

# KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



**'I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT DREAM OF 'NEW INDIA' WILL BE REALIZED THROUGH THE SKILL & FORTITUDE OF YOUTH'**



## **BJP GOVERNMENTS TAKE OATH IN GUJARAT & HIMACHAL**

**Vijay Rupani & Jai Ram Thakur take oath as CMs**



**Shri Vijay Rupani taking oath as the CM of Gujarat in Gandhinagar**



**Shri Jairam Thakur taking oath as the CM of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla**



**Shri Vijay Rupani welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah to the oath taking ceremony**



**PM Shri Modi flanked by BJP President Shri Amit Shah & Himachal CM Shri Jairam Thakur waving at the gathering**



**Senior BJP Leaders welcoming the PM to the ceremony ground in Gandhinagar**



**PM Shri Modi along with Shri Amit Shah, other Senior BJP leaders and Union Ministers are at the ceremony in Shimla**

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**@narendramodi**

When the people decide something and work towards achieving it, nothing is impossible. It is the 125 crore Indians who are taking our nation to new heights of growth.

**@JPNadda**



1cr ANCs conducted under #PMSMA. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors who have made this remarkable milestone possible. They heeded to clarion call of Hon. Prime Minister Sh @narendramodi ji for sparing 1 day each month for this noble cause. #SwasthaBharat.

**@Dev\_Fadnavis**



17,15,732 cooking gas connections distributed in Maharashtra till 3rd January 2018 under #PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana! This scheme was launched by PM @narendramodi ji on 1st May 2016. #PMUY

**facebook**

I congratulate PM Shri Narendra Modi and the entire government for successfully passing the Triple Talaq Bill - The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017, in Lok Sabha and bringing the practice of Triple Talaq within the ambit of criminal offence.



This bill is a historic step towards ensuring dignity for Muslim women. I thank all fellow Parliamentarians who have supported this bill, which will bring a new era of hope and respect in the lives of Muslim women.. — **Amit Shah**

Taking forward PM Narendra Modi's vision of #NewIndia CCEA approved Jal Marg Vikas Pariyojna for National Waterway-1 (NW-1), 2-lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel Project, Collaboration with Transport for London and new MCA for PPP port projects.



— **Nitin Gadkari**



Courtesy: Social Media



**Kamal Sandesh Parivar**  
wishes a very happy  
**REPUBLIC DAY (26 JANUARY)**  
to its readers

# Congress should rise above its vested political interest

**I**t is highly unfortunate that even in the face of Supreme Court declaring Triple Talaq unconstitutional, the bill having penal provisions for those practising it could not be passed in the parliament. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017, was continuously stalled in Rajya Sabha and finally could not be passed. Contrary to the Congress stand in Lok Sabha where it did not oppose the bill, it went all out to stall it under the pretext of sending it to the select committee. It was a tactic to which the government has rightly refused to succumb and stood its ground exposing the doublespeak of Congress on the issue. The Muslim women fight for justice was further prolonged and their rightful claims were denied by the insistence of Congress in stalling its passage in Rajya Sabha.

The Muslim women in the country had to wage a consistent struggle to get their voice heard and their legitimate claims of equality as per Indian constitution accepted by the Supreme court and the political class of the country. It was a logical conclusion of their fight on Triple Talaq that

**IT WAS A LOGICAL CONCLUSION OF THEIR FIGHT ON TRIPLE TALAQ THAT A LAW SHOULD BE MADE TO PENALIZE THOSE CONTINUING THIS PRACTICE EVEN AFTER ITS BEING DECLARED UNCONSTITUTIONAL. ALTHOUGH THE SUPREME COURT JUDGEMENT HAS PRONOUNCED IT UNCONSTITUTIONALITY STILL THERE ARE REPORTS OF INSTANCES OF TRIPLE TALAQ ON WHICH LEGAL MACHINERY IS FINDING DIFFICULT TO ACT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY LEGAL PROVISION PENALIZING THE ACT.**

a law should be made to penalize those continuing this practice even after its being declared unconstitutional. Although the Supreme Court judgement has pronounced it unconstitutionality still there are reports of instances of Triple Talaq on which legal machinery is finding difficult to act in the absence of any legal provision penalizing the act. The question of maintenance and custody of the children are other aspects of the question which needs urgent attention. The bill was aimed at addressing these issues but unfortunately Congress seems to have developed cold feet at the last minute and even after allowing the bill to be passed in Lok Sabha, it insisted on stalling the bill in Rajya Sabha. The Congress leaders have taken a highly ridiculous stand in raising the objection to imprisonment of the Husband pronouncing Triple Talaq under the bill saying that absence of 'breadwinner' of the family may bring the women and her children on the street with the family. If this logic is applied than it will be difficult to bring any offender to the book and may give an open licence to such husbands to mistreat his family and exploit women at his whims and fancies. It is the logical outcome of the Supreme Court verdict on Triple Talaq that a strict law is in place to punish the offenders and create a deterrent in the society in the interest of the women. But Congress and its allies failed in their duty to support the bill and empower the Muslim women by backing the legislation.

The nation is passing through a huge transformation and the change is visible when unlike in the days of Shah Bano judgement the Supreme Court verdict on

Triple Talaq has been largely welcomed by the Muslim society itself. The politics of appeasing the patriarchal section of the society in the name of religion has given way to gender justice in the light of proper readings of the scriptures. Today due to the reformative steps taken by the NDA government women are able to go for Haz pilgrimage without 'Mahram'. It is a huge shift and a welcome change. In our country there is a need to take bold initiatives on the issue of social change across community and religious lines and create a more just and equitable society as envisaged by the founding fathers of our constitution. The Congress and its allies should rise above its vested political interest and help pass the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill 2017 at the earliest. ■

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## OATH TAKING CEREMONY

# Vijay Rupani sworn in as CM of Gujarat for the second consecutive term

**A** new BJP government for the sixth time in a row, led by Shri Vijay Rupani was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat at a grand ceremony in Gandhinagar on 26 December, 2017. Shri Vijay Rupani was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the second consecutive term after the BJP won the recently-held Assembly elections in Gujarat.

Shri Rupani, 61, and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Nitin Patel were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Shri O P Kohli at the grand ceremony. Apart from the CM and Deputy CM, a total of 19 Ministers; nine of them in the Cabinet rank and 10 Ministers of State (MoS) were also sworn in.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, BJP senior leader Shri LK Advani, union ministers Shri Nitin Gadkari and Shri Rajnath Singh, Chief Ministers of various BJP & NDA ruled states; and other senior party leaders attended the ceremony.

Among the other leaders, Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Maharashtra CM Shri

Devendra Fadnavis, Bihar CM Shri Nitish Kumar and Uttar Pradesh CM Shri Yogi Adityanath graced the occasion. Along with the new Gujarat CM, former



**@rajnathsingh**

Attended the oath-taking ceremony of Shri Vijay Rupani as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. I am confident that Gujarat will continue its forward march on road to development and prosperity under the able leadership of Shri Rupani.

**@arunjaitley**

Congratulations to Shri Vijay Rupani ji & Shri Nitinbhai Patel ji on being sworn in as CM and Deputy CM of Gujarat respectively. The State and the people of Gujarat will witness new heights in development under leadership of Shri @vijayrupanibjp & @Nitinbhai\_Patel



## SHRI VIJAY RUPANI : A PROFILE

Shri Vijay Ramniklal Rupani, born on 02 August, 1956 is a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Chief Minister of Gujarat. He is a member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly representing Rajkot West.

Born in 1956 in Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon, Myanmar) to Smt. Mayaben and Shri Ramniklal Rupani is the seventh and youngest son of the couple. His family moved to Rajkot in 1960 due to political instability in Burma. He studied Bachelor of Arts from Dharmendrasinhji Arts College and LLB from Saurashtra University.

Shri Vijay Rupani started his career as student activist associated with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP). He joined Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and subsequently joined Jan Sangh in 1971 has been associated with Bharatiya Janta Party since its establishment. He was imprisoned for 11 months at the jails in Bhuj and Bhavnagar during the Emergency in 1976. He was a Pracharak of RSS from 1978 to 1981. He was elected as a corporator of Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) in 1987 and became the chairman of drainage committee. He served as the mayor of Rajkot from 1996 to 1997. He became BJP's Gujarat unit general secretary in 1998. He was appointed as a chairman of Gujarat Tourism in 2006. He was a member of Rajya Sabha from 2006 to 2012. He served as BJP's Gujarat unit



general secretary four times and chairman of the Gujarat Municipal Finance Board in 2013 during the Chief Ministership of Shri Narendra Modi.

On 19 February 2016, Shri Rupani became the state BJP President. He was inducted as minister in the first cabinet expansion by Chief Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel in November 2014 and held the ministry of transport, water supply, labor and employment. He was the BJP state president from February 2016 to August 2016.

As Chief Minister he succeeded Smt. Anandiben Patel and sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat on 07 August 2016. He was unanimously elected as the leader of legislature party on 22 December 2017 and is continued as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.



Chief Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel, Shri Keshubhai Patel and Shri Shankersinh Vaghela shared the stage together. Before the swearing-in ceremony, Shri Vijay Rupani, and Shri Nitin Patel greeted the Chief Ministers of BJP and NDA ruled states who came to attend the

ceremony.

Shri Rupani and his wife also offered prayers at the Panchdev Mahadev temple in Gandhinagar before the swearing-in ceremony.

Some old faces including Sarvshri Vasan Ahir from Anjar constituency in Kutch, Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, Pradipsinh Jadeja, Prasottam Solanki, Ganpat Vasava, Jayesh Radadiya some BJP old guards such as Saurabh Patel and R C Faldu have been included in the Cabinet.

Experimenting with the youth power, the CM also included some of the first time MLAs for MoS like Kishor Kanani from Varachha Road. This is also seen as a reward for Kanani, who has been successful in winning this crucial seat, which witnessed worst anti-government demonstrations during Patidar agitation.

