

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



'WE HAVE TO ENSURE NO PLACE IN THE COUNTRY IS LEFT WHERE WE DON'T HAVE OUR FLAG'



Towards NEW INDIA...

"DREAM FOR A FREE INDIA WAS ROOTED IN OUR ORDINARY VILLAGES"

INDIA'S CHANGING TRANSPORT LANDSCAPE

DIGITAL EM'POWER'MENT: DELIVERING ON 'RTI'- RIGHT TO A TRANSFORMED INDIA

IEWS OF BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHRI AMIT SHAH'S PRAVAS TO MADHYA PRADESH AND KARNATAKA



Addressing BJP karyakartas in Bhopal



Shri Amit Shah waving at the crowd after his arrival in Bengaluru



Unveiling Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay statue in Bhopal



Inaugurating Nanaji Deshmukh Library in Bengaluru



Addressing saints and other religious leaders in Bhopal



Inaugurating Nanaji Deshmukh E-Library at BJP state office Bengaluru

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twitter



@narendramodi

Role of technology including smartphones, remote sensing, satellite data for speedy data collection is key for farmers' maximum benefit.

@dramansingh

#5000DinAapkeSaath Thank you for all your love & appreciation. Look forward to many more celebrations together!



@AnanthKumar_BJP

Helpline no 1800 111 255 for complaints if hospital overcharge. We urge all stake holders to come together for #AffordableHealthCare for all.



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Judgment of the Hon'ble SC on Triple Talaq is historic. It grants equality to Muslim women and is a powerful measure for women empowerment.



— **Narendra Modi**

Judgement of the Hon'ble SC on Triple Talaq is historic. I welcome this on behalf of the party..

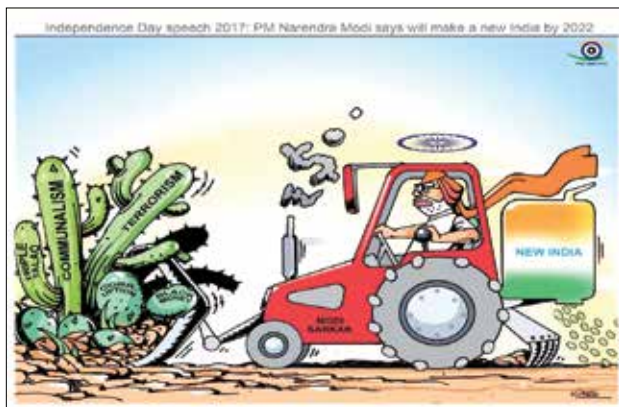
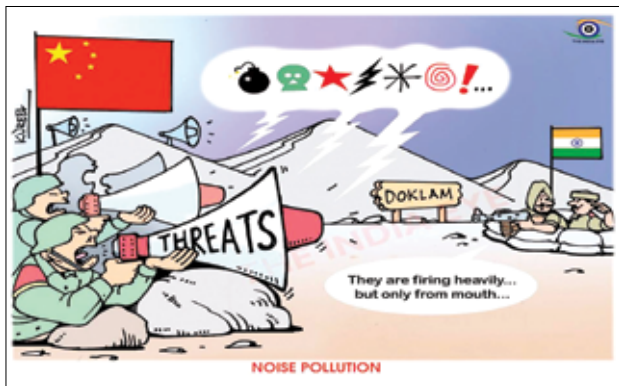


— **Amit Shah**

The Supreme Court judgment in the #TripleTalaq case undoes the injustice to Muslim women who were victims of a unilateral termination of a matrimonial relationship.



— **Arun Jaitley**



Courtesy: Social Media



**Kamal Sandesh Parivar
wishes a very happy
ONAM
(04 September, 2017)
to its readers**

Team India for New India by 2022

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on 71st Independence Day, India once again felt reassured of its march towards a glorious future. The words of PM echoed the aspirations of every Indian, who want to see the rise of a great country, confident of taking its rightful place among the comity of nations. The wave of transformation which is sweeping India can be now experienced in every sphere of life and the results are getting visible with every passing day. One may do well to remember the situation in which country found itself languishing three and half years back stung by policy paralysis, misrule, corruption, scams and failures on almost every front. While the decline is arrested, India is moving ahead on every field becoming the fastest growing economy in the world, taking tough stand against corruption, black money and terrorism while reviving economy, defending the borders, annulling the security threats both internal and external and above all restoring the confidence of people in the system and government and building an ambience of hope. PM Modi represents that hope, the aspirations of the people of India and his address to the nation has once again carried the message of changing mindset towards positive attitude of 'Badal sakta hai' (things can change).

WHILE PM HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED HIS VISION OF NEW INDIA, HE ALSO CALLED FOR COLLECTIVE WILL OF THE NATION TO ACHIEVE ITS STATED AIMS OF PUCCA HOUSES, ELECTRICITY AND POTABLE WATER TO EVERY POOR, DOUBLING OF FARMERS' INCOME, AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTHS AND WOMEN, AN INDIA FREE OF CASTEISM, COMMUNALISM AND TERRORISM, AN INDIA WHERE THERE IS NO COMPROMISE WITH NEPOTISM AND CORRUPTION, AN INDIA CLEAN, HEALTHY AND HAVING POTENTIAL TO REALISE THE DREAMS OF SWARAJ.

In his fourth address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister has touched almost all issues while reaffirming his vision of New India. In last three years the nation has covered enormous grounds with path breaking reforms by framing and implementing futuristic policies and programmes. The steps like Demonetization and GST are set to revitalize the Indian economy making it ready for global competition and outreach. The achievements are immense from implementation of OROP to huge success of Jandhan and Ujjwala Yojana. On the security front steps like surgical strike has boosted the national confidence and presented the glorious achievement of security forces. The PM also recounted the crackdown on black economy and enactment of various strong laws to fight the black money and corruption in the country. While reiterating commitment of the government in the interest of poor and deprived he resolved to carry forward the fight against black economy relentlessly. In his speech the PM has further extended the idea of 'cooperative federalism' to 'competitive cooperative federalism' paving way for states to engage in healthy competition for development. While taking a tough stand on terrorism he also said that the need to make Jammu & Kashmir a heaven once again is the priority of his government and the way forward is not 'gaali' or 'goli' but by 'gale lagana' (embracing the Kashmiris) while appealing Kashmiris to join the national mainstream. He also stressed on the new global image of India its enhanced status and the cooperation it is receiving from across the globe in various fields including sharing of information on black money and terror activities. While listing countless achievements PM called for achieving the goals of suraj in true sense.

While PM has repeatedly emphasized his vision of New India, he also called for collective will of the nation to achieve its stated aims of pucca houses, electricity and potable water to every poor, doubling of farmers' income, ample opportunities for youths and women, an India free of casteism, communalism and terrorism, an India where there is no compromise with nepotism and corruption, an India clean, healthy and having potential to realise the dreams of swaraj. No one will deny that without the manifestation of collective will, the nation cannot march confidently on the path of progress and development. He appealed to the nation to work unitedly and tirelessly for five years from 2017 to 2022 to realize the vision of New India. He has rightly emphasized that if a grand and glorious India has to be built, then it is time for Team India of 125 crore people to commit itself for New India.

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

I shall urge you to take up the New India Pledge and move ahead: PM



P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 71st Independence Day- August, 15, 2017. Here, we are publishing highlights of the speech for our esteemed readers:

- Nation is celebrating the Independence Day with the festival of Janamashtmi today. I can see a number of Bal Kanahiyas here. We are fortunate to have in our cultural and historical heritage from a Sudarshan Chakradhari Mohan to Charkhadhari Mohan.
- This year we are also commemorating the centenary of Champaran Satyagrah and the Sabarmati Ashram. The centenary of Lokmanya Tilak's call "Swaraj is my birth right" falls this year as well.
- We are aware of the power of the collective resolve, hard work, sacrifice and devotion of our 125 crore citizens. Lord Krishna was immensely powerful, but it is only when the milkmen came out with sticks in his support that they could lift the Govardhan parvat. When Lord Rama had to go to Lanka, the monkeys of vanar sena came to his help, Ramsetu was built and Lord Rama could reach Lanka. Then there was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who empowered his countrymen to weave the fabric of independence with cotton and spinning wheel. The collective resolve and strength of the people got freedom for our country. No one is small or big. We have in our memory the story of squirrel which became an agent of change. That's why we must remember that no one among the 125 crore people is either small or big – everyone is equal.
- We have to leave this 'Chalta Hai' attitude. We have to think of 'Badal Sakta Hai'- this attitude will help us as a nation.
- The law against Benami property was lying in limbo for years. Now, we have come up with a law



against Benami Property. In such a short time, the government has unearthed Benami properties worth over Rs.800 crores.

- The 'One Rank - One Pension' policy for our defence forces was stuck up for 30-40 years. Our government implemented it.
- The country has many states and a Central Government. GST has shown the spirit of cooperative federalism and has given competitive cooperative federalism a new strength.
- New systems are emerging. Today roads are being built at twice the speed. The railway tracks are being laid at double the speed. More than 14 thousand villages that were hitherto shrouded in darkness even after Independence, have been provided with electricity. Bank accounts of 29 crore people have been opened, more than 9 crore farmers have got Soil Health Card. More than 2 crore poor mothers and sisters are no longer using the fuel wood and using LPG gas stove now. The poor tribals have gained faith in the system. The person at the last mile of development now joins the mainstream and the nation is marching ahead.
- India today has gained in stature across the globe. You will be happy to know that we are not alone in our fight against terrorism. Many nations are proactively supporting us.
- For the development and progress of Jammu & Kashmir, its prosperity, and fulfilment of the aspirations of the citizens, not only the J&K government, but we as responsible citizens also have a responsibility. We are committed to restore the state to its former glory so as to experience the paradise that it was, once again.
- We shall take strict steps against terrorism. There is no question of being soft on terrorism or terrorists. We have been asking the extremists to join the mainstream.
- I deeply appreciate the efforts of security forces in curbing the Left Wing extremism which mobilized a lot of youth from these regions to surrender and joined the mainstream.
- I review Government Projects every month. A specific project came to my notice. It was a 42-year old project. 70-72 kilometres of Railway lines were to be laid, but the project was lying in limbo for the last 42 years.

