ethical and shared community, and an egalitarian society, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji. These are integral to our sense of humanism. This is the India of our dreams, an India that will provide equality of opportunities. This will be the India of the 21st century.

Thank you very much! ■

Jai Hind, Vande Mataram

M. Venkaiah Naidu becomes NDA's Vice Presidential candidate



Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was declared NDA's Vice Presidential candidate for the post of Vice President. He filed his nomination papers on July 18. His name was proposed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Finance and Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

Shri Naidu was accompanied by BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, senior leader Shri Murli Manohar Joshi and other party legislators.

On the occasion Shri Naidu thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National

President Shri Amit Shah, BJP's Parliamentary Board and NDA's alliance partner for nominating his name.

"I will uphold the dignity of the office of Vice President of India if elected," Mr. Naidu said adding that he would look to strengthen the parliamentary democracy.

"I wanted to see Mr. Modi come back to power in 2019 and after that I wanted to resign from active politics. But destiny has other plans for me," said Shri Naidu recalling his association with the BJP. "I am no longer a member of the BJP or any political party now," he said. ■

No party would be able to come close to the performance of BJP in Rajasthan: Amit Shah



Rajasthan rolled out the red carpet for BJP National President Shri Amit Shah after his arrival on a commercial flight from Delhi to Jaipur for a three-day visit to Rajasthan on 21 July, 2017. Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje, BJP's state President Shri Ashok Parnami and all other senior office bearers and leaders of the party received Shri Shah at the Airport.

Members of the BJP Mahila Morcha showered rose petals on the BJP President's cavalcade when it stopped outside the airport. Upon alighting from his vehicle to greet his well-wishers, Shri Shah was presented with a memento.

Thousands of party Karyakartas, party leader and common people jubilantly greeted the BJP National President at eight places along his route. The BJYM activists led the procession on motorcycles all the way from the airport to the state

BJP office on Sardar Patel Marg. On the way Shri Amit Shah also paid floral tributes to the statue of

In terms of an organisation, the state BJP will be invincible. In the next four months, no political party would be able to come close to the performance of BJP in Rajasthan, forget beating it, Shri Shah said.

Mahatma Gandhi and BR Ambedkar.

Shri Shah later inaugurated the e-library at



the state BJP office and chaired a meeting of the party's core committee.

Noteworthy, Shri Amit Shah is on a whirlwind tour of the country to get direct feedback on the BJP's prospects and performance from senior party leaders and workers. He also intends to strengthen party functionaries and booth-level units in the run-up to the elections.

'RAJASTHAN BJP TO BE UNBEATABLE'



While addressing the media at the state BJP headquarters on the second day of his three-day visit, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 22 July, 2017 said that the state unit of the party would grow into an unbeatable political party by the ongoing process of strengthening of the organisation.

In terms of an organisation, the state BJP will be invincible. In the next four months, no political party would be able to come close to the performance of BJP in Rajasthan, forget beating it, Shri Shah said.

He said that Vasundhara Raje was doing a good job in the state.

To a query related to loans of farmers being waived off, he said that union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley has already clearly stated that the states need to decide themselves. "It is the state government's decision," he added.

In his address to the media, the BJP President listed out the achievements of the Narendra Modi government including demonetization and surgical strike; and applauded the flagship programmes and

Highlights of the visit

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje, BJP State President Shri Ashok Parnami and all other senior office bearers and leaders of the party received BJP National President Shri Amit Shah at the Airport.
- Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the E-library at the State BJP office.
- He said that Vasundhara Raje was doing a good job in the state.
- In terms of an organisation, the State BJP will be invincible. In the next four months, no political party would be able to come close to the performance of BJP in Rajasthan, forget beating it, Shri Shah said.
- Shri Shah, accompanied by Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje and state BJP President Shri Ashok Parnami among others, met the seers and sought their blessings.
- On the last day of his three-day visit to Rajasthan Shri Amit Shah along with the CM and other BJP leaders had lunch at a Dalit house.

performance of the Raje government in the state.

Speaking on the Ram temple issue, he said that the party's stand on it was always clear. It is even mentioned in the manifestos of the last four general polls. The temple should be constructed but in a legal manner and through mutual dialogue, he said.

SEERS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE MET BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT

On the second day, BJP President Shri Amit Shah was greeted by seers, who came from all over the state to pay him a visit. During his interaction with the seers, the BJP President raised the issues of Ram temple and cow protection.

Shri Shah, accompanied by Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje and state BJP President Shri Ashok Parnami among others, met the seers and



sought their blessings. A closed-door meeting took place between the BJP leaders and the seers.

“Shri Shah spoke on Indian culture, which has received many challenges over the years. His address was mainly focused on how we can keep it intact”, Mahant Gopal Das Maharaj of the Kale Hanuman temple told reporters after the meeting.

After the meeting, Shri Shah went to the BJP office to interact with party MPs and MLAs from Rajasthan, state BJP office-bearers and heads of various party wings separately.

LUNCH WITH DALIT FAMILY IN RAJASTHAN

On the last day of his three-day visit to Rajasthan Shri Shah following rounds of meeting in the party office, left for Sushilpura in Jaipur where he had



lunch at a Dalit house and BJP Yuva Morcha member Ramesh Pacharia.

Shri Amit Shah, accompanied by Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje, party’s state President

Shri Ashok Parnami, BJP National General Secretary Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister Shri Rajyawardhan Rathore, State Social Justice Minister Shri Arun Chaturvedi and others, got a warm welcome in traditional Rajasthani manner.