Earlier, on 22 December, 2017 Shri Rupani and Shri Nitin Patel were elected as the leader and deputy leader of the BJP legislature party at its meeting.

Cabinet Ministers are Sarvshri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, R.C Faldu, Kaushik Patel, Saurabh Patel, Ganpat Vasava, Jayesh Radadiya and Ishwarbhai R. Parmar. MoS are Sarvshri Pradipsinh Jadeja, Parbatbhai Patel, Jaydrathsinh Parmar, Ramanlal Nanubhai Patkar, Parsottam Solanki, Ishwarsinh Patel, Vasanbhai Ahir, Kishor Kanani, Bachubhai Maganbhai Khabad and Smt. Vibhavari Dave. ■

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Shri Rupani and Shri Nitin Patel were elected as the leader and deputy leader of the BJP legislature party at its meeting on 22 December, 2017.
- Shri Vijay Rupani has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the second consecutive term.
- BJP recently won the Assembly elections in Gujarat for the sixth time in a row.
- Along with Shri Rupani and Shri Nitin Patel, a total of 19 Ministers nine of them in the Cabinet rank and 10 Ministers of State (MoS) were sworn in.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah attended the ceremony.
- Along with the new Gujarat CM, former Chief Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel, Shri Keshubhai Patel and Shri Shankersinh Vaghela shared the stage together.





## OATH TAKING CEREMONY

# Jai Ram Thakur takes oath as the new CM of Himachal Pradesh

**A** Bharatiya Janata Party leader, five-time BJP MLA and former Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur took oath as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh on 27 December, 2017. The swearing-in ceremony of BJP MLA from Seraj constituency took place at the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah.

Among others, former Deputy Prime Minister Shri LK Advani, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union minister Shri J P Nadda, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis; and Haryana CM Shri Manohar Lal Khattar—attended the event. Several Union Ministers and other senior leaders also attended the ceremony.

Shri Thakur along with his 11 ministers took the oath of secrecy from Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat. It was for the first time that a prime minister attended an oath-taking ceremony in the hill state.



**@narendramodi**

Congratulations to Shri Jairam Thakur and all those who took oath today. I am confident this team will work tirelessly and serve the people of Himachal Pradesh with exceptional diligence.

**@AmitShah**

Congratulations to the newly sworn in Chief Minister of Himachal Shri @jairamthakurbjp ji and his cabinet. I am sure BJP government in the state under the guidance of PM Shri @narendramodi ji will leave no stone unturned to restore the pride of Devbhoomi Himachal.

**@arunjaitley**

Congratulations to Shri #JaiRamThakur ji on being sworn in the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. My best wishes to him and his council of ministers for a fruitful tenure.

## SHRI JAI RAM THAKUR : A PROFILE

Shri Jai Ram Thakur, born on 06 January, 1965 is a senior BJP leader and the 14th Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh. He was elected BJP legislative party leader on 24 December 2017. He has been an MLA in Himachal Pradesh Assembly since 1998 and previously served as Cabinet Minister in BJP Government of Himachal Pradesh. He was Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj from 2009-2012. This time he is elected to Himachal Pradesh Assembly from Seraj in Mandi.

Born to a poor Rajput farming family in Tandri village of Mandi's Thunag area was fourth among five siblings; two sisters and three brothers. Shri Thakur done his schooling from Government Senior Secondary school Bagsiad and later completed his B.A. from Vallabh Govt. College in Mandi. He did M.A. from Panjab University in Chandigarh.

He was introduced to the ABVP during his graduation at Vallabh Govt. College Mandi, and won first election under ABVP. He remained Joint Secretary, State ABVP, 1986; Organizing Secretary, ABVP (J&K), 1989-93; State Secretary, Bhartiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha; 1993-95; President: State Bhartiya Janata Party Yuva Morcha, and President State Bhartiya Janata Party 2006-09.

Elected to State Legislative Assembly in 1998; and re-elected in 2003 and 2007 from Chachiot Assembly Constituency which after the delimitation has been renamed. Remained Chairman, General Development Committee & Education Committee; and Vice-Chairman, State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. Also remained Chairman, Rural Planning Committee and Member of various other House Committees before being inducted into Council of Minister as Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister on 09-07-2012.

He was elected to the State Legislative Assembly for a consecutive fourth term in December, 2012.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The swearing-in ceremony of the 5-time BJP MLA Shri Jai Ram Thakur took place at the historic Ridge Maidan in Shimla.
- PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri J P Nadda graced the occasion.
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis; and Haryana CM Shri Manohar Lal Khattar attended.
- 11 ministers also took oath along with the 52-year-old Shri Thakur.
- BJP has ousted the Congress from power in Himachal by winning 44 out of the 68 seats in the recently held Assembly polls.



52-year-old Shri Thakur, known as a gentle leader who has always shunned the limelight, become the Chief Ministerial candidate in the assembly elections, which was swept by the party. Noteworthy, the BJP got maximum seats this time, had won 20 seats in Kangra and Mandi districts and also won 13 out of 17 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and two out of three Scheduled Tribe seats.

Shri Thakur had earlier served as minister from 2009 to 2012. He was state BJP chief from 2006 to 2009. Shri Jai Ram is the first Chief Minister from



the second largest Mandi district and the 14th chief minister and sixth person to adorn the office of the chief minister in Himachal Pradesh.

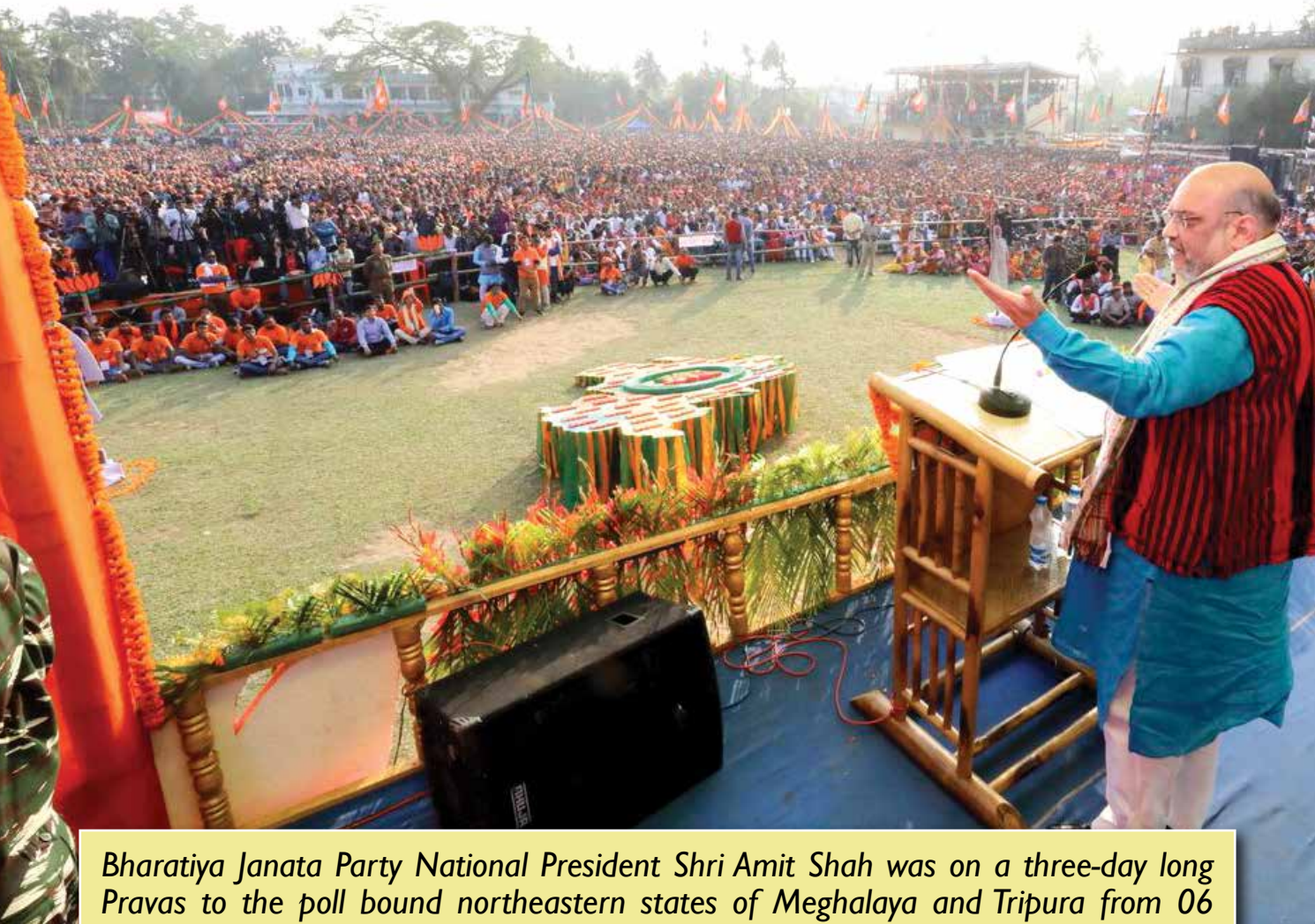
**Shri Thakur had earlier served as minister from 2009 to 2012. He was state BJP chief from 2006 to 2009. Shri Jai Ram is the first Chief Minister from the second largest Mandi district and the 14th chief minister and sixth person to adorn the office of the chief minister in Himachal Pradesh.**

Five of eleven Ministers sworn into the Cabinet are former ministers: seven-time MLA from Dharampur Mahender Singh; Dharamshala MLA Kishan Kapoor; and four-time MLA from Kangra's Shahpur Smt. Sarveen Chaudhary were part of the BJP government under Shri Dhumal. Anil Sharma, formerly a minister in the Congress government and Ram Lal Markanday, a minister in the BJP-Himachal Vikas Congress combine regime in 1998 were also sworn in.

