

# KAMAL SANDESH

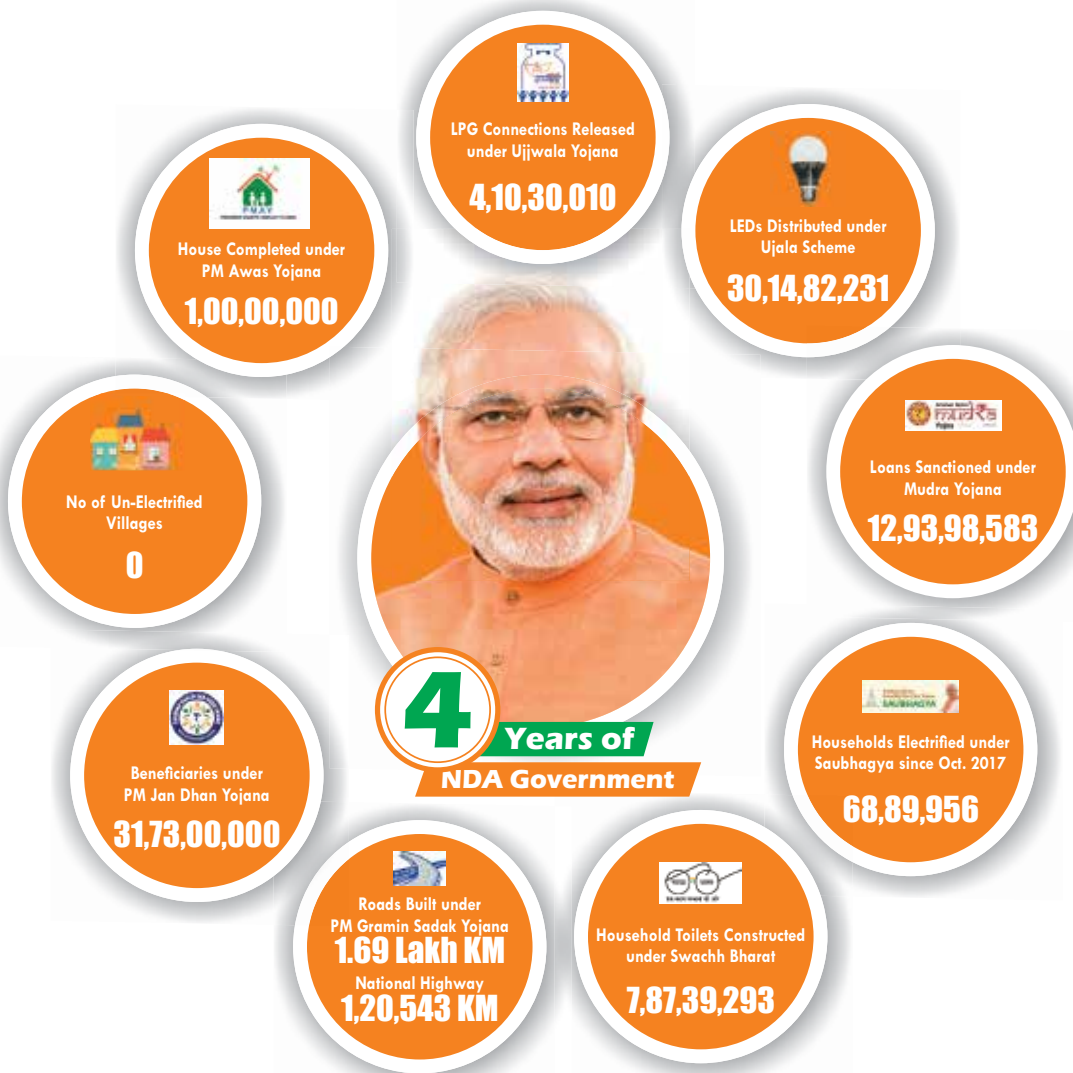
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₹20



**BJP'S RETURN TO POWER IN 2019 'NOT A CHALLENGE BUT A CERTAINTY'**



## SAAF NIYAT

## SAHI VIKAS

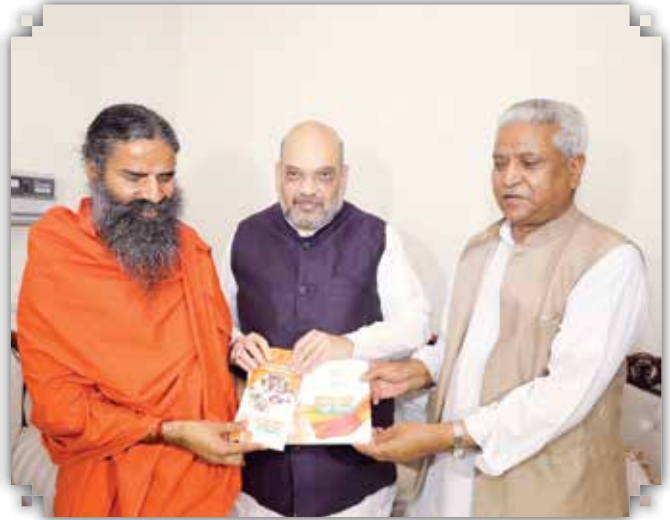
MY REFLECTIONS ON THE NDA GOVERNMENT AFTER COMPLETION OF FOUR YEARS IN POWER

GOVERNMENT REACHES OUT TO WEAKEST SECTIONS THROUGH INCLUSIVE POLICIES

MODI EMERGES SOCIALIST MESSIAH REDEEMING PROMISES



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah along with other senior BJP leaders Inaugurating an exhibition showcasing the achievements in last 4 years of NDA Govt. at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah along with BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri Ramlal presents the achievements of NDA Govt. to Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev as part of "Sampark For Samarthan" campaign in New Delhi**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah flanked by BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri Ramlal and others interacting with BJP social media members from across the country in New Delhi**



**Shri Amit Shah along with Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnis meeting with noted Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit and Dr. Shriram Nene as a part of "Sampark For Samarthan" initiative at their home in Mumbai**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah meets Shri Kapil Dev as part of "Sampark For Samarthan" campaign in New Delhi**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah along with other senior BJP leaders meets Shri Ratan Tata as part of "Sampark For Samarthan" campaign in Mumbai**



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**@narendramodi**

Reforms like neem coated urea, soil health cards, using technology to improve irrigation has helped the hardworking farmers of India. We are well poised to fulfil our dream of doubling the income of farmers by 2022, when India marks 75 years of Independence.

**@ShivrajSingh Chouhan**

Our PM has taken an array of measures like #PMAY & #UjjwalaYojana for the welfare of the poor. We wanted to come up with something that would ensure the well-being of every poor in Madhya Pradesh and thus started #JankalyanYojana: CM.



**@DevendraFadnavis**

Reaffirming our commitment for environment protection on #WorldEnvironmentDay ! We are moving ahead towards #PlasticBan in phases. It is great that this year India is the global host & Beat #PlasticPollution is the theme. I assure the world that Maharashtra will contribute more!



**facebook**

I congratulate PM Shri Narendra Modi and his cabinet for keeping India on high growth trajectory. GDP growth rate of 7.7%, a sharp increase over 7% in previous quarter, led by all round growth in key sectors such as Agri, Manufacturing and Construction is very encouraging.



— **Amit Shah**

“The Armed Forces faced funds shortage under the UPA government. However, there are no shortages of funds now.”



— **Nirmala Sitharaman**

Govt, in the last 48 months, has taken several bold reforms to improve transparency and efficiency in the coal sector, driving the nation on the path of sustainable growth in coal production and supply to power & non-power sectors.



— **Piyush Goyal**



# Four years of service to the nation

**W**hile people are celebrating the completion of four years of BJP led NDA government at the centre, nation can look back with hope and satisfaction. No one will deny that India is now out of the appalling phase of corruption, misgovernance, policy paralysis, economic decline and downward trends on every front under Congress led UPA and moving forward under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi . Who can forget the era of Congress led UPA government when every day newspapers used to be replete with stories of new scams and loot of public money along with double digit inflation and declining rate of economic growth. The phrase, 'policy paralysis' was coined to characterize the prevailing atmosphere of indecision on crucial issues due to lack of unity in command as different ministries moved in different direction and even in opposition to each other signifying multiple power centres. In an environment of pessimism that was created in the country people started losing hope for the future and trust of the common man in the political system started to wane. Today, as India is ready to proudly proclaim its deserved position on international forums, people are full of hope with their trust restored in the political system. Every Indian is filled with a sense of achievement and confidence that the nation is marching towards a bright future.

**THE CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS GIVEN A NEW DIRECTION TO THE COUNTRY UNDER HIS VISIONARY PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES. AS THE INDIAN ECONOMY HAS TODAY BECOME THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY IN THE WORLD, IT HAS ALSO BECOME AN ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR INVESTMENTS ENDORSING ITS BRIGHT PROSPECTS.**

The charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a new direction to the country under his visionary programmes and policies. As the Indian economy has today become the fastest growing economy in the world, it has also become an attractive destination for investments endorsing its bright prospects. While inflation is under control the bold decisions like Demonetization and GST have further improved the economic scenario by substantially increasing strengthening the formal economy and facilitating the idea of ease of doing business. In the field of agriculture increasing MSP by one and half of the production cost is going to revolutionise this sector. An umbrella arrangement of crop insurance, agricultural loans, creation of irrigation facilities, better seeds and availability of fertilizers, solar pumps along with social security net of every section of the society is set to revitalize agriculture and rural sector. The commitment towards, poor and deprived can be seen in every government scheme leading to huge transformation in the lives of people. As every village is now connected to the power grid, the government is working day and night to provide electricity to every home. The Ayushman Bharat recently launched by Prime Minister is slated to give health security to 10 crore households making almost half of the population healthwise secure. Now every poor has a Jan Dhan Bank account, women are having cooking gas connection, toilet, social security and high quality health facilities. Apart from these a large number

of reform initiatives are transforming the entire country with a new work culture and zeal for development and good governance in the country.

The four years of Modi government has given such an impetus to national aspirations that was not to be seen under the long spell of Congress rule. While the nation is filled with a sense of self pride, it's also finding global recognitions for its achievements and its aspirations are getting acknowledged at international forums. The strong leadership of Narendra Modi can be seen in the newfound confidence in the security forces that are giving befitting replies to the subversive elements and brought glory to the nation by their daring surgical strike across the borders. The nation is witnessing all round development and ground breaking policy initiatives on almost every fronts securing the future of poor, Dalits, SC/STs, women, youth and other vulnerable sections of the society. The last four years have seen a government dedicated to the service of Maa Bahrati seeking to bring highest glory to the people of India. ■

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## WITH 'SAAF NITYAT' AND 'SAHI VIKAS', THE COUNTRY WOULD CONTINUE TO MARCH ON PATH OF DEVELOPMENT: MODI

**F**ollowing completion of four years of the BJP led NDA Government at the centre; Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a huge public meeting at the Bali Jatra ground in Cuttack, Odisha on 26 May, 2018. Paying tributes to Lord Jagannath, PM Shri Modi said that Cuttack was the land associated with great freedom fighters like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Shri Modi said that it was the affection of people that energized him to work dedicatedly towards welfare of all. He stated that in the last four years, an environment of hope and trust was developed among people and the nation was moving from anarchy to good governance, from black money (Kaala Dhan) to Jan Dhan.

