

# KAMAL SANDESH

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PM LAYS STONE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN



**'SPREAD FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI TO ENSURE PARTY'S VICTORY'**





**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah along with BJP National General Secretary (Org) Shri Ramlal paying floral tribute to the founder of Jana Sangh Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary (6<sup>th</sup> July) at BJP HQ, New Delhi**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah along with Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnis visiting the Tukaram Maharaj Palkhi in Pune, Maharashtra**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah interacts with BJP Social Media volunteers in Varanasi, UP**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah waving at the gathering of Shakti Kendra in-charges from 6 Parliamentary constituencies of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**

**'SAMPARK FOR SAMARTHAN'**



**BJP National President Shri Amit Shah meets great scholar, thinker and recipient of Padma Vibhushan Shri P Parameswaran ji in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He held several key posts in Jan Sangh. He is the President of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari and the director of Bharatiya Vichara Kendra**



**As a part of "Sampark For Samarthan" campaign BJP National President Shri Amit Shah meets Swami Satyamitrnanand Giri Ji Maharaj and Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj at Bharat Mata Mandir in Haridwar, Uttarakhand**



**As a part of "Sampark For Samarthan" campaign BJP National President Shri Amit Shah presenting a booklet on 4 years achievement of Modi Govt. to Shivshahir Shri Babasaheb Purandare at his home in Pune, Maharashtra**

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## HISTORIC HIKE IN MSP TO TRANSFORM LIVES OF FARMERS

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**twitter**



**@narendramodi**

I congratulate the people of India on the special occasion of GST completing 1 year. A vibrant example of cooperative federalism and a 'Team India' spirit, GST has brought a positive change in the Indian economy. #GSTforNewIndia.

**@ChouhanShivraj**



GST is a transformative initiative which has had a multiplier effect on our economy- increasing tax compliance, fostering growth, ensuring seamless movement of goods within the country, binding India into an economic union and improving the ease of doing business. #GSTforNewIndia.

**@DevendraFadnavis**



Yet another promise fulfilled ! Thank you Hon. PM @narendramodi ji for the historic announcement of increase in MSP of all major crops for the year 2018-19 ! 1.5 times MSP of the production cost will bring a huge relief to our farmers. Great step towards #DoublingFarmersIncome !

**facebook**



I congratulate PM Narendra Modi and his cabinet for approving historic rise in MSP for Kharif crops. This reflects Modi govt's commitment towards doubling farmer's income. This will not only assure better price for farmer's produce but will also improve their quality of life.

Modi govt earlier introduced effective crop insurance for farmers and now this historic jump in MSP is testimony to Modi govt's commitment towards Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas. Unlike previous governments whose schemes remained only on files and on their manifestos, Modi sarkar is delivering on ground.

— **Amit Shah**



The 'Khan Prahari' app uses space technology to curb illegal coal mining activity in the coalfield areas of the country, and provides people with a platform where they can report such incidents.

— **Piyush Goyal**



For 60 yrs @INCIndia treated farmers as vote banks & made no attempt for their upliftment. Historic decision to declare MSP 150% of procurement cost will make farming viable, bring prosperity to our villages & help in our stated goal of doubling farm incomes by 2022.

— **Muralidhar Rao**



# Enhanced MSP to revolutionize agriculture

**A**s nation celebrates completion of one year of successful implementation of GST, the Modi government has brought immense relief to farmers across the country by announcing enhanced rates of MSP for Kharif crops. As promised in the Budget 2018-19, the farmers are now assured of 1.5 times return on their cost of production. It's a historic step which is set to revolutionize the agricultural sector and bring smiles on the faces of the farmers. It is for the first time that the issue of farmers has been addressed with the aim of bringing long-term solution to their problems and instil faith in the heart of the toiling masses. The highest enhancement in MSP so far shows the commitment of Modi government to address the agrarian distress due to decades of neglect and misplaced priorities in the agricultural sector. It is for the first time that the government is trying to address farmers distress through multi-pronged approach with the aim of doubling farmers' income by 2022. The announcement of MSP at 1.5 times the cost of production is a leap in that direction.

IT IS FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE ISSUE OF FARMERS HAS BEEN ADDRESSED WITH THE AIM OF BRINGING LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEMS AND INSTIL FAITH IN THE HEART OF THE TOILING MASSES. THE HIGHEST ENHANCEMENT IN MSP SO FAR SHOWS THE COMMITMENT OF MODI GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE AGRARIAN DISTRESS DUE TO DECADES OF NEGLECT AND MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

Agriculture has remained the backbone of our society. The farmers have not only given food security to our nation with their hard work but this sector has also given employment to large number of people in the country. It is highly unfortunate to note that the successive governments at the centre under Congress regimes have failed to set priorities in this field and due to continuous neglect and apathy a situation is created wherein people started leaving agriculture. Agriculture not only became unprofitable and risky but there was no policy looking for long-term solutions in this sector. The farmers were left to fend for themselves with no effective support from the government. It is for the first time that a planned attempt is being made to double the farmer's income through various schemes and programmes. The crop insurance scheme has empowered the farmers to take risks and go for new experiments while 'per-drop, more crop' is making farmers to make full use of each drop of water. Soil health cards are equipping farmers in remote villages with new insights about their agricultural lands and they are accordingly deciding their cropping patterns. A large number of irrigation projects that were stalled due to lack of funds are either complete or nearing completion now. Moreover, huge investments in agricultural and rural sector in successive budgets are changing the rural landscape and strengthening agriculture in the country.