First-time ministers in Shri Thakur's Cabinet are Vipin Parmar, an MLA from Kangra's Sulah; Virender Kanwar from Una's Kotlehar; Vikram Singh from Jaswan Pragpur; Govind Thakur, an MLA from Manali; and Rajiv Sejal, a lawmaker from Kasauli, and Shimla MLA Suresh Bhardwaj.

Two ministers, Suresh Bhardwaj and Govind Thakur took oath in Sanskrit, while the others chose Hindi.

The BJP has ousted the Congress from power in Himachal by winning 44 out of the 68 seats in the recently held Assembly polls. ■



*Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah was on a three-day long Pravas to the poll bound northeastern states of Meghalaya and Tripura from 06 January, 2018; where the Assembly polls are due next month as the term of the current House will come to an end on 06 March this year.*

*Shri Shah arrived in Assam on 06 January enroute to Meghalaya and visited the ancient Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, situated on the Nilachal Hill. He addressed a public rally on the same day at Tikrikilla in Garo Hills region in Meghalaya and spent the night in Shillong. On the next day he visited Tripura and addressed two public meetings, one each at Ambassa and Udaipur. The BJP is making all arrangements to put up a big fight in Meghalaya, where a corrupt Congress government is ruling and put up a strong fight in Tripura to oust the Left Front government, that has been in office in the state since April 1993.*

*Noteworthy, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also visited north-east Meghalaya just after the victory of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in December 2017 and addressed a public rally in Shillong to kick start the poll campaign.*

# ‘Overthrow the most corrupt Congress government from Meghalaya’

**B**JP President Shri Amit Shah blew the poll bugle in election-bound Meghalaya by calling the Congress-led government of Mukul D Sangma as the most corrupt. He also appealed to the people to overthrow it in the ensuing assembly election likely to be held in March.

“Har morche par Sangma government fail kar rahi hai. The most corrupt government in the past five years is this Sangma government. The Centre had given Rs 5,817 crore to Meghalaya during Congress rule. Later our BJP government increased it to Rs 25,413 crore. The Congress government should let the people of Meghalaya know where this money has gone.” Shri Shah asked at a public meeting held at Tikrikilla in West Garo Hills district about 290 km from Shillong on 06 January, 2018.

Shri Amit Shah also said that the fifteen years of Congress misrule in Meghalaya has put it behind all other states of the country in terms of development. “Meghalaya needs a corruption-free government which can work in cooperation with the Modi government to develop the state,” the BJP President said, giving clear indications that BJP would fight together with other parties to oust the Congress in the hill state.

He also accused the Congress of following a divide-and-rule policy and said that in contrast the BJP policy was ‘sab-ka saath sab-ka vikaas.’ “The enthusiasm among the people has assured me that the people of Meghalaya will uproot the corrupt Congress government,” the BJP President said.

Assam Minister and North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convener Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, who accompanied with BJP National President to Meghalaya, asked the Congress government of its failure on the development front and asked why there were no doctors in government hospitals. “Chief Minister Mukul Sangma himself is a doctor. But there are no doctors in health centres in the state. This is tragic” Shri Sarma said. “The BJP will set up a medical college in Meghalaya within six



months if voted to power,” he announced.

Apart from the NEDA convener Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Minister Shri KJ Alphons and BJP Meghalaya state In-Charge Shri Nalin Kohli also accompanied Shri Amit Shah.

Shri Shah later inaugurated a new state party office in Shillong and announced that the BJP offices would be soon opened in every district. “We will soon open a party office in every district of Meghalaya. We will definitely make the next government in Meghalaya,” he said, asking party workers to immediately launch a door-to-door campaign to oust the Congress regime.

## BJP RALLY IN UDAIPUR (TRIPURA)

### ‘Scamsters will end up in Agartala central jail after formation of BJP Govt. in Tripura’

The BJP National President Shri Amit Shah visited the poll-bound state of Tripura on 07 January, to review the preparedness of the party for the upcoming assembly elections in the state.

During his visit to Tripura Shri Amit Shah addressed several public meetings. Seeing the big attendance in all the meetings and the enthusiasm of the people he said, “Now I am confident that BJP will come to power in the state.” He however appealed to party activists and supporters to work hard and

spread message on need to change government in Tripura to ensure a massive victory for the party.

At Udaipur rally in the southern Tripura Shri Shah was accompanied by party's northeast In-Charge and National General Secretary Shri Ram Madhav, Election in-charge and Assam Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma and senior State leaders.

Speaking to the huge gathering at Udaipur on 07 January, 2018 the BJP National President launched a scathing attack on CPI(M) and Left front government in Tripura over alleged menace of corruption and lawlessness in the State. He resolved to act tough against Left leaders allegedly involved in chit fund scams and corrupt practices after installation of BJP government in Assembly elections. Shri Shah said the scamsters will end up in Agartala central jail.

He asserted that BJP's call for 'Paribartan' is not directed at replacing with a new set of ministers, but

## **BJP RALLY IN KULAI (TRIPURA)**

### **'Change of regime in Left-ruled Tripura Inevitable'**

Addressing a public rally in Kulai in the poll-bound state of Tripura, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said he had seen lack of development and instances of corruption in the states ruled by the Congress or Communists and claimed that the BJP-ruled states were ahead of those states in terms of development and being corruption-free.

Speaking to the people at the rally on January 07, 2018 he said a regime change in Left-ruled Tripura had become inevitable as the incumbent government had failed on many fronts, including combating the crimes against women and unemployment.

"The BJP does not want a change for the sake of it, it wants a change to bring about a qualitative change in governance so that the condition of the lives of people improves," he said.

He said, "I can realize that the change has become inevitable in this state. The rate of crimes against women is very high; the rule of law does not exist. Crime has become synonymous with the CPI(M) rule," he said.

Shri Shah said that in a small state like Tripura, which has a population of a little over 36 lakh, seven lakh youths were unemployed. Those in the CPI(M) say, (Tripura) Chief Minister is a good man. We know that the

unemployment problem is acute here, but they say Manik babu is a good man. What I want to know is, if he is good, why is the condition of the people of the state not so good," he asked.

He said that in the last 25 years of Communist rule in the state, no proper roads were constructed and no facility for good healthcare, electricity and drinking water were made available in the villages.

The BJP President added that unless the Left Front government was changed in the north-eastern state, it would be reduced to a backward state in terms of protection of women, unemployment and economic development of the poor and the working class. ■



essentially to change lives of people of the state. "8 lakhs youths of 37 lakh people in the state are unemployed, this is shame, disgusting", he charged CPI(M)-led left front government.

Understanding the plight of the state government employees, he assured them of central pay package after formation of BJP government in Tripura. "This pay scale at per central government, would be implemented in the first cabinet meeting of our government", he assured.

BJP National President later spoke on 'Challenges in nation building' at a discussion in Agartala and also flagged off campaign vehicles of BJP at State office.

# Lok Sabha passes Triple Talaq Bill



**T**he Lok Sabha on 28 December 2017 passed a bill that criminalizes instant divorce with three years of imprisonment for Muslim husbands after the government rejected a demand from the Opposition to refer the legislation to a Parliamentary standing committee for detailed consideration.

The Muslim Women (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON MARRIAGE) Bill, 2017 was passed by a voice vote after rejecting a resolution moved by Revolutionary Socialist Party member that the legislation be circulated for public opinion.

Various amendments moved by opposition members were negative in divisions. The government's determination to get the Bill passed could be gauged from the fact that it was introduced in the morning and taken up for consideration in the afternoon by suspending relevant rules and then passed in the evening by sitting late beyond the scheduled close of the House.

Law and Justice Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, who introduced the bill and later piloted it in the Lok Sabha, said history was being created today. He said the issue was not of religion or faith but of "gender justice and gender equality" and appealed

to all the parties to rise above political considerations and politics of votebank. "Women are seeing that justice will be done to them. Let us speak in one voice that we are for gender justice and gender equity and pass the Bill unanimously," Shri Prasad said.

He said instances of instant Triple Talaq continue despite the Supreme Court ruling it as unconstitutional in August this year. The bill seeks to declare pronouncement of talaq-e-biddat (three pronouncements of talaq at one go) by Muslim husbands void and illegal in view of the Supreme Court verdict.

Shri Prasad said while Justice Rohinton Nariman and U.U. Lalit held in their judgment in August that instant divorce was unconstitutional and the government should look at bringing a law, Justice Kurian Joseph had observed that what is a sin in Islamic laws cannot be legal.

The Bill makes the act of pronouncing Talaq-E-Biddat punishable offence. There is provision for subsistence allowance from the husband for the livelihood and daily supporting needs of the wife as also of the dependent children. The wife would also be entitled to the custody of minor children. ■

## 100 million Soil Health Card distributed to farmers in the first phase

**O**n the occasion of World Soil Day, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh revealed that the objective of SHC is to provide information about the Soil Health to 120 million farm holdings in the country. The Agriculture Minister stated it while addressing farmers on the occasion of World Soil Day in Jhajjar, Haryana today. It is worth mentioning that every year World Soil Day is celebrated on 5th December. In India, Soil Health Card scheme was launched in February 2015 in Rajasthan. The Minister said that Soil Health Card mobile App has been launched today to help the farmers. The app will benefit field-level workers as it will automatically capture GIS coordinates while registering sample details at the time of sample collection in the field and indicate the location from where the sample has been collected.