Terming that betterment of the poor was the Government's biggest priority, the Prime Minister said, "The President, Vice President and the Pradhan Sevak have had humble beginnings and that is why the NDA Government is committed to serving the people of the country." He remarked that the BJP had emerged as the single largest party having its presence from Panchayat to Parliament. With Saaf Niyat and Sahi Vikas, he said that the work being done by the NDA Government was enhancing India's stand on the world stage and the country was being applauded world over.

Shri Modi said that in the last four years, the country had moved from being in a state of 'confusion' towards 'commitment'. In this context, he shed light on several decisions of the government like surgical strikes across the LoC, resolution of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) for ex-servicemen, steps to fight corruption and

enhance transparency in the governance system.

Criticizing the Congress and other non-NDA ally parties, he said that steps undertaken by the NDA Government at Centre to curb corruption and formalize the country's economy in the last 48 months had forced them to come together as they could not rid the country of corruption and cobweb of tax structure in 48 years. "What the Congress gave to the country in the last 48 years is corruption and scams. That is why it is necessary to compare NDA's 48 months to Congress' 48 years of misrule", PM Shri Modi added further.

He assailed the Congress for only thinking about its welfare and not the people of the country. He added, "For ten years, the country had a Prime Minister who was commanded by a remote control, ministers were directed through emails."

For as long as seventy years, the PM exclaimed that steps or initiatives which would have empowered the poor were reserved only for those who were well-off. "Be it sanitation measures or opening up bank accounts, the poor and marginalized people never benefitted in the Congress' seventy years", the PM said. In this context, he highlighted the matter of Paradip Oil Refinery in Odisha, which was envisioned under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership, but the subsequent Congress government stalled the project. "It was in 2014, that the NDA Government at Centre initiated work on the project", he said.

Shri Modi expounded on the work being done by the NDA Government at Centre in ensuring electricity

in all 18,500 odd villages, construction of toilets, proving cooking gas connections under Ujjwala Yojana, repealing over 1400 laws, development of the ports, implementation of the GST and launch of the first phase of Ayushman Bharat Yojana. He said that rapid strides were being made by the Centre to enhance the lives of poor and middle class. "For us good politics means development and good governance", he said.

Shri Modi said that the Government's stress was on creating next generation infrastructure and hence, it was focusing on initiatives like Bharatmala and Sagarmala. He also highlighted Government's commitment to develop smart cities, better connectivity through highways, railways, subways, waterways and i-ways. The PM also spoke at length about the International Solar Alliance and how through the alliance India was leading the entire world in mitigating climate change. "From North-East to Jammu and Kashmir, our Government is devoted to build Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat", he said.

The PM alleged that the Odisha government misled farmers of the state on Mahanadi waters. He said that the BJP was committed to address their problems and efforts were being undertaken to improve irrigation facilities. Apart from Mahanadi, five other rivers flow through the State. The State government has failed to utilize their water as well, Shri Modi said.

Further targeting the State government, the PM said that the people of Odisha want to know why the Lower Indravati irrigation project, which started 20 years ago, was delayed for so long. Pulling up the State government on deteriorating healthcare infrastructure in the Eastern parts of the country including Odisha, Shri Modi said, "Situation in these States especially Odisha is very grim. Questions are being raised as to what work the State governments have done so far. There are no days when one doesn't come across embarrassing pictures on media from the Tribal areas of Odisha."

He further pointed out, "As the Odisha government is not carrying out its responsibilities properly, the Centre has taken the onus to improve healthcare. Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, wellness centres have been set up in villages so that people won't have to travel long distances."

For critical care, AIIMS has been set up in Bhubaneswar. Besides that Cuttack, Berhampur and Burla medical colleges are being upgraded, Shri Modi added. "Not only these institutions will be medical

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- It is my good fortune that I got the opportunity to greet my 125 crore countrymen from the land of Lord Jagannath.
- Great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was born in this holy land.
- The affection of people is what energizes me to work more.
- NDA government is on the right path. We have won the trust of people.
- The President, Vice President and the Pradhan Sevak have had humble beginnings and that is why the NDA Government is committed to serving the people of the country.
- BJP has over 1,500 legislators across India.
- In last four years, BJP in true sense has become Panchayat to Parliament party.
- In these four years, the 125 crore Indian have come to believe that our India can change. Today the nation is going from 'Kala Dhan' to 'Jan Dhan', from bad governance to good governance.
- When the government is committed and not confused, a decision like a surgical strike is taken.
- It is important to remember the issues which the nation was facing 4 years ago, the atmosphere there was four years ago. It is important to remember how much did the family, which ruled the nation for 48 years, cared for it.
- 2014, 39% of the population had access to sanitation facilities; today the figure is over 80%. From independence till 2014 there were around 6 crore toilets in the country but in last four years 7.5 crore toilets have been made.

centres only, but apart from medical education new seats will be added to produce more doctors and nurses, which will generate jobs," he added.

Apart from this, institutions of national repute are also being established in Odisha to develop professional education. IIM in Sambalpur and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Berhampur will open up more opportunities for youths, Shri Modi stated. Shri Modi stated that with 'Saaf Nityat' and 'Sahi Vikas', the country would continue to march on the path of development. ■

# BJP's return to power in 2019 'not a challenge but a certainty'



**A**sserting that BJP's return to power in 2019 is "not a challenge but a certainty," BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 26 May, 2018 projected the next Lok Sabha polls as a contest between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's efforts to "remove corruption and poverty" and the Opposition's single-point agenda of 'Modi Hatao'.

Addressing a press conference on the occasion of Central government's fourth anniversary at Party headquarters in New Delhi, BJP National President listed details of its successes and challenge from Rahul Gandhi-led Congress, saying he may have declared himself a prime ministerial candidate but his bid has not got support from even his party colleagues or other Opposition leaders.

Projecting Shri Narendra Modi as the "most popular and most hardworking Prime Minister with unending energy," Shri Shah said he replaced the UPA's policy paralysis with a policy-driven government working for the poor and improved economy while also raising the country's esteem in the world.

Answering about the 'achche din' promised by the BJP-led ruling alliance when it came to power,

Shri Shah said the government has "done a lot to fulfill its promises in four years and one year is still left.

The BJP President came down heavily on the Opposition saying a shocking change has happened in the country's politics with those against the Prime Minister resorting to lies and speaking it loudly all the time. "This is something new I am seeing and the Opposition seems to have decided to continue with this tactic till the 2019 polls... Its one-point agenda is 'Modi hatao' (replace Modi) while the BJP and Modi want to remove disorder, corruption and poverty to usher in stability and development," he said at the Press Conference.

Playing down the challenge from a united Opposition, he said people are standing by PM Shri Modi like a rock and the Prime Minister's politics of performance will prevail over those promoting politics of dynasty, casteism and appeasement.

Taking on the Congress, which has accused the government of peddling lies and PM Shri Modi of harming the dignity of his chair, Shri Shah said the BJP is ready for a debate over facts and figures



about the Centre's achievements.

Countering the charges, the BJP President said the honour of the Prime Minister's chair had hit rock bottom under the Congress-led UPA, as he took a dig at former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, remarking that Shri Modi does not need to seek anybody's permission before taking a decision.

Singh was often accused by critics of being guided by the then Congress president Sonia Gandhi in his decisions. "The Congress will not decide about the dignity of the Prime Minister's chair. People have done it. They have replaced its 14 state governments with BJP," he said.

Asked if he saw a challenge from a united Opposition or Rahul Gandhi in 2019, Shri Amit Shah said there is no challenge and its return to power is a certainty.

Referring to Gandhi's comments during the Karnataka Assembly polls that he may be Prime Minister if his party gets the required numbers, Shri Shah said, no Congress leader came out in support of his statement, nor did Opposition leaders like Sharad Pawar, Mamata Banerjee or Akhilesh Yadav.

Asked if the government has delivered on its promises, he said it has made successful efforts to change the lives of 22 crore families, referring to welfare schemes like providing LPG cylinder, houses, electricity and toilets among others to the poor, as also efforts to improve the country's economy and security of its borders.

Whatever are the Opposition's lies, those who have benefitted from the government schemes will remember it, he said, underlining his party's welfare plank.

To a question about the Telugu Desam Party leaving the NDA and BJP relations with another key ally Shiv Sena, Shri Shah said he wants its alliance with Sena to continue and added that 11 new parties, including Nitish Kumar-led JD(U), have joined the ruling bloc.

He also discounted the likely challenge from SP-BSP alliance in Uttar Pradesh, saying the media had declared the grouping of "two boys", a reference to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Gandhi, a winner in the state Assembly poll before the results came, but it was the BJP that swept the election.

Shri Amit Shah also said that the BJP's win in 104

seats in Karnataka is a good sign of its expansion in south India.

Asked about Pakistan's continued support to terrorism in Kashmir despite Indian Army's operations, including surgical strike, and if war was an option, he said, "War is the last resort. It is not an option. Maximum number of terrorists have been killed in the last four years."

The BJP President also said the government is also working on long-term policy to deal with soaring petroleum prices. He claimed that in three years of the UPA rule, petrol and diesel prices were as high as they are now.