They were served food by Shri Pacharia’s family and had lunch sitting on the ground. “My mother cooked Daal, Rice, Chapatti, Halwa, Kheer for the party National President,” Shri Pacharia told reporters.

Notable the narrow lanes of Sushilpura are populated by lower middle class and Dalit families. It is located in the middle of the capital city and witnessed VVIP movement for the first time. Excited people lined up on roads and congregated on rooftops to catch a glimpse of Shri Shah. Shri Shah spent an hour at the house of Shri Pacharia and interacted with the family members. He met the locals outside the house and waved to those standing on rooftops.

On last day of Rajasthan visit, Shri Amit Shah met senior party leaders, BJP core committee members and Vistaraks (full-time workers) later in the day to discuss ways to strengthen the organisation.

BJP national president also discussed various issues with Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje, MPs and MLAs and reviewed preparations of the party for the state assembly elections, due next year, and 2019 Lok Sabha polls. ■

Retail inflation fell to historical 18 years low of 1.54%

India's retail inflation fell to historical 18 years low of 1.54 per cent in June as food prices in the country crashed following good rains.



According to the data, retail food prices contracted by 2.12 percent in June. Vegetables prices contracted by 16 percent and pulses by 21 percent as a result of good rains. Prices of spices and eggs saw a marginal drop in June. However, prices of milk rose by 4.15 and fruits by 2 per cent.

Due to good monsoon predicted this year, food prices could further go down in coming days. There had been protest by farmers last month in some parts of the country over not getting good prices for their crops.

Rating agency ICRA, Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said inflation is expected to remain below two per cent in July 2017 too, which is the lower threshold of the RBI's inflation target band of 2-six per cent. She said "the balance is tilted towards a 0.25 percent repo rate cut in the next bi-monthly meeting of the monetary policy committee (MPC) to be held in August 2017." ■

India launches plan to eradicate Malaria by 2027

India has launched an ambitious plan to eliminate malaria by 2027. The plan comprises awareness, entomological surveillance in vulnerable areas, use of diagnostic kits to identify the malaria parasite and an outbreak warning system. The malaria elimination deadline is three years ahead of the global deadline. The plan broke down all the districts into four categories based on their annual parasite incidence. Six states – Odisha (40 per cent) Chhattisgarh (20 per cent), Jharkhand (20 per cent), Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram (5-7 per cent) – report most of the malaria cases in India. These, along with tribal areas of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, account for 90 per cent of India's malaria burden. ■

India-Japan Civil Nuclear Deal Comes Into Force

The landmark India-Japan civil nuclear agreement came into force on July 20, 2017. The deal allows Japan to export nuclear technology to India, making it the first non-proliferation treaty signatory to have such a deal with Tokyo. The pact was signed in Tokyo during the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Japan on Nov 11, 2016. The operationalisation of Indo-Japan civil nuclear deal is in keeping with the Modi government's goal to enhancing nuclear power generation in India. ■



Swachh Bharat Mission picks up great momentum & on way to target

Swachh Bharat Mission has picked up great momentum now and it is hopeful to achieve the target of Swachh Bharat by October 02, 2019. Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha on July 20, the Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigjinagi said that the Sanitation Coverage, which was 41.80% on 2.10.2014, has increased to 65.07% on 17-07-2017. He said that a total of 2, 09,099 Villages, 95,521 Gram Panchayats, 1,411 Blocks and 149 District have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) as on 17-07-2017. In addition, 5 States namely Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand and Haryana have also been declared ODF.

Giving out the comparative figures, the Minister said that as against the expected outcome of 50 lakh individual latrines for the year 2014-15, 58,54,987 latrines were constructed, which is an achievement of 117% of the target. During 2015-16, 127.41 lakh toilets were constructed against expected outcome of 120.00 lakh. For the year



2016-17, against the expected outcome of 1.5 crore individual latrines, 219.24 lakh latrines (146%) have been constructed. For the year 2017-18, against the expected outcome of 1.7 crore individual latrines, 45, 19,942 latrines (27%) have been constructed as on 17-07-2017.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM (G)) launched on 2nd October, 2014 with aims to attain Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019. The focus of the scheme is on behaviour change and usage of toilets. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation regularly reviews the progress made under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) with States. ■

Under Ganga Action Plan 39 projects have been completed

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with officials of Government of Uttar Pradesh and others to discuss the issue of shifting of tanneries from Jajmau, Kanpur. A Task Force has been constituted under chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Uttar Pradesh. The first meeting of the Task Force was held on 06-07-2017.

At present total 155 projects costing Rs. 12423.63 crore have been sanctioned, out of which 39 projects have been completed. Projects for cleaning Ganga are divided under three type of activities i.e. short term, medium term and long term activities. Efforts are made to complete short and medium term activities by the year 2020. ■



Ministry of Road Transport & Highways declared to convert 51,300 km of state roads to NHs

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved "In-Principle" declaration of about 51,300 km length of state roads as new National Highways subject to the outcome of their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on July 20. The declaration of state roads as new National Highways is done from time to time depending upon the requirement of connectivity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

The State roads are declared as new NHs on the basis of well established principles. The total length of NHs in the country as on 31st March, 2014 was about 91,287 km. This has been enhanced to about 1,15,435 km at present. Further, the Ministry

has also taken up detailed review of NHs network with a view to develop road connectivity to border areas, development of coastal roads including road connectivity for non-major ports, improvement in the efficiency of National Corridors, development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes along with integration with Sagarmala, etc., under the proposed Bharatmala Pariyojana. During its meeting on 16th June, 2017 the Public Investment Board (PIB) has recommended the proposal for Phase-I of Bharatmala Pariyojana for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for investment approval.