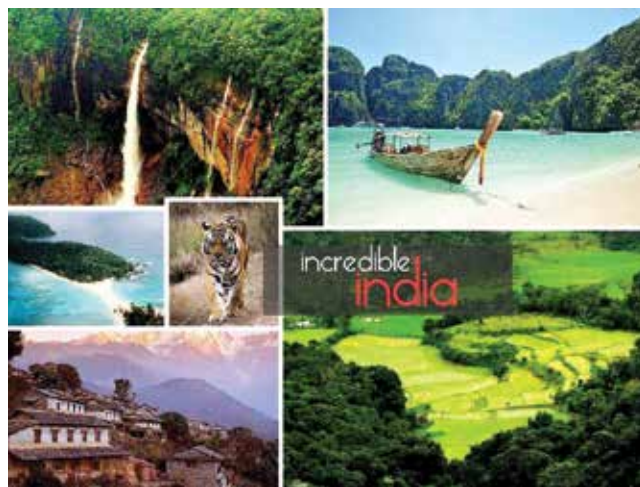
This app works like other Geotagging apps developed for the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. The app contains farmers' details including name, Aadhaar card number, mobile number, gender, address, crop details, etc.

Shri Singh said that SHC informs farmers about nutrients status of the soils along with the recommendation on appropriate dosage of nutrients to improve soil health and fertility. A farm will get the soil card once in every 2 years so that nutrients deficiency can be regularly detected and improved. He said that the imbalanced use of fertilizers damages the fields and reduces production. The Minister informed that in the first phase (2015-17) 100 million SHCs have been distributed so far. The aim of the Ministry is to provide SHC to all 120 million farm holdings by December, 2017. The second phase began on May 1, 2017, and will continue for the year 2017 to 2019. ■

## India's rank in Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index 2017 shows a 25 places jump from 2013

**I**ndia's rank in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017 has also shown a 25 places jump from 2013. Rank of India in TTCI Report of 2017 was 40th as compared to 52nd in 2015 and 65th in 2013. Under 'Make In India' tourism ministry of government of india took several measures like augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing of visa regime, assurance of quality standards in services of tourism service providers, etc to strengthen this sector. As a result india rank got improved drastically.

Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and an important source of foreign exchange earnings in many countries including India. It has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind – from the most specialized to the unskilled and hence can play a major role in creation of additional employment



opportunities. It can also play an important role in achieving growth with equity. ■



## India's Forex reserve records all time high

**I**ndia's foreign exchange reserves soared by a massive \$ 4.445 billion to a new all-time high of \$ 409.366 billion during the week ended December 29, 2017, according to release of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The country's forex reserves had risen by \$ 3.536 billion to \$ 404.922 billion during the previous week.

The foreign exchange reserves had crossed \$ 400 billion for the first time in September this year and had touched the previous high of \$ 402.509 billion, on the back of a rise of \$ 1.782 billion, during the week ended September 15. Since then, however, they were fluctuating for some time, but have increased by \$ 7.98 billion in the last two weeks. ■



## Cabinet approves capital investment subsidy to industrial units located in North Eastern Region

**T**he Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 15 approved Capital Investment Subsidy amounting to Rs.264.67 crore to four industrial units located in North Eastern Region (NER) including Sikkim under Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme (CCISS), 2007 of North East Industrial Investment and Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007. The CCEA has also revised financial powers for approval of capital investment subsidy

claims upto Rs.500 crore which will be now approved by the Minister of Commerce & Industry. This will facilitate expeditious settlement of claims.

The grant of subsidy to the industrial units will not only provide incentives to the operational units but also boost confidence of existing investors as well as potential investors in the states of NER.

The Government of India has been implementing this Scheme to promote industrialization in North Eastern Region. ■

## Centre puts 25,000 cr. Bharat Mala project on fast track

**U**nder Bharat Mala project, the ministry will construct nearly 2,000 km of roads that will connect India's major highways with international trade points. The ministry will spend Rs 25,000 crore to develop road connectivity with several south Asian countries. Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari said India has proposed USD 1 billion line of credit to promote sea, air and road connectivity projects with ASEAN. Apart from this, India has set up a project development fund of USD 77 million to

develop manufacturing hubs in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. "The ASEAN India maritime transport cooperation agreement is being negotiated. An Asian India civil aviation task force has been established to see optimisation of air connectivity," he said. Gadkari said ASEAN and India have also agreed to establish a maritime transport working group among India, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam to examine the feasibility of shipping networks. ■

# SUPREMACY OF CULTURE

## LIFE AN INTEGRATED WHOLE

**T**HE first characteristic of Bharatiya culture is that it looks upon life as an integrated whole. It has an integrated view-point. To think of parts may be proper for a specialist but it is not useful from the practical standpoint. The confusion in the West arises primarily from its tendency to think of life in sections and then to attempt to put them together by patch-work.

## ONLY ONE CULTURE

THERE can be only one The slogan of many cultures can break this country into pieces and destroy it. Hence the two-culture theory of the Muslim League, the covert two-culture theory of the Congress and the multi-culture theory of the Communists are wrong. Till now only the multi-culture theory has culture in India.been denounced as communalism, but now even scholars in the Congress are realising their mistake and accepting the one-culture theory. It is this sentiment of one culture that can preserve the unity and integrity of India and solve all our problems.

## CULTURAL BASIS INDEPENDENCE

FROM the national standpoint we shall have to consider our culture because that is our very

**ALONG with economic independence social and cultural independence is also necessary. If those social systems that a nation creates for the manifestation of its soul become in course of time a hindrance to national progress, giving them up becomes necessary in the interest of the nation. It is not necessary that certain means which are useful in one phase of the journey may continue to be useful in the next phase.**



nature. Independence is intimately related to one's own culture. If culture does not form the basis of independence then the political movement for independence would degenerate into a scramble by selfish and power-seeking persons. Independence can be meaningful only if it becomes an instrument for the expression of our culture. Such expression will not only contribute to our progress but the effort required will also give us the experience of joy.

## CULTURAL FREEDOM

ALONG with economic independence social and cultural independence is also necessary. If those social systems that a nation creates for the manifestation of its soul become in course of time a hindrance to national progress, giving them up becomes necessary in the interest of the nation. It is not necessary that certain means which are useful in one phase of the journey may continue to be useful in the next phase. The means should be in accordance with the phase and the temptation to stick to old means can lead to the loss of independence. For independence is a synthesis of those elements which help self-realisation at a particular point in time.



## **NATIONHOOD THROUGH CULTURE**

IF one has to understand the soul of Bharat one must not look at this country from the political or economic angle but from the cultural point of view.

'Bharatiyata' (nationhood of Bharat) can manifest itself not through politics but through culture. If we have anything that we can teach the world, it is the feeling of cultural tolerance and a life dedicated to duty.

## **OUR THREE-FOLD AIM**

INDIA has achieved freedom from the British after great efforts. Under no circumstances would we like to lose this independence. The first objective of our plan is to give us the strength to protect our political independence. Secondly we have chosen a democratic form of government. If any programme of economic development proves an obstruction to our democratic system it would not be acceptable to us. Thirdly we have some cultural values of life which are the source result as well as measure of our national life and are also extremely valuable for the entire world. To acquaint the world with this culture should be our supreme national goal. Material prosperity acquired at the cost of this culture would be no prosperity at all.

## **Our Nationhood**

### **WHAT IS A NATION ?**

WHEN a group of persons lives with a goal, an ideal, a mission, and looks upon a particular piece of land as motherland, it constitutes a nation. If either of the two-and ideal and a motherland-is not there, then there is no nation.

### **ESSENTIALS OF NATION**

A 'NATION' requires four things. The first is land or people, whom we call a country. The second is a collective will for a corporate life. The third is a system which we can call a constitution but which can far more appropriately be called 'Dharma'. And the fourth is an ideal of life. The synthesis of all these four is called a Nation. As an individual is made up of body, mind intelligence and soul, a nation is made up of country, will, Dharma and ideal.

## **NATION IS PERMANENT**

THE Nation is a permanent truth. The State is created to fulfill the needs of the nation. Two reasons have been given for the origin of the State. It is said that the State becomes necessary in two circumstances. The first is when some distortion enters the people of the nation. The State is established to control the problems that arise in such a situation. For example, one does not see the police when there is no quarrel. But if there is a fight the police are immediately called. The second need is when some complexity appears in society and it becomes necessary to bring order in corporate life.

**INDIA has achieved freedom from the British after great efforts. Under no circumstances would we like to lose this independence. The first objective of our plan is to give us the strength to protect our political independence. Secondly we have chosen a democratic form of government.**

The State is created so that the powerful, prosperous and resourceful class of society should not exploit the weak, the helpless and the poor, and everyone should remain within the bounds of justice. It is only these two reasons that give rise to the State. To regulate the distortion that may have entered into society, to establish peace by punishes; wrong-doers and to solve the complexity within a society so that life of every individual becomes just, honourable and easy-these have been considered the functions of the State.

A third function is an important aspect of the fulfilment of these two functions. It is to establish relations with other states. Hence security from external aggression is also a function of the State. ■

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

# Vijaya Raje Scindia



**S**mt. Vijaya Raje Scindia was born in 1919 at Sagar in present-day Madhya Pradesh, the eldest child of Thakur Mahendra Singh, a government officer, by his second wife, Chuda Devashwari Devi. She was named Lekha Divyeshwari Devi at birth. Her father was a deputy collector in the provincial administration. Her mother, who belonged to the influential Rana family of Nepal, died at Vijaya Raje's birth. Her brother's name is Dhyanendra Singh, who is married to Maya Singh. In 1941, at the age of 22, Lekha was married to Jivajirao Scindia, Maharaja of Gwalior, one of the largest, richest and highest-ranking 21-gun-salute princely states in India. As per tradition, a new name was chosen for Lekha based upon the matching of the couple's horoscopes, and she assumed the name 'Vijayaraje Scindia'. She had active association with the Jana Sangh and later on the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Vijayaraje entered into electoral politics in 1957 when she contested and won the Guna Lok Sabha seat in Madhya Pradesh on a Congress ticket. Five years later, she won on a Congress ticket from Gwalior. Later, she quit the Congress and won the Guna seat in 1967 on Swatantra Party's ticket. She soon joined Bharatiya Jan Sangh and resigned from

Lok Sabha to take part in state politics. She won the Karera assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh as the Jan Sangh candidate in 1967 and plunged headlong into state politics. Jan Sangh defied the Indira-wave in the 1971 Lok Sabha polls to win 3 seats in Gwalior region - Vijaya Raje Scindia from Bhind, Vajpayee from Gwalior and Madhavrao Scindia from Guna, though he later left the party. Vijayaraje Scindia did not contest Lok Sabha elections in 1977 and 1984 and lost to Indira Gandhi in Rae Bareilly in 1980. In 1989, she won from Guna as member of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and retained the seat in 1991, 1996 and 1998. She did not contest the elections in 1999 due to old age. She was jailed by Indira Gandhi during the Emergency, ultimately sharing a cell with fellow Rajmata and MP, Gayatri Devi, in Tihar Jail.