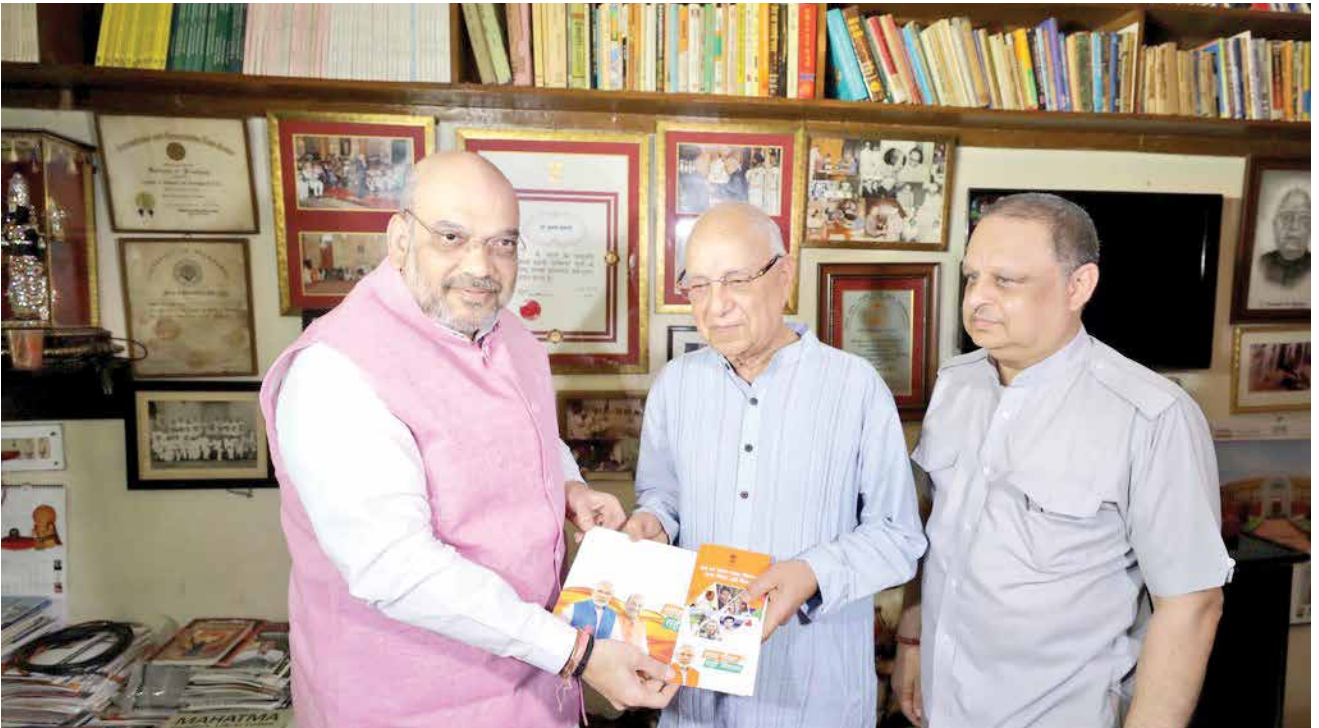
He also maintained the BJP's position on the Ram temple issue, saying it wants the issue to be resolved either through courts or dialogue.

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Stating that no village is without power now, Shri Amit Shah said the government recently covered 16800 villages, which had over 50 percent Dalit population, with its seven welfare schemes, Jan Dhan bank account, toilets and LPG cylinder for all homes, and will cover 65000 villages by 15 August.

The BJP President said the Modi government ended an era of instability and has delivered on its two key promises, that it will work for the poor, Dalits, tribals, backwards, farmers and village, and that it will raise India's esteem in the world. It has fulfilled both, he said. ■

# Will make people aware about NDA Government's welfare initiatives in last four years: Amit Shah



**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah on 29 May, 2018 launched BJP's "Sampark for Samarthan" campaign in Delhi through which the party will gather support after apprising people about the welfare & developmental schemes of Modi Government.

As part of the campaign's start, Shri Shah met former Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag and prominent constitutional expert Subhash Kashyap at their residence in Delhi's Cantonment and Sainik Farm respectively.

Shri Shah said that BJP has started the "Sampark for Samarthan" campaign to make people aware about the developmental and welfare initiatives taken by the Modi Government in the last four years.

He said that over 4,000 members of the BJP will

contact over one lakh people in the country as part of the campaign. Stating that another 50 lakh party workers will try to reach all houses in the country, Shri Shah said that party leaders will also connect to personalities from various professions such as retired Armymen, Actors, Cultural experts and Constitutional experts among others.

The motive of the campaign is to apprise people on how Modi Government during the last four years uplifted the living standards of people in the country. Various such initiatives have been taken which the country had awaited for since decades. The overall rural India and especially the lifestyle of poor people have seen a major boost under the Narendra Modi Government.

Highlighting some of the major initiatives taken

by the Government recently, Shri Shah said that Narendra Modi Government has planned to increase the Minimum Support Price for farmer's crops by 1.5 times to ensure that farmers. At the same time, the Government under the Ayushman Bharat will give health insurance worth Rs 5 lakh to 10 crore families which means 50 crore individuals. All these schemes are taking the country and its people to a different level which did not happen ever till now. Our leaders will go to people along with literature, e-content in pen drive and booklet on the welfare works done by the Modi Government. "As part of the scheme today I met former Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag ji at his residence in Delhi Cantonment and later prominent constitutional expert Subhash Kashyap at Sainik Farm and handed over the literature on the noble works done by the Modi Government in the last four years." Shri Shah said that as part of the Sampark for Samarthan campaign, BJP will ensure BJP reaches all the houses in the country.

It may be recalled that Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to initiate the campaign to raise awareness among people of the country about various schemes initiated by Shri Narendra Modi Government. Under the scheme every party worker will communicate with

**The motive of the campaign is to apprise people on how Modi Government during the last four years uplifted the living standards of people in the country. Various such initiatives have been taken which the country had awaited for since decades. The overall Rural India and especially the lifestyle of poor people have seen a major boost under the Narendra Modi Government.**

at least 10 people and apprise them about the noble works of the Modi Government.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi himself communicated with beneficiaries of Ujjwala and Mudra loan scheme and got apprised about their experience as a beneficiary.

Earlier in a Press Release BJP National Media Convener Shri Anil Baluni said Bharatiya Janata Party has decided to launch "Sampark For Samarthan" campaign in the country to people make about the noble works done by the Modi Government at the Centre and gather support.

As part of the campaign, all the party Karyakarta including the party President Shri Amit Shah and booth level workers will take part in the Initiative. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah will reach out to 50 people personally with details of initiatives and achievements of the Modi Government whereas each karyakarta will contact at least 10 people and aware them about the achievements. There will also be a special session of "Sampark for Samarthan" on the NaMo App to help Karyakartas under the initiative.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will also interact with beneficiaries of various Government initiatives via video conferencing. To begin with, he will interact with the beneficiaries of Ujjwala Yojana and Mudra Yojana, he informed.

As part of the of "Sampark for Samarthan" campaign, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah





**HIGHLIGHTS**

- BJP's Sampark for Samarthan campaign has been started with the motive of reaching out to every household in the country
- Launching the campaign BJP President Shri Amit Shah visited former Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag and prominent constitutional expert Subhash Kashyap at their respective residence, and communicated them about the welfare works done by Modi Government
- Modi Government in the last four years has majorly worked in two areas—eliminating problems of people in rural India and further taking them ahead on the path of development and secondly, for the upliftment of their living standard
- He said in the next Five years BJP led NDA Government will bring change in the lives of the farmers by increasing the MSP cost by 1.5 times.
- Apart from that, the Government is also giving health insurance worth Rs 5 lakh to 10 crore households in the country
- Shri Shah said it is because of Narendra Modi Government that India's pride has surged globally. ■



also met former skipper of Indian cricket team, Shri Kapil Dev and his wife at their home in Delhi, Yoga Guru Swami Ramdev in New Delhi, former Chief Justice of India Shri R C Lahoti at his residence in New Delhi, noted Bollywood actress Smt. Madhuri Dixit and Dr. Shiram Nene, Shri Ratan Tata at their respective homes in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Shiv Sena President Shri Uddhav Thackeray at Matoshree in Mumbai, Shiromani Akali Dal leaders Shri Parkash Singh Badal and Shri Sukhvir Singh Badal at their home in Chandigarh, former Indian Hockey player and three time Olympic gold champion Shri Balbir Singh at his home in Chandigarh, the "Flying Sikh" Sardar Milkha Singh and his wife Smt. Nirmal Milkha Singh in Chandigarh and briefed them on the historic steps and achievements of PM Narendra Modi's government in last 4 years. ■



# Prime Minister inaugurates Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Phase-I of Delhi-Meerut Expressway



**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on May 27, dedicated to the nation, two newly built expressways in the Delhi NCR Region. The first of these is the 14 lane, access controlled, Phase-I of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, stretching from Nizamuddin Bridge to Delhi UP Border. The second project to be dedicated to the nation is the 135 km long Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE), stretching from Kundli on NH 1 to Palwal on NH 2.

The Delhi-Meerut Expressway, once completed, will significantly reduce travel times from the National Capital to Meerut, and to several other parts of Western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

After the inauguration of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, the Prime Minister was greeted by people along the newly constructed road, as he travelled in an open jeep for a few kilometres, inspecting the highway.

The Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE), will contribute towards the twin objectives of decongesting and de-polluting the national capital by diverting traffic not destined for Delhi.

Addressing a public meeting in Baghpat on the

occasion, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the entire stretch of the Delhi Meerut Expressway would be completed soon. He said the Eastern Peripheral Expressway would help decongest traffic in Delhi. He said modern infrastructure has an important role to play in raising the standard of living of the people. He outlined the steps being taken in building infrastructure, including roads, railways, waterways etc. He gave examples of the increase in pace of infrastructure development.

In the field of women empowerment, the Prime Minister explained how toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission, and LPG connections under Ujjwala Yojana are making the lives of women easier. He said that out of 13 crore loans given under Mudra Yojana, more than 75 percent have been given to women entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister also mentioned the steps taken for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Castes.

The Prime Minister said that in this year's Union Budget, a provision of 14 lakh crore rupees has been made to strengthen rural and agricultural infrastructure. ■

## Cabinet approves Doubling of Investment Limit for Senior Citizens from Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs.15 lakh under PMVVY

**T**he Union Cabinet on May 02 chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4th May 2018 to 31st March, 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.

Further, as a boost to the Social Security initiatives for senior citizens, the investment limit of Rs 7.5 lakh per family in the existing scheme is enhanced to Rs 15 lakh per senior citizen in the modified PMVVY, thereby providing a larger social security cover to the Senior citizens. It will enable upto Rs.10000 Pension per month for Senior Citizens. As of March, 2018, a total number of 2.23 lakh senior citizens are being benefited under PMVVY. In the previous scheme of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana-2014, a total number of 3.11 lakh senior citizens are being benefited.

The PMVVY is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.



The scheme provides an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly / quarterly / half yearly and annual basis. The differential return, i.e. the difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis. ■

## India's economic growth accelerates to 7.7% in Q4

**I**ndia's economy accelerated to 7.7% in the three months ended 31 March, the fastest pace in seven quarters.

The latest data indicates that the economy is also clawing back to its trend growth prior to the invalidation of high-value currencies in November 2016 that led to gross domestic product (GDP) growth slumping to a three-year low of 5.7% in the June quarter of 2017.

GDP growth for the year ended 31 March at 6.7% was a tad higher than previously estimated by the Central Statistics Office but still slower than the 7.1% growth recorded in the previous year.

The turnaround in the economy was led by robust agriculture (4.5%) and manufacturing growth (9.1%)

as well as double-digit growth in construction activities (11.5%) in the March quarter. However, services sectors such as trade, hotels, transport (6.8%) and financial services (5%) decelerated from their levels in the third quarter, signalling a lingering impact from disruptions caused by hasty implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) as well as the state of the banking sector.

The economy, however, got a boost from higher government spending (13.3%) in the March quarter. Gross fixed capital formation, a proxy for investment demand in the economy, expanded at a double-digit pace (14.4%) after a gap of seven quarters, signalling a revival in investment activities. ■



# Government hikes basic pay of Gramin Dak Sevaks to up to Rs 14,500 per month

**T**he Union Cabinet on 06 June, 2018 approved raising the basic salary of Gramin Dak Sevaks to up to Rs 14,500 per month.

“Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) who were getting Rs 2,295 per month will get Rs 10,000. Those who were getting Rs 2,775 will get Rs 12,500. GDS who were paid Rs 4,115 will get Rs 14,500 per month,” Telecom Minister Shri Manoj Sinha told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

He said the revised wages will come with arrears with effect from January 1, 2016. He said that allowances will be over the basic pay and the Cabinet has also additionally for the first time approved risk and hardship allowances for GDS.

There are around 2.6 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks working across country. The minister said GDS will now work in two shifts instead of three. The Cabinet has also approved compensatory appointment of a

Gramin Dak  
Sevak



dependent of GDS which was not allowed earlier, Shri Sinha said. ■

## NIC launches new data centre in Bhubaneswar

**B**hubaneswar becomes the fourth National data centre of National Informatics Centre (NIC) after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. The new cloud-enabled National Data Centre aims to offer round-the-clock operations with secure hosting for various e-governance applications of Central and State Governments and has ability to support 35,000 virtual servers.

Unveiling the data centre Union Minister of Electronics & IT, Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad on May 28 said that this data centre in Bhubaneswar is of global standards. Emphasizing the significance of the new national data centre, Sh. Prasad further said that Data centre is important because data sanctity is important and in the IT ecosystem, data centre adds to the digital cloud of a State or location



and raises its global profile. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan was also present on the occasion.

The new cloud-enabled National Data Centre will provide benefits like on-demand access to ICT (Information and Communication Technology) infrastructure for easy availability and quick deployment of applications and standardized platforms of deployment.

In the traditional model, Departments have to budget and procure infrastructure at the commencement of the project, leading to either over provisioning of infrastructure or under-sizing of the requirements whereas the cloud service offerings of NIC would allow departments to provision infrastructure and add to the computing capacity “on demand”. ■

# He Never Wanted Fame

| JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR

**T**here is a thin line which differentiates between Journalism and writer, between the news and articles. If any body has written down something and somebody commented on it and it becomes some message for public, it makes a news. As there is a thin line of difference among articles, writer, journalism and news, a similar difference was there within character of Deendayal Ji. He did not fit into today's definition of a journalist. I am saying today's definition because who is a reporter today? One who's passed out from any college, university of journalism, without it nobody selects you to become a part of the newsroom. Earlier big names like as Prabhakar and Chahalpati Ray did not have any degree. In that sense Deendayal ji was also a journalist.

Deendayal had a quality, that he would put forward his views in a clear manner without any hesitation. But he neither tried to impose his greatness nor tried to promote himself his articles and statement. Actually, it was just opposite. I won't say doubtfulness but definitely there was some sort of paradox. Deendayal ji was brought up in tradition of Sangh Parivar. Perhaps he was greatly influenced by Guru Ji. As we all know Guru Ji never liked popularity, so much so that if any body took his photograph then he was quite uncomfortable.

Once he told me during a conversation it was his fifty first Birthday and on that very day a news photographer shot his photograph. Guru Ji immediately covered his face. Next day his photograph was published in The Times of India with a heading "Camerashy leader". On this Guru Ji said, "I don't know why whenever any body takes the photograph I feel uncomfortable". Brought up in this tradition Pandit Deendayal was very popular and as he was involved in the political field so it was necessary for him to gives news and gain popularity. Between this traditional the need to be media savvy due to political compulsions, an altogether new aspect of Deendayal ji's personality emerged.

I remember, when Jan Sangh was constituted,

there was no depth in it. Everybody took it lightly. Today 100 to 125 persons attend BJP working committee meeting. At that time they could hardly find 25 to 30 people. The meeting used to be held in a small room. Though there was not much news content in this but still when I used to ask whether we should release a news item on the meeting to the Press he used to say there is no need for this. We are doing this work not for publicity but we are trying to lay some strong foundations. So is approach was that we should work and should not seek publicity.



I remembered that reporters were never called for many days during party conference. But then Advani ji joined us and he along with us emphasized the need for media coverage then Pandit Deendayal ji said that he agreed that things should be more open.

So that was the paradox he was facing, on one hand he did not want publicity and on the other hand as he was compelled to go for it. He said why it should be necessary to give it to newspaper or why it should be necessary to say as a reporter. He said whenever, I say anything or write or give a speech it has a purpose.

The purpose is that we should reach directly to the lowest level in villages. So he always said that let English journalism be there but is not of much use to us, we should concentrate on local language

newspapers. He used to keep a dictionary in his bag to find out meanings of English words. Initially he was reluctant to write in English but he had that sharp intellect, focused mind and strong consciousness. So later on he wrote his column Political Diary in English and it was quite well written.

Another thing he said was that personal relations with scribes should be maintained but should not be used for self projection. Generally he did not visit people in this context. He had personal relations with the then editor of Navbharat Times Sh. Akshay Kumar. He was also well known to Mankekar and several other senior journalists but he was mainly close to journalist of Indian language newspapers. There are one or two pleasant incidents. Earlier there was a tradition especially with congress leaders to reach in a meeting late. What used to happen was that while the scribes used to reach at the venue of press briefing, the leaders were late. Deendayal ji changed this. He said we must be punctual. And if we don't do this then who will do this. I remember we had small office at Ajmeri Gate so we used to have press briefing at a hotel. Deendayal ji always used to reach the venue in time while the scribes used to be late. We had to make him sit in some room in the hotel and as soon at the scheduled time when he used to sit at a table, one or two scribes who used to come in time had to request him to delay the briefing so that rest of their colleagues could also come. This was his penchant for adhering to time schedule.

There is another incident. There was a press conference at Venger Restaurant in Delhi. At that time also there was no tradition of introducing the journalists attending the press conference. There were a very few journalists at that time and all of them used to be known on the first name basis to most of the public figures. In this particular press conference, I recognized a person and asked Pandit ji, should I give his introduction, he is from intelligence. Pandit ji told me not to do so. Then when everybody was introduced, he said we have a special guest today and told everybody about him. As he tried to get up and go, Pandit ji stopped him and ensured that he left with the hand out distributed in the Press conference.

That is what I say that Pandit ji was not an established journalist in that sense. But he had great potential, had he lived for a few more years, it

is not that he would have earned good money from journalism but he knew what is news, how to identify it, how to treat it and how to deliver it.

At times while making his statement he used to write intro. He used to say the news should com at the top and then the rest of the things follow.

There is another thing. Pnadit ji wanted to say what he thought fearlessly. When the movement for separate Punjab state was going on, our leaders there said that non-Sikh Punajbis should write Hindi as their mother tongue. Pandit ji tried to convince them with in the party. But then when he fot a go ahead from Guruji he said openly that Punjabi is the language of all Punjabis.

Similarly after the working committee in Poona, Pandit ji opposed the ideology of Socialism during

**Remaining away from publicity  
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but he kept on moving ahead.  
Had it not been for his untimely  
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field of journalism.**

his press briefing. I cautioned him as at that time as Socialism was the dominating ideology all over the country at that time. But he said that we should say what every we feel strongly about. His principle was that even if there is a controversy then we should even propound our view even more strongly as controversy creates news.

Remaining away from publicity Pandit ji started working as a simple and ordinary journalist but he kept on moving ahead. Had it not been for his untimely death, he would have definitely been guiding us today in the field of journalism. Though at that electronic media did not exist but I am sure even in present situation he would have dealt with this also. ■

**(Published and printed by Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma for  
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SHAT SHAT NAMAN!

## DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE: THE IDEAL LEADER

**D**r. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was born on 06 July, 1901 in Calcutta. He came from quite an illustrious background. His father was Shri Ashutosh Mookerjee, a well respected advocate in Bengal and also the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and his mother was Smt. Jogmaya Devi Mookerjee. Shri Shyama Prasad passed B.A in First Class First in English Honors from Presidency College, Calcutta in 1921 and became a fellow of the Senate in 1923. After his father's death, he enrolled as an advocate in Calcutta High Court in 1924. Subsequently he left for England in 1926 to study in Lincoln's Inn and became a barrister in 1927. At the age of 33, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee became the world's youngest Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University and held the office till 1938. During his tenure, he introduced a number of constructive reforms and was active in Asiatic Society of Calcutta as well as was a member of the Court and the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Chairman of the Inter-University of Board.

He was elected as member of the Legislative Council of Bengal as a Congress candidate representing Calcutta University but resigned next year when Congress decided to boycott the legislature. Subsequently, he contested the election as an independent and got elected.

He became the opposition leader when Krishak Praja Party - Muslim League coalition was in power during 1937-41 and joined the Progressive Coalition Ministry headed by Fazlul Haq as a Finance Minister and within less than a year resigned. He emerged as a spokesman for Hindus and shortly joined Hindu Mahasabha and in 1944, he became the President.

Pandit Nehru inducted him in the Interim Central Government as a Minister for Industry and Supply. On issue of Delhi pact with Liaquat Ali Khan, Dr. Mookerjee resigned from the Cabinet on 6th April 1950. After consultation with RSS Sarsanghchalak Pujya Shri Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar Ji (Guruji) Shri Mookerjee founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh on 21st October, 1951 at Delhi and became its first President. In 1952 elections, Bharatiya Jana Sangh won three seats in Parliament one of them being that of Shri Mookerjee. He had formed National Democratic

Members' Committee within the Parliament which consisted of 32 members of MPs from Lok Sabha and 10 of Members of Rajya Sabha.

He fought hard with the Government and supported to the movement of the Praja Parishad in Jammu for full integration of the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian Union. He was arrested in Delhi in March, 1953 for violation of a ban on procession against 'Permit Raj in Kashmir' and detained, but released by the orders of the Supreme Court on a Habeas Corpus petition.

Dr. Mookerjee gave a clarion call to the nation to observe "Kashmir Day" on the 5th May in support of the movement of the Praja Parishad. He left Delhi on the 8th May to Kashmir against Permit Raj. Bharatiya Jana Sangh launched a massive Satyagraha to remove the pernicious provisions of Permit Raj from



Kashmir. Dr. Mookerjee entered Kashmir on the 11th May without permit and was arrested on the same day while crossing border and put under detention at Srinagar.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee fell seriously ill on 22nd June and found dead under mysterious circumstances as a detenu in jail at 2.30 a.m on 23rd June, 1953.

A veteran politician, he was respected by his friends and foes alike for his knowledge, forthrightness and vision. He was among the prominent leaders and a great son of India, whom we lost at a very early age and very early stage of our independence.

Kamal Sandesh pays tribute to this great son of the soil and the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh on his Punyatithi. ■

## State and Central Government working together for the rapid development of Jharkhand: PM Modi

**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25 May, 2018 laid the foundation stone of various projects of the Government of India and Government of Jharkhand, at an event in Sindri. These include:

- Revival of Sindri Fertilizer Project of Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Ltd.
- Ranchi City Gas Distribution Project by GAIL
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Deoghar
- Development of Deoghar Airport
- Patratu Super Thermal Power Project

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also witnessed the Exchange of MoUs for Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the State.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister paid homage to Bhagwan Birsa Munda. He said that the State Government and the Union Government are working together for the rapid development of Jharkhand.