This information was given by Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today. ■

Road Construction increased by 25 kms per day

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highway has set an ambitious target of 15000 km for construction of national highways during the year 2017-18. Against this, 2269 km of highways have been completed as on 30th June in. The state-wise construction of National Highways in the country during the last three years and current year as on 30th June are as follows:

S No	Year	Length completed (KM)	Rate of construction (KM Per Day)
1	2014-15	4410	12.08
2	2015-16	6061	16.60
3	2016-17	8231	22.55
4	2017-18 (up to 30th June)	2269	25.21

In order to ensure timely completion of the projects, regular meetings are held with project developers, state governments and contractors. Regular review meetings are held in Head Quarter



by Ministry with Regional Officers, concessionaires and contractors to make the construction of projects hassle free. To expedite completion of these projects various steps are taken which include streamlining of land acquisition & environment clearances, exit for equity investors, premium re-schedulement, close coordination with other Ministries, revamping of dispute resolution mechanism, frequent reviews at various levels etc. ■

DHARMA IS NOT RELIGION

I PT. DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA

THE distortions of Dharma that we now-a-days see all around us are largely the result of foreign education. The English word 'religion' has substantially contributed in distorting the pure meaning of Dharma. The British first heard the word when they came to India. They had no word of an equally comprehensive meaning. So they translated it as religion. Such translation has distorted the meaning of Indian words. Dharma is a very wide term which includes many religions. A religion a system of worship, and there are many such systems prevailing in this land. But in spite of these systems and sects Dharma is one. Dharma is that which is good for everyone irrespective of the system of worship and can open up for him the way to salvation.

DHARMA SUSTAINS WORLD

RELIGION means a creed, or a sect, it does not mean Dharma. Dharma is a very broad concept. It is concerned with all aspects of life. It sustains society. It sustains the whole world. That which sustains is "Dharma"

The fundamental principles of Dharma are eternal and universal. Yet their implementation may differ according to time, place and circumstance.

The complete treatise on the rules in general and their philosophical basis is the meaning of Dharma.

These rules cannot be arbitrary. They should be such as to sustain and further the existence and progress of the entity which they serve.

FUNDAMENTAL OF CIVILISED LIFE

WE believe in Dharma not just because it is instrumental in acquiring Artha but because it is a fundamental principle of civilized life.

Kama too can be attained only through Dharma. Having produced the material things, such as nice food, when, where, how and in what measure it will be used

can be determined only by Dharma. If a sick person eats food meant for a healthy one and vice versa, both of them will be at a disadvantage. Dharma helps in restraining the natural tendencies of man whereby he is able to determine what is beneficial to him apart from what is pleasurable. Hence Dharma is given the foremost place in our culture.

DHARMA GUIDES GOD

GOD cannot act contrary to Dharma. If he does, then he is not omnipotent. Adharma is a characteristic of weakness, not of strength. If fire; instead of radiating heat, dies out, it is no longer strong. Strength lies not in unrestrained behaviour, but in well-regulated action. Therefore God who is omnipotent is also self-regulated and consequently fully in tune with Dharma. God descends in the human body to destroy adharma and re-establish Dharma, not to act on passing whims and fancies. Hence even God can do everything but act contrary to Dharma. But for the risk of being misunderstood, one can say that Dharma is even greater than God. The universe is sustained because He acts according to Dharma.

DHARMA IS HIGHER

NEITHER the Legislature is higher nor the Judiciary. Dharma is higher than both. The Legislature will have to act according to Dharma. Dharma will specify the limits of both. The Legislature, the Judiciary or the people, none of these is supreme. Some will say, "Why, people are sovereign. They elect". But even the people are not sovereign because people too have no right to act against Dharma. If an elected government allows people to go against Dharma and does not punish, then that government is in reality a government of thieves. Even the general will cannot go against Dharma. Imagine the situation, if by some manoeuvring, thieves gain a majority in the government and send one of their ranks as an executive. What will be the duty of the minority if the majority is of thieves and elects a thief to rule ?



DHARMA RAJYA

IN our country we cannot think of any sentiment with which Dharma is not bound up. Hence we feel that our State cannot forsake Dharma. A secular State, in our opinion, does not mean a State without Dharma. The word Religion means a tenet in this country and those who believe it are called sects like the Jains, Shaivas and Christians. Naturally the State cannot belong to any of these sects. It must look on all with an equal eye. So we can say that a State is non-sectarian. This would be the ideal, but such a State, even without being partial to a particular sect or against some other sect, can encourage ways and means of achieving both material and spiritual progress and thus be called Dharma Rajya.

JANA RAJYA AND DHARMA RAJYA

IF the four million people of Kashmir say that they want to secede, if the people of Goa say they want to secede and if some say they want the Portuguese to return, all this will be against Dharma. Of the 45 crore people of India, even if 449,999,999 opt for something which is against Dharma, even then this does not become truth. On the other hand, even if one person stands for something which is in accord with Dharma, that constitutes truth, because truth resides with Dharma. It is the duty of this one person that he tread the path of truth and change people. It is from this basis that a person derives the right to proceed according to Dharma.

Let us understand very clearly that Dharma is not necessarily with the majority or with the people. Dharma is eternal. Therefore, in the definition of democracy, to say that it is a government of the people is not enough ; it has to be for the good of the people. Dharma alone can decide.. Therefore, a democratic government "Jana Rajya", must also be rooted in Dharma i.e. a "Dharma Rajya". In the definition of 'Democracy' viz. "government of the people, by the people and for the people", 'of ' stands for independence, 'by' stands for democracy, and 'for' indicates Dharma. Therefore the



true democracy is one where there is freedom as well as Dharma.