Vijayaraje came to the forefront of the BJP leadership in 1980 when she was made one of its vice-presidents. She played a key role in propagating the Ramjanmabhoomi movement and was considered a hardcore nationalist. She remained a BJP vice-president until 1998 when she stepped down on health grounds and quit electoral politics. She died in January 2001. Newspapers wrote on her demise that the BJP lost a powerful matriarchal figure. ■

# Law & Order collapsed in Karnataka under Congress government : Amit Shah

**I**n the run up to 2018 assembly elections in the state, Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah visited for a stock-taking meeting in Karnataka and met with Karnataka unit of the BJP mainly elected representatives, senior leaders of the party from the state, district presidents and other office bearers of the party on 31 December, 2017 in Bengaluru.

BJP National President outlined a detailed strategy to win Karnataka in the upcoming assembly elections and also reviewed work assigned to MLAs and MLCs on his pet project; the 'Booth-Level Management' allotted to them in an earlier visit.

After the meeting Union Minister Shri Ananth Kumar informed the media that Shri Amit Shah instructed the Karnataka unit of the party to highlight the shortcomings and misrule of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, strengthen grassroots of the organization of BJP prior to the elections.

"The single point agenda of today's special meet was to discuss ways to uproot Congress misrule and in the next two months, make preparations for grassroots level campaign to bring BJP back to power in the southern state," Shri Kumar said.

Shri Shah had also given the political pointers on which the entire campaign would be run. "The Siddaramaiah government is responsible for Karnataka's bad state today. We will specifically talk about Siddaramaiah and the Congress's bad administration, the rampant corruption in the state, how law and order has collapsed. Siddaramaiah's government is anti-Hindu and all his policies are against the majority community Hindus. This has impacted communal harmony," he outlined.

During the last five years of Congress rule none of the Congress legislators have fulfilled their promises. Therefore, the party workers have been instructed to frame 'chargesheet' against Congress legislators to highlight the failed promises of the incumbent government.

The BJP President also instructed to carry out at least one convention for backward classes, dalits, women in all 224 constituencies of the state over

the next 60 days. The party will also go deeper in strengthening grassroots with 'Panna Pramukh' (one worker for around 20 voters).

Shri Shah has also directed that the BJP Yuva Morcha take up a "Jana Jaagruthi Abhiyana"; a programme to highlight the shortcomings of the Congress government in the state, beside political conventions targeting women, Dalits and other backward castes. "We will set up additional booth committees comprising OBC, women and dalit members for each booth. We will also set up Nava Shakti Kendras that will hold conventions in each assembly segment", he said.

During his address Shri Shah said, after BJP's electoral victories in several state elections including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh among others, now the Karyakartas have to focus on



Karnataka, as the state heads into elections in 2018.

Shri Shah continued to attack Siddaramaiah over fledgling law and order situation in the state, forcing an agrarian crisis and running a corrupt government in the country and said the party will use these issues among other issues as part of its campaign. Shri Amit Shah also said Karnataka is significant for the BJP and for its efforts of a 'Congress Mukta Bharat'.

Noteworthy, in the last visit to Karnataka, the BJP President strongly instructed the state unit to corner the state government over corruption charges, Income Tax department raids on ministers, fledgling law and order situation in the state among other issues. Post his visit, the former CM Shri Yeddyurappa has undertaken a 75 day Parivarthana Yatra across the state to highlight the shortcomings of the Siddaramaiah government. ■

# Why Electoral Bonds are Necessary

ARUN JAITLEY

India is the largest democracy in the world. However, despite strengthening various institutions for the last seven decades, India has not been able to evolve a transparent political funding system. Elections and political parties are a fundamental feature of Parliamentary democracy. Elections cost money. The round the year functioning of the political parties involves a large expenditure. Parties run offices throughout the country. Staff salaries, travelling expenses, establishment cost are regular expenditures of political parties. There has not been a single year where election either for the Parliament or State Assemblies have not been held. Besides expenditure of individual candidates, political parties have to spend money on election campaigns, publicity, tours, travels and election related establishments. These expenditures run into hundreds of crores. Yet there has not been a transparent funding mechanism of the political system.

**The present system ensures unclean money coming from unidentifiable sources. It is a wholly non-transparent system. Most political groups seem fairly satisfied with the present arrangement and would not mind this status-quo to continue. The effort, therefore, is to run down any alternative system which is devised to cleanse up the political funding mechanism.**



The conventional system of political funding is to rely on donations. These donations, big or small, come from a range of sources from political workers, sympathisers, small business people and even large industrialists. The conventional practice of funding the political system was to take donations in cash and undertake these expenditures in cash. The sources are anonymous or pseudonymous. The quantum of money was never disclosed. The present system ensures unclean money coming from unidentifiable sources. It is a wholly non-transparent system. Most political groups seem fairly satisfied with the present arrangement and would not mind this status-quo to continue. The effort, therefore, is to run down any alternative system which is devised to cleanse up the political funding mechanism.

A major step was taken during the first NDA Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Income Tax Act was amended to include a provision that donations made to political parties would be treated as expenditure and would thus give a tax advantage to the donor. If the political party disclosed its donations in a prescribed manner, it would also not be liable to pay any tax. A political party was expected to file its returns both with the income-tax authorities and Election Commission. It was hoped that donors would increasingly start donating money by cheque. Some donors did start following this practise but



**In order to make a serious effort to carry forward this reform process, I had announced in my Budget Speech for the year 2017-18 that the existing system would be substantially widened and donations of clean money could be made to political parties in several ways. A donor could enjoy a tax deduction by donating in cheque.**

most of them were reluctant to disclose the details of the quantum of donation given to a political party. This was because they feared consequences visiting them from political opponents. The law was further amended during the UPA Government to provide for “pass through” electoral trust so that the donors would park their money with the electoral trusts which in turn would distribute the same to various political parties. Both these reforms taken together resulted in only a small fraction of the donations coming in form of cheques.

In order to make a serious effort to carry forward this reform process, I had announced in my Budget Speech for the year 2017-18 that the existing system would be substantially widened and donations of clean money could be made to political parties in several ways. A donor could enjoy a tax deduction by donating in cheque. Donors were also free to donate moneys online to political parties. A cash donation to a political party could not exceed an amount of Rs.2000/-. In addition, a scheme of electoral bonds was announced to enable clean money and substantial transparency being brought into the system of political funding.

I do believe that donations made online or through cheques remain an ideal method of donating to political parties. However, these have not become very popular in India since they involve disclosure of donor's identity. However, the electoral bond scheme, which I placed before the Parliament a few days ago, envisages total clean money and substantial transparency coming into the system of political funding. A donor can purchase electoral bonds from a specified bank only by a banking instrument. He would have to disclose in his accounts the amount of political bonds that he has purchased. The life of the bond would be only 15 days. A bond can only be encashed in a pre-declared account of a political party. Every political party in its returns will have to disclose the amount of donations it has received through electoral bonds to the Election Commission. The entire transactions would be through banking instruments. As against a total non-transparency in the present system of cash donations where the donor, the donee, the quantum of donations and the nature of expenditure are all undisclosed, some element of transparency would be introduced in as

much as all donors declare in their accounts the amount of bonds that they have purchased and all parties declare the quantum of bonds that they have received. How much each donor has distributed to a political party would be known only to the donor. This is necessary because once this disclosure is made, past experience has shown, donors would not find the scheme attractive and would go back to the less-desirable option of donating by cash. In fact the choice has now to be consciously made between the existing system of substantial cash donations which involves total unclean money and is non-transparent and the new scheme which gives the option to the donors to donate through entirely a transparent method of cheque, online transaction or through electoral bonds. While all three methods involve clean money, the first two are totally transparent and the electoral bonds scheme is a substantial improvement in transparency over the present system of no-transparency.

The Government is willing to consider all suggestions to further strengthen the cleansing of political funding in India. It has to be borne in mind that impractical suggestions will not improve the cash denominated system. They would only consolidate it. ■

**(The writer is Union Finance Minister of India)**

# Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal

| VASANT NARGOLKAR

*(Continue from Last Issue...)*

**D**eendayal, like Gandhi, was very simple in his habits and believed in the dignity of labour. He cared very little as to how he looked or how he dressed. Once, seeing that the nearby saloons were crowded, he got his hair cut by a roadside barber. Asked by jeering friends as to why his hair was so uneven, he simply replied: "I was shon of time and this poor barber on the roadside scented to be short of customers!"

In 1961, Deendayal was once to visit a college in U.P. for giving a talk to the students. Seeing that his clothes were soiled and tattered, his friends offered him a new Kurta and dhoti as well as a new pair of shoes. On his return from the talk he put on his old clothes again. His hosts asked him the reason why. He innocently put a counter-question: "Do you mean to say that you had donated to me the clothes and the shoes? I thought you had just loaned them to me!"

On one occasion Deendayal was to meet local workers in Agra at the Jan Sangh office. As it was a hot day, it was decided to hold the meeting in the evening on the terrace of the building. When Deendayal reached the terrace, he found that it was covered with accumulated dust. He thereupon, called for a broom and himself swept the floor before others arrived there with a carpet and a pallet for him!