He said the total cost of the projects, for which foundation stones have been laid today, is Rs. 27,000 crore. He said these development projects will give opportunities to the youth of Jharkhand.

The PM said that when he assumed office, there were 18,000 villages lacking access to electricity. We worked to brighten the lives of people in these villages and took electricity there, he added. Now, we have gone a step further and we are ensuring every



@narendramodi



All the development projects in the state will give opportunities to the youth of Jharkhand.

household in India has access to electricity, he said.

He said fertilizer plants which had stopped working are in the process of being revived. Eastern India will gain the most from this, he added.

The Prime Minister said that the healthcare sector in the State will be transformed with the establishment of AIIMS in Jharkhand. The poor will get access to top quality healthcare, he added.

Shri Modi said that the Union Government has made air-travel accessible and affordable. The holy land of Deoghar will get a state-of-the-art airport and AIIMS very soon.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- I begin by paying homage to Bhagwan Birsa Munda. This land of Jharkhand is a land of courage.
- The Central Government is devoting significant resources for the empowerment of the power, Dalits and Tribal communities.
- For the last four years the Central Government and Government of Jharkhand have been working for the progress of the state and empowerment of the people.
- The coming of AIIMS in Deoghar will transform the healthcare sector in Jharkhand. The poor will get access to top quality healthcare.
- It is our Government that has made aviation accessible and affordable. We want more Indians to fly. Better connectivity will also improve tourism.
- The Central Government is devoting significant resources for the empowerment of the Dalits and Tribal communities. Today, we have laid the foundation stone for five big projects. The total cost of these projects is Rs. 27,000 crore.
- When we assumed office there were 18,000 villages lacking access to electricity.
- We have gone a step further and we are ensuring every household in India has access to electricity. ■

# My Reflections on the NDA Government after Completion of Four Years in Power



**ARUN JAITLEY**

**T**he NDA Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed four years in office. Today (26 May, 2018) it enters its fifth year in office.

## THE CHANGE

The preceding ten years of the UPA rule had unquestionably witnessed the most corrupt Government since Independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi created transparent systems through legislative and institutional changes which have given this country a scam-free governance. Unlike the UPA, the Prime Minister is the natural leader of both his party and the nation. We have witnessed a journey from indecisiveness to clarity and decisiveness. India has transformed from being a part of the “fragile five” to the “bright spot” on the global economic scene. A regime of policy paralysis has been transformed into one of decisions and actions. India, which was on the verge of becoming a “basket case” has today been transformed into the fastest growing major economy in the world and is likely to hold that position in the years

to come. The country’s mood from despair has transformed into hope and aspirations. Good governance and good economics have been blended with good politics. The result of this has been that the BJP is more confident, its geographical base has become much bigger, its social base has expanded and its winnability has hugely increased. The Congress is in desperation without the perks of office. From the dominant party of Indian politics, it is moving towards the “fringe”, its political positions are not of a mainstream party but one usually adopted by “fringe” organisations. Fringe organisations can never hope to come in power. Its best hope lies in becoming a supporter of regional political parties. State level regional political parties have realised that the marginalised Congress can at best be either a junior partner or a marginal supporter. Karnataka had witnessed a telling example of this. A regional political party whose base at best is confined to a few districts was able to extract a Chief Ministership of the Congress to which the Congress meekly surrendered. It had even lost its bargaining capacity. It is today putting on a brave face in Karnataka where the losers are masquerading as a winner.

## SCAM-FREE GOVERNANCE

Prime Minister Modi has institutionalised a system where discretions have been eliminated.

Discretions lead to abuse of power because they can be misused. Allocations of contracts, natural resources, spectrum and other Government largesse which were being distributed through discretions, are now allocated through a market mechanism. Laws have been changed. Leaders of the industry are no longer seen repeatedly visiting the South Block, the North Block or the Udyog Bhawan. Environmental clearance files don’t pile up. FIPB has been abolished.

For cleaning up the economy, India has to transform from a tax non-compliant society to a tax-compliant society. The enactment and implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, the impact of demonetisation, effective tax compliance are all steps against black money, steps which are formalising the Indian economy. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has changed the lender-creditor relationship. The creditors no longer have to chase the debtors. If you cannot pay your creditors, you have to exit through a statutory mechanism.

## THE SOCIAL SECTOR PRIORITY

For the first time in history, the poor and the marginalised are holding bank accounts as part of the world’s largest financial inclusion programme. The MUDRA Yojana has made cheaper credit available to the weak and the marginalised.





The biggest beneficiaries of this have been women, SC/ST, minorities and other weaker sections. Rural roads with a hugely increased expenditure are a success story. That every village must be connected with road and electricity, affordable rural housing, toilets and gas connections in all homes, are intended to change the quality of life in villages. The Crop Insurance Scheme and the Government's decision that farmers must get 50 percent above cost are steps intended to eliminating agricultural distress. The UPA Government had sanctioned Rs.40,000 crores under MGNREGA but with budget cuts spent only Rs.29,000 crores. Today that expenditure has been doubled. Under Food Security Programme, the expenditure has been increased to Rs.1,70,000 crores to ensure cheaper food-grain availability to the eligible. On the healthcare front, the destiny of India's poor will change when 40 percent families at the bottom of the ladder will get a treatment upto rupees five lakhs for hospitalisation at the cost of the Government scheme.

### THE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

During the UPA Government, India had fallen off the global radar. In its initial years when the world

economy was booming, India grew on the strength of global tailwinds. When the global situation became challenging, the UPA's decisiveness and performance collapsed. The last two years of the UPA had witnessed substantially lower growth rates. From the very first year of NDA, India is the world's fastest growing major economy with the highest GDP growth rates. This is also the global projection for the next few years.

The Current Account Deficit (CAD) saw an unprecedented 6.7 percent deficit in the year 2012-13. The NDA has consistently maintained a CAD of under 2 percent on an annualised basis. The poor economic management was visible when under the UPA fiscal deficits remained alarmingly high. The Government was spending more and earning less. We witnessed fiscal deficits of 5.8 percent, 4.8 percent and 4.4 percent in the UPA's last three years. Having inherited the mess, the NDA, year after year, has brought it down to 3.5 percent and shall, this year, try and deliver a 3.3 percent fiscal deficit. The UPA's economic management was such

that even when fiscal deficits were high, expenditure cuts of over rupees one lakh crores were done in order to make fiscal deficit optically look slightly better. Cut in expenditure means cut in growth. During the NDA years, Revised Estimates of expenditure were always been higher than Budget Estimates. The UPA provided India in its last years an inflation figure upto 9 percent and at one stage even crossed into double digits. The NDA has tried to contain inflation and on most occasions has remained within the target of 3 to 4 percent. The poor economic management of the UPA resulted in the high cost of borrowing for the Centre and the State Governments. The bond yields had touched an incredible 9.12 percent in April, 2014. We have been, on an average, able to contain it between 6 to 7 percent with a low of 6.3 percent on one occasion and rarely in the 7 percent range only when global factors impacted either the currency or the crude prices.

From the last year of the UPA, the infrastructure expenditure to this year has increased by 134 percent during the current year.

**Prime Minister Modi has institutionalised a system where discretions have been eliminated. Discretions lead to abuse of power because they can be misused. Allocations of contracts, natural resources, spectrum and other Government largesse which were being distributed through discretions, are now allocated through a market mechanism.**

The Congress President must remember that taxes don't go into the pocket of the Government. They go back to the people for better infrastructure, better social sector expenditure and poverty reduction programmes. The social sector expenditure has seen a substantial increase by both the Central and the State Governments. The road sector programmes has witnessed a 189 percent increase between the last year of the UPA and the current year of the present Government. Resources are transferred to the States with 42 percent devolution of taxes, Finance Commission grants and assistance through the CSS

### THE FIFTH YEAR DEBATE

As we enter the fifth year of the Government, the NDA's priorities are clear. This will be our year of consolidation of the policies and programmes which we have implemented. In our Prime Minister, we have a strong leader with a mass appeal. His capacity to change India's destiny is globally recognised. His insistence on integrity, his infatigable capacity to work, his clarity of policy and direction, his boldness in taking steps in larger national interest gives the NDA a natural political advantage. Clarity and credibility are hallmarks of the NDA Government.

secularism. These are ideologically flexible political groups. Stable politics is far from their political track record. Some amongst this disparate group have an extremely dubious track record of governance. Some leaders are maverick and others include those who are either convicted or charged with serious allegations of corruption. There are many whose political support base is confined to either a few districts or to a particular caste. To rule a large country like India through coalitions is possible but the nucleus of a coalition has to be stable. It must have a large size, an ideologically defined position and a vested interest in honest governance. A federal front is a failed idea. It was experimented under Shri Charan Singh, Shri Chandrasekhar and by the United Front Government between 1996-98. Such a front with its contradictions, sooner or later, loses its balance and equilibrium. Remembering 1996-98 as perhaps one of the worst period of governance, the aspirational India which today occupies the high table in the world shall never accept an idea which has repeatedly failed. History teaches us this lesson. Aspirational societies with vibrant democracies do not invite anarchy. A strong nation and the requirements of good governance abhor anarchy. The political agenda for the debate this year appropriately will be Prime Minister "Modi versus an anarchist combination". The 2014 election conclusively established that in the New India chemistry will score over arithmetic when it comes to deciding the country's destiny. ■

**The last few days have witnessed a discussion about a "fictional alternative". A group of disparate political parties are promising to come together. Some of their leaders are temperamental, the others occasionally change ideological positions. With many of them, such as TMC, DMK, TDP, BSP and the JD(S), the BJP has had an opportunity to share power.**

schemes. Notwithstanding the perpetual grumbling, last year of the UPA witnessed Rs.5,15,302 being transferred to the States. This year the proposed transfer is 145 percent higher and will be at 12,62,935 crores. This is over and above what the States earn from the GST where they have been constitutionally protected with a 14 percent annual increase. The States independently levy their own taxes.

Institutional changes thus being enacted and implemented are putting the Indian economy on a far stronger wicket.

The last few days have witnessed a discussion about a "fictional alternative". A group of disparate political parties are promising to come together. Some of their leaders are temperamental, the others occasionally change ideological positions. With many of them, such as TMC, DMK, TDP, BSP and the JD(S), the BJP has had an opportunity to share power. They frequently change political positions. They have supported the BJP claiming that it is in larger national interest and then turned turtle and oppose it in the name of

**(The writer is a Union Minister, GoI)**

# India and Indonesia sign 15 agreements

**Both acknowledges need to maintain maritime safety and security for peace, stability Indo-Pacific region**

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi visited Indonesia from 29th May to 30th May on invitation of Indonesian Presiden Joko Widodo. It was his first visit to Indonesia as Prime Minister. Also he addressed Indian diaspora in Indonesia. The visit strengthened bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two countries condemned terrorism in all its forms, as Mr. Modi held “productive discussions” with Indonesian President Joko Widodo. The two countries also signed 15 agreements, including one to boost defence cooperation, and called for freedom of navigation in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 30 began his Indonesia visit by paying homage to martyrs of Indonesian independence struggle as he laid a wreath at the Kalibata National Heroes’ Cemetery in Jakarta.