It is strange to see that some people have chosen to criticise even the increase in MSP on baseless grounds. The same set of people who earlier doubted that government may not be able to fulfil its budgetary promise of increasing MSP by 1.5 times of the cost of production, are now saying such steps entails a huge burden on economy. Those who lamented the plight of the farmers are now feeling that such a 'whopping' enhancement in paddy MSP was unnecessary! A new argument is that increasing MSP is not the real solution! These are the same set of people who talk about problems but when solution is provided they try to portray them as another problem. The mindless criticism will not stop the benefits of good work from reaching to the masses who are now well convinced of the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards rural sector, farmers, poor and deprived sections of the society. Only a government committed to the welfare of farmers could have enhanced MSP to such an extent and launched so many schemes aiming to double their income. All the policies and programmes of the government under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi are aimed at longterm solutions for our country. Those who criticised GST are now seeing the benefits of this huge reform which is transforming the Indian economy. Those who are criticising hike in MSP will also later realize that it has revolutionized agricultural sector in India. ■

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## 'Modi government brought various farmer-friendly policy decisions ever since it came to power'



**T**o strengthen the party and to feel the pulse of the people ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections and directly interact with the Karyakartas of the state, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah arrived for a two-day Pravas to Uttar Pradesh on 04 July, 2018. He held a day-long meeting with vistaraks of eastern and central UP in Mirzapur. He visited Varanasi on the same day to attend a meeting of the 'BJP cyber warriors'. Shri Shah met 'vistaraks' who visited booths to assess the party's base during the last six months.

Shri Amit Shah also met leaders and vistaraks of Awadh, Gorakhpur and Kashi prants at Mirzapur on 04 July while the next day, he did the same in

Agra where leaders and vistaraks from Kanpur-Bundelkhand, western UP and Braj participated.

These three regions constitute 30 Lok Sabha seats and are crucial for the party's scheme of things to ensure a repeat of its 2014 performance. The BJP-led NDA won 73 out of 80 seats in the state in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, State BJP President Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey, BJP National General Secretary Shri Bhupendra Yadav, BJP ally Apna Dal leader and Union minister Smt. Anupriya Patel, UP Deputy Chief Minister Shri Dinesh Sharma, attended the meetings.

### 'SOCIAL MEDIA VOLUNTEERS MEET OF EASTERN UP', VARANASI Amit Shah asks 'BJP cyber warriors' to ensure that party wins 2019 LS polls

Terming the party's social media volunteers "cyber warriors", BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 04 July, 2018 asked them to spread like fire from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari to ensure the party's victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Shri Shah, who addressed the BJP's 'Social media volunteers meet of Eastern UP' held in Varanasi, said the volunteers need to use their creative minds to defeat opponents and give a befitting reply to those spreading lies against the party and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

He said that there was no leader like Shri Modi







**During the last elections the party had expected a winning figure of 65 seats but the people gave a mandate of 73 seats. "Now, in the next year's elections volunteers must ensure that we add one more seat and win 74 seats".**

in the country whose reach was pan-India. "Does (Andhra Pradesh CM) Chandrababu (Naidu) or (former PM) Deve Gowda have a reach like Modiji? Can people hear their speeches in Uttar Pradesh," he asked.

"People reach in large number to hear PM Modiji whether it be Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir or anywhere across the country. He is loved and accepted by people," he said.

He also praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, saying law and order had improved in the state and criminals had gone into hiding in neighbouring Delhi, where the situation had deteriorated.



Shri Shah said under Shri Modi's leadership, India was globally respected and he also praised the Centre for carrying out surgical strikes against Pakistan, saying after America and Israel, India was the only country to take revenge through such a step.

The BJP President also said, "Some were pointing fingers at us but in the last four years not a single instance of corruption could be proved against us... The Uttar Pradesh government had delivered a transparent and corruption free governance."

He said during the last elections the party had expected a winning figure of 65 seats but the people gave a mandate of 73 seats. "Now, in the next year's elections volunteers must ensure that we add one more seat and win 74 seats," he said.

Earlier, he visited Mirzapur and hailed the Centre's decision to increase the minimum support price of kharif crop as "historical", stating that the move would benefit the farming community in a major way.

He stressed that the Modi government was coming up with various farmer-friendly policy decisions ever since it came to power.