## DEENDAYAL'S CONCERN FOR THE POOR

On another occasion, Deendayal was travelling first class in a train with a fellow passenger who happened to be a government officer. A shoeblack entered the compartment and requested the officer to allow him to polish his shoes. The officer enquired of the boy whether he had a piece of cloth to give a finishing touch to the shine. The boy said he had not. The officer then refused to get his shoes polished. The boy was probably hungry and seemed disappointed. Deendayal noticed his condition and hence took out an old towel from his cloth bag, tore off a small piece and gave it to the boy. The officer then agreed to get his shoes polished. The shoeblack felt happy. At the next station, looking at the large gathering which shouted slogans and welcomed

Deendayal, the officer realized that his fellow passenger, though dressed shoddily, was no other than the well known national leader of the Jan Sangh, Deendayal's concern for the poor and the suppressed showed itself thus even in small acts of kindness.

Thus simplicity, carelessness about personal appearance, readiness to undertake any work considered inferior or the so-called low castes, kindheartedness, active concern for the poor and love of their motherland as well as of the humanity at large, were a few among the many attributes which were common to Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Lohia and Pandit Deendayal.

## SELFLESS SERVICE, THEIR COMMON MISSION

These three were indeed great as men, but the missions that they undertook in their life-time, made them even greater. Utterly selfless service of the nation was in general the common life mission of Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal, though their ideologies differed considerably. The ideology of Sarvodaya evolved out of the words and deeds of Gandhi. Lohia was a Socialist who wholeheartedly accepted some principles and programmes of Gandhian Sarvodaya. Deendayal was originally an ardent advocate of the theory of "the Hindu nation," but later he himself propounded a new ideology and named it "Integral Humanism".

The number of causes that Gandhi espoused during about half a century of his public life is legion. In South Africa, he fought against the vicious colour bar. On arrival in India, achievement of Indian independence soon became the most principal objective of his life. Apart from these, he advocated the vow of Swadeshi, the revival of Khadi and Village Industries, prohibition, removal of untouchability, educational reform through Nai Taleem, communal harmony, the adoption of Hindustani as the national language and nature cure. Without making it into a movement for the "liberation" of women, he involved women in programmes of picketing liquor shops and satyagraha. Gandhi was an indefatigable worker himself and hence he could easily inspire or inject a sense of mission and urgency among his associates, followers and countrymen.



Purity of motive, strength of character, selfless devotion, humility, worldly wisdom and the power of the spirit constituted the fibre of his greatness and gave him an unparalleled sway over the educated as well as the half-educated and illiterate masses of people.

Lohia was also an indefatigable leader. His main mission in life was the propagation of the ideology of democratic socialism and if possible, capture of state power through the parliamentary programme supported whenever necessary by non-violent direct action against any and every, social, economic and political injustice. He was in fact one of the founders of the Congress Socialist Party which came into existence in 1934 within the Congress. Between 1936 and 1938, Lohia was the secretary of the Congress Foreign Department which worked under Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's chairmanship.

Lohia's vast knowledge of international affairs and his deep interest in the economic development of Western and Asian countries which he exhibited later, was based on the work that he did during these two years. In 1942, along with some other Socialist leaders he went underground and tried to organize an armed resistance movement throughout the country. Like Gandhi, independence of India was Lohia's main pre-occupation until 1947.

After the death of Gandhi, the Socialists severed their connection with the Congress. Lohia was thereafter not only always opposed to collaboration with the Congress, he equally disapproved of the policy of hobnobbing with the Communists. This was his 'Theory of equidistance', which he later named as 'the theory of equal irrelevance'!

Lohia wanted his party workers to engage themselves in mass agitations and mass struggles. He was a champion of the small kisans and landless labourers. He was afraid that Jayaprakashji's cordial relations with Shri Nehru might lead to a policy of abandonment of the path of struggle by his party. He used to criticize Vinobaji's Bhodan movement as of no consequence, for Vinobaji had rejected Gandhi's satyagraha as a non-violent weapon for securing justice to the oppressed and the poor.

## LOHIA'S FAITH IN NON-VIOLENCE

Lohia had over the years come to believe in the value of non-violence, so much so that he did not approve of a firing resorted to by the Kerala Government in 1954. The Chief Minister there happened to be a leader of the Kerala Praja Socialist Party. A crisis developed over the issue resulting in the expulsion of Lohia from the party. He soon formed a separate party and named it 'The Socialist Party'. All this shows how Lohia had moved nearer to Gandhi to far as satyagraha and non-violence were concerned.

Lohia's attitude to the Hindu-Muslim problem was also similar to Gandhi's. Though he, like Gandhi, was opposed to the creation of Pakistan, he believed in Hindu-Muslim unity. During 1946-47, at the behest of Gandhi, he had risked his life and visited his Muslim friends in the

riot-torn city of Calcutta. On another occasion, he saved a Muslim boy who had accompanied him, from the fury of a Hindu mob in Delhi.

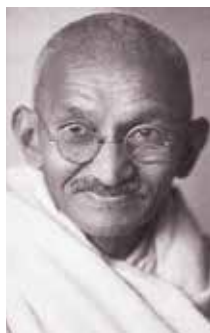
Lohia was incessantly engaged in fighting for justice and freedom. That was the permanent and real mission of his life. He had initiated or supported

struggles for civil liberties in Goa and Nepal.

In 1964, while he was on a visit to the U.S.A., he had participated in a Negro demonstration against the colour bar and courted arrest. He demanded preferential opportunity for backward sections of the Indian society instead of mere equal opportunity. He was a great champion of women and the principle of equality of sexes. Lohia emphasized the need for constructive work also. "The Prison, the Spade and the Ballot Box"— was his three item formula for those who wanted to work for a democratic, egalitarian social order. Lohia was a stormy petrel not only in the Lok Sabha where he fulminated on the floor of the House against the policies of Prime Minister Nehru, but also in the larger and more extensive field of national life for over thirty years. ■

*(To be continued)...*

*(Source: Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal, Edited by- P. Parameswaran, Pub. by Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi)*



# 13-month high growth in core sector indicates industrial revival

**M**odi Government assiduous effort brought the core sector growth 13-month high of 6.8% in November. Economists see the 13-month high of the growth as an overall industrial revival from November onwards. The core sector comprises electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilisers. It contributes almost 40% of economic growth. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stands at 123.9 in November, 2017, which was 6.8 per cent higher as compared to the index of November, 2016. Its cumulative growth during April to November, 2017-18 was 3.9 per cent. The Union government's visionary and its commitment to employment oriented growth has brought country's iron and steel exports more than double their import. Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent) increased by 16.6 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 7.2 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year. A year earlier, in March 2016, India's iron and steel imports were about three times their exports and local steelmakers were pleading with the government



for protection. Business newspaper mint writes in its analysis "While a lot of the credit for it is rightly given to the government's decision to protect the domestic industry by imposing a minimum import price (MIP), anti-dumping duty, etc. on steel imports, an important factor was also the fact that Chinese steel exports had started plunging. Data sourced from the International Trade Centre (ITC) reveals that starting January 2017, Chinese steel exports have been dropping by at least 25% year-on-year every month."

Coal production (weight: 10.33 per cent) declined by 0.2 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 1.5 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over corresponding period of the previous year.

Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 per cent) increased by 0.2 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 0.2 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.

The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 per cent) increased by 2.4 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 4.4 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 per cent) increased by 8.2 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased

**The Union government's visionary and its commitment to employment oriented growth has brought country's iron and steel exports more than double their import. Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent) increased by 16.6 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 7.2 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period.**

“Things appear to be looking up. The good performance in these two sectors is primarily due to demand in the auto and capital goods segments and pick up in the construction sector following higher spending by the government.”

—**Madan Sabnavis**,  
Chief Economist, CARE Ratings

“We expect growth of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to rebound to a healthy five-six per cent in November. The favourable base effect related to the temporary slowdown in activity after demonetisation is likely to boost volume growth in a variety of sectors in the remainder of FY18.”

—**Aditi Nayar**, Principal Economist at  
rating agency ICRA.

by 3.6 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Fertilizer production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 0.3 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index declined by 1.1 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Cement production (weight: 5.37 per cent) increased by 17.3 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 0.6 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Electricity generation (weight: 19.85 per cent) increased by 1.9 per cent in November, 2017 over November, 2016. Its cumulative index increased by 4.9 per cent during April to November, 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Business line commenting on core sector growth wrote that the impact of the roll out of the Goods and Services Tax and demonetisation may finally be wearing off, with the index of eight core industries expanding at its fastest pace so far this fiscal. ■

## BJP In-Charge for poll-bound Nagaland and Tripura appointed

**T**he BJP appointed Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju as in-charge of party affairs in Nagaland and Assam Health and Finance Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma of Tripura on December 23, 2017.

As per the a party statement the Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah appointed both to the party posts in view of the two assembly elections in this year.

Noteworthy, elections in Tripura and Nagaland were held in February 2013 and the tenure of current assemblies ends in March 2018.

Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma is also the convener of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), an alliance of regional parties.