During the tour both countries issued joint statement. They said in the statement “Both India and Indonesia are maritime neighbours and sea faring nations, whose relations are rooted in civilizational contacts developed through the seas and who share similar perceptions of the evolving maritime environment in the region and world at large.”

Both recognized that with a coastline of 7,500 kms, with more than 1,380 islands and more than two million sq. km of Exclusive Economic Zone, India occupies a central position in the Indo-Pacific, while Indonesia as the largest archipelagic State in the world, with a coastline of 108,000 kms, with 17,504



islands and features and a total of maritime areas of 6,400,000 sq. km including Exclusive Economic Zone, is a fulcrum that connects the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. The two oceans represent a combined maritime region which is important for global maritime trade and commerce;

The visit acknowledged the need to maintain maritime safety and security for peace, stability and sustainable economic growth and development in the maritime waters of the Indo-Pacific region as enshrined by UNCLOS and relevant international laws;

Appreciated the leadership role played by Indonesia and India as previous Chairs of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) to build a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Indian Ocean region through enhanced cooperation as mandated in the Jakarta Concord and Plan of Action as the results of the IORA Leaders’ Summit held in March 2017 in Jakarta to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the IORA;

Both noted that free and open seas, as regulated by UNCLOS, are essential for peace, stability and prosperity of the region and the international community;

They underscored the importance to address the emerging maritime security issues facing the Indo-Pacific region including the smuggling of people, arms, drugs and money; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and the movement of terrorists. ■





# ‘India and Singapore will jointly organise Hackathon’

**P** rime Minister visited Singapore on the invitation of Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong to deliver the keynote address at the Shangri La Dialogue. It was Prime Minister's third visit to Singapore.

In the meeting with the Prime Minister as well as with the President both leaders conveyed their deep appreciation to Prime Minister for accepting invitation to deliver the keynote address at the Shangri La Dialogue. There was talk of review of the air services agreement that India have with Singapore. There was also talk of collaboration between India and Singapore in start-up sector, technology and innovation and in that context Prime Minister offered that they could as two governments sit together and organize a Hackathon, pose question to young start-ups, young innovators, young entrepreneurs and let them come out with solutions that are affordable,



that are cheap, that are of relevance. This particular suggest of hosting a Hackathon jointly between India and Singapore was warmly welcomed by Prime Minister Lee, he said that it was a very good idea and we will certainly work towards organizing such Hackathon. Prime Minister Shri Modi informed Prime Minister Lee about his proposal to formulate a data policy of India in which India would certainly have discussions and interactions using Singapore's experience to be factored in when we formulate our own data policy.

There were eight government to government level MoUs that were signed in the areas focusing on skill development, defence, on nursing, I have just got the list here, which is already available on our website.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also addressed the indian diaspora. Addressing the Indian diaspora he talked about how uniquely placed they are as sincere citizens of this country to also be great ambassadors of heritage of India in Singapore.

Prime Minister held roundtable discussion with 30 senior most and most prominent CEOs from Singapore. In free and frank discussion Prime Minister highlighted the reforms that had been undertaken, he talked about GST and also talked about the fact that India's ranking improved by 42 places in the world in terms of ease of doing business. ■

## PM launches three Indian digital payment apps

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 31 launched three Indian mobile payment apps in Singapore at a business event aimed at internationalisation of the country's digital payment platform. At the 'Business, Innovation and Community Event' here where digital platform was the main feature, PM Shri Modi launched India's BHIM, RuPay and SBI app.

India's RuPay digital payments system was linked up with Singapore's 33-year old Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS). RuPay users will be able to make payments at all of NETS acceptance points across Singapore. Also, a new app-based rupee remittance mode of the SBI's Singapore branch was launched at the event. Remittance of up to Rupees 100,000 will be made quick, easy and convenient with the help of Virtual Payment Address (VPA).

# Government reaches out to weakest sections through inclusive policies



**BHUPENDER YADAV**

**T**he Union Government, under the leadership of the incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has completed four years of its term. The government is at the centre of widespread attention for a variety of reasons; the most important one being the fact that it has been elected by the people of this country with an overwhelming majority, with a party, and in this case the BJP, emerging as the single largest party in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, thereby forming a government with absolute majority at the Centre after a gap of thirty years. The projection of Narendra Modi as the face of the 2014 elections is another important factor that played a major role in providing unparalleled support from all the sections of society for forming this government. His presence as an effective communicator, efficient decision-maker and a strong leader with a highly popular support base was felt across the country. In this sense, the 2014 election was unprecedented as it created a significant change in the way political dialogue takes place in India. A system of frequent and effective dialogue between the

country's leader, its government and its people has been established under Modi government. This dialogue has led to social issues gaining prominence and priority in the national policy-making circles. It has immensely benefitted the inclusive spirit of the country as no civil society can progress equitably without a comprehensive awareness of its core issues and aims such as Clean and Smart Cities, Health for All, Economic Empowerment, Dignified Life for All and creating an society driven by Aspiration. In this context, the growing sense of awareness on political and social issues has contributed towards enhancing the self-esteem of the people and restored their faith in the Indian political system.

Over the last four years; while on one hand, the expectations of the people from this government and its leader has risen, on the other hand, the involvement and engagement of the people has also simultaneously increased. One of the biggest achievements of the Modi government is its success in reaching out to all sections of the society across the country by forging a comprehensive political dialogue. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, through his inclusive policies and schemes, reached out to the weakest sections of Indian society. By launching and implementing schemes like Jan-Dhan, Ujjwala and Ujaala, the government has established itself as a pro-poor government, committed

towards making concerted efforts to integrate and include marginalized communities into the mainstream and to uplift their social and economic status in the long run by encouraging financial inclusion and entrepreneurship spirit among the weakest sections of our society. Moreover, the active involvement of the citizenry in government campaigns like Yoga Day and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan demonstrates the widespread support and popularity for the policies implemented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. At the same time, by addressing the issue of increasing participation of women in the Armed Forces, a favourable atmosphere has been created for prioritizing and empowering women by making them active players in the public decision-making processes. The democratic spirit of India has been further entrenched through this enhanced, comprehensive participation of common people across different strata. The 'Mann Ki Baat' initiative by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi where he frequently discusses his views and suggestions on a wide variety of issues; ranging from career advice to the youth, rural development, farmers, school students facing exam stress, women's safety and mental health issues; has played an instrumental role in strengthening the channels of effective communication and dialogue in contemporary Indian politics. The manner in which Indian languages have been effectively

used by the PM on various occasions at the global level has served to enhanced the self-confidence of the country's rural youth residing in remote, far-away areas.

Concisely examining the milestones achieved by Modi government, it is clear that firstly, the public participation in political and social matters has been comprehensively expanded to include all the sections of society. Secondly, the government has implemented its decisions and schemes in a time-bound manner and completed the targets of its schemes within their stipulated time. Some of its decisions were quite bold, especially the economic ones, thereby sometimes making them unpopular too, but with the passage of time, many reputed national and international analysts have come to agree that those very decisions have considerably strengthened and stabilized the Indian economy. The fact that the government has managed to build consensus on major reforms like the GST and the Bankruptcy Law demonstrates its commitment to bring economic empowerment and reduce economic disparity among different sections of the society. Thirdly, ending the longstanding policy paralysis within the bureaucratic and executive departments of policymakers is another significant achievement by this government that will immensely benefit the country in the long-run by inculcating transparent, efficient and accountable practices to ensure fast and effective policies. The government's success in putting good governance at the centre of the country's political discussions is a another major milestone.

The Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi believes in equitable empowerment and so a string of policies, decisions and schemes of this government have been launched with the primary aim of socially and economically uplifting the minorities and the marginalised sections of our society. By granting constitutional status to the OBC Commission, bringing out laws against Triple Talaq for the protection of rights of Muslim women, establishing a National Irrigation Fund for farmers, strengthening the SC/ST Act through amendments, raising the paid maternity leave duration for working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks and ensuring legal delivery of services to the poor through Aadhaar, this government has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to tackle the widespread social and economic disparity in India through good governance, social and financial inclusion and public participation based on democratic principles. Unfortunately, the Opposition parties have targeted the Central government and its policies during every state Assembly election, but ironically they lost every time because the people of the country have quite well understood the Congress' politics of convenience and manipulation.

On the foreign policy front, India's credibility and position within the international community has significantly increased under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. By inviting the Heads of States of the SAARC countries to his swearing-in ceremony as the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi explicitly demonstrated his

intention of following favourable bilateral relations within his broader foreign policy approach. It also led to sending out the message of a strong leadership in Asia by a resurging India. This message is now expanding out of Asia and reaching out to the whole world and it has become explicitly visible on several global platforms that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is now emerging as a strong country. The inaugural speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January this year from the World Economic Forum summit in Davos in the presence of the heads of States of several prominent countries reflects the acceptance of India's existing leadership at the global level by the international community. The clear perspective that emerged from Prime Minister Modi's speech on an issue of international significance like Climate Change, explicitly demonstrated to the international community that India is fully competent to lead the world on any global issue. Furthermore, India currently maintains favourable relations with nearly all the countries of the world. With respect to Asia, inviting the ASEAN leaders to the Republic Day celebrations of this year, Prime Minister Modi asserted India's position as a leader in Asia. The BRICS Summit also further embedded India's renewed global influence in the world. Thus, it would be apt to say that Indian Foreign Policy under the leadership of PM Modi is gaining new heights with Modi emerging as an influential player in world politics. ■

**(The writer is BJP National General Secretary and MP)**





## VISVA BHARATI A SYMBOL OF SHARED HERITAGE FOR BOTH INDIA AND BANGLADESH: PM

**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi 25 May visited Santiniketan in West Bengal. Prime Minister Modi received the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, at Santiniketan. Paying homage to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the two leaders signed the visitors' book. The two leaders then attended the Convocation of the Visva Bharati University.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister described India's democratic system of governance as a great teacher, which inspires over 125 crore people. He said it was his good fortune to be among the learned people on this sacred land of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. He congratulated the students who received degrees today. He said that all those who studied at this University have not just received a degree, but have also become inheritors of a great legacy.

The Prime Minister said that the teachings of the Vedas, which describe the entire world as one nest, or one home, are reflected in the values of Visva Bharati University. Welcoming the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, he said that India and Bangladesh are two nations, whose interests are linked to mutual cooperation and coordination among each other.

The Prime Minister said that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is respected widely across the world. He recalled that he had the opportunity to unveil a statue of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in Tajikistan three years ago. He said Tagore is a subject of study in Universities across the world even today. He described Gurudev as a global citizen.

The Prime Minister said that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore always wanted Indian students to keep abreast of developments across the world, even as they kept their Indianness intact. He appreciated Visva Bharati University for its efforts at skill development and education in nearby villages. He encouraged the University to expand this effort to 100 villages by its centenary year in 2021. He also called upon the University to work towards overall development of these

100 villages.