- If each one of us, irrespective of where he belongs to, strives with a new resolve, a new energy, a new strength, we can change the face of the country with our combined strength in the 75th year of our independence in 2022. It will be the New India – a secure, prosperous and strong nation. A New India where there is equal opportunity for all; where modern science and technology play an important role in bringing glory for the nation in the global arena.
- In the New India, the biggest strength is democracy. But we have reduced our democracy to mere ballot boxes. However, democracy cannot be confined only to ballot boxes. Hence our resolve is to see to it that we have a democracy in New India, where people

For the development and progress of Jammu & Kashmir, its prosperity, and fulfilment of the aspirations of the citizens, not only the J&K government, but we as responsible citizens also have a responsibility. We are committed to restore the state to its former glory so as to experience the paradise that it was, once again.

are not driven by the system, rather the system is driven by the people. Such a democracy should become the identity of New India and we want to move towards that direction.

- Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan." Our farmers have not looked back since then. They are now producing record harvests and scaling new heights despite facing natural adversities. There has been a record production of pulses this year.
- India never had the tradition to import pulses and if it had to import on rare occasions, it was only a few thousand tons. This year when they produced 16

lakh tons of pulses to provide nutrition to the poor, the government took the historic step of encouraging them by buying their produce.

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna has provided a security cover to our farmers. Three years back, this scheme which was running under a different name earlier, covered only 3.25 crore farmers.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna aims to meet the demand of water of the farmers. If my farmers get water, they can produce rich harvests from their fields.
- With the changes in demand and technology, the nature of jobs in our country has been changing. The Government has launched several new initiatives in the employment related schemes and also in the manner in which the training is imparted for the development of human resource according to the needs of the 21st century. We have launched a massive program to provide collateral free loans to the youth. Our youth should become independent, he should get the employment, he should become the provider of employment. Over the past three years, 'Pradhanmantri Mudra Yojana' has led to millions and millions of youth becoming self-dependent. It's not just that, one youth is providing employment to one, two or three more people.
- Over the last three years, we have set up 6 IITs, 7 new IIMs and 8 new IIITs and we have also done the groundwork for linking the education with job opportunities.
- Our mothers and sisters are an integral unit of our families. Their contribution in making our future is extremely important. And that is why we have decided to increase the paid maternity leave to 26 weeks from the earlier 12 weeks.
- Making India corruption-free is an important task and we are trying to provide impetus to it. Demonetization followed this move. We have achieved several milestones through demonetization. The hidden black money has been brought into the formal economy. You must have seen that we used to extend the days from 7 days to 10 days to 15 days; sometimes we allowed the old notes at the petrol pump, at the chemist shops, and sometimes at the railway stations, because our intention was to bring all money into the formal banking system and we achieved success in completing the task. According

to the research conducted by outside experts, about Rs.3 lakh crores that had never come into the banking system before, has been brought into the system after the demonetization.

- You will be surprised to know that there are some shell companies operating from a single address. As many as 400 companies have been found to be operating from one address. There was no one to question them. There was a total collusion.
- We have taken several steps and I am sure that post GST, it will increase further and bring in transparency. Today a truck driver on an average is able to save 30% of his travel time from one point to another after GST was introduced.
- Cheap medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras are a boon to the poor. There used to be a lot of expenditure on operations and stents. We are striving

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna aims to meet the demand of water of the farmers. If my farmers get water, they can produce rich harvests from their fields.

to make it possible for knee operations as well. We are striving to minimize this expenditure for the poor and the middle class.

- We asserted our supremacy in the world by introducing Tejas aircraft. BHIM Aadhaar App for digital transaction has come as a surprise to the world. Crores of RuPay Cards are now available in the country. When all the cards will be operational, it will be the largest number of cards in the world.
- I shall urge you to take up the New India Pledge and move ahead. Our scriptures say, "अनियत कालः, अनियत कालः प्रभुत्यो विपलवन्ते, प्रभुत्यो विपलवन्ते". It implies that, if we don't accomplish a work within the stipulated time then we shall not be able to get the desired results. So for the 'Team India', for the 125 crore countrymen, we have to take the pledge to achieve the goal by 2022. ■



Goal of BJP is to rid the country of Congress: Amit Shah

The Siddaramaiah government is the most corrupt and shameless one in India today. There have been multiple corruption scandals and raids against prominent Ministers. I call upon the people of the State to dislodge the Congress government and bring BJP to power. The BJP will punish all the corrupt in this government once we come to power, Shri Amit Shah said.

The BJP National President Shri Amit Shah arrived in Bengaluru on a three-day Pravas of Karnataka starting from 12 August, 2017. He was received by a large congregation of BJP karyakartas, supporters and the top leadership of the party's state unit.

Shri Amit Shah, who made a brief address to the gathering, said the goal of BJP is to rid the country of Congress. Shri Shah and his entourage left for the party office in Malleswaram to start the meetings. Shri Shah was accorded a rousing reception by BJP workers.

During his stay Shri Shah has conducted

a detailed analysis of the political and social situation in Karnataka. He met party functionaries of various strata and members of different wings of BJP. Apart from meetings party members, he also addressed a gathering of intellectuals to give a clearer idea of 'what BJP stands for'. In all, he took part in 25 meetings before his departure.

INAUGURATES NANAJI DESHMUKH LIBRARY

BJP President Shri Amit Shah visited the party head office in Bangalore and inaugurated the Nanaji Deshmukh Library and E-library at the head office.

ADDRESS TO PARTY KARYAKARTAS

Addressing the party karyakartas Shri Amit Shah said that the party stood united and would return to power in the Assembly poll next year under the leadership of Shri BS Yeddyurappa Ji. "Friends, our party stands united, and is geared up to take to the electoral battlefield under the leadership of Yeddyurappaji in the coming days, and see to it that we form a BJP government in the state," Shri Shah told party workers near the Airport.

He said the people had decided to vote the BJP to power as the party had been exposing the "corrupt, polarizing and oppressive" rule of the Congress over the past five years.

"I am hopeful that the way the party, for the last five years, has been fighting against the corrupt, oppressive and polarizing rule of the Congress, the people of this great state of Karnataka have decided to vote the BJP to power," he said.

BJP National President said, BJP workers must realize the resolve 'Ab ki baar, BJP sarkar' (This time, a BJP government)," he added.

He said when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vijay Rath' will reach Karnataka in next February-March party workers should be ready with their quest to make inroads into the southern India by winning the Karnataka Assembly poll.

The Siddaramaiah government is the most corrupt and shameless one in India today. There have been multiple corruption scandals and raids against prominent Ministers. I call upon the people of the State to dislodge the Congress government and bring BJP to power. The BJP will punish all

the corrupt in this government once we come to power, Shri Amit Shah said.

Stressing the importance of Karnataka for BJP nationally, he said victory in the Assembly polls should again open the road to South India for the party, like it did in 2008. "The BJP has won most of the polls since 2014. When the Vijay Rath of Narendra Modi comes rolling to Karnataka,

Our party stands united, and is geared up to take to the electoral battlefield under the leadership of Yeddyurappaji in the coming days, and see to it that we form a BJP government in the state.

workers need to be ready to make inroads into southern India by winning Karnataka," he said.

INTELLECTUAL MEET

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 13th August 2017 launched a direct attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, for his most corrupt governance. Addressing a select audience of the intelligentsia he said, "Throw out the Siddaramaiah government. Its ministers get raided and get caught but they are not asked to resign. This will never happen in our party." Shri Shah also said a record amount of money was being allocated to the state for various schemes. "We have 106 schemes. But you people from Karnataka have nothing to cheer about as your government will not allow any of these programmes to reach you. Ask Siddaramaiah where all the money is going, because no one in this state is receiving this money. I am asking this government to give an account of the money," he added.

He said despite receiving increased allocation under many programmes, the state government





constantly complained that the Centre was not giving them any money.

He said Congress was built almost like a club and had no ideological underpinnings like the BJP. "Congress was a special purpose vehicle built for gaining independence and it did not have any ideology or stream of thinking. When we got Independence, Nehru decided that everything Indian was obsolete. But we think our past should be modified by time and we need to rebuild the country and not build a new country from scratch based on thinking by the West," he said.

AMIT SHAH VISITS ADICHUNCHANAGIRI MUTT

BJP President Shri Amit Shah, who was in the State to strengthen the parties' organizational structure, on 14 August, 2017 visited the Adichunchanagiri Mutt at Bellur in Mandya district, a major religious centre for the Vokkaliga community.

Minutes after his arrival, Nirmalanandanatha Swami, seer of the mutt, said the mutt "will not involve itself in any political activity even though it offers blessings to politicians who visit". He added that Shri Shah's visit was planned almost two years ago.

The BJP president was accorded a rousing reception when he arrived at the mutt, with the seer himself welcoming him. Shri Shah visited the Sri Kalabhairaveshwara Temple and the samadhi



of Balagangadhara Natha Swami on the mutt premises. He also released a book titled 'The Story of Guru' on Balagangadharanatha Swami.

Later, he addressed the students of

Adichunchanagiri Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS) on the occasion of their graduation day. He also made a reference to 'Nada Prabhu' Kempe Gowda, the founder of Bengaluru, while addressing the gathering at the mutt.

He commended the great job done by the mutt in offering education, shelter, food, healthcare, and cattle protection. He described its efforts as much better than those of any State government.

“Congress was a special purpose vehicle built for gaining independence and it did not have any ideology or stream of thinking. When we got Independence, Nehru decided that everything Indian was obsolete.

‘WANT RESULTS, NOT SUGGESTIONS’

Presiding over the core committee meeting and at the Political Affairs Committee meeting on the last day of his visit Shri Amit Shah told the members that all party wanted was results and not suggestions.

Reeling out statistics, he said the party had enrolled 87 lakh new members during the drive in Karnataka but wondered how many of them were in touch with the party office? Only 57 lakh members could be contacted, the remaining 30 lakh could not be reached, he disclosed.

He said leaders would have to contact the 57 lakh members and track the missing 30 lakh. Each MLC should adopt an Assembly constituency and each MLA a neighboring seat, where he/she should ensure the party's victory.

The party won 79 seats in 2004, with 87 lakh votes, which went up to 94 lakh in 2008 when it won 110 seats. It was therefore no easy task securing the required votes to win a comfortable majority, he reminded the leaders. ■

BJP wins 25 seats in urban and local body elections in Madhya Pradesh

BJP performed well and got 25 seats in the urban and local body elections in Madhya Pradesh, whose results were announced on 17 August, 2017. While BJP came out unscathed, Congress retained some of its seats but lost Dabra, in Jyotiraditya Scindia's pocket borough, by a whopping 10,000 votes.

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulated the Karyakartas and said it is people's blessings for which party has performed very well.

Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Nandkumar Singh Chouhan said the victory is a gift to party National President Shri Amit Shah who is doing everything to strengthen the party organisation in the grassroots level.