WRONG MEANING OF SPIRITUALISM

ONE of the main reasons for looking to the West for a solution to economic problems is the mistaken belief that indian culture and religion, being spiritual, are indifferent towards problems of a material life. This erroneous belief is the result of deliberate propaganda and of a wrong meaning of spiritualism. As a matter of fact our definition of religion ('Dharma') has taken materialism fully into account. Dharma is defined as that which leads to both physical and metaphysical development. Materialism and spiritualism are neither contradictory nor separate from each other. Spiritualism is a point of view of life from which we look at all problems. If spiritualism can give a true definition of the universe there is no reason why it should not give us a solution to all problems of the world. India has not thought only of the metaphysical world, it has thought of material wealth also. Chanakya has said that happiness depends upon Dharma and Dharma depends upon material wealth.

DYNAMIC RELIGION

THE Vedic Religion has always undergone transformation. This religion is dynamic and living. It is not like a stagnant pool. New thoughts have always entered this religion and old thoughts have developed through change, but every new change has kept up its link with the old. Every new agitator maintained a feeling of reverence for his ancestors. Every new reformer gave respect to our ancient tradition, our ancestors and achievements and at the same time propounded new thoughts to suit the times. As these new thoughts had not broken off with the basic thought, they did not in any way harm the life of the nation. On the contrary, they contributed to its development. ■

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

Kushabhau Thakre

Shat-Shat Naman!

Shri Kushabhau Thakre was born on August 15, 1922 in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh to parents Dr. Sundar Rao Shripati Rao Thakre and Smt. Shanta Bai Sundar Rao Thakre. He was educated at Dhar and Gwalior. In 1942 he was inducted as a Pracharak in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh then moved to the Ratlam Division (Ratlam, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Jhabua, Chittaur, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawad, Banswada (Raj.), Dahod (Gujarat)). Shri Kushabhau Thakre remains a guiding light to thousands of karyakartas of BJP who were inspired by him to dedicate themselves to nation building process. He is remembered as true karyakarta who held high offices in the party but always remained connected to the ground and committed to ideology and organization. ■



RSS & Jana Sangh: Shri. Kushabhau Thakre was associated with the RSS since 1942. He became Pracharak in 1942 at Neemunch (M.P.) and then moved to the Ratlam Division (Ratlam, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Jhabua, Chittaur, Kota, Bundi, Jhalawad, Banswada (Raj.), Dahod (Gujarat)).

A glimpse of his journey through the years in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh:

1956 : Secretary (Organisation) Madhya Pradesh since its inception.

1967 : All India Secretary, Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Orissa and also additional in-charge of Gujarat.

1974 : All India Secretary (Organisation).

1977 : President, Madhya Pradesh 1977 : Jailed for 19 months during Emergency.

1979 : Elected to Lok Sabha in a bye-election from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh.

1980 : Was appointed All India Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party and in-charge of Gujarat, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Remained on this post upto 1984.

1984 to 1986 : All India Vice-President.

1986 to 1991 : All India General Secretary and in-charge of Madhya Pradesh.

1991 to 1993 : Vice-President and in-charge of Uttar Pradesh.

1993 : General Secretary (Organisation) and in-charge Madhya Pradesh.

1998 to 2000 : President All India Bharatiya Janata Party.

He left for his heavenly abode on December 28, 2003.

Reflections as the President Retires



| ARUN JAITLEY

The President Shri Pranab Mukherjee demits office in a few hours. His presidency was the culmination of extraordinary career of a political leader. India has seen a few politicians like him who had the capacity to evolve into a statesman irrespective of their political affiliation and the office that they held. Pranab is one such leader who brought dignity to every office that he held.

My first contact with him started when he, along with Dr. Manmohan Singh, was occupying the opposition benches during the Vajpayee Government. He chaired important Standing Committees which had the responsibility of clearing several legislations. Three of them were important constitution amendments. One related to the freezing of seats in the Lok Sabha and the

State Legislatures despite demographic changes in several States. The second involved review of the Anti-Defection Law. The third one dealt with

Even in opposition he was never an obstructionist. He was a product of the parliamentary system and favoured using Parliament for larger National interest.

limiting the size of the Council of Ministers both in the centre and the States. His Committee

expeditiously considered these amendments and improved upon the drafts that the Government had prepared and produced a much better document. He evolved a consensus on all these issues. Even in opposition he was never an obstructionist. He was a product of the parliamentary system and favoured using Parliament for larger National interest.

In his later years, I closely observed him both as a Member and subsequently as a Leader of the Opposition. His natural ability was to rise above

Pranabda exhibited a unique charm which won him many admirers'. He made dealing with him a matter of delight. He put all his interlocutors at ease. He grew in stature with each day. His transformation from a senior Minister to a President was exemplary. As president he was completely non-partisan and conducted himself as an advisor and a guide to his Governments.

partisan arguments. In Parliament, he almost spoke like an *amicus curiae* – a friend of the House, rather than a party leader. This quality enabled him to evolve a consensus in favour of the argument that he advanced. Very rarely did he lose his cool, but if he did, he was smiling a minute later and making up with his target through some complimentary references.

He had a great sense of history which blended with his vision of constitutional propriety. The democrat in him insisted that the Government and

the opposition had to work in tandem on major issues. He could recollect parliamentary and judicial precedents to decide which was the right course that had to be pursued.