The Prime Minister said that institutions such as Visva Bharati University have a key role to play in the creation of a New India by 2022. He outlined initiatives taken by the Union Government in the education sector.

Speaking on the occasion of the inauguration of Bangladesh Bhavan, the Prime Minister described it as a symbol of the cultural ties between India and Bangladesh. He said that this University and this sacred land have a history that has seen the freedom struggles of both India and Bangladesh. He added that it is a symbol of the shared heritage of the two countries.

He said that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman is respected equally in both India and Bangladesh. Similarly, he added that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi are respected in Bangladesh as much as in India.

**PM visits Santiniketan, attends**

**Convocation of Visva Bharati University,**

**inaugurates Bangladesh Bhavana**

In the same vein, he said that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore belongs to Bangladesh, as much as to India.

The Prime Minister said that Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's credo of Universal Humanism is reflected in the Union Government's guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." He said that the shared resolve of India and Bangladesh, against cruelty and terrorism, will continue to inspire future generations through the Bangladesh Bhavan. He recalled the felicitation of Indian soldiers by Bangladesh in New Delhi last year.

The Prime Minister said that the last few years have marked a golden period in relations between the two countries. He mentioned the resolution of the land boundary issue, and various connectivity projects.

He asserted that the two countries have similar goals, and are taking similar paths to achieve those goals. ■

# Modi emerges socialist messiah redeeming promises



**DR. R BALASHANKAR**

It is not an exaggeration to say that “leadership is about changing lives, leadership is about reinventing possibilities to improve living standards of the most neglected and deprived”. The NDA government in the last four years has sincerely tried to make a difference, transform and better the lifestyle of the poorest Indian.

The Modi government has devised many schemes to directly reach benefits to 310 million families so far. The target is to touch every Indian by 2022 through these programmes. Instead of giving populist doles to the poor, which used to be the practice with previous governments Modi government devised schemes to empower the poor to stand on their own feet providing them with the basic support to move out of the vicious circle of poverty and indebtedness. In the process Narendra Modi redesigned the economic architecture by trying to redistribute wealth, widening tax base and strengthening the last mile delivery, mechanism. This will transform the society, make it

accountable and law abiding and force the crooks to crave for cover.

Today, India is the fastest growing economy at a rate of 7.5 per cent. India's GDP in current prices increased by 31% between 2013 & 2017 while the Global GDP increased by 4%. Inflation which was 9.5 per cent under the UPA has been steady at 3.5 per cent under Modi government. Till 2014, India had built 93000 KM of national highways, which today has grown to 1,23,000 KM Modi had inherited a power situation mired in


scams and scarcity. Today India is power surplus. Not only that for the first time 19000 villages have got electricity under the Ujala Yojana which is to light up every village in the country. 35 million families have got free cooking gas connection out of a target of reaching it to 80 million families. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 15 million new houses have been built, in the 2022 target of Modi for house for all. The new toilets built under the Swatch Bharat Abhiyan are 750 million. The Mudra Yojana has benefited 120 million

**Saaf Niyat Sahi Vikas**

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MONTHS OF TRANSFORMING INDIA

## Connecting Young India to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar




Dr. Ambedkar International Centre opened in Dec 2017  
Foundation stone was laid by PM Modi in April 2015


**Panchteerth: Paying tributes to Babasaheb by developing places associated with his life**




His birthplace in Mhow




His residence during studies in the U.K.




Deeksha Bhoomi, Nagpur, where he embraced Buddhism



Where he attained Parinirvan, 'Mahaparinirvan Sthal' in Delhi



His memorial, 'Chaitya Bhoomi' in Mumbai



families by providing with small loans to start a new living. Modi Care, the new health insurance scheme to provide five lakh to each poor family for medical care will target to cover one third of the population.

In the last four years the rural road building progressed at 139 KM per day which used to be 69 KM per day till 2014. Last year India received the largest number of tourists in history, because of the 45 per cent increase in aviation capacity and 30 per cent growth in hotel accommodation.

Linking Aadhar as the ultimate identity of an Indian, Jandhan Yojana which enrolled 210 million new bank account holders are two other flag ship projects of the government. An IIT and an AIIMS in every state is a new approach to uplift education and healthcare. The highest number of minority children has received scholarship for higher studies under Modi Government. Marrying economics with social welfare has been the biggest achievement of Modi. The success of Demonetisation and GST has to be seen in this light. It played a major role in eliminating corruption, black

money, fake notes and tax evasion. The two adventurous economic disruptions bestowed Modi the mantle of the Socialist Messiah and made him the darling of the poor and downtrodden. The schemes were criticized, many experts including former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh predicted economic downslide and doom, but Modi pulled them off with great aplomb. It is the conviction to take up challenging economic reforms and stay the course in the midst of adverse reactions that earned Modi the new political base and approval rating.

He has lifted an economy which had lost all hopes of a turn around because of corruption, low growth rate, policy paralysis, high inflation, slackening FDI inflow and capital flight. The India story had almost been written off. The world had started telling "that used to be India". The country that had fallen to the lowest in the ease of doing business created a world record by notching up 50 points in just two years. This is the Modi miracle. Agriculture growth has almost doubled in the last four

years, though farm distress is still an issue. Modi has promised to double the farmer income in five years, a herculean task in the present situation. The high fuel prices are a problem area. This is a hangover of the Socialist past which thought fuel a luxury item. Modi has inherited a whopping NPA problem to the tune of 10 lakh crore. This has shattered the capital base of PSU banks. This cannot have accumulated without political loot. Bringing the culprits to book and gallows is a major challenge for Modi. The NPA tackling and bank recapitalization are gathering momentum.

Modi has laid a solid foundation for the economy to grow. This is election years. If Modi is judged on the scales of words and deeds, he has redeemed his promises well and ignited hopes for the future. For 2019, he practically has no challenger.

Restructured the economic architecture of the country, redistributed wealth and empowered the poor to stand on their own feet. This is not a small achievement. ■

(The author is a political analyst and member BJP Committees on Training and Publications)

## More than 2 lakh patients used Centre's free dialysis schemes

**T**he Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), which was rolled out in 2016, provides free dialysis care to the patients in district hospitals, in collaboration with private partners, through the PPP mode. At present, this facility is available in 500 district hospitals.

As per the provisions, the private partner provides medical human resource, dialysis machine along with 'reverse osmosis' (RO) water plant infrastructure, dialyzer and consumables, while the space, power, and water supply within the district hospitals are provided by the state government. As per reports from

the state governments, more than 2.3 lakh patients have availed this scheme till March, 2018, with 22 lakh dialysis sessions, for which more than Rs 330 crore has been approved.

Most of the patients who availed the scheme were from West Bengal (more than 42,000 patients), followed by Gujarat (more than 35,000 patients). Puducherry, despite being a small state, reported more than 10,500 beneficiaries. In 2016, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley had announced the scheme in the annual Budget, saying it would be made available through the PPP mode under the National Health Mission. ■



# Four Years of Modi Government - Economic and Social Transformation



**GOPAL KRISHNA AGRAWAL**

**A**s we contemplate on completion of 4 years of first term of Modi Government in office, it is time to analyse the thought process that goes in the policies of the Government. The mandate to Shri Modiji was a big shift in Indian politics; it was a rejection of status quo in favour of transformative changes. He was voted to power for accelerating economic growth, corruption free environment and participative development.

The core of Modi government's economic philosophy is fiscal responsibility, efficiency in government expenditure and policies that lead to empowerment over entitlement.

Within the ambit of the philosophy of 'Antyodaya', government is pro-poor. It is committed to take the challenge of slow economic growth and in equal distribution. The government works with innovation in implementation, a shift from the policy of entitlement followed by the UPA government.

Infrastructure development

and allocation for economically disadvantaged segments of the society requires higher spending. Achieving it with reduced fiscal deficit calls for higher tax to GDP ratio. To meet this goal, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was implemented, it is the biggest tax reform since independence. GST has been able to broaden the tax base and creating a system so that registration, filing, assessment, credit and refund are all done online with no scope for subjective intervention and harassment.

Inflation is tamed and fiscal deficit is controlled by the Government by taking strong policy decisions. The government has addressed corruption through steps like demonetization, direct benefit transfer (DBT), Jan Dhan Accounts and increased transparency in governmental working. Deregistration of Shell companies, renegotiation of bilateral tax treaties, Income Disclosure Schemes (IDS) and Benami Properties Act have also helped in this direction.

Encouragement of all business transactions through banking channels is establishing a clear audit trail.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is one of the biggest reforms in the financial market. Promoters of defaulter companies are facing a real challenge of losing control over their companies. The successful resolution of the NPA of Bhushan Steel Limited under the IBC is a game-changer for the banking sector. Financial Regulation and Deposit Insurance (FRDI) Bill seeks to create an institutional setup to resolve distress in financial institutions.

The policy paralysis of UPA led to a disappointment in the international community about India's future. The current government's foreign policy has been a concerted attempt to dispel this image, to assure global community that India will realize its true potential. The trust of the global community is evident by the rising foreign direct investments (FDI) in India.

When it comes to the social dimension of its policies, Modi government's focus is in scale, speed and mass mobilization to realise the objective of Social upliftment. 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is to provide a life of dignity to the poor, irrespective of religion, caste or gender. 'Beti bachao Beti padhao' initiative of the government provides equality of status and opportunity to girl child. The government has been successful in creating awareness and public participation. Modi Government's stand on Triple Talaq came from its conviction that

the practice was grave injustice to Muslim women.

Political thought of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' translates to a government that values the support of every section of the society, which works for the development of all.

Our government is not guided by narrow electoral considerations. The difference with the working of the Congress led UPA is too obvious. The UPA during 2004 to 2014 tried to create divisions in

of 'Saffron Terror' was developed by Congress government in order to consolidate Muslim votes.

Modi government firmly believes that responsive and effective governance ensures electoral success. Thus far the government is concerned it respects the mandate of the people by focusing on doing its job. It believes that good economics is good politics. Unlike the earlier governments, Modi government has not created vested interest

**'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is to provide a life of dignity to the poor, irrespective of religion, caste or gender. 'Beti bachao Beti padhao' initiative of the government provides equality of status and opportunity to girl child. The government has been successful in creating awareness and public participation. Modi Government's stand on Triple Talaq came from its conviction that the practice was grave injustice to Muslim women.**

the Indian society to reap electoral gains. It made attempts to pass 'Communal Violence Bill' that was against the Hindus, the Right to Education (RTE) Act exempted only the minority educational institutions from its ambit, creating an incentive for various sub-sects to dissociate from Hinduism. The UPA government had constituted Sachar Committee for Muslims and was trying to make changes, which were extra-unconstitutional. A fabricated narrative in the name

for limited number of people in its continuation. The government has higher benchmarks and evaluation matrix for accountability and is willing to present its report card on its performance. The success of BJP in the state elections since 2014 bear testimony to the fact that Modi government is reaping political rewards for its work at the Centre. ■

**(The writer is National Spokesperson of BJP on Economic Affairs)**

# Our daughters from Sikar shows how true determination can lead to success: PM

Addressing his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on May 27 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that May 1857 was not only evaluated as a minor historical incident but was also an attempt to dent our self-respect. Here, highlights of the speech is being given for our esteemed readers:

I am sure you distinctly remember that for the last many months, a naval team comprising six women Commanders was on a voyage. I want to tell you something about the 'Naavika Saagar Parikrama'. These six illustrious daughters of India circumnavigated the globe for over more than 250 days on board the INSV Tarini, returning home on the 21st of May. The entire country welcomed them with open arms, with high spirits. They traversed a multitude of oceans, many a sea, over a distance of almost twenty two thousand nautical miles. This was a first of its kind event in the entire world. Last Wednesday, I got an opportunity to meet these daughters and listen to their experiences. Once again, I congratulate these daughters and their spirit of adventure for bringing laurels to the country.