Tripura is governed by the Left Front led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) since 1993,



while Nagaland is governed by the Democratic Alliance of Nagaland that includes the BJP. ■



**I firmly believe that dream of 'New India' will be realized through the skill & fortitude of youth: PM**

**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 31st, 2017 addressed the nation through his monthly radio program 'Mann Ki Baat'. On this occasion he said, 'People born in the year 2000 or later; those born in the 21st century will gradually begin to become eligible voters from the 1st of January, 2018. The Indian Democracy welcomes the voters of the 21st century, the 'New India Voters'. Excerpts...**

**T**he following are highlights of the address:

- Over the last few days, the festival of Christmas was celebrated across the world with gaiety and fervor. People in India too celebrated Christmas with warmth and cheer. The pious occasion of Christmas reminds us of the great teachings of Jesus Christ who laid much emphasis on the spirit of service, 'Sewa bhaav'.
- This year was also the 350th 'Prakash Parv' of Guru Gobind Singh ji. The illustrious life of Guru Gobind Singh ji, full of instances of courage & sacrifice is a source of inspiration to all of us. Guru Gobind Singh ji preached the virtues of sublime human values and at the same time, practiced them in his own life in letter & spirit. A guru, a poet, a philosopher, a great warrior, Guru Gobind Singh ji, in all these roles, performed the great task of inspiring people. He fought against oppression & injustice.
- The 1st of January, 2018, i.e. tomorrow, in my view, is a special day. You'll be surprised, since the New Year comes every year, the 1st of January arrives every year! But, when I refer to it as special, I really mean it as special. People born in the year

2000 or later; those born in the 21st century will gradually begin to become eligible voters from the 1st of January, 2018. The Indian Democracy welcomes the voters of the 21st century, the 'New India Voters'. I congratulate our youth & urge them to register themselves as voters. The entire nation is eager to welcome you as voters of the 21st century. As voters of this century, you too must be feeling proud. Your vote will prove to be the bedrock of New India. The power of the vote is the greatest strength of a democracy.

- I consider them 'New India Youth', 'New India Youth' stands for aspirations, enthusiasm & energy. I firmly believe that the dream of our 'New India' will be realized through the skill & fortitude of these energetic youth.
- When we talk of new India then that new India will be free from the poison of casteism, communalism, terrorism and corruption; free from filth and poverty. In the New India everyone will have equal opportunity and aspirations and wishes of everyone will be fulfilled. New India will be a place where peace, unity and amity will be our guiding force. My New India Youth should



come forward and deliberate on how this New India would be formed. One should decide one's own path and also decide a way for connecting along those attached to one and the Caravan should get going. You should move forward and thus should the country move ahead. Right now, while taking to you I got an idea whether we could organize a mock parliament in every district of India? Where the youth between 18 and 25 could sit together and brain storm about new India, find ways and chalk our plans. How could we realize our resolves before 2022? How could we build an India of the dreams of our freedom fighters? Mahatma Gandhi had transformed the freedom movement into a mass movement. My young friends, the need of the hour is that we build up a mass movement for making a magnificent-glorious 21st century India; a mass movement of development, a mass movement to build a capable and strong India.

- I propose that a mock Parliament be organized around the 15th August in Delhi comprising one young representatives selected from every district of India who would participate and deliberate on how a new India could be formed in the next five years. How can resolve be transformed into reality? Today, a lot of new opportunities have been created for the youth. Our youth are coming forward in areas like skill development, innovation and entrepreneurship and are achieving success. I wish that the New India Youth get information and details of all these new opportunities and plans at one place and a system be created so that every young person on turning 18 should automatically get to know all this and benefit from it.
- There are a large number of such persons who have brought in positive transformation in the lives of many people through endeavour at their own level. In fact, this is the New India which we are all collectively building. Let us enter into the New Year with such little achievements, begin our New Year and take concrete steps in the journey from 'Positive India' to 'Progressive India'.
- Just last week, I had a chance of meeting some daughters of Jammu & Kashmir. I was amazed at the spirit that they had, the enthusiasm that was there in their hearts and the dreams they

nurtured. I was listening to them on how they wanted to make progress in various facets of life and, how their lives were filled with hope. I talked to them, there was no sign of despair; there was only enthusiasm, optimism, energy, dreams and a sense of resolve. Whatever little time I spent with these daughters, I got inspired myself. These are the strength of our nation, they are my youth, they are the future of my country.

- Whenever there is a reference to famous religious places, not only of India but of the whole world, it is very natural to mention about the Sabrimala temple of Kerala. Millions of devotees come to this world famous temple, seeking blessings of Lord Ayyappa Swami. It is a huge challenge maintaining cleanliness around such a large religious place where devotees in such huge number come. And especially, since this place is situated in the midst of hills and forests. But, Sabrimala temple in itself is an example to show how this challenge could be converted into a sanskar, a habit and what a tremendous strength public participation has! One police officer P. Vijayan initiated a programme Punyam Poonkavanam and commenced a voluntary campaign of creating awareness on cleanliness. And, he began a tradition that the

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yatra of devotees will remain incomplete if they do not contribute by performing some physical labour or the other in the cleanliness programme. No one is big or small in this campaign. Every devotee considers doing physical labour in the cleanliness drive as a part of the Lord's worship. Every morning, there is a uniquely pleasant scene of cleanliness here when all devotees join in the drive. However big a celebrity be, or however rich one might be or however high an official be – each one contributes as an ordinary devotee in this Punyan Poonkavanam programme and becomes a part of this cleanliness drive.

- For waste- collection the principle of reduce, reuse and re-cycle is very effective. Now ranking of cities will be done on the basis of this survey- if your city has a population of more than one lakh, ranking will be done on the national level and if the population of your city is less than one lakh than it will be ranked on regional level. Achieving the highest ranking must be your dream and you should put all out efforts in this direction. Be sure that you do not remain lagging behind in the Cleanliness Survey to be conducted from 4th January to 10th March, 2018. This should become the talking point in every city. And all of

you must have a dream – 'Our city – our efforts', 'Our progress – country's progress'. Let us all, once again remembering revered Bapu and taking a resolve to build a Clean India, put in our best endeavours.

- There are a few things which appear small but they have a far reaching impact on our image as a society. Today, in this episode of Mann Ki Baat, I want to share one such thing with you. It has come to our notice that if a Muslim woman wants to go on Haj Pilgrimage, she must have a 'Mehram' or a male guardian, otherwise she cannot travel.
- When I first heard about it, I wondered how it could be possible! Who would have drafted such rules? Why this discrimination? And when I went into the depth of the matter I was surprised to find that - even after seventy years of our independence, we were the ones who had imposed these restrictions. For decades, injustice was being rendered to Muslim women but there was no discussion on it. Even in many Islamic countries this practice does not exist. But Muslim women in India did not have this right. And I'm glad that our government paid heed to this matter.
- Our Ministry of Minority Affairs issued corrective measures and we ameliorated this restriction by phasing out a tradition that had been in practice for the past seventy years. Today, Muslim women can perform Haj without 'mahram' or male Guardian and I am happy to note that this time about thirteen hundred Muslim women have applied to perform Haj without 'mahram' and women from different parts of the country from Kerala to North India, have expressed their wish to go for the Haj pilgrimage. I have suggested to the Ministry of Minority Affairs that they should ensure that all women who have applied to travel alone be allowed to perform Haj. Usually there is a lottery system for selection of Haj pilgrims but I would like that single women pilgrims should be excluded from this lottery system and they should be given a chance as a special category. I not only reiterate this wholeheartedly but it is my firm belief that the journey of India's progress has been possible due to women-power and on the basis of their talent and we will continue to march

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onwards on this path of progress. It should be our constant endeavor that our women also get equal rights and equal opportunities just like men get so that they can proceed simultaneously on the path of progress.

- My dear countrymen, 26th January is a historic festival for all of us. But 26th January, 2018, will especially be remembered through the ages. The Republic Day will be celebrated with leaders of all ten ASEAN countries coming to India as Chief Guests.
- The month of January is the period of the northward movement of the Earth on the celestial orbit around sun and in this month Makar-Sankranti is also celebrated. This is a festival

linked with nature. Though all of our festivals are associated with nature in one way or the other, but in our country blessed with the bounty of cultural diversity, there are different ways to celebrate this wonderful episode of nature in different forms. Lohdi is celebrated in Punjab and North-India, while UP-Bihar eagerly await for Khichdi and Til-Sankranti. In Rajasthan, it is called Sankrant, Magh-bihu in Assam and Pongal in Tamil Nadu - all these festivals are special in their own right and they have their own importance. All of these festivals are usually celebrated between 13th and 17th January. These festivals may have different names, but their origins stems from attachment to nature and agriculture. ■

## ‘Milk production increased from 17-22 million tonnes in 1960 to 163.7 million tonnes in 2016-17’

**U**nion Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh said that India is the oyster of the global dairy industry with opportunities galore for the entrepreneurs globally. Shri Singh at the Consultative Committee meeting on Dairy Development in New Delhi on December 28 said that India continues to be the largest producer of milk in the world since last 15 years and the credit for this achievement goes to the initiatives taken by the Government by implementing various schemes to increase the productivity of milch animals. Milk production, which was around 17-22 million tonnes in the 1960s, has increased to 163.7 million tonnes in 2016-17. Particularly, it has increased by 19% during 2016-17 in comparison to the year 2013-14. Similarly, per capita availability of milk has increased from 307 grams in 2013-14 to 351 grams in the year 2016-17, which shows a growth of 14.3%. Similarly, the income of dairy farmers increased by 23.77% in 2014-17 compared to 2011-14. During the last 3 years, with the annual growth rate of 5.53%, milk production in India has outpaced global milk production where it has grown by 2.09%.

Union Agriculture Minister said that there three important projects for dairy development are going on - National Dairy Plan Phase I (NDP I), National



Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) and Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme.

NDP I is being implemented by NDDDB (National Dairy Development Board) through state cooperative milk organizations /federations.

NPDD is being implemented through the state government through the co-operative milk organizations /milk federations of the concerned state.

Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme is being implemented by NABARD (National Agricultural and Rural Development Bank) through the state government through nationalized banks at the district level. ■

## Union Govt orders toll plaza staff to salute the soldiers

**A** circular issued by the Union Government has instructed the toll plaza staff to salute the soldiers or give them standing ovation when they pass the toll plaza.

A circular issued by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said the move is in view of the unparalleled service of defence personnel towards the country for which they deserve the highest regard and honour.