He said, "The Congress' claims that farmers' agitation and problems of tribals will help it make a



clean sweep proved wrong. The wave of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan restricted Congress stalwarts to their own areas," Shri Singh said. BJP got 25 seats despite the fact that Election Commission deferred voting in Barwani and Dhar due to agitation by some groups. BJP grabbed more seats than it did in the previous election he said.

The 25 bodies that the BJP won include Jaitwara, Athner, Harai, Keolaras, Kotma, Ranapur, Dindori, Bhikangaon, Mandleshwar, Thandla, Petlawad, Bhabhra, Dabra, Neapanagar, Chicholi, Nainpur, Pali, Bamhni Banjar, Bichhia, Jobat, Chanera, Budhar, Jai Singh Nagar, Bijuri and Shahdol.

Noteworthy, in the 2012 election, where 37 seats were for the taking, BJP had won 25 with six each going to Congress and Independent candidates. ■

BJP GAINS IN WEST BENGAL CIVIC ELECTION

In the recently completed civic elections in West Bengal BJP gained ground and came second after the ruling TMC. However, the Left Front and Congress got obliterated from the State's electoral map. The BJP won six seats, including four in Dhupguri and one each in Buniadpur and Panskura, while the Left parties managed to win only one seat at Nalhati and the remaining seats were pocketed by the State ruling outfit.

Elections were held on 13 August to Durgapur, Haldia, Panskura, Nalhati and Cooper's Camp in South Bengal and Buniadpur and Dhupguri in the northern part of the State.

Congratulating party workers for bagging the second position in the polls BJP State President Shri Dilip Ghosh said, "The results itself show how the TMC has won the elections with money and muscle power. Despite that we have fought them bravely and proved to the people that only the BJP can give them an alternative." ■

BJP REGISTERS A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN MAHARASHTRA MUNICIPAL POLL

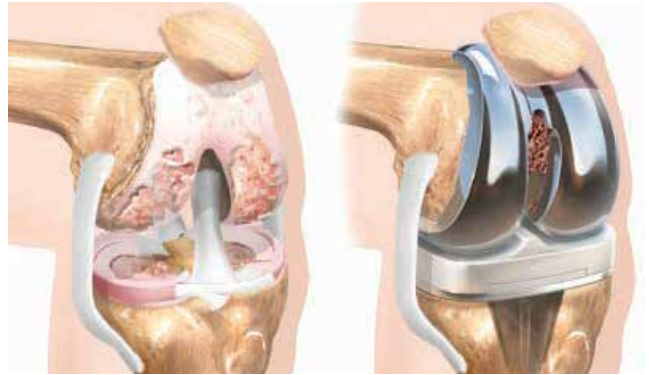
The BJP has added yet another big municipal corporation to its kitty as the party registered a landslide victory in the Mira-Bhayander municipal poll in Maharashtra. BJP bagged a whopping 62 out of the 95 seats. The Shiv Sena was way behind at No. 2 position with 22 seats. This is the second big victory in the municipal polls for the BJP after a thumping win in the Panvel Municipal poll. The BJP that was in power in the Mira-Bhayander Corporation with Shiv Sena doubled its tally from 31 to 62. Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis congratulated party workers after the victory.

Government fixes ceiling prices of Knee Implants

“Walking the talk of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi’s speech on Independence Day 2017, the Government has fixed the ceiling prices of orthopaedic implants used in knee surgeries from today”, informed Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar, while addressing the media in New Delhi on August 16. Based on the numbers of about 1 to 1.5 lakh orthopaedic knee procedures done in India every year, there will be a saving of about Rs.1500 crore for the people of India per annum. It is a step to prevent Unethical Profiteering and ensure Affordable and Quality Healthcare for the Last Man, the Minister added.

Shri Kumar said that as per the data analysis of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, there was huge margin in trade which was found to be unreasonable and in a way unethical ‘profiteering’. The NPPA, while fixing the ceiling prices, has kept all the new technology implants in mind and prices have been fixed accordingly, which are as follows:

Shri Kumar informed that it is estimated by World Health Organization (WHO) that by 2020, osteoarthritis is going to be the fourth largest cause of immobility in the world. India has about 1.2 to 1.5 crore orthopaedic patients who require orthopaedic implant surgery. Most of the diagnosed people requiring knee surgery are not able to afford because of very high cost. Government is reforming this state of affairs putting a ceiling on knee implants from



today, the Minister added.

Shri Kumar said that the Government expects full cooperation from all the stakeholders including importers, distributors, retailers, hospitals etc. in ensuring that the benefit of reduction of prices of knee implants reaches the last man. The Minister added that all complaints of overcharging would be strictly monitored and the overcharged amount would be recovered from erring parties with an interest of 18% over it. A step further, Shri Kumar added that the Government might also consider cancelling of licenses and initiate criminal proceedings against stakeholders engaged in unethical profiteering.

Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Chemicals & Fertilizers, Shri Mansukh Lal Mandaviya, Shri Jai Priye Prakash, Secretary Pharmaceuticals and Shri Bhupendra Singh, Chairman NPPA. ■

TYPE OF KNEE IMPLANT	Average MRP Earlier (Rupees)	Average Price Reduction	New Ceiling Price and MRP* (Rupees)
Cobalt Chromium (most widely used)	1,58,324	65%	54,720
Special Metal like Titanium & Oxidized Zirconium	2,49,251	69%	76,600
High Flexibility Implant	1,81,728	69%	56,490
Revision Implants	2,76,869	59%	1,13,950
Specialised Implants for Cancer & Tumour	Company specific prices; to be fixed by NPPA at Rs. 1,13,950		

**Companies will print the MRP by adding GST on these ceiling prices*

Government's Street Lighting Programme illuminates 50,000 KM of Indian roads



The Government of India's Street Lighting National programme (SLNP) has illuminated 50,000 KM of Indian roads with installation of 30 lakh LED street lights across the country. With this milestone Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a government of India company under the administration of Ministry of Power, has become the world's largest street light management company.

The installation of 30 lakh LED street lights has resulted in 39 crore kWh of annual energy savings, avoided capacity of over 104.19 MW to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). Further it has also helped in reduction of 3.29 lakh tonnes of CO₂ annually.

Under SLNP, Rajasthan is leading the country with an installation of 7.85 lakh LED street lights followed by Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat with 6.03 lakhs and 5.4 lakhs respectively. Presently, EESL is retrofitting 15,000 conventional lights with LED street lights every day. Project is near completion in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Tripura and Gujarat. EESL is also implementing a special heritage lighting project in Kashi region of Uttar Pradesh where 4,000 lights are being installed. The programme has also recently commenced in the cities of Chandigarh and Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Further, the procurement price of the LED Street Lights has been reduced from Rs. 135/watt to Rs. 80/watt due to mass procurement of the lights. EESL makes the entire upfront investment in installation of the Street Lights and no additional budget allocation from the Municipalities is required. Municipalities pay EESL

from the savings in energy and maintenance cost over a 7-year period, making the LED lights affordable and accessible. EESL also undertakes social audits in ULBs where the project is under implementation and post the completion of the project. Few of the social audit results give a clear indication that the overall satisfaction level and the perception of safety among the citizens is extremely high from the newly installed LED street lights.

EESL procurements conform to BIS specification & carry a 7-year warranty against technical defects. EESL conducts appropriate quality checks right from the bidding stage to the field level. This has resulted in the LEDs' overall technical fault being less than 2% in the 30 lakh lights installed by EESL in the country. EESL has maintained an uptime of 97% for all street lights across the country.

EESL has a stringent complaint redressal mechanism wherein consumers can go to the "Register your complaint" section on UJALA dashboard www.ujala.gov.in, or on EESL social media handles - for Twitter @EESL_India and for Facebook @EESLIndia for registering complaints. They can also contact the All-India helpline number 1800 180 3580. The official EESL complaint registration email ID is helpline@eesl.co.in. Consumers can also register their complaints at the EESL complaint logging portal - <http://support.eeslindia.org/>. Further EESL has also installed Centralised Control and Monitoring System (CCMS) to enable remote operation and monitoring of the street lights. CCMS provides real time information on energy consumption and remote monitoring of the street lights. ■

NHAI launches mobile App MyFASTag and FASTag Partner

Apps will facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection



National Highways Authority of India launched two mobile Apps – MyFASTag and FASTag Partner in New Delhi on August 17, to facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection. Speaking on the occasion the NHAI Chairman Shri Deepak Kumar said the cumbersome method of purchase and recharge of FASTags has been one of the major challenges with the ETC project. The mobile Apps launched will ease the process, making it possible to buy or recharge FASTags at the click of a mobile button.

MyFASTag is a consumer App that can be downloaded from the App Store for both Android and iOS systems. A consumer can purchase or recharge FASTags on this App. The App also helps to keep track of transactions and provides for online grievance redressal.

FASTag Partner is a merchant App. Agencies like Common Services Centre, banking partners and vehicle dealers can sell and enroll FASTag through this App. In addition to this, the App can also be used to activate the RFID tags that came built in with around 74 lakh cars in the country following the 2013 Gazette Notification in this regard. These RFID tags are already fixed on the cars but are dormant. This App will convert these RFID tags into ETC Tag (FASTag).

It was also informed that from 1st October 2017, all lanes of all 371 NHAI toll plazas in the country

will become FASTag enabled. One lane in every toll plaza will be a dedicated FASTag lane where no other form of payment will be accepted. The other lanes, though FASTag enabled, can accept other forms of payment too. The dedicated FASTag lanes will become operational on all 371 NHAI toll plazas from 1st September 2017, he said.

In addition to the above, NHAI has also come up with Online sale of FASTags and offline sale through Common Services Centre (CSC) near toll plazas. FASTag can now be purchased online from Issuer Banks websites / NHAI website / IHMCL website and will be delivered by courier at the door step of the purchaser. Beginning tomorrow, 18th August, 2017, FASTags can also be bought from sale points of Common Services Centre (CSC) to be set up near toll plazas. CSC has a proven track record of making 20 crore Adhar Cards and achieving many other milestones of Digital India in short duration due to their vast network. It is expected that the association with CSC will give the ETC ecosystem a further boost.

More than 6 lakh FASTags have been sold so far. It is expected that these initiatives for improving the availability and access to FASTags will encourage more and more people to buy them. This will give the much needed push to the ETC project that aims to make travel more convenient, faster and environment friendly for people. ■

Man of Many Qualities

PANDIT Deendayal Upadhyaya was a rare blend of many high qualities of head and heart. The first of these that I experienced on my coming into contact with him was his capacity to learn languages.