As President, he was unquestionably the guardian of the Constitution. He realised that in a democracy there could only be one power centre i.e. elected Government and the Prime Minister. He, therefore, actively associated with two different Governments during his presidency with equal ease. He ensured that all decisions of the Council of Ministers had to conform to constitutional propriety. On some occasions, he wanted to be satisfied before he accorded his approval to those decisions. I was usually sent to interact with him. He was always well prepared on facts, on Constitutional requirements and the need for fairness. These essentials had to be balanced with the requirement of the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers being forwarded to him. This delicate balance he maintained throughout his tenure. He always accepted the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Pranabda exhibited a unique charm which won him many admirers'. He made dealing with him a matter of delight. He put all his interlocutors at ease. He grew in stature with each day. His transformation from a senior Minister to a President was exemplary. As president he was completely non-partisan and conducted himself as an advisor and a guide to his Governments. He owned up the programmes of the Government and became their advocate. He once told me that he had the unique privilege of moving before Parliament the Constitution amendment of Good and Services Tax. He wanted to approve the Constitution amendment during his tenure as the President. It gave him great satisfaction when he did so.

He exits from the Rashtrapati Bhawan with a great stature. He will now assume a greater role of advising and guiding the nation as an *amicus curiae* which he always was. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance & Defence)

Is Mamta's TMC fast becoming Jinnah's Muslim League?



MEENAKSHI LEKHI

At a time when the Narendra Modi Government is practicing the politics of Development for all and appeasement to none, Mamta Banerjee is on the path to declaring West Bengal an "Islamic State" engineering a Kashmir style Hindu exodus. Since she assumed power Hindus in Bengal are subject to worst form of Jehadi oppression socially, economically and politically. State sponsored systematic targeting of the Hindus in many areas & localities has turned west Bengal into the Hate State of India. Be it the postponement of Durga Visarjan to accomodate Muslims for Muharram or the preference to Nabi-Divas over saraswati Puja in Bengal schools, Mamta Government is fast turning Bengal into an Islamic Theocratic State. The Burdwan Blasts,

attacks on Hindus in Dhulagarh, Malda, and more recently in Bashirhat suggest that the West Bengal government is for the Muslims, by the Muslims and of the Muslims. Other social groups must face Kashmir style extinction at the earliest. The Calcutta High Court in June 2016 rejected an allowance announced by West Bengal government for Imams and Muezzins, ruling it to be unconstitutional and against the public interest. The court said the allowance violated Articles 14 and 15/1 of the Constitution, which provide that the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them.

Mamta's Pakistan Connections are emerging fast and thick as we dive deeper into her conduct. As per a report in Pakistani daily The Dawn, under a caption "Canvassing in 'mini-Pakistan' of Kolkata"

(dt 29.04.2016), the Minister for Urban Development and for Municipal Affairs in Mamata Banerjee's Cabinet Bobby Firhad Hakim addressed Garden Reach as 'mini-Pakistan' while taking a Pakistani daily journalist for a stroll. "Please come along and let us take you to mini-Pakistan in Kolkata," The Dawn reporter Maleeha Hamid Siddiqui quoted him as saying. The Dawn reporter further wrote, "Seeing me loitering around with my notebook in hand, the men in the neighbourhood want to know what TV channel I work for. When I tell them I am from Pakistan, they break into broad smiles and tell me of their relatives who live back home." Hakim is believed as very close to WB CM Mamata Banerjee and an Islamic face to control the Muslim vote bank politics exercised by Trinamool Congress Party through rampant appeasement and allowing Muslim hooliganism in the state.

A day after more than 200 Sri Ram Shobajayatra (Lord Ram rallies) backed by the Sangh parivar – where participants of all ages brandishing traditional weapons as mentioned in the scriptures like swords, daggers, spears, maces, bows and arrows – were held in Kolkata and across Bengal, the chief minister alleged that those who had conducted them had violated Bengal's culture, Hindu tradition and law and order as well. A few hours later, West Midnapore police started a case under the Arms Act, 1959, against BJP legislator and State President, Dilip Ghosh, who was seen with a sword in Kharagpur town on Ram Navami Day (5th April, 2017). But there is a different yardstick for Muslims. They can organize their religious programmes and functions without any permission, but Hindus have to go High Court time and again to obtain such permission after restrictions put by Mamata's police. Muslims can carry swords and other weapons in Muharram procession without any restrictions, but Ram Navami organizers have to face police case. Muslim Imams and Muazzins are treated as Didi's own brothers and allowed Imam and Muazzin allowances, but Hindu priests must be treated as enemies, not even as step

brothers and they are to be threatened to face bad consequences if they claim so. The discrimination to Hindus in Bengal is limitless.

When the Bengal Govt is promoting Quran and Urdu based Madrasa education in the state, the same Govt is trying to stop schools run by Hindu bodies connected with RSS. The Bengal government recently put on notice 125 schools run by nationalist trusts. These organisations have a network of over 350 schools in Bengal, with a strength of over 60,000 students. Interestingly, this year the state of WB has announced a huge Rs 2815 Cr for Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education

Bengal has always witnessed a coalition of sorts when it comes to anti-Hindu policies because it suits most political parties due to their ideological biases against the Hindus. For instance the Communists and congress have been harnessing the Hindu-Hate constituency among the non-Hindu communities for a long time there.

which is larger than total budget of Irrigation and Waterways (Rs. 2410 Cr), Large Industries-Textile (Rs.2154) and Backward Class & Tribal Welfare (Rs. 2775 Cr).