A case in point, he said, black marketing of urea was checked by introducing neem-coated urea. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) at its meeting today approved the MSP of 14 Kharif (summer-sown crops for the 2018-19 season. The decision, taken by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, comes less than a year before next general election. ■



# HISTORIC HIKE IN MSP TO TRANSFORM LIVES OF FARMERS

Cabinet approves hike in MSP for Kharif Crops for 2018-19 Season

**G**iving a major boost for the farmers' income, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season.

The decision of the CCEA is a historic one as it redeems the promise of the pre-determined principle of fixing the MSPs at a level of at least 150 percent of the cost of production announced by the Union Budget for 2018-19. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) has recommended MSPs for all kharif crops broadly in line with the announced principle.

The Budget for 2018-19 had indicated that a paradigm shift in the agricultural policies is needed to achieve the objective of doubling farmers' income by 2022 through greater emphasis on generating higher incomes of farmers. The increase in the MSPs of Nigerseed at Rs.1827 per quintal, moong by Rs.1400 per quintal, sunflower seed by Rs.1288 per quintal and cotton by Rs. 1130 per quintal is unprecedented.

Amongst cereals and nutri cereals, in terms of absolute increase, MSP of paddy (common) has been raised by Rs 200 per quintal, jowar (hybrid) by Rs 730 per quintal and ragi by Rs 997 per quintal. The highest percentage increase in MSP over the previous year is for ragi (52.47 %) followed by jowar hybrid (42.94%). For pulses, apart from Moong, MSP

of arhar (tur) has been raised by Rs 225 per quintal yielding a return over cost by 65.36 per cent and urad by Rs 200 per quintal with a return over cost by 62.89 per cent in order to maintain inter-crop-price parity. Similarly, the MSP of Bajra has been raised by Rs.525 per quintal yielding a return of 96.97 per cent over cost.

Promoting cultivation of pulses can help India overcome nutrition insecurity, improve soil fertility by nitrogen fixation and provide income support to farmers. Thus, increased MSPs for pulses will give a price signal to farmers to increase acreage. Further enhanced MSPs would boost production of oilseeds and encourage investment in its productivity and help reduce India's import bill. Increase in MSPs of nutri-cereals will improve nutritional security and allow farmers to get higher prices.

Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other designated State Agencies would continue to provide price support to the farmers in the case of cereals including nutri-cereals. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED), FCI, Small Farmers Agri -Business Consortium (SFAC) and other designated Central Agencies would continue to undertake procurement of pulses and oilseeds. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) will be the central nodal agency for undertaking price support operations for Cotton.





## MSP hike to boost farm income, spur growth: Assocham

The government's decision to hike the minimum support price (MSP) for 14 khariff crops would boost farmers' income, resulting in a huge rural demand push to the Indian economy, industry body Assocham said.

The BJP-led government increased the MSP for paddy by a record Rs 200 per quintal that will cost the exchequer over Rs 15,000 crore, and help fulfil its poll promise to give farmers 50 per cent more than their cost of production.

"The entire rural landscape constitutes about 70 per cent of our consumer basket and unless they have adequate purchasing power, the much-needed demand push for India Inc would not materialise," Assocham Secretary General said in a statement.

He further said the concern over MSP increase leading to inflationary pressure may be addressed by improving the administrative machinery in the foodgrains and vegetable mandis, which are still under the clutches of cartels.

"The state governments have a key role in demolishing the mandi cartels which trigger a huge volatility in agri prices, especially those of fruits and vegetables," the industry body said.



## PM Modi says govt committed to agriculture goals

After announcing the highest ever single-year raise in the minimum support price of paddy, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the government has fulfilled its promise to farmers. "I am very happy that the promise made by the government to our farmer brothers and sisters of giving minimum support price at 1.5 times the production cost has been fulfilled. There has been a historic increase in the MSP. Congratulations to all farmers," he tweeted.

Assuring that the government is committed to the development of the agriculture sector, PM Shri Modi said, "We have been taking steps in this direction and will continue to do so," he added.

## MSP hike a historic decision: Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah called this as a historic decision and said, "Modi govt has always taken decisions in favour of farmers". In a tweet he wrote, "I congratulate PM @narendramodi and his cabinet for approving historic rise in MSP for Kharif crops. This reflects Modi govt's commitment towards doubling farmer's income. This will not only assure better price for farmer's produce but will also improve their quality of life."

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh also lauded decision and told ANI, "Farmers are the biggest producer and consumer but they have never got what they deserved. PM Shri Modi has realized this and gave 1.5 extra of what they produce.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the decision would improve the quality life of farmers and that this will bring happiness.