CAPACITY FOR LANGUAGES

I first came to know Deendayalji in December 1937 when he was a student of the Sanatan Dharma College in Kanpur and came into contact with the Sangh for the first time. During the summer camp of the Sangh in Nagpur next year we stayed in the same room. In those days he did not know any Marathi but would ask me the translation of Hindi sentence that he would speak, thus trying to understand the grammar of the Marathi language. He would also learn the Marathi equivalents of certain Hindi words.

Thus he acquired general knowledge of Marathi within 30 days out of the 40 days' duration of the camp. In the last two weeks he could even read and understand a Marathi weekly journal. He did not acquire proficiency in speaking Marathi, but acquired such good knowledge of the language that in the year 1963 he translated a five hundred-page Marathi biography of Dr. Hedgewar into Hindi. The translation was so good that it read like an original.

Similarly when he travelled in the Southern provinces for the work of the Jana Sangh he learnt the alphabets of different provinces by reading the names of the railway stations in the provincial languages and comparing them with names in Hindi. Thus he was more or less familiar with almost all languages of India and their alphabets. This showed his extraordinary capacity to learn any language without much difficulty.

BRILLIANT INTELLECT

Deendayalji was brilliant of intellect. He always stood first in whatever examination he gave. But he was not a book-worm. He took interest in all activities of the college and till January spent his time moving in the hostel from room to room and chatting with students. He had even formed a 'Zero Association' in college, the objective of its members being to get zero marks in the terminal examination. But in January he would start his studies. As lights would go off in the hostel at night he would sit outside in the biting cold with a lantern and a quilt and would study with concentration from 11 o'clock at night till 5 in the morning. Many times whenever he went to sleep without solving a problem in Mathematics he



would find the solution in his sleep and would write it down on getting up. Deendayalji was particular about not hurting anyone's feeling.

He had great love and regard for his maternal uncle, who had brought him up. Uncle wished that Deendayal should marry and had even invited to his place the Parents of a certain girl. Deendayalji did not want to marry, but neither did he wish to hurt his uncle's feelings. So in order to get out of the situation he presented himself before the girl's parents in such an unattractive way that they did not find him acceptable.

SUPREME SELF-CONFIDENCE

After graduating from Kanpur, Deendayalji joined St. John's College in Agra for M.A. and passed the first year examination in first class. During the second year his cousin (daughter of his maternal uncle) became seriously ill and the doctors said that the only possible way to save her from her incurable disease for more than a couple of months was to take her to a hill-station. So Deendayalji left his studies and decided to take her to the hills. In order to pass his time there he thought of purchasing some books and went to a bookshop. There among other books he saw books on nature cure and felt that he would not need the assistance of anybody to treat his cousin according to the principles of naturopathy. So he bought those books and read all of them while at the hill station.

Then casually he said to his cousin "If you have no objection I would like to treat you myself." With a smile she replied. "You have tried all doctors and now it seems you have become a doctor yourself. But I have no objection to your treatment." And the result was that Deendayalji cured her of a disease that doctors had given up as incurable. It was another matter that she had a relapse because of ignoring dietary restrictions and Deendayalji could not save her the second time.

Still it was a matter of credit to his intelligence and confidence in himself that merely by reading books on nature cure he could rid his cousin of an incurable disease.

SENSE OF SACRIFICE

After the death of his cousin Deendayalji left his M. A. unfinished and joined the L. T. course in Prayag. At the



same time he had decided to become a Pracharak of the Sangh. After taking the L.T. examination he was sent to Gola Gokarnanath in Lakhimpur district for the work of the Sangh, where he established good contacts with the local people and also became an honorary teacher in the higher secondary school there in order to come into close contact with the student population. He became so popular with the students and also impressed the staff and the management so much that on retirement of the Headmaster he was sounded for Headmastership.

When he did not appear interested the school committee thought that perhaps the starting salary was not enough for him. So he was offered three or four increments in the beginning. On this Deendayalji gave a remarkable reply. He said, "My requirements are two dhotis, two kurtas and two meals a day. For this I do not require more than 30 rupees a month. What will I do with all the money you offer?" Thus Deendayalji turned his back on the extraordinary chance of Headmastership immediately on passing L.T. This showed not only his firm determination but his extraordinary sense of sacrifice.

LITERARY TALENT

The years 1945-46 some friends in the province felt that he should write some books and other literature projecting his thoughts. For this purpose, Deendayalji, Shri Bhaurao Deoras and myself stayed for a week in a house on the banks of the Ganga in Mirzapur district. We had all taken books of our liking with us. For six days we read and talked and went for strolls by the Ganga. On the sixth night the two of us, myself and Shri Deoras, went to bed around 9.30 p.m. Deendayalji was then reading something in the light of a lantern. When I happened to wake up at 11 o'clock I saw him writing. Again at 4 o'clock I saw that his writing was still continuing. By 5 o'clock he wrote out a complete book, 'Samrat Chandragupta', at one sitting. Later in the morning he wrote an introduction to the book in just two or three minutes, which did not require changing even a single word.

After this book Deendayalji's style become literary and polished. In the year 1947 I went to the South and for many years did not have the opportunity to listen to his speeches. When at last that opportunity came when he addressed a Jana Sangh meeting in Hyderabad his language had radically changed. When I mentioned this to him he said, "After joining the Jana Sangh I have to place my thoughts before the common people. I cannot use literary language for this purpose, so I have deliberately adopted the common man's language."

Thus in spite of possessing literary talent and the possibility of achieving literary fame he turned away from that direction in the interest of the mission in hand.

MASTERY OF ECONOMICS

When the Jana Sangh was formed people began to criticise it as a party without an economic programme. As General Secretary of the party Deendayalji thought it his responsibility to prepare such a programme. Although he had read a lot on many subjects he had not made any special study of economics. When he realised the necessity of chalking out an economic policy for the Jana Sangh he not only read all important old and new books on the subject but mastered them.

Yet the economic policy that he evolved was not the result of merely bookish knowledge. He travelled from province to province and even went into the interior with intepreters to discuss with the rural folk their financial problems. It was after this direct study of the economic situation and deep meditation on it that Deendayalji prepared the economic guidelines for the party.

His study of economics was so deep that he wrote a book titled 'Two Plans' in English on the first two five-year plans which was praised in many quarters. He had also written the second part of the book, but it was lost during travel. In the meanwhile a parliamentary committee on planning had adopted some of his basic suggestions, so in spite of my urging him to write out the lost book again he did not think it worthwhile to do so. However, he wrote another book on Indian Economy, pointing the direction in which it should proceed for the progress of the country. No one but an extraordinary person could have attained such mastery over economics when he had made no study of the subject at all during college days.

LACK OF EGO

Deendayalji was a living symbol of simplicity and affection. Many times when he was about to go to a meeting place to make a speech some friends would suggest that he should change his soiled clothes and wear better ones. On this he would ask, "Are people going to come to listen to toy thoughts or to look at my clothes?" There was such deep affection and absolute lack of ego in his nature that even after he became a person of nation-wide renown he was particular about the well-being of the person attached to him as his attendant. If the attendant happened to be unwell Deendayalji himself washed his clothes along with his own. ■

(Based on a write-up by Shri Bapurao Moghe on the occasion of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Birthday Celebrations)

Vinoba Bhave: The spiritual successor of Mohandas Gandhi

Vinayak Narahari “Vinoba” Bhave born on 11 September 1895 was an Indian advocate of nonviolence and human rights. Often called Acharya, he is best known for the Bhoodan Movement. He is considered as a National Teacher of India and the spiritual successor of Mohandas Gandhi. He was the first person to be selected as a Satyagraha.

EARLY LIFE

Born Vinayak Narahari Bhave, at Gagode in Kolaba district, Maharashtra on 11 September, 1895, he was the eldest son of Narahari Shambhu Rao and Rukmini Devi.

He had four other siblings, three brothers and one sister. His mother Rukmini Devi was a very religious person and instilled in Vinoba a deep sense of spiritualism. As a student Vinoba was quite fond of mathematics. He also developed a spiritual conscience quite early having studied the Bhagavad Gita under the tutelage of his grandfather.

Although a good student, traditional education never really appealed to Vinoba. He considered renouncing social life and head out to the Himalayas. On other days, he considered joining the Indian independence struggle. He started travelling the length of the country, learning regional languages along with knowledge of scriptures and Sanskrit. He ended up in the holy city of Banaras, where he came across a piece on Mahatma Gandhi, specifically about a speech he gave at the Banaras Hindu University. The course of his life was altered after he read it. He burned his entire school and college certificate on his way to Mumbai in 1916, to appear for the intermediate examination. He started corresponding with Gandhi, who being impressed with the 20-year-old Vinoba invited him to Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad. Vinoba met Gandhi on June 7, 1916 and took resident at the Ashram. He dutifully participated in all the activities at the ashram, leading an austere and sparse life. He eventually dedicated his life towards various programs designed by Gandhi like the Khadi Andolan, teaching, etc. The name Vinoba (a traditional Marathi epithet signifying great respect) was conferred upon him by Mama Phadke, another member of the Ashram.

ROLE IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba also got involved in the Indian freedom struggle. He took part in programs of non-cooperation and especially the call for use of Swadeshi goods instead of foreign imports. He took up the spinning wheel churning out Khadi and urged others to do so, resulting in mass production of the fabric.



In 1932, accusing Vinoba Bhave of conspiring against the British rule, the government sent him to jail for six months to Dhulia. There, he explained the fellow prisoners the different subjects of ‘Bhagwad Gita’, in Marathi. All the lectures given by him on Gita in Dhulia jail were collected and later published as a book.

Till 1940, Vinoba Bhave was known only to the people around him. Mahatma Gandhi, on 5 October, 1940, introduced Bhave to the nation by issuing a statement. He was also chosen as the first Individual

Satyagrahi (an Individual standing up for Truth instead of a collective action) by Gandhi himself.

BHOODAN MOVEMENT

In 1951, Vinoba Bhave started his peace-trek on foot through the violence-torn region of Telangana. On April 18, 1951, the Harijans of the Pochampalli village requested him to provide them with around 80 acres of land to make a living. Vinoba asked the landlords of the village to come forward and save the Harijans. To everybody’s surprise, a landlord got up and offered the required land. This incident added a new chapter in the history of sacrifices and non-violence. It was the beginning of the Bhoodan (Gift of the Land) movement. The movement continued for thirteen years and Vinoba toured the length and breadth of the country, a total distance of 58741 Km. He was successful in collecting around 4.4 million acres of land, of which around 1.3 million was distributed among poor landless farmers. The movement attracted admiration from all over the world and was commended for being the only experiment of his kind to incite voluntary social justice.