Bengal has always witnessed a coalition of sorts when it comes to anti-Hindu policies because it suits most political parties due to their ideological biases against the Hindus. For instance the Communists and congress have been harnessing the Hindu-Hate constituency among the non-Hindu communities for a long time there. After partition, the Hindus from East Pakistan were forced to seek refuge in West Bengal. It was not surprising that



due to such large influx, the Hindu population in the state, which constituted 78.45 per cent in 1951 had declined to 70.54 per cent as per the 2011 census.

It is therefore important to understand that BJP's secular stand make these forces uncomfortable. BJP's rise is therefore Mamta's biggest challenge in her pursuit of communal politics. She is so much terrified that recently senior BJP leaders (Roopa Ganguly, Kailash Vijayvargiya) were intimidated by the Police in fake cases manufactured just to suppress BJP's rise in Bengal.

At the heart of the issue is the over 30% muslim vote bank mostly harnessed through legitimising the Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants by the Communists and now by Mamta Banerjee. Out of the 2 crores she has helped 1.5 Crore illegal Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants get citizenship and voting rights. She knows it very well that her paid cadre alongwith the 30% muslim vote is good enough to capture power in West Bengal. In fact a demographic tilt in favour of Muslims will always result in Mamta safely winning elections. A large section of Imams, Mullahs and fundamentalists control the Islamic vote Bank in West Bengal govern the state through proxies.

West Bengal shares 2200 km of India's Bangladesh border which has turned out to be one of the most suitable route for terror operatives from Harkat-ul-Jihadi al-Islami (HuJI) and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to sneak through. A recent report suggest that nearly 2,010 HuJI and JMB operatives entered through the three states, approximately 720 entered through Bengal border alone. The Bengal government officials are "skeptical" about the report, "but even if just a close estimate, the number is disturbing as intelligence reports pegged the number of infiltrators in 2014 and 2015 at 800 and 659, respectively." The terror masterminds of the infamous Dhaka Gulshan Café blast stayed in a hotel in Bengal. Though Mamta Banerjee cries foul that the Border is controlled by the centre, the fact remains that to patrol the

sensitive areas, the West Bengal has to allocate sufficient resources which it is not doing presently in order to facilitate safe heaven for the terrorists and smugglers.

There are serious issues of corruption in the Mamta government regime. The collapse of the under-construction Vivekananda Road flyover in north Kolkata killed 27 people on March 31, 2016. It was alleged that Trinamool leaders of the area supplied substandard building materials that were used in the construction. The Sharada and Rose Valley Scams and the Narada Sting, provide sufficient evidence of high level corruption by the

At the heart of the issue is the over 30% muslim vote bank mostly harnessed through legitimising the Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants by the Communists and now by Mamta Banerjee. Out of the 2 crores she has helped 1.5 Crore illegal Bangladeshi Muslim immigrants get citizenship and voting rights.

TMC under Mamta's Leadership.

As we mark the 126th Birth Aniversary of the creator of Bengal on July 6th, the state is witness to what Shyama Prasad Mukherjee feared during the "Bengali Hindu Homeland Movement" in late 1946. On the Direct Action Day (Great Calcutta Killings) and the Noakhali riots collectively more than 9000 Hindus were massacred by the Muslim League (Jinnah) under state sponsorship of the British. As though History repeats itself, Mamta Banerjee very much alike the Jinnah's Muslim League has set the stage for a oppressed West Bengal where it will be a crime to remain Hindu in Bengal. ■

(The writer is Member of Parliament & National Spokesperson of BJP)

India-Israel inks 7 important agreements

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was on a historic Israel visit from 4 to 6 July at the invitation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. It was first-ever visit by any Indian Prime Minister to the country. During the visit both countries agreed to expand cooperation from defense to science, agriculture, cleanness of Ganga river and technology.

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's recently concluding Israel visit culminated in important agreements with Israel in the field of Agriculture, space, water conservation, defence technology and cleanness of the Ganga river. As a part of PM's historic visit from 4-6 July 2017 both countries agreed to create a bilateral technology innovation fund worth \$40 million. The visit also marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. This historic first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Israel solidified the enduring friendship between their peoples and raised the bilateral relationship to that of a strategic partnership.

Reviewing the development of the relationship after a quarter century of diplomatic ties, the two leaders agreed on initiatives and policies that would reflect the goals and aspirations of both nations and widen their collaborative endeavours in a broad range of areas. They visualized that the two countries will become close partners in development, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, defence and security.

Recognizing its centrality for development, India and Israel agreed to establish a "Strategic Partnership in Water and Agriculture". This will focus on water conservation, waste-water treatment and its reuse for agriculture, desalination, water utility reforms, and the cleaning of the Ganges and other rivers using advanced water technologies. It will also include the reinforcement and expansion of the existing Centres of Excellence (COE) under the stewardship of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV) and the Ministry of Agriculture of India to promote commercially viable business models involving Farmer Producer Organizations

(FPOs); the provision of quality planting material; and the transfer of post-harvest technical know-how and market linkages involving the private sector through PPP, B2B & other models. The two leaders also agreed on the establishment of a Joint Working Group to steer this Partnership.

Recognizing the importance of facilitating



movement of businessmen and women, India and Israel underlined their expectation that the granting of multiple entry visas to business people for up to five years will encourage greater economic and commercial exchanges.