- My dear countrymen, especially my young friends, just a couple of months ago, when I mentioned 'Fit India', I did not think it would draw such a good response; that a large number of people would come forward to support it. When I say 'Fit India', I believe that the more we play, the more we will inspire the country to come out & play. People are sharing videos of Fitness Challenge on social media; they are tagging each other to spread the challenge. Everybody is now getting connected with this Fit India Campaign.
- It is true that sports & games that were once a part & parcel of every child's life, in every lane in the neighbourhood, are fading into oblivion. These games used to be a special feature of summer holidays. Sometimes in scorching afternoons; at times after dinner, children used to play with exuberant abandon for hours together, leaving all worries behind. Some games saw the participation of the whole family. Aiming the ball at the crooked column of stone slats- Pitthoo, playing marbles,

testing one's agility in Kho kho, spinning the top, A single game is known by distinct names at different places.

- India will officially host the World Environment Day Celebrations. This is a very important achievement for India and it is also an acknowledgement as well as recognition of India's growing leadership in the direction of tackling climate change. This time the theme is 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. I appeal to all of you, that while trying to understand the importance of this theme, we should all ensure that we do not use low grade polythene and low grade plastics and try to curb the negative impact of plastic



pollution on our environment, on our wild life and our health.

- My dear countrymen, memories of this May month are also linked with Veer Savarkar. This was the very month, the month of May 1857, when Indians had displayed their strength against the British. In many parts of the country, our youth and farmers demonstrated their bravery whilst standing up against the injustice. It is indeed sad that we kept on calling the events of 1857 only as a rebellion or a soldiers' mutiny for a very long time.
- In fact, May 1857 was not only evaluated as a minor



historical incident but was also an attempt to dent our self-respect. It was Veer Savarkar who boldly expostulated by writing that whatever happened in 1857 was not a revolt but was indeed the First War of Independence. Savarkar along with his band of brave hearts celebrated the 50th anniversary of the First War of Independence with great fanfare at India house in London. It is also an amazing coincidence that the month which witnessed the First Struggle for Independence was the month in which Veer Savarkar ji was born. Savarkar ji's personality was full of special qualities; he was a worshipper of both weapons or shashtra and Knowledge or shaashtras. Generally Veer Savarkar is renowned for his bravery and his struggle against the British Raj. But besides these sterling qualities, he was also a striking poet and a social reformer who always emphasized on goodwill and unity.

- I was watching a story on TV about our underprivileged daughters of certain slums in Sikar, Rajasthan. Our daughters, who were forced to sift through garbage and beg from home to home in order to earn a living - today they are learning sewing and stitching clothes to cover the impoverished. This is an example where the

daughters are stitching ordinary to good quality clothes for themselves and other families. Along with this, they are undergoing a training course in skill development. These daughters have become self-reliant today and are living their lives with respect and have become a strong support to their families. I wish all these daughters, brimming with hope and trust, a very bright future.

- But there are some people who go ahead with their work, to bring about a change through their hard work and dedication; they make it a reality. Such is the story of D. Prakash Rao, living in the slums of Cuttack, Orissa, Shriman D. Prakash Rao has been a tea vendor in the city of Cuttack for the past five decades. A meagre tea vendor; today you will be surprised to know that the lives of more than 70 children are being illuminated through education due to his efforts. He has opened a school named 'Asha Ashvaasan', spending 50% of his income for children living in slums and hutments. He ensures education, health and meals for all the children coming to this school. I congratulate D. Prakash Rao for his hard work, his persistence and for providing a new direction to the lives of those poor children attending his school. ■

## Maharashtra Minister Pandurang Fundkar no more

**M**aharashtra Agriculture Minister Shri Pandurang Pundalik Fundkar, alias Bhausaheb Fundkar, passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest on May 31 in Mumbai. He was 67. Shri Fundkar was the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Maharashtra unit between 1991 and 1996. He represented Akola parliamentary constituency three times.

He was elected to the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha from Khamgaon in 1978 and 1980. He was also the leader of the Opposition in the legislative council.

Shri Fundkar a member of 9th Lok Sabha, 10th Lok Sabha and 11th Lok Sabha from Akola from Maharashtra. On July 8, 2016, he was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister in Devendra Fadnavis.

PM Modi said on his demise "Saddened by the



demise of Maharashtra's Agriculture Minister Shri Pandurang Fundkar. He made an invaluable contribution towards building the BJP in Maharashtra. He was also at the forefront of serving the farmers of the state. My thoughts are with his family and supporters."

Expressing condolence on demise of the leader BJP national President said in tweet "Pained to know about the sudden demise of Shri Pandurang Fundkar ji, the Agriculture Minister of Maharashtra. He was a people's leader & three time MP from Akola. Bhausaheb Fundkar worked tirelessly to spread BJP's reach in Maharashtra, my condolences with his family & followers." Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recalled his late cabinet colleague's contribution to the party and farmers' development. ■



THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI AND  
 BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHRI AMIT SHAH  
 BECOME LIFE MEMBERS OF KAMAL SANDESH

**BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT**

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**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting the PM of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at Istana - Presidential Palace in Singapore**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi unveiling the Plaque marking the immersion site of Mahatma Gandhi's Ashes at Clifford Pier in Singapore**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting the President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta, Indonesia**



**Mr. Joko Widodo & thousands of children welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi on his arrival at Istana Merdeka in Jakarta, Indonesia**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting the PM of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi in a road show after the inauguration of Delhi-Meerut Expressway in Delhi**





### Harnessing Yuva Shakti Transforming India

Multiple reforms to improve school education  
More opportunities in Higher Education with 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 IIITs & more universities  
Three pronged approach to ensure more opportunities in Public, Private and Personal sector  
Over 1 crore youngsters to achieve training under Skill India  
Annual financial assistance of Rs.5 lakh per annum for 8 years to talented players under Khelo India

### Building a Healthy India

Ayushman Bharat to be World's Largest Health Insurance Initiative. Will cover 50 crore citizens.  
Over 3.15 crore children immunized under Mission Indradhanush  
Medicines become affordable with PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana  
Knee Implants and Heart Stents available at 50-70% discount

### The World Sees a New India

In a historic first, India carried out Surgical Strikes showing a new mettle  
India becomes the Global Growth Engine  
Yoga goes Global  
India leads the Fight against Climate Change  
ISRO sets a World Record by successfully launching 104 satellites in a single flight



### Development Reaching the Poorest, Ensuring Better Life for All

Jan Dhan to Jan Suraksha: The Poor get Bank accounts and Insurance Cover  
All villages electrified, now 4 crore households to get electricity  
3.8 crore families get smoke free lives with Ujjwala  
More than 7.5 crore toilets constructed with the Swachh Bharat Revolution  
1 crore poor families get a home under PM Awas Yojana

### Unwavering Commitment to Social Justice

Historic budget of Rs. 95,000 crore for welfare of SC/ ST Communities.  
Empowering through education: Increase in scholarships to students from backward communities  
More than 50% beneficiaries of Mudra Yojana belong to backward communities  
SC/ST Atrocities Act strengthened  
Panchteerth: Iconic places associated with Babasaheb's life developed



### New Infrastructure for New India

Around 1 crore houses built for the poor  
Almost 1.69 lakh kilometres of rural roads built in the last 4 years  
Speed of highway construction has gone up to 27 kms per day against 12 kms per day in previous Government  
Best ever safety record in 2017-18. 5,469 Unmanned Level Crossings eliminated in the last four years  
North East fully integrated with rest of India with the entire network converted to Broad Gauge  
For the 1st time in India, more people travelled in airplanes than in AC trains. Domestic air passengers crossed 100 million for the first time in 2017

### Putting Farmers First

Multi-faceted Focus on Doubling Farmers' Income  
Unprecedented Support to Farmers: Farmers to get 1.5 times of the production cost as Minimum Support Price for Kharif crops  
More than 12.5 crore Soil Health Cards distributed  
Farmers Get Holistic Protection with PM Fasal Bima Yojana at nominal rates: 4.05 crore farmers covered  
e - NAM platforms to integrate 585 regulated markets to fetch the best prices for farmers.



### India becomes the Global Growth Engine

India remains the world's fastest growing large economy  
FDI jumped from 36 billion USD to 60.08 billion USD  
GST enhancing Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living  
Home-buyers' dreams, rights and investments protected with Real Estate Regulation Act (RERA)  
India gets thumbs up from all Rating Agencies. India's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business rankings rise from 142 to 100

### Realising India's Full Potential through Women Led Development

Multiple initiatives ensuring good health of Mother & Child  
More than 126 crore accounts for the girl child opened and around Rs. 20,000 crore deposited under Sukanya Samridhi Yojana  
Provision of Death Penalty for rape of girl aged child less than 12 years. Minimum punishment for rape of a girl aged less than 16 years increased from 30 years to 20 years  
3.8 crore women have got LPG Connections. Target raised to provide LPG connections to 8 crore women  
Over 7.25 crore toilets built, over 3.6 lakh villages and over 17 States/UTs declared Open Defecation Free. Sanitation coverage goes up from 38% in 2014 to 83%.



### Eliminating Corruption, Institutionalizing Honesty, Enhancing Transparency

Demonetisation led to India's highest ever unearthing of suspicious transactions and deposits. About 3 lakh notices issued to non-filers having large cash deposit.  
Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Mauritius, Cyprus, Singapore. Agreement on real time information sharing with Switzerland  
Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act 2015 enacted  
PMLA amended to allow confiscation of property equivalent to value of black money stashed abroad  
Benami Property Act, blocking a major avenue for generation and holding of black money in various forms  
Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill introduced to empower law enforcement agencies to confiscate the assets of economic absconders. This would also help the banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from fugitive economic offenders

### Unprecedented Speed and Scale in Transforming the Nation

Around 1 crore houses built for the poor  
100 Smart Cities being developed at an expenditure of over Rs. 2 lakh crore  
Bharatmala to connect the entire country at a cost of more than Rs. 5,35,000 crore  
New highways to be developed to ensure better connectivity to pilgrim centres



**Saaf Niyat**  
**Sahi Vikas**

**Desh Ka Badhta Jaata Vishwaas...**