RELIGIOUS WORK

Vinoba was greatly influenced by the Bhagvad Gita and his thoughts and efforts were based upon the doctrines of the Holy Book. He set up a number of Ashrams to promote a simple way of life, devoid of luxuries that took away one’s focus from the Divine. He established the Brahma Vidya Mandir in 1959, a small community for women, aiming at self-sufficiency on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings. He took a strong stand on cow slaughter and declared to go on fast until it was banned in India.

Vinoba spent the later part of his life at his Brahma Vidya Mandir ashram in Paunar in Wardha district of Maharashtra. He died on 15 November 1982 after refusing food and medicine for a few days by accepting “Samadhi Maran” / “Santhara” as described in Jainism. ■

Now, triple-talaq practice is illegal

The Supreme Court on August 22 stroke down anti-woman and inhuman Islamic practice of instant divorce by merely pronouncing three times 'talaq' word in one go as arbitrary and unconstitutional, in a landmark verdict for gender justice that will stop Muslim men breaking a marriage on a whim. The judgment paves way for empowerment of women. The Supreme Court delivered the verdict three of the five all-male judges on the case said the practice of saying "talaq", or divorce, three times in one go – sometimes even over email and WhatsApp – violated women's right to equality and was not integral to Islam. The verdict was announced by Three judges. Five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India JS Keha. Out of five three have termed the Triple Talaq as unconstitutional and set it aside.

"This is a historic day for Muslim women. No Muslim women will have to go through the harassment that I suffered," Shayara Bano, a 35-year-old divorced Muslim woman whose petition two years ago helped end instant



"Judgement of the Hon'ble SC on Triple Talaq is historic. It grants equality to Muslim women and is a powerful measure for women empowerment".

— **Narendra Modi**, Prime Minister

"I welcome the historic decision of the Supreme Court. This verdict is not defeat or victory of anybody. Rather, it is victory of right of equality and constitutional fundamental rights of the Muslim women".

— **Shri Amit Shah**, BJP National President

talaq, told to the media.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah appreciated the historical decision of Supreme Court of banning triple Talaq. "A new era of self respect and equality has begun in lives of millions of Muslim women today. BJP welcomes the decision and sees it as a major step towards emergence of a new India."

Shri Shah said "This is the beginning of New India," said Mr Shah, also stating, "This judgement is not about anyone's victory or defeat. This is the victory of the basic constitutional rights of Muslim women and their right to live with equality."

He praised the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government for effectively presenting the case of Muslim women in the top court. ■

NDA cabinet expands with 27 new ministers in Bihar

BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) CM Shri Nitish Kumar who won the floor test at the one-day special assembly session expanded his Bihar cabinet and inducted 27 ministers including 14 from JD(U), 12 from BJP and 1 from LJP on July 29, 2017. The swearing-in took place in Raj Bhawan. Earlier Senior BJP leader Shri Sushil Kumar Modi had also taken oath as Deputy Chief Minister along with CM Shri Nitish Kumar. Following the oath the strength of Nitish cabinet now reaches 29, with scope for six more.





We have to ensure no place in the country is left where we don't have our flag: Amit Shah

On a three day Pravas to Madhya Pradesh BJP National President Shri Amit Shah arrived in Bhopal on 18 August, 2017. This is part of his 110-day nationwide Pravas to strengthen the party ahead of 2019 general elections.

During his stay Shri Amit Shah attended a series of meetings with party leaders, state unit office-bearers, central office-bearers, core group members, state spokespersons, MPs, MLAs, district presidents, among others and also paid tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and Raja Bhoj in Bhopal. Apart from these organizational meetings Shri Shah also addressed intellectuals and meritorious students, besides releasing a book written by Shri Kailash Narayan Sarang.

After arriving in Bhopal Shri Amit Shah was accorded a warm welcome by Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, state BJP President Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan and other senior party leaders at Bhopal's Raja Bhoj Airport.

Addressing the Madhya Pradesh BJP's core group members, office-bearers, MPs, MLAs and district Presidents, among others, at the party headquarters in Bhopal on 18 August, 2017 Shri Shah reminded the activists that the party has become a political force to reckon with due to hard work, dedication and sacrifice of its leaders over the years.

Today the BJP has become a party of 10-12 crore members because of many stalwarts who have dedicated their lives in building and strengthening the



organization, he said.

'We have to ensure no place in the country is left where we don't have our flag. For this, we have to strengthen the organization further,' Shri Shah said.

'Character is the basis of our foundation,' he said, and called upon the BJP workers to ensure the party is present in every (polling) booth, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kamrup to Kutch.

Addressing the karyakartas on August 19, 2017 Shri Shah said BJP has not come to power for mere

'Today, we have a majority government at the Centre with 330 MPs, and also have 1,387 MLAs in different states. The party appears to be at its peak, but dedicated workers feel we have a long way ahead.'

five or 10 years, but at least 50 years and called upon workers to strengthen the party and take it to every part of the country.

He also said that though the BJP appears to be at its peak with a majority government at the Centre and 1,387 MLAs in states the workers feel the party has still a long way to go. 'Today, we have a majority government at the Centre with 330 MPs, and also have



1,387 MLAs in different states. The party appears to be at its peak, but dedicated workers feel we have a long way ahead,' he said.

'We have not come to power for 5-10 years, but at least 50 years. We should move forward with a conviction that in 40-50 years we have to bring major changes in the country through the medium of power,' Shri Shah said.

SHAH SERVED 'DAAL-BAATI', 'KADI-CHAVAL' AND SWEETS AT TRIBAL PARTY WORKER'S HOUSE

BJP president Shri Amit Shah on 20 August, 2017 had



lunch at the residence of a tribal worker of the party in Bhopal as part of the BJP's outreach programme to strengthen the bond with the karyakartas and particularly with socially-oppressed classes. Shri Amit Shah flanked by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and state party President Shri Nandkumar Chauhan, ate 'daal-baati', 'kadi-chawal' and sweets at Kamal Singh Uike's house in Sevania-Gaud area of the state capital.

Interacting with mediapersons after lunch he said the BJP is committed to development and the states where it has formed governments have seen fast-paced growth, he said and cited the examples of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which were earlier called 'BIMARU' States.

He said the NDA government has given over Rs 5 lakh crore to Madhya Pradesh for different schemes. In the last three years, the Modi government has launched 106 schemes for welfare of the poor and other disadvantaged sections of the society. ■

India's Changing Transport Landscape

The government has made it a major priority to build a world class transport infrastructure in the country, that is cost effective, easily accessible to everyone, safe, creates minimum load of pollutants and relies on indigenous inputs to the maximum possible extent. This has involved strengthening the available infrastructure by leveraging world class technology, building new infrastructure and modernizing the legislative framework to support this work.

| NITIN GADKARI

The progress of a country is closely linked to the efficiency with which it transports its man and material. A good transport system aids economic growth by providing essential connectivity between available resources, centres of production and the market. It is also a vital factor in promoting balanced regional growth by ensuring the delivery of goods and services to the last man in the remotest part of the country.

Despite having one of the most extensive transport networks in the world, India has, for long, been plagued by very slow and inefficient movement of passenger and freight. The sector is faced with many challenges. The penetration of the transport network in remote areas and difficult terrains is inadequate. Highways are narrow, congested, and poorly maintained, leading to slow movement of traffic, valuable loss of time and a heavy burden of pollution. Accidents are rampant, leading to the loss of nearly 1.5 lakh lives every year. A very high percentage of the freight moves on roads even though it has been established that this is the costliest mode of transport, with the highest pollution burden. Rail transport is cheaper and more environment friendly than road transport, but the network is slow and inadequate, while the waterways which are the cheapest and most environment friendly of the three are grossly underdeveloped. The result of this unfavourable modal mix is high logistics costs that make our goods non competitive in the international market.



This narrative has, however, started changing since the last three four years. The government has made it a major priority to build a world class transport infrastructure in the country, that is cost effective, easily accessible to everyone, safe, creates minimum load of pollutants and relies on indigenous inputs to the maximum possible extent. This has involved strengthening the available infrastructure by leveraging world class technology, building new infrastructure and modernizing the legislative framework to support this work. This has also involved partnering with the private sector and creating and nurturing an enabling environment for such partnership.

National highways constitute just two percent of the country's road network but carry 40 percent of the traffic load. The government is working hard to augment this infrastructure both in terms of length and quality. Having started with about 96,000 km of national highways in 2014, we now have over 1.5 lakh kms and soon hope to reach 2 lakh kms. The



upcoming Bharatmala Programme will link border and international connectivity roads, develop economic corridors, inter corridors and feeder routes, improve connectivity of national corridors, build coastal and port connectivity roads, and greenfield expressways. This means that all areas of the country will have easy access to national highways.

The North East region, naxal affected areas, backward and interior areas are being given special attention in terms of building road connectivity. Bridges like the Dhola Sadia in Assam and state of the art tunnels like Chenani Nashri in Jammu and Kashmir are coming up to shorten distances in difficult terrains and make remote areas more easily accessible. High density traffic corridors like the Vadodara-Mumbai, Bangalore-Chennai and Delhi-Meerut routes can look forward to world class, access controlled expressways, while travel to places of religious and tourist importance like the Char Dham and the Buddhist Circuit will get faster and more convenient.

Apart from adding kilometers, we are also committed to make the highways safe for travel. For this, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted that includes incorporating safety features in road designs, rectifying known accident black spots, proper road signages, more effective legislation, improved vehicular safety standards, training of drivers, improved trauma care and enhanced public awareness. Under the Setu Bharatam programmes all railway level crossings are to be replaced with over bridges or under passes and an inventory with structural rating of all bridges on national highways is being created so that timely repair or rebuilding actions can be undertaken.

The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha, and awaits passing by Rajya Sabha. The Bill addresses road safety issues by providing for stiffer penalties, making fitness certification of vehicles and issue of drivers licenses transparent by computerizing it and minimizing human intervention, statutory provisions for protection of good Samaritans and recognition of IT enabled enforcement systems.

The issue of reducing pollution is being addressed through a programme for replacement of old vehicles, adopting BS-VI emission norms from 1st April 2020,

developing plantations along highways by involving the local participation and Electronic Toll Collection based on RFID tags called FASTags that will reduce waiting time at toll plazas. The use of alternate fuel like Ethanol, Bio-CNG, Bio-Diesel, Methanol and electricity is being promoted and some of these are already running in some cities on an experimental basis.

Looking at the cheaper and greener water transportation, efforts are underway to utilize the navigational potential of India's 7500 km long coastline and over 14,000 km of inland waterways through the Sagarmala programme and by declaring 111 waterways as National Waterways. Sagarmala envisages developing ports as engines of growth. The idea is to industrialize the port areas by developing

The Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha, and awaits passing by Rajya Sabha. The Bill addresses road safety issues by providing for stiffer penalties, making fitness certification of vehicles and issue of drivers licenses transparent.