## FARMER FRIENDLY INITIATIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT

Besides increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of kharif crops, Government has also taken several farmer friendly initiatives. These are as follows:

- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low - 2 % of sum insured for all kharif crops, 1.5% for all rabi crops and 5 % for commercial and horticulture crops under smart technology through phones & remote sensing for quick estimation and early settlement of claims. The Government has also launched a Mobile App "Crop Insurance" which will help farmers to find out complete details about insurance cover available in their area and to calculate the insurance premium for notified crops.
- The Government has also launched a scheme to develop a pan India electronic trading platform under 'National Agriculture Market' (NAM) aiming to integrate 585 regulated markets with the common e-market platform in order to facilitate better price discovery and ensure remunerative prices to farmers. Each State is being encouraged to undertake three major reforms - allow electronic trading, have a single license valid throughout the State and a single entry point market fee. It will also enable farmers to discover better prices for their produce. As on 23rd March, 2018, 585 markets in 16 States and 2 Union Territories have already been brought on the e-NAM platform.
- Government has also formulated a new model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 to provide farmers market options beyond the existing APMC regulated market yards.
- Soil Health Cards are being issued to farmers across the country. These will be renewed every two years. The card provides information on fertility status of soil and a soil test based advisory on use of fertilizers. As on 25th June, 2018, 15.14 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed.
- Under ParamparagatKrishiVikasYojana (PKVY), the Government is promoting organic farming and development of potential market for organic products.
- The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana is being implemented with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet ko Pani' and improving water use efficiency 'Per Drop More Crop ' in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.
- Government is focusing on improving production and productivity of crops such as rice, wheat, coarse grains and pulses under the National Food Security Mission.
- A dedicated online interface e-KrishiSamvad provides direct and effective solutions to problems faced by farmers.
- Government is encouraging formation of Farmer Producer Organisations. The Budget for 2018-19 has extended a favourable taxation treatment to Farmer Producers Organisations (FPQs) for helping farmers aggregate their needs of inputs, farm services, processing and sale operations.
- Government has set up a buffer stock of pulses and domestic procurement of pulses is also being done under Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) mainly with a view to protect consumers. The Budget for 2018-19 indicated that increasing MSP is not adequate and it is more important that farmers should get full benefit of the announced MSP. For this, it is essential that if price of the agriculture produce market is less than MSP, then Government should purchase either at MSP or work in a manner to provide MSP for the farmers through some other mechanism. NITI Aayog, in consultation with Central and State Governments, will put in place a fool-proof mechanism so that farmers will get adequate price for their produce.
- A handbook for women farmers 'Farm Women Friendly Hand Book' containing special provisions and package of assistance which women farmers can claim under various on going Missions/ Submissions/ Schemes of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has been brought out.
- With the above measures taken, the Government has set a target to double the farmers' Income by 2022. ■



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA

# BJP making 'steady progress in right direction' in Kerala: Amit Shah



**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah arrived in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 03 July, 2018 on one day Kerala visit, seeking to tone up the party apparatus and cadres ahead of the Lok Sabha polls next year.

Shri Shah was accorded a rousing welcome at the airport by BJP state leadership and party workers.

He attended a meeting of the party's state core committee members on the progress in the electioneering plans for Lok Sabha elections which was chalked out during earlier visits, addressed leaders from select districts, attended the joint meeting of leaders in charge of Parliamentary constituencies as well as full-timers assigned to these constituencies and inaugurated a convention of party workers of 6 parliamentary constituencies of southern Kerala that are; Thiruvananthapuram, Attingal, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Mavelikkara etc.

Later, he met the senior leaders of the RSS and other affiliated organizations. Shri Shah also met some prominent people of the state as part of his 'Sampark for Samarthan' initiative to inform them about the

achievements of the Modi government, and also hold discussions with leaders from Lakshadweep.

Addressing the workers convention from six Lok Sabha constituencies in South Kerala, BJP President said the saffron party's mission would be complete only with the formation of its governments in Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.

Referring to the party position in Kerala, Shri Shah said the BJP was making "steady progress in the right direction" despite the political violence against its cadres unleashed by ruling CPI-M. He said the martyrdom of BJP-RSS workers would not become meaningful unless the CPI-M was rooted out of Kerala as it happened in Tripura and West Bengal. Alleging that chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan was responsible for the political violence in the state, Shri Shah said 84 RSS-BJP workers had been killed in Kannur, the home district of Vijayan.

The BJP president also alleged that political clashes were not based on any ideology, and said it was state sponsored killings. "The BJP does not believe in retaliating violence with violence, but with development."

Listing the various schemes and development projects initiated by the Narendra Modi government, Shri Shah said NDA was able to provide a corruption free and transparent government to the country in contrast to the earlier Congress-led UPA regimes.

“The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed four years in office. Even Opposition has not been able to level a single graft charge of one rupee against the government,” he said. “We have been able to provide a transparent government,” he added. PM Shri Modi was able to enhance the pride of the country abroad, he said. The large gathering and warm welcome the Prime Minister was getting in each country was actually not for him or the BJP, but for the 125 crore people of India, he said. Earlier in the day, Shri Shah also addressed a core committee meeting of the party’s state unit.