The two Prime Ministers agreed that negotiations would be conducted on an agreement for the Protection of Investments in order to encourage



Agreements signed:

- MoU between the Department of Science & Technology, India and National Technological Innovation Authority, Israel for setting up of India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F).
- MoU between the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation of the Republic of India and the Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of the State of Israel on National Campaign for Water Conservation in India
- MoU between U.P. Jal Nigam, Government of Uttar Pradesh, of the Republic of India and the Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources of the State of Israel on State Water Utility Reform in India
- India-Israel Development Cooperation - Three Year Work Program in Agriculture 2018-2020
- Plan of Cooperation Between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in Atomic Clocks
- MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in GEO-LEO Optical Link
- MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Israel Space Agency (ISA) regarding cooperation in Electric Propulsion for Small Satellites.

bilateral investments from both sides.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing the India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund (I4F) by the Department of Science and Technology, India and the National Authority for Technological Innovation, Israel with a contribution of US\$ 20 million from each side.

Recognizing the importance of fostering

wide ranging knowledge-business partnership for industries, R&D institutions and government agencies from both countries, Israel warmly welcomed India's offer to be the "Partner Country" for the annual Technology Summit to be held in India in 2018.

Both leaders welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). India and Israel are committed to promote security and stability in cyberspace on both the governmental and private levels.

Recognizing that terrorism poses a grave threat to global peace and stability, the two Prime Ministers reiterated their strong commitment to combat it in all its forms and manifestations. They stressed that there can be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever.

The two Prime Ministers underlined the importance of enhanced collaboration in the field of Higher Education and Research and agreed to promote this through relevant agreements and the Joint Research Grant Programme.

Noting the importance of growing people to people contacts between India and Israel, the two leaders agreed to facilitate the promotion of travel & tourism in both directions, including through the further enhancement of air links between India and Israel. Appreciating the contribution of the Jewish community in India and Jews of Indian origin in Israel in bringing the two societies closer, Prime Minister Modi announced the opening of an Indian Cultural Centre in Israel. This was warmly welcomed by Prime Minister Netanyahu who expressed his deep respect for Indian culture and recalled Israel's strong support and sponsorship of PM Modi's initiative to promote the practice of Yoga by designating June 21 as International Yoga Day.

The two Prime Ministers discussed the developments pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process. They underlined the need for the establishment of a just and durable peace in the region. ■



Modi government takes several measures to enhance income of Farmers

In the last three years of its tenure Modi Government has emerged as pro-farmer, pro-village, pro-poor government. The government has taken several measures to enhance the income of farmers. Some important measures are as follow:

Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme by which the farmers can know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application and reduce cost of inputs and improve soil fertility.

- Neem Coated Urea is being promoted to regulate use of urea, enhance its availability to the crop and reduce cost of fertilizer application. The entire quantity of domestically manufactured and imported urea is now neem coated.
- Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country. This will improve soil health and organic matter content and increase net income of the farmer so as to realise premium prices.
- The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented to expand cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency.
- The National Agriculture Market scheme

(e-NAM) was launched on 14 April 2016. The Scheme envisages initiation of e-marketing platform at national level and will support creation of infrastructure to enable e-marketing in 585 regulated markets across the country by March 2018. So far, 455 markets of 13 States have been integrated with e-NAM. This innovative market process envisages better price discovery, transparency and competition to enable farmers to get improved remuneration for their produce and move towards 'One Nation One Market'.

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is being implemented from Kharif 2016 season and is available to the farmers at low rates of premium. This scheme would provide insurance cover for all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks in specified instances.
- The Government provides interest subvention of 3% on short-term crop loans up to Rs.3.00 lakh. Presently, loan is available to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum, which gets reduced to 4% on prompt repayment. Further, under Interest Subvention Scheme 2016-17, in order to provide relief to the farmers on occurrence of natural calamities, the interest subvention of 2% shall continue to be available to banks for the first year on



the restructured amount.

- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) enables Governments to further implement the scheme in the State as per its requirement. The States have been provided flexibility and autonomy for selection, planning approval and execution of projects/programs under the scheme as per their need, priorities and agro-climate requirements.
- Under National Food Security Mission (NFSM), a Centrally Sponsored scheme, NFSM-Pulses is being implemented in 638 districts of 29 States, NFSM-Rice in 194 districts of 25 States, NFSM-Wheat in 126 district of 11 States and NFSM-Coarse Cereals is being implemented in 265 districts of 28 States of the country for increasing the production and productivity of Rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereal crops. Under NFSM, assistance is provided to farmers for distribution of Seeds (HYVs/Hybrids), production of seeds (only in pulses), INM and IPM techniques, resource conservation technologies/tools/farm mechanization, efficient water application tools, cropping system based trainings to farmers and also assistance for value addition.
- National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) programme, is being implemented since 2014-15. The objective of NMOOP is to increase production and productivity of oilseeds for meeting the domestic requirement of vegetable oil.
- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is being implemented w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits vegetable, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo. The Mission subsumes National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States

(HMNEH), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. All States and UTs are covered under MIDH.

The other steps taken by farmers to enhance the income of farmers are as under:

- (i) The Government has drafted a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017, which was released on 24 April 2017 for adoption by the States through legislation of their respective Acts. The Act provides the options of alternate markets beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards including private markets, direct marketing, farmer-consumer markets, special commodity markets, declaring warehouses/silos/cold storages or such structures as market sub yards and Market Yards of National Importance (MNI) so as to reduce the number of intermediaries between producer and buyer and increase the share of the farmer in consumer's rupee.
- (ii) The Government undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy under its 'MSP operations'.
- (iii) MSP is notified for both Kharif & Rabi crops based on the recommendations of the Commission on Agriculture Costs & Prices (CACP).