14 coastal economic zones. This would be supported by modernization and augmentation of the port infrastructure, improving connectivity of ports with the hinterland through road, rail and waterways, and development of the coastal community. It is expected that besides saving Rs 35000-Rs 40,000 crore as logistics cost annually, boosting exports by about USD 110 billion and generating one crore new jobs, Sagarmala will also double the share of domestic waterways in the modal mix in the next ten years.

In addition to the above, work is already in progress on several waterways including Ganga and Brahmaputra to develop their navigational potential. The World Bank aided Jal Marg Vikas project on

Ganga aims to develop the river stretch from Haldia to Allahabad to allow navigation of 1500-2000 tonne ships. Work on building multi modal terminals at Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia and other necessary infrastructure on this stretch is progressing rapidly. With this, much of the cargo movement to the eastern and north eastern parts of the country can be done through waterways, resulting in lowering of the price of commodities. Thirty seven more waterways will be developed in the next three years .

While the highways and waterways sectors are being modernized rapidly, work is also underway for developing an integrated transport system based on an optimal modal mix and seamless intermodal connectivity. In this context a Logistic Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) has

been envisaged to enhance the efficiency of freight transportation in the country. This would include construction of fifty economic corridors, upgrading feeder routes, developing thirty-five multimodal logistics parks with storage and warehousing facilities and constructing ten inter-modal stations to integrate various transportation modes .

The transport sector in India is definitely transforming rapidly, and is poised to become the biggest enabler for the country's growth. As this revolution unfolds over the Indian landscape, we can not only hope to see the country developing faster, but also see the benefits of progress embracing regions and people who are still out of its bounds today. ■

(The writer is the Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Govt of India.)

Total Foodgrains production is estimated at record 275.68 million tonnes

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on 16th August, 2017 announced its assessment of record production of foodgrain in the country. According to fourth advance estimates for 2016-17 by department of agriculture the assessment of production of different crops based on the feedback received from States and validated with information available from other sources is estimated at record 275 million tonnes.

As per Advance Estimates, the estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is as under:

Ø Foodgrains – 275.68 million tonnes (record)

- Rice – 110.15 million tonnes (record)
- Wheat – 98.38 million tonnes (record)
- Coarse Cereals – 44.19 million tonnes (record)
- Maize – 26.26 million tonnes (record)
- Pulses – 22.95 million tonnes (record)
- Gram – 9.33 million tonnes
- Tur – 4.78 million tonnes (record)
- Urad – 2.80 million tonnes (record)

Ø Oilseeds – 32.10 million tonnes

- Soyabean – 13.79 million tonnes
- Groundnut – 7.56 million tonnes
- Rapeseed & Mustard – 7.98 million tonnes
- Castorseed – 1.42 million tonnes

Ø Cotton – 33.09 million bales (of 170 kg each)



Ø Sugarcane – 306.72 million tonnes

As a result of very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government, the country has witnessed record foodgrain production in the current year. As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 275.68 million tonnes which is higher by 10.64 million tonnes (4.01%) than the previous record production of Foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The current year's production is also higher by 18.67 million tonnes (7.27%) than the previous five years' (2011-12 to 2015-16) average production of Foodgrains. The current year's production is significantly higher by 24.12 million tonnes (9.59%) than the last year's foodgrain production. ■

E-possibilities

| RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

Digital India is a flagship programme of the Narendra Modi government to empower India and Indians using technology. More significantly, it is a transformational initiative incorporating the spirit of “sabka saath” to create a new India by ensuring “sabka vikas”.

Digital India aims to bridge the gap between the digital haves and have-nots. Digital India BRIDGE (Bringing Revolution In Digital Governance and Economy) channelises initiatives like Aadhaar, eSign, digital lockers, Aadhaar Pay and BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) to offer citizen-centric services at marginal costs — or zero cost. The trinity of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile (JAM) uses more than 116 crore Aadhaar cards, 118 crore mobile phones, including 40 crore smart phones, 110 crore bank accounts, including 29 crore Jan Dhan accounts, to bring about inclusive development.

The Narendra Modi government has been able to tap the true potential of the Aadhaar platform and use it to transform the lives of the poor, and strengthen digital governance. The use of Aadhaar enables nearly 3 crore e-authentications everyday at no cost. Citizens can get new mobile connections, open bank accounts or avail government services based on Aadhaar-based e-KYC in a paperless manner.

Digital India has been a driver of good governance, epitomising the government’s credo of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance”. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is an example of that. Former PM Rajiv Gandhi had famously said that of the Rs 100 released by the Centre, only Rs 15 reaches the beneficiary. Welfare schemes had to pass through layers of bureaucracy at the Centre and states, as well as at the district, block and panchayat levels. Their implementation would get delayed by months and involved administrative overheads. The Modi government not only releases Rs 1,000 but ensures that the entire amount reaches the beneficiary’s account instantly. Direct transfers of cooking gas subsidies (PAHAL), ration subsidies — through the public distribution system — MGNREGA

wages, scholarships and many other entitlements have ensured transparency and also saved Rs 57,000 crore of public money. DBT has been extended to over 316 schemes of 51 ministries leading to the transfer of Rs 2.16 lakh crore as benefits to the common man in the last three years.

Government eMarketplace (GeM) is another example of this regime’s commitment to removing corruption and ensuring good governance. Savings of around 10 per cent have been observed in the procurements made on GeM. The World Bank is studying India’s innovation in public procurement.

The trinity of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and mobile (JAM) uses more than 116 crore Aadhaar cards, 118 crore mobile phones, including 40 crore smart phones, 110 crore bank accounts, including 29 crore Jan Dhan accounts, to bring about inclusive development..

Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been galvanised into becoming agents of rural transformation. About 83,000 CSCs were operational in May 2014. Today such service centres number 2.59 lakh. These CSCs deliver over 300 services. Women, tribal people and Dalits have used CSCs to become digital entrepreneurs, transforming their own lives and the lives of others in the process. These CSC owners have collectively earned over Rs 1,800 crore for the various services they have rendered. The monthly income of several CSC owners is in excess of Rs 1 lakh. Over 10 lakh persons are employed, formally and informally by the CSCs. Digital literacy initiatives are further helping in bridging the digital divide. Under the new Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) programme, another six crore adults are

to be made digitally literate in the next two years.

The Rural BPO scheme is another initiative to take the IT industry to smaller towns and cities. More than 19,000 BPO seats have been allocated in 64 towns across 23 states/Union Territories, including four in the Northeast. This will not only uplift the employment ecosystem in small towns but will also help in reducing migration to cities.

India had a very high cash to GDP ratio. Unaccounted cash was one of the main reasons for corruption, black economy, funding of terrorism and Naxalism, electoral malpractices and market distortions. On November 8, 2016 the prime minister delivered a big blow to the black economy by announcing the demonetisation of high value currency notes. The move also gave a huge boost to digital payments.

Such payments bring transparency and accountability in the economy. Prices have fallen and tax collections have risen. India's unique innovations in the field of digital payments such as BHIM, UPI (Unified Payments Interface), USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) and Aadhaar Pay have offered affordable digital payment solutions to people. Steep growth has been registered in digital transactions in the last six months. UPI/BHIM transactions have increased to 3.31 lakh transactions per day from near zero. Digital wallet transactions have doubled, and debit card payments (Rupay) have increased four-fold. Hundreds of villages and townships across the country have become completely digital payment enabled in a very short span of time. The government is targeting 2,500 crore digital payment transactions this year. According to a Boston Consultancy Group-Google study, India is poised to become a 500 billion dollar digital payments market by 2020.

Soil health cards and e-NAM (e National Agricultural Mandi) are programmes to empower farmers. More than eight crore soil health cards have been issued, helping farmers save crores on their inputs. The e-NAM brings together disparate mandis into a single marketplace. More than 450 mandis and 48 lakh farmers use e-NAM today and 585 mandis across the country are expected to be integrated on the portal by the end of this year.

The online registration system, e-Hospital, has empowered patients in rural India. They can seek appointments in AIIMS and other big hospitals from

their villages without having to wait for days in Delhi or other big cities. More than 170 government hospitals have been brought on the digital platform.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) is one of the biggest financial reforms after Independence. It is a completely digital tax administered through the GST network that is capable of handling 60,000 simultaneous users per second. The network is expected to process 3.5 billion transactions every month.

Rural electrification is happening at an unprecedented pace; this can be easily tracked on the Garv mobile app. More than 14,000 villages have been provided electricity in record time. Efforts to promote renewable energy have, for the first time, made solar power cheaper than coal-based power in India. Coal or wood-based cooking systems were a bane for poor women, causing them serious health problems; treatment costs would aggravate their poverty. The Ujjwala Yojana has provided free LPG cooking gas connections to 2.5 crore BPL families, who now have a clean cooking option.

Loans amounting to Rs 3.55 lakh crore have been provided to Rs 8.17 crore youth under the Mudra scheme. Small and medium entrepreneurs have been given easy institutional credit. To make India a vibrant digital democracy, a unique initiative, MyGov, was undertaken by the government. With over 45 lakh registered users, MyGov is the world's largest digital platform for citizen's participation in governance.

The government believes in encouraging innovation and nurturing talent. With nearly 1,000 start-up deals, engaging around 50,000 youth and valued at Rs 50,000 crore a year, India is the world's third largest start-up hub. More than 80 new mobile manufacturing and component manufacturing units have come up in the past two years. Mobile production has grown from 6.5 crore units to 17.5 crore units in two years and is expected to touch 50 crore units by 2020.

Digital India is one of the biggest government programmes in the world to bring about sustainable and inclusive societal transformation using digital technologies. The process of making India into a trillion-dollar digital economy has begun and Digital India is making this dream a reality. Digital India will surely create a new India. ■

(The writer is Union minister for Law and Justice, Electronics and IT, GoI)

Digital Em'Power'ment: Delivering on 'RTI'- Right to a Transformed India

While power purchase by DISCOMs was earlier mired in corruption, MERIT app and Vidyut Pravah have eliminated discretions and reduced costs. Over the next five years, MERIT is expected to save Rs. 20,000 crores in power procurement costs, reducing consumers' bills. UDAY and URJA go a step further by ranking performance of States/cities/DISCOMs on several parameters.