**PRAVAS IN BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA**  
**‘WILL SWEEP POLLS IN ODISHA’**

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 01 July, 2018 said that party would win the Lok Sabha and the Assembly elections in Odisha in 2019. Shri Shah, who was on a one-day visit to the State to take stock of the party’s poll preparedness, addressed a meeting

with Shakti Kendra in-charges and co-in-charges in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

He said, “With such energy and enthusiasm among Odisha BJP karyakartas, BJP is all set to sweep Odisha in 2019 under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi.”

Over 2,400 panchayat-level Shakti Kendra committee heads and their deputies had assembled in Bhubaneswar to hear him. Shri Shah has given a call to party workers to work towards winning at least 120 of the 147 seats in the Assembly elections in the state.

On the issue of the missing keys to the Ratnabhandar (treasure) of the Jagannath temple, the BJP President criticized the Naveen Patnaik government for failing to “safeguard the aspirations of Hindus”.

In five back-to-back closed-door meetings, Shri Shah met senior party functionaries and grassroots workers of the Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri Lok Sabha constituencies. “The party has been making sustained preparation for elections. The party president noted down feedback. Leaders also got to know what is expected of them”.

Earlier, BJP National President was given a rousing welcome by BJP State President Shri Basant Panda and other Party Senior leaders, Union Ministers Shri Jual Oram and Shri Dharmendra Paradhan and scores of party workers on his arrival at the Airport.





**PRAVAS IN IMPHAL, MANIPUR****Amit Shah asks party leaders to ensure BJP victory in North-Eastern states**

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah on 30 June, 2018 asked party leaders in the North-East to work hard to ensure party's victory in the upcoming assembly and Lok Sabha elections this year and the next.

"Our National Party President wants us to work hard to win the elections. He also advised us to join hands with a regional party in Mizoram to fight the ruling Congress", BJP Mizoram General Secretary Shri Vanlal Hmuaka informed it to the media after meeting with Shri Shah.

Assembly elections in Mizoram is slated later this year end while Arunachal Pradesh will have its assembly elections next year along with the Lok Sabha polls.

Sharing a similar sentiment, BJP Arunachal Pradesh President Shri Tapir Gao after the meeting with the BJP National President said, "In our meeting with Shri Amit Shahji, we discussed about our party's strategies, planning and organizational matters to win all the seats in the forthcoming elections."

The BJP has formed governments on its own in Arunachal, Assam and Tripura and is an alliance partner in Manipur and Meghalaya governments.

Ahead of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram unit delegations meetings, Tripura Chief Minister Shri Biplab Kumar Deb led party leaders in an hour-long meeting



with Shri Amit Shah. All the meetings were attended by BJP National General Secretary Shri Ram Madhav, BJP North-East In-Charge Shri Ajay Jamwal and North East Democratic Alliance convener and Assam Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sharma.

Earlier, the BJP National President was accorded a warm welcome by the State Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh and BJP state President Shri Kh Bhabananda. ■

**Madanlal Saini appointed as new BJP Rajasthan President**

**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah appointed Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader Shri Madanlal Saini as the new BJP President of Rajasthan on 29 June, 2018. Shri Saini is a prominent OBC leader from Sikar and will replace former BJP State President Shri Ashok Parnami who stepped-down from his post in April this year.



Shri Madanlal Saini, 72, began his political career in the Bharatiya Jan Sangh. Shri Saini, who has been a RSS Swayamsevak, was General Secretary

of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh and later BJP Kisan Morcha. He was elected MLA in 1990 and was sent to Rajya Sabha in 2018.

He has been associated with the RSS since 1952 and BJP since its inception.

After assuming the charge Shri Saini told media persons that he would be part of workers' activities and continue with booth management

programmes and will work round the clock with the Karyakartas by which the party can get 180 seats in the upcoming Assembly polls in Rajasthan. ■

# 'Indirect Tax collections increase by 11.9% post GST roll out'

**G**overnment of India celebrated the 1st GST Day on July 01 in Delhi. The event saw an address on the eventful 1st year journey of GST over a live video link by Union Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley. Union Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Piyush Goyal presided over as the Chief Guest of the event and Minister of State for Finance, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla was the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the distinguished gathering via video link, Shri Arun Jaitley recalled the pre-GST taxation system in India was one of the most complicated tax systems in the world. Multiple taxes, multiple returns to be filed by assesees, interface with multiple tax authorities, cascading effect of taxes, rising inflation, no free flow of goods across the country, fragmented markets across the country, inter alia, were some of the tenuous issues plaguing the indirect taxation system in India. GST has persuaded people to do businesses in a transparent manner without evading taxes, Shri Jaitley added.

Shri Jaitley said that GST had an unequivocal support of the Prime Minister of India, hence the Union Government could work closely with the States in a coordinated and collaborative fashion to make GST a success. "We analysed reasons why past Governments could not implement the GST. We resolved all issues raised by the States and assured them the immunity from fall in their revenue collection. The GST Council is India's first consensus based federal decision making body", the Minister said.