Government led other market interventions such as Price Stabilization Fund and Food Corporation of India operations also supplement efforts to enhance the income of farmers. Government is also focusing on ancillary activities like Bee-keeping for increasing of farmers' income.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Shri Parshottam Rupala, in reply to a question in Lok Sabha on July 25. ■

Syama Prasad integrated J&K with India, says Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paid tribute to Bharatiya Jan Sangh (BJS) founder Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee for his contributions to modern India. He said that Dr. Mookerjee will be remembered for "three major achievements" — ensuring that West Bengal remains in India, "integrating Jammu and Kashmir with India" and forming the BJS.

"A Bill was brought in the West Bengal Assembly in 1940. It was a proposal for Islamisation of Education. The Bengal Assembly did not pass it only because of his (Mookerjee)'s farsightedness," Shri Shah said at the release of a book, "Syama Prasad Mookerjee: His Vision of Education", edited by Dr. Anirban Ganguly and Shri Avadesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on July 15, 2017.

"How many here are aware that West Bengal is in India because of Mookerjee?" he said. "If Jammu and Kashmir is our part today, the maximum



contribution is of Mookerjee's." He added that Mookerjee's "sacrifice ensured that we Indians do not need a permit to visit Kashmir".

Shri Amit Shah attributed the BJP's presence across the country to Mookerjee's "farsightedness" that he formed BJS, the parent party of BJP.

"The Congress was the biggest party in 1950s. There was no possibility of any party coming to power soon. He formed a new party, despite knowing that it would not come to power in his lifetime," Shri Amit Shah said. He added that Dr. Mookerjee knew that the country needed different policies. ■

'THE MAKING OF A LEGEND' RELEASED

7.28 cr people become self-employed under Centre's Mudra loan scheme in 3 years: Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has said that India cannot tackle unemployment only with jobs, noting that 7.28 crore people have become self-employed under the Centre's Mudra loan scheme in three years.

Shri Shah was speaking at the launch of a book, 'The Making of a Legend', on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 13 July, 2017 in New Delhi. The function was also attended by RSS Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat and several Union ministers and BJP leaders.

BJP National President said a country with a population of 125 crore cannot deal with the problem of unemployment by only creating jobs and the Modi government has provided self-employment to 7.28 crore youths.

Highlighting Modi Government's schemes aimed

at the poor strata of society, a segment he has been assiduously cultivating, Shri Shah said that the government's biggest success was that it had provided opportunities to "the last man in the queue" to lift himself out of poverty.

The government ensured that every household had a bank account and had built over 4.38 crore toilets to give dignity to poor women who were otherwise forced to defecate in open, he said.

Taking a swipe at previous governments, Shri Shah said many Prime Ministers who spoke about development and the poor had come and gone but it was left to PM Shri Modi to build toilets, open bank accounts and provide the poor other basic facilities. The book has been authored by Bindeshwar Pathak, the founder of Sulabh International. ■



NDA government back in Bihar

Nitish Kumar sworn-in as CM, Sushil Modi as Deputy CM

Shri Nitish Kumar sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the sixth time on 27 July, 2017 a day after he resigned from the two-year-old Mahagatbandhan alliance government. By resigning himself from the government Shri Nitish Kumar ended weeks of speculation about the survival of the 'grand alliance' of the Congress, RJD and JD (U) after a fall out with the alliance partner RJD over severe corruption charges against Lalu Yadav and some of his family members, including son Tejashwi Yadav, who was the deputy CM in the previous dispensation.

On 26 July itself the NDA alliance submitted the list of MLAs to the Governor. These include 71 of JD(U), BJP 53, RLSP 2, LJP 2, HAM 1 and three Independents.

On 27 July, 2017 Governor Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Nitish Kumar at Rajendra Mandapam in the Raj Bhawan, Patna. Senior BJP leader Shri Sushil Kumar Modi was also sworn-in. He will be the Deputy Chief Minister, a post he held in the previous NDA governments in the state.

As was widely expected, even the JD(U)-BJP combine won the crucial floor test in the Bihar Assembly on 28, July, 2017 with a convincing margin of 131 votes. The RJD-Congress combine got 108 votes. Noteworthy, the Nitish Kumar government needed 122 members' support for a win in the 243-member House. In the Bihar Assembly, the RJD has 80 MLAs, the Congress 27 and the CPI-ML three, which adds up to 110. The Opposition got two short of that total.

Secularism should not be allowed to justify corruption, Shri Nitish Kumar said earlier in the House, attempting to justify his resignation as CM and his break from the 'grand alliance'.

Whatever decision we have taken will be in the



interest of Bihar and of its people. It will ensure development and justice. It will also ensure progress. This is a collective decision. I ensure that our commitment is towards the people of Bihar, Shri Kumar told reporters after the swearing-in.

After taking oath, Shri Sushil Modi said the development process will be back on track in the state with return of the NDA. The JD(U)-BJP alliance had earlier taken Bihar to new heights. At that point of time, the people of the state used to take pride in saying 'I am a Bihari'. But in the last 20 months something went wrong. But now the JD(U)-BJP alliance will again take Bihar to newer heights, he said.

Union Health Minister Shri J P Nadda and BJP National General Secretary Dr. Anil Jain were present at the brief swearing ceremony.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah congratulated Shri Nitish Kumar. PM said he looked forward to working together for Bihar's prosperity and progress. ■

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PM Shri Narendra Modi flanked by Union Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu unveiling the memorial of former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with MPs from Gujarat



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with MPs from Western UP



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with MPs from Rajasthan



PM Shri Narendra Modi presents a memento to the former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on the occasion of farewell hosted by him for the former President at Hyderabad House in New Delhi

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APPEAL

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