PIYUSH GOYAL

Every government comes to power with the promise of serving the people and making their country a better place to live in. When this promise is broken, by inefficiencies and corruption, people's trust in their leadership is shaken, and they demand answers. In elections then, the people give their own answer to the government, and expectations are transferred to the next government. It is in such an atmosphere of anger and expectation that the Narendra Modi government came to power. Before the 2014 election, India saw the fight against corruption become a people's movement. This momentum towards honest governance found its conclusion in India electing Shri Narendra Modi as their Prime Minister. People placed their trust in him, seeing that his words were backed by action and conviction, and the task was set for our Government: clean up the past, deliver on promises, and reignite people's trust in institutions.

In May 2014, people rejected a scenario where decisions took place behind a smokescreen and were allowed in the public eye only through a 'Right to Information' procedure. The RTI didn't allow citizens to monitor government's work and instead of being a right, it became a privilege, outside the reach of many citizens who are not well-versed with the nitty-gritties of the process. What was needed wasn't a post-facto privilege, but a round-the-clock right to transparency. Under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministries of Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy, and Mines have been digitising our decisions, progress, and goals in the form of apps, and delivering upon the PM's promise of the 'Right to a Transformed India'.



Amongst other means, we've brought transparency through user-friendly apps that broadcast all our major operations to people's mobiles. Want to know the villages yet to be electrified in your district? Just log onto GARV. Want to know the price being paid by your power utility for electricity? Try MERIT. Worried about the next power cut? Don't worry, URJA Mitra will send a notification intimating you in advance.

TAMRA and TARANG track the status of projects and clearances, enabling people to hold government accountable for bottlenecks. It's a fact that while there was a near shutdown of mining auctions before 2014, 29 mining blocks generating revenue of more than Rs.1.22 lakh crore over the lease period of the mines for mineral bearing States, have been auctioned in the past three years, and TAMRA will help further enhance this. By ensuring timely execution, TARANG app played a role in rapid expansion of our transmission network. Value of projects commissioned between 2014-17 is 83% more than those commissioned between 2011-14, and there has been 40% increase in India's transmission capacity between 2014-17 alone.

PM Modi's 2015 Independence Day speech aroused in people's minds a deep care for India's energy deprived citizens. As he set the task of electrifying India's remotest villages in 1,000 days, public interest was high in the progress of this herculean task. GARV fulfilled the need for a platform with village-wise progress reports, and GARV-II surpassed this with habitation-wise data down to the households. Transparency has helped us immensely as people's scrutiny further energises the 'Speed, Skill, and Scale' mantra. We greatly value all inputs we receive from the people and the media. With GARV, public funds were saved as journalists highlighted uninhabited villages. Making data more meaningful, GARV goes beyond listing and gives 'Impact Study' on villages. People get to know on-the-ground impact through number of shops, aata chakkis, appliances, etc. installed post-electrification.

While power purchase by DISCOMs was earlier mired in corruption, MERIT app and Vidyut Pravah have eliminated discretions and reduced costs. Over the next five years, MERIT is expected to save Rs. 20,000 crores in power procurement costs, reducing consumers' bills. UDAY and URJA go a step further by ranking performance of States/cities/DISCOMs on several parameters.

The UJALA app has been instrumental in ensuring the fastest rollout of LED bulbs. This app, which is often quoted internationally, has a story behind its conception. At the end of a review meeting discussing coal block auctions, after the Supreme Court cancelled 204 coal blocks, PM Modi asked me how many LED bulbs have been distributed so far. I did not have the current figure readily, and said I will get back to you after checking. PM then reminded me of the importance of regularly monitoring to ensure results and fix responsibility for performance. I got my team cracking to devise a portal where anytime, anywhere, anyone could check the number of LED bulbs rolled out. The result is not a mere status check on bulbs, but also the amount of CO2 emissions avoided, power saved, and money saved in people's bills. It in fact, became a popular app which, helped market the scheme across the country and enabled rapid roll out and unprecedented success.

Shedding light on what happens underground, Mining Surveillance System (MSS) app, allows

reporting illegal mining, while Coal Mitra identifies the most efficient thermal power plants. ARUN, provides a DIY (Do It Yourself) guide for solar rooftop installations, and critical knowhow about government incentives, costs and methods of installation, thereby removing barriers which inhibited a solar rooftop revolution in India.

So many apps, so many different downloads! How does one discover the apps? How do we tell the public that these apps exist? Just give a missed call to 1-800-200-300-4. This is a common uniform number where all one has to do is give a missed call; and will receive a link by which one can download the app of your interest.

PM Modi's 2015 Independence Day speech aroused in people's minds a deep care for India's energy deprived citizens. As he set the task of electrifying India's remotest villages in 1,000 days, public interest was high in the progress of this herculean task.

By inviting public scrutiny through transparency and real time data in public domain, the Ministries of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, are rebuilding people's trust in government institutions. The beautiful and instructive phrase 'Tamso Ma Jyotirgamaya' (lead us from darkness to light) guides the teams in all our Ministries. Through these apps, we aspire to remove the darkness of secrecy and corruption, and move towards the light of honesty and dedicated service for the benefit of 125 crore Indians. ■

(The writer is Minister of State (independent charge) of Power and Renewable Energy, GoI)

“Dream for a free India was rooted in our ordinary villages”

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind on the eve of India's 71st Independence Day, 2017 addressed the nation. In his address he said the some parameters of 'New India' are a house for every family, power on demand, better roads and telecom, a modern railway network, rapid and sustained growth. Here, we are publishing highlights of the address.

- On August 15, 1947, we became a free nation. Sovereignty and the responsibility for our destiny moved from the British crown to the people of India. Some have called this process a “transfer of power”.
- It is crucial to understand that this dream for a free India was rooted in our ordinary villages, in the well-being of our poor and underprivileged, and in the all-round development of our country.
- From the earliest days of our freedom struggle, we were blessed with a galaxy of revolutionary leaders who guided our country.
- The principles that Gandhiji spoke about are relevant even today.
- Sardar Patel instilled in us the importance of national unity and integrity. And of a disciplined national character.
- Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar urged upon us the virtues of constitutional governance, of the rule of law – and of the vital need for education.
- The stress on the moral basis of policy and action, belief in unity and discipline, faith in a synthesis of heritage and science, and promotion of the rule of law and of education – all of it was located in a partnership between citizen and government.
- In the year 2022, our country will complete 75 years of Independence. It is our national resolve to attain certain desired milestones for a New India by then.
- When we speak of a New India, what do we mean? There are some obvious parameters – like a house for every family, power on demand, better roads and telecom, a modern railway network, rapid and sustained growth.
- A compassionate society where the traditionally disadvantaged, whether SCs, STs or OBCs, are part of our national developmental process.
- Your immense patience and understanding in the days following demonetisation – and your wholehearted support in the battle against corruption and black money – reflected a responsible and enlightened society.
- The Tokyo Olympics of 2020 offer another opportunity for us to raise our standing in the world's eyes.
- Our soldiers who guard our borders, on a hot day in the desert or high up on a cold mountain, are not just doing their duty. They are displaying an extra degree of selflessness
- Our police and paramilitary forces that brave death to combat terrorism or crime and keep us safe are not just doing their duty. They are displaying an extra degree of selflessness
- Our farmers who labour under extremely tough conditions to grow food to feed fellow Indians whom they have never met, and who live in the other corner of the country, are not just doing a job. They are displaying an extra degree of selflessness.
- I salute those families that gave up their LPG subsidy on the appeal of PM. No law or government order made them do what they did. Their response came from within.
- Two thousand five hundred years ago Gautam Buddha said, “अपदीपोभव... Be a lamp unto yourself ...” If we follow his teachings, acting together, with the passion of our freedom movement, we can collectively be the 125 crore lamps that light up the path to a New India. ■



Under pro-farmer approach govt. approves raising Extra Budgetary Resources

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 16 has given its approval for raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of upto Rs. 9020 crore as per the requirement during 2017-18 by NABARD through issuance of Bonds for ensuring lending rate of 6% per annum (pa) in respect of borrowings for implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works of 99 ongoing prioritized irrigation projects along with their command area development (CAD) works under PMKSY.

A large number of major and medium irrigation projects taken up under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) were languishing mainly due to inadequate provision of funds. During 2016-17, 99 ongoing projects under PMKSY- AIBP were identified for completion in phases by December-2019. To cater to the large fund requirement and ensure completion of these projects, the Union Finance Minister, during his Budget speech 2016-17, announced creation of dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) in NABARD with an initial corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore for funding of Central and State share for the identified ongoing projects under PMKSY (AIBP and CAD).

During the year 2016-17, NABARD disbursed aggregate amount of Rs. 9086.02 crore under LTIF, out of which Rs. 2414.16 crore was released for Polavaram project (without EBR component) and balance Rs. 6671.86 crore was released to identified projects using EBR.

To make the loan from NABARD attractive for states, it was decided that the rate of interest may be kept around 6% by providing requisite cost free funds to NABARD

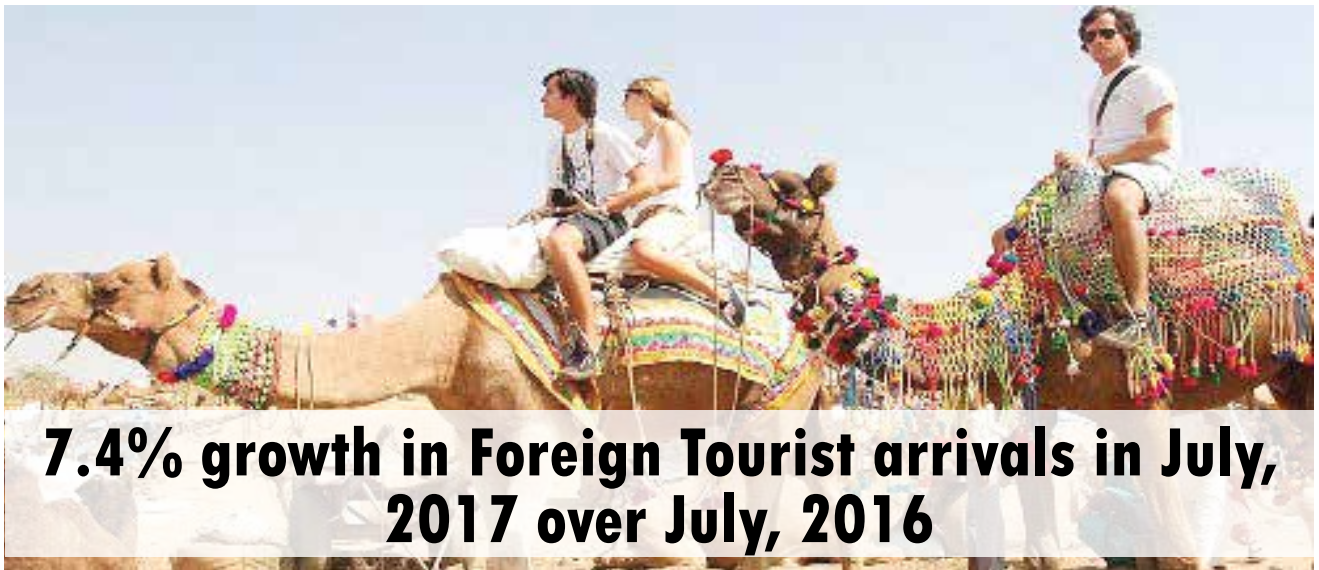


every year during 2016-17 to 2019-20 on which interest cost would be borne by Govt. of India.