Listing out the remarkable successes that the GST has achieved in a short span of 1 year, Shri Jaitley said that this reform has created a unified market, the cascading of taxes has been eliminated, the weighted average of total taxation basket has come down, the GST Council is working upon continuous rationalisation of tax slabs, advance direct tax payments increased as result of successful implementation of GST, among others. The Minister informed that the total indirect tax collection for 9 month period in previous financial



year post implementation of GST is about Rs. 8.2 lakh crores, which if extrapolated for the whole year comes to about Rs. 11 lakh crores, an 11.9% increase in indirect tax collections.

Talking about the capacity to rationalise present GST slabs, Shri Jaitley said that the GST Council is constantly working in that direction and the desired rationalisation will come with the setting in of the stability of GST system, increasing tax collections through curbing tax evasion and increasing the tax net. The Minister said that according to his projection, an increase of 1.5% in indirect tax collections is expected in the Non oil category, which will facilitate the automatic rationalisation of tax slabs in near future.

In his conclusion, Shri Jaitley thanked the Finance Ministers and officers of different States without whose cooperation GST could not have been a success that it is today. Though GST has given a lot of reasons to cheer about with its first year achievements, the best of GST in terms of its contribution to the society is yet to come, the Minister added.



Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Railways, Coal, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Piyush Goyal congratulated all stakeholders, including State leaderships involving different political parties, officers, trade and industry, who have strived hard in making GST a success. GST is a symbol of cooperative and collaborative federalism, and GST day is a day of 1.25 billion Indians, it's a cause for celebration. We should compliment each other for its grand success, the Minister said.

Speaking about the magnitude of the path breaking tax reform, Shri Goyal said that Dr. Ambedkar stitched the Nation through one Constitution, Sardar Patel bonded the fragmented Nation geographically, now GST is a landmark reform that has transformed the Nation into an economic union with the motto 'ONE NATION, ONE TAX, ONE MARKET'. No other Nation in the world, so huge, with so many regional socio-economic and political interests has been able to implement such a tax reform ever in history, he added.

This reform has put an end to the illegal activities like tax evasion by simplifying the tax administration and bringing a transformation in the culture among trade and industry in the country towards faithful payment of indirect taxes. The youth of India has embraced the reform with open hands. This tax reform is dedicated to the young generation of India who want to conduct their businesses in a legal and transparent fashion, Shri Goyal said.

Terming GST as a Game changer for small businesses, Shri Goyal said that enterprises having a turnover of Rs. 20 lakhs are exempted from GST and those with a turnover upto Rs. 1 crore have to pay 1% tax. In the coming monsoon session the Government

@narendramodi 

I congratulate the people of India on the special occasion of GST completing 1 year. A vibrant example of cooperative federalism and a 'Team India' spirit, GST has brought a positive change in the Indian economy. #GSTForNewIndia

@AmitShah 

I congratulate PM @narendramodi and his government on successful completion of one year of implementing GST, a historic tax reform. India, specially small businesses, have benefitted immensely from this new tax regime, which has brought transparency & convience. #GSTForNewIndia.

is proposing to bring an amendment to extend this limit to businesses with Rs. 1.5 crores turnover, he informed.

Speaking on reduction of tax slabs under GST, Shri Goyal clarified that the different tax slabs have been decided after due deliberations in the GST Council, keeping in mind the socio-economic make up of this country. The Minister encouraged citizens of the country to help the Government to eliminate the culture of tax evasion and contribute whole heartedly in the success of GST and development of this country. ■



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**BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT**

# Renewable energy sector employed 4.3 lakh people in 2017: Report

**A**round 4.32 lakh people were employed in the renewable energy sector in India in 2017, according to India Spend report that cited a recent analysis by the inter-governmental International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The renewable energy sector created 47,000 new job in the previous year, accounting for over 20 percent of 5 lakh new green jobs created globally.

The number of jobs in India's green energy sector, excluding large hydropower projects, rose by 12 percent to 4.32 lakh people in 2017 from 3.85 lakh people in 2016, the report said.

The increase in number of jobs has been due to "gradually switching to clean energy in sync with their commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement 2015". "Renewable energy has become a pillar of low-carbon economic growth for governments all over the world, a fact reflected by the growing number of jobs created in the sector," Director-general of IRENA, said in a statement.

The renewable energy sector has been growing in India because of several factors. The government has opened routes for foreign investors to establish renewable energy-based power generation projects and collaborate with Indian firms on financial and



technical levels.

India received \$1.77 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) in non-conventional energy sector from April 2014 to September 2016.

The country has been working towards achieving the target of producing 175 GW by end-December 2022. Of the total target, 100 GW is to come from solar power, 60 GW from wind power, 10 GW from biomass and 5 GW from small hydropower. ■

A study titled Documentation and Compilation of the Best Practices of Sustainable Development as propounded by Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya is being undertaken by Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN), that intends to collect the Antyodaya based best practices from organizations/ institutions/ individuals across India, to highlight, document and share it with a larger audience to motivate and replicate similar models of sustainable development.