The circular came on the heels of complaints that soldiers were not only forced to pay toll charges but were also treated rudely by attendants. Personnel of the Army, Navy and Air Force have been exempted from paying at any toll plaza in the country. ■

## India to build 14,460 civilian bunkers along the border

**I**n a bid to protect border residents facing Pakistani shelling in Jammu division, the Union government has given the green light to build 14,460 individual and community bunkers at a cost of Rs 415.73 crore along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB). As per government report 120 community and 1,200 individual bunkers would be constructed in Jammu, 243 community and 3,076 individual in Kathua, eight community and 2,515 individual in Samba 688 community and 1,320 in Poonch while 372 community and 4,918 individual bunkers would come up in Rajouri sector. The bunkers would provide big relief to border residents who often fall victim to firing from Pakistan every now and then. While the 160 square feet individual bunker would be able to accommodate eight people, the capacity of the 800 square feet community bunker would be 40. India shares a 3,323 km border with Pakistan, of which 221 km of the IB and 740 km of the LoC fall in Jammu and Kashmir. ■

## Cabinet approves setting up of new AIIMS in Bilaspur (HP)

**T**he Union Cabinet on January 3 chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved for establishment of new AIIMS in Bilaspur (Himachal Pradesh) under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The cost of the project is Rs.1351 crore.

The establishment of new AIIMS will serve the dual purpose of providing super speciality health care to the population while also help create a large pool of doctors and other health workers in this region that can be available for primary and secondary level institutions / facilities being created under National Health Mission (NHM).

Under this scheme, AIIMS have been established in Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Raipur, Jodhpur, Rishikesh and Patna while work of AIIMS Rae Bareilly is in progress. Also, three AIIMS in Nagpur (Maharashtra), Kalyani

(West Bengal) and Mangalagiri in Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) have been sanctioned in 2015, two AIIMS



have been sanctioned at Bathinda and Gorakhpur in 2016 and an AIIMS in Kamrup (Assam). ■





# FROM NEWSPAPERS

## **BUDGET SESSION FROM JANUARY 29, GENERAL BUDGET PRESENTED ON FEBRUARY 01**

The Budget session of Parliament will begin from January 29 and the Union Budget will be presented on February 01. A recommendation to this effect was made by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs (CCPA), headed by Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, to the President on January 05, 2018. According to the schedule drawn by the CCPA, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind will address a joint sitting of the two Houses on January 29. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Ananth Kumar told reporters that the Economic Survey will be tabled in both Houses after the Presidential address the same day.

—(THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, January 04)

## **BACKWARDNESS OF SOME REGIONS IS AN INJUSTICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THOSE REGIONS: PM**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said relative backwardness of some regions is an injustice to the people of those regions. Addressing Collectors and Officers-in-charge of aspirational districts, in New Delhi on January 5, 2018, he said, there is a need to make efforts to develop 115 backward districts. He said regional imbalances should not be allowed to increase indefinitely and the development of backward districts is imperative. Giving the examples of the Jan Dhan Yojana, the construction of toilets, and rural electrification, the Prime Minister said nothing is impossible in the country if people have a firm resolve. Shri Modi said there is a need to recognize and channelize the aspirations of the people of the aspirational districts.

— (THE TIMES OF INDIA, January 05)

## **LIKE RAHUL, SIDDARAMAIAH REALISING HE IS HINDU: YOGI ADITYANATH**

In order to accelerate development in Karnataka, the state needs to have the BJP in power while the party is ruling the country, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said at a BJP rally on January 07, 2018. He also said Karnataka CM Siddaramiah has started identifying himself as a Hindu on account of the "rise of Hindu power". "In the past five years, the Congress has pushed Karnataka backwards. Karnataka needs to benefit from the development programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the youth, farmers and cities like Bengaluru need these programmes, and for this Karnataka needs a BJP government," Yogi Adityanath said.

— (THE TIMES OF INDIA, January 07)

## **GOVERNMENT ROLLS OUT E-SANSAD AND E-VIDHAN IN PARLIAMENT AND ASSEMBLY TO MAKE FUNCTIONING PAPERLESS**

The Government has proposed rolling out of E-SANSAD in Parliament and E-VIDHAN in State Legislatures to digitize and make their functioning paperless. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Ananth Kumar will inaugurate the 18th All India Whips' Conference on January 8, 2018 in Udaipur, Rajasthan and will rolling out of e-Sansad and e-Vidhan in Parliament and State Legislatures. A whip is a member of a political party's parliamentary body responsible for discipline within the party. Their main job is ensuring that their members in Parliament and legislature vote in line with the party's official policy on important issues. The two-day conference will focus on the efficient functioning of legislatures and the Delegates will make suggestions and recommendations for making the rolling out of e-Vidhan a success.

—(THE TIMES OF INDIA, January 04)

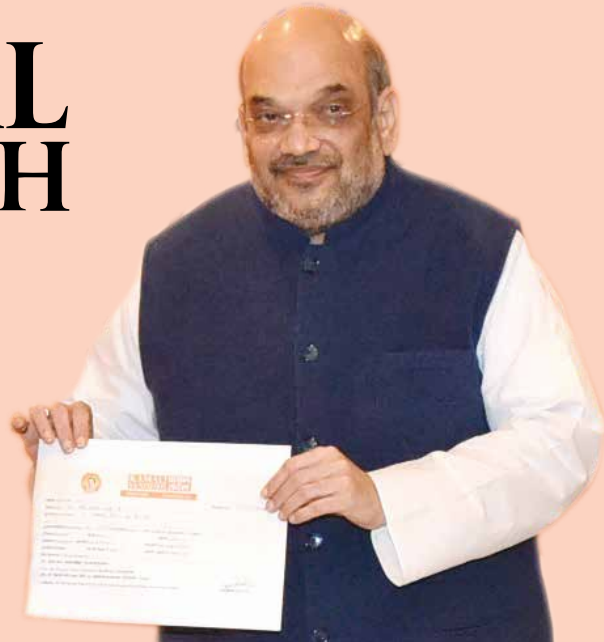
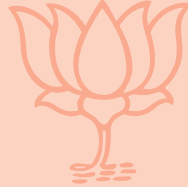
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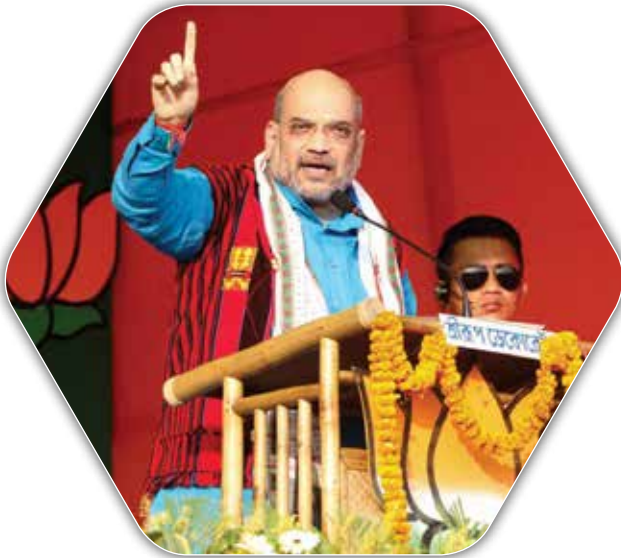
**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**



BJP President Shri Amit Shah along with other senior state BJP leaders and Union Ministers at a review meeting in Bengaluru



Shri Amit Shah paying floral tributes for the review meeting in Bengaluru



Shri Amit Shah addressing a huge rally in Udaypur, Tripura



Shri Amit Shah waving at the huge gathering in Ambassa, Tripura



Shri Amit Shah receiving the greetings of the people at Tikrikela Rally, Meghalaya



Glimpse of the huge gathering at Tikrikela Rally, Meghalaya

### Unprecedented Investment Into Road Connectivity in Our North-East

- 3,840 kms of National Highways sanctioned with an investment of Rs. 32,600 crore
- In the last 3 years, 1,266 kms of National Highways constructed at a cost of Rs. 13,500 crore
- Investment of Rs. 60,000 crore proposed for road development under SARDP-NE
- Investment of Rs. 30,000 crore proposed for development of National Highways under Bharatmala in the Northeast

### DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EAST THE HEART OF INDIA'S ACT EAST POLICY

India's North-East, Our Pivot To Act East Policy, Is Becoming a Trade and Tourism Hub

- Two-fold Increase in estimated trade between India and Myanmar via the North-East: Rs 77.52 crores (2013-14) to Rs 144.52 crores (2015-16)
- Economic cooperation with Asia-Pacific facilitating bilateral trade via the North-East
- Enhancing sea & road connectivity of North-East through other nations
- Enhancing rail and air connectivity internally in the North-East
- North-East as an organic farming hub: With upgraded connectivity, agri-exports will transform the region
- Buddhist-Hindu circuit from India to South-East Asia passing through the North-East - a big boost for tourism

### REFORMS IN THE BAMBOO SECTOR FURTHER IMPETUS TO DOUBLING FARMER INCOMES

Bamboo is an important produce for the livelihood of people in North-East

Sector was plagued by restrictive regulations, permissions, export restrictions, multiple fees on products

NDA Government brought an Ordinance to amend Indian Forest Act, 1927

- Exempts bamboo grown in non-forest areas from needless permits
- Promotes free movement of bamboo products
- Encourages bamboo plantation and boosts farmers' income

### Development of North-East - The Heart of India's Act East Policy

India's North-East, Our Pivot To Act East Policy, Is Becoming a Connectivity Hub

- Strengthening connectivity between the North-East and ASEAN via trade, culture, people-to-people contacts and infrastructure
- Access to sea via Bangladesh and Myanmar: Transforms landlocked North-East's economy and living standards; Reduces road and rail transport time and reduces fuel costs
- India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway: From Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand via Mandalay in Myanmar
- Inland waterways for transport of goods to important ports in ASEAN
- 19 additional waterways declared National waterways