During the year 2016-17, NABARD disbursed aggregate amount of Rs. 9086.02 crore under LTIF, out of which Rs. 2414.16 crore was released for Polavaram project (without EBR component) and balance Rs. 6671.86 crore was released to identified projects using EBR. Further, an amount of Rs. 924.9 crore was disbursed as Central Assistance (CA) through budgetary provision. During 2016-17, overall an amount of Rs 2187 crore was raised by NABARD in the form of Government of India fully serviced bond as EBR.

During 2017-18, it is estimated that an amount of Rs 29,000 Crore may be required through LTIF, for which EBR of Rs 9020 cr would be required.

As per the status reported by the states and Central Water Commission during various review meeting, 18 projects have been completed/almost completed. Irrigation potential utilization is expected to be more than 14 lakh hectares during 2016-17 from all the 99 projects. During 2017-18, 33 more projects are likely to be completed. The completion of the identified irrigation projects will generate immediate wage and other employment opportunities in good measure during the construction phase. More importantly, on completion of the projects, the utilization of irrigation potential of about 76 lakh hectares will transform the agriculture scenario of the region resulting in generation of substantially more employment opportunities through increase in cropping intensity, change in cropping pattern, agro processing and other ancillary activities. ■



7.4% growth in Foreign Tourist arrivals in July, 2017 over July, 2016

Under 'Make In India' campaign tourism industry got a boost. Foreign tourist arrivals in India has registered 7.4% growth in comparison to the last year. Ministry of Tourism has compiled monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e-Tourist Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise. The ministry also compiled the data arrival of tourist airport-wise.

The following are the important highlights regarding FTAs & also FTAs on e-Tourist Visa from tourism during the month of July, 2017.

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS (FTAS):

- The number of FTAs in July, 2017 were 7.88 lakh as compared to FTAs of 7.34 lakh in July, 2016 and 6.28 lakh in July, 2015.
- The growth rate in FTAs in July, 2017 over July, 2016 is 7.4% compared to 16.8% in July, 2016 over July, 2015.
- FTAs during the period January- July 2017 were 56.74 lakh with a growth of 15.7%, as compared to the FTAs of 49.03 lakh with a growth of 9.6% in January- July 2016 over January- July 2015.
- The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during July 2017 among the top 15 source countries was highest from Bangladesh (20.12%) followed by USA (16.26%), UK (10.88%), France (3.01%), Malaysia (2.81%), Canada (2.66%), Sri Lanka (2.56%), China (2.32%), Oman (2.27%), Germany (2.21%), Australia (2.17%), Japan (2.10%), Nepal (1.84%), UAE (1.82%) and Singapore (1.69%).

- The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during July 2017 among the top 15 ports was highest at Delhi Airport (25.95%) followed by Mumbai Airport (16.63%), Haridaspur Land Check Post (10.92%), Chennai Airport (9.09%), Bengaluru Airport (6.78%), Cochin Airport (5.39%), Hyderabad Airport (5.07%), Kolkata Airport (4.23%), Gede Rail Land Check Post (2.78%), Trivandrum Airport (1.81%), Ahmedabad Airport (1.72%), Ghojadanga Land Check Post (1.54%), Tiruchirapalli Airport (1.37%), Amritsar Airport (0.97%) and Calicut Airport (0.73%).

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS ON E-TOURIST VISA:

- During the month of July, 2017 total of 1.19 lakh tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 0.68 lakh during the month of July 2016 registering a growth of 73.3%.
- During January-July 2017, a total of 8.36 lakh tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 5.40 lakh during January-July 2016, registering a growth of 54.7%.
- The percentage shares of top 15 source countries availing e- Tourist Visa facilities during July, 2017 were as follows:
- UK (12.9%), USA (12.0%), UAE (7.2%), France (6.4%), Oman (6.1%), China (5.4%), Spain (4.3%), Korea (Rep.of) (3.9%), Germany (3.1%), Australia (3.1%), Canada (3.1%), Italy (2.4%), Singapore (2.3%), Netherlands (2.2%) and Thailand (1.8%). ■

Extremism in Northeast reduced 75 per cent

Extrmism in the Northeast has reduced by 75 per cent and “naxalism” by around 40 per cent over the past three years, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said on Aug 20, 2017. Praising the National Investigation Agency (NIA), he said its name triggers fear among those involved in terror funding. “If sources of terror funding are finished, terrorism can be defeated,” he said while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Lucknow office and residential complex of the agency. Shri Singh said that since its inception in 2009, NIA has resolved 95 per cent of the 165 cases it investigated and secured a conviction in 94 per cent cases. The Home Minister underlined the need for better coordination among different intelligence and investigation agencies in the states and the centre for combating anti-national elements. ■



FDI grows Up 37% to \$10.4 billion during April June 2017

Foreign direct investment into the country grew by 37 per cent to USD 10.4 billion during the first quarter of the current fiscal, DIPP said on August 21. According to the figures of the Department of Industrial Policy and



Promotion (DIPP), India had received USD 7.59 billion FDI during April-June 2016-17. The main sectors which attracted the highest foreign inflows include services, telecom, trading, computer hardware and software and automobile. Bulk of the FDI came in from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan. Since the launch of 'Make in India' initiative (October 2014 - June this year), foreign inflows jumped 64 per cent to USD 110.12 billion from USD 67.26 billion in the same period 2016. ■

Kharif Crop Sowing Crosses 976 Lakh Hectare Area

The total sown area as on 18th August 2017, as per reports received from States, stands at 976.34 lakh hectare as compared to 984.57 lakh hectare at this time last year. It is reported that rice has been sown/transplanted in 341.58 lakh ha, pulses in 130.68 lakh ha, coarse cereals in 171.75 lakh ha, sugarcane in 49.78 lakh hectare and cotton in 118.14 lakh ha. ■





FROM NEWSPAPERS

TO BOOST SAFETY RAILWAYS PLANNING TO HIRE 200,000 WORKERS

Indian Railways is planning to hire close to 200,000 workers in the next few years. The recruitment drive is aimed at strengthening its safety and ground patrolling divisions. At present, almost 16 per cent of the safety posts in the railways, mostly at lower levels, are laying vacant. This amount is separate from the money spent on modernization.

— (THE ECONOMIC TIMES)

'WORK ON MISSION MODE TO REALIZE VISION OF NEW INDIA BY 2022': PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi asked Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states to work in "mission mode" to realize the vision of a "New India" by 2022. He said speedy implementation of pro-poor schemes and boosting transparency in government schemes are crucial for the success of our vision. Shri Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah will review works of the party-run state governments every three months in this regard, the meeting was attended by 12 BJP Chief Ministers and six Deputy Chief Ministers.

— (THE ECONOMIC TIMES)

EXTREMISM IN NORTHEAST DOWN BY 75 PERCENT

After Modi Government came to power extremism in the Northeast has reduced by 75 per cent and Naxalism by around 40 per cent over the past three years, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said if sources of terror funding are finished, terrorism can be defeated. He said that since its inception in 2009, NIA has resolved 95 per cent of the 165 cases it investigated and secured a conviction in 94 per cent cases.

— (THE INDIAN EXPRESS)

FDI JUMPS 37% TO \$10.4 BILLION DURING APRIL-JUNE 2017

Foreign direct investment into the country grew by 37 per cent to USD 10.4 billion during the first

quarter of the current fiscal. According to the figures of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), India had received USD 7.59 billion FDI during April-June 2016-17. The main sectors which attracted the highest foreign inflows include services, telecom, trading, computer hardware and software and automobile. Bulk of the FDI came in from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan. Since the launch of 'Make in India' initiative (till June this year), foreign inflows jumped 64 per cent to USD 110.12 billion.

— (THE ECONOMIC TIMES)

US BRANDS HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN AS TERROR OUTFIT

The United States on August 16, 2017 named Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) as a foreign terrorist organisation and a specially designated global terrorist group, a little less than two months after adding its chief Syed Salahuddin to its list of designated global terrorists. The Hizb joins the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba on the US list of foreign terrorist organisations.

— (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES)

CABINET NOD FOR LONG-PENDING BIHAR-JHARKHAND IRRIGATION PROJECT

The Union cabinet on August 16, 2017 gave its approval for the completion of the long-pending North Koel Reservoir Project to irrigate farms across four districts in Bihar and Jharkhand at an estimated investment of Rs 1,622 crore. Completion of the project will create annual irrigation potential for 111,521 hectares of agricultural land (91,917 hectares in Bihar and 19,604 hectares in Jharkhand). It will take care of the irrigation needs of farmers in the most backward and drought-prone areas of Palamu and Garhwa districts in Jharkhand and Aurangabad and Gaya districts in Bihar.

— (THE BUSINESS STANDARDER)

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

BJP 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, BJP

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Pin :

Phone : Mobile : (1)..... (2).....

E-mail :



SUBSCRIPTION TYPE	One Year	₹350/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Time (English or Hindi)	₹3000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Three Years	₹1000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Time (English+Hindi)	₹5000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>

(DETAIL OF THE PAYMENT)

Cheque/Draft No. : Date : Bank :

Note : * DD/Cheque will be made in favour of "Kamal Sandesh"

* Money order and Cash accepted with details

(Subscriber's Signature)



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Dr. Mookerji Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramania Bharati Marg, New Delhi-110003

Ph.: 011-23381428 Fax: 011-23387887 E-mail: kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi hoisting the tri colour on the occasion of 71st Independence Day from the ramparts of Red Fort



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah hoisting the National flag on Independence Day at BJP Headquarters, New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing the young entrepreneurs at the Champions of Change programme, organised by the NITI Aayog in New Delhi



The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reviews the progress of Soil Health Cards and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi welcomes the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi with the Six women officers of the Indian Navy who are due to circumnavigate the globe on the sailing vessel INSV Tarini in New Delhi