In this regard, we appeal to organizations/ institutions/ individuals to submit best practices,



of their respective interventions directed at upliftment of the last person based on the concept of 'Antyodaya' meaning 'upliftment of the last person'. After a validation process by a jury appointed in this regard, the selected best practices will form of the Report on the study

mentioned above.

Interested organization may visit the link <https://goo.gl/forms/XaHXKRskXFHsvKU72> For further details.

The last date for submitting the details on best practices is 30 August, 2018.



# He taught the people how to live



**PT. DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA**

**D**r. Keshava Baliram Hedgewar was a born patriot in the real sense of the term. It was neither reaction nor frustration that drove him to national work. No doubt he was against the British rule and wanted to end it by whatever means possible.

Once he is reported to have said that for the independence of the motherland he was prepared to work even as a shoeblack of the Briton and if necessary also to use that very shoe to drive him out.

He did not make a 'fetish' of the means to attain freedom which in the words of Lokmanya Tilak he considered 'our birthright'. He, therefore, not only participated in all freedom movements of his time but encouraged and helped everybody who worked for the realisation of that end. But his love for the country was not because it was in chains. Love of the motherland according to him is a natural state of the human mind, Nationalism of patriotism is not an extraordinary attribute of an individual but a normal quality in a social and cultured man. In fact man who has been

defined as a gregarious unreal ceases to be human if he loses social sense and becomes self-centred. Dr. Hedgewar, therefore, never liked the use of the word 'Deshbhakta' with the names of individuals to laud them. The use of this appellative with particular persons only denoted a lack of this common quality among the people, and if people in general were patriotic they were a people no more. He also felt that aggressive designs by others or existence of a foreign rule was not necessary for the manifestation of this basic virtue of the individual. Patriotism is a positive virtue and not a Negative Reaction to the Misdeeds of an Alien Society.

'Would there have been a Shiva if there was no Aurangzeb?' Was one of the questions being once put to swayamsevaks who had gathered round him for a chat?

'No' some of us opined. It was the tyrannical rule and religious bigotry of Aurangzeb that Chhatrapati Shivaji fought. Why should he have taken all the trouble he did if there was a benign sovereign at Delhi?

But Doctorji's answer was in the affirmative. It is only a historical coincidence that Shivaji had to wage a war against Aurangzeb, and Maharana Pratap against Akbar. Even if there was no Mughal power at Delhi these worthy sons of Bharat would have served the people and enhanced the glory of the motherland. Of

course, the channels through which their services would have found expression might have been different. It is not only the soldier and the statesman but also the scavenger and the saint who serve the nation.

It was in keeping with this view that he once changed the caption under a photograph, from 'Teach me how to die' to 'teach me how to live'. And truly he taught the people how to live.

## FRUITS OF NEGATIVE NATIONALISM

It was this positive concept of nationalism that made him stress on Hinduism. Noncooperation and Khilafat, expedient measures adopted as a basis of agitation against the Britishers, had given a slant to the whole national movement and distorted our vision of the nation.

No cooperation was obviously negative. It advocated boycott of all that was British but did not lay down any positive norms of our national behaviour. Khilafat was out and out a sectarian movement fostering extraterritorial loyalties. It did not bind the Muslims of India to this land but to some extent tended to sap the loyalties that they had developed by tradition and habit. So much so that in the course of the movement some prominent Muslims even thought of leaving India to reside in Afghanistan, which according to them was an Islamic country. If there was any understanding

between him Khilafat and the Congress leaders it was only temporary and expedient. Each one perhaps, wanted to exploit the other for their own ends. The Congress leaders wanted to oust the Britishers and for that purpose they found it useful to align with the Muslims who for the first time after 1857 were angry with the Britishers for their breach of faith on the issue of Khilafat. But when Kamal Ataturk himself put an end to Khilafat the Muslims had no cause to be against the Britishers. The Congress leaders, however, did not realise the changed situation and instead of regenerating and consolidating the normal national tradition, tried to perpetuate the expedient unity and give it some content. It resulted in giving up everything that had been the basis of our nationalism throughout the ages and in its place inventing newer forms that inspired none. It was in these circumstances that Dr. Hedgewar put forward in clear and unambiguous terms the idea of Hindu Rashtra.

### **THE BARRENNESS OF THE 'COMPOSITE-NATIONALISM' CONCEPT**

It can be said that for the last forty years this struggle between real nationalism and pseudo nationalism had been going on. The protagonists of composite nationalism have not been able to create anything that can sustain and inspire the people. But definitely they have succeeded in confusing and confounding them. They have defiled and destroyed

the image of the Mother in all its salient features. They have also succeeded in denouncing and denigrating the true picture of our nationhood. The result is the present state of affairs threatening complete disintegration of the country and total annihilation of its national culture and civilisation. However, the RSS is still the only ray of hope, one shoulder to think what would have been our fate, had not Dr. Hedgewar with his prescience, taken steps to preserve and promote the real nature of our nationhood.

Dr. Hedgewar was not only an idealist but a realist. He was a dreamer but lived to translate his dreams into reality. And in this attempt he has bequeathed to us the great organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. It was through the instrumentality of the RSS that he wanted to see the picture of an organised society capable of leading a meaningful life.

People with sectarian and narrow outlook consider the RSS as a rival organisation threatening to oust them. But they are mistaken. The RSS is not exclusive. It is pervasive and wants to embrace and enthuse the whole society. Some sympathisers of the RSS have also some misunderstanding about the organisation. They want to serve some one or the other purpose. They commit the fallacy of confusing the part with whole.

### **NO REFORM MOVEMENT, THIS**

It must be understood that Dr. Hedgewar's was not a reform

movement. The reformer lays emphasis on institutional changes and feels that by such changes he will change the man and the society. In certain circumstances he may be justified and might succeed also. But Dr. Hedgewar felt that what we needed was not reforms but organisation. Unless we can re-establish the basic relationship between individual and the society no amount of reformist zeal or institutional arrangements would serve our purpose. It is like 'Dharma' which sustains all smritis and shastras and through them the society.

Today when we see in retrospect we are amazed at the greatness of his personality, the height of his stature and the depth of his thinking. But those who had lived with him could never feel that they were in the company of one who was so much superior to them. 'He seemed only a step forward, recounted Sri Bala Saheb Deoras who had worked under him since his student days. A step more and you would be with him was the feeling and aspiration of every Swayamsevak. But as you stepped up, like your shadow you would find him still ahead but then only a step further. It was thus that he led the people on and on, and out of ordinary men fashioned the great organisers who have taken his message to the nook and corner of the country. And even today let us not idolize him and worship him for that will not please him but let us live up to his ideals; which only requires a step forward and no more.' ■

**[Organiser, 2 April, 1962]**



# Bal Gangadhar Tilak: The Father of Indian National Movement

**B**al Gangadhar Tilak or Lokmanya Tilak, born as Keshav Gangadhar Tilak was a great freedom fighter, nationalist, teacher, social reformer and lawyer. He was the first widely known Indian political leader of the Indian Independence Movement and British colonial authorities called him, "The father of the Indian unrest." He was also conferred with the title of "Lokmanya", which means accepted by the people as their leader.

Tilak was one of the first and strongest advocates of Swaraj or "self-rule" and a strong radical in Indian consciousness. He is known for his quote: "Swarajya is my birthright and I shall have it!". He formed a close alliance with many Indian National Congress leaders including Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, Aurobindo Ghose, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Lokmanya Tilak was born in a Marathi family in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra on 23 July, 1856. His ancestral village was Chikhali. His father, Gangadhar Tilak was a school teacher and a Sanskrit scholar who died when Tilak was sixteen. Tilak graduated from Deccan College Pune in 1877. In 1871 Tilak was married to Tapibai when he was sixteen, a few months before his father's death. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts in first class in Mathematics from Deccan College of Pune in 1877. He left his M.A. course of study midway to join the LL.B course instead, and in 1879 he obtained his LL.B degree from Government Law College. After graduating, Tilak started teaching mathematics at a private school in Pune. Later, due to ideological differences with the colleagues in the new school, he withdrew and became a journalist.

He organised the Deccan Education Society in 1884 with a few of his college friends. Their goal was to improve the quality of education for India's youth. The Deccan Education Society was set up to create a new system that taught young Indians nationalist ideas through an emphasis on Indian culture. The Society established

the New English School for secondary education and Fergusson College in 1885 for post-secondary studies. Tilak taught mathematics at Fergusson College.

Tilak had a long political career agitating for Indian autonomy from the British rule. Before Gandhi, he was the most widely known Indian political leader. He was considered a radical Nationalist but a Social conservative. He was imprisoned on a number of occasions that included a long stint at Mandalay. At one stage in his political life he was called "the father of Indian unrest" by the British authorities. Tilak opposed the moderate views of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and was supported by fellow Indian nationalists Bipin Chandra Pal in Bengal and Lala Lajpat Rai in Punjab. They were referred to as the "Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate".

When World War 1 started in August of 1914, Tilak cabled the King-Emperor George V of his support and turned his oratory to find new recruits for war efforts. He welcomed The Indian Councils Act, popularly known as Minto-Morley Reforms, which had been passed by British Parliament in May 1909, terming it as "a marked increase of confidence between the Rulers and the Ruled". He also tried to convince Mohandas Gandhi to leave the idea of Total non-violence ("Total Ahimsa") and try to get self-rule ("Swarajya") by all means.

Tilak started two weeklies, Kesari ("The Lion") in Marathi and Mahratta in English in 1880-81 with Gopal Ganesh Agarkar as the first editor. By this he was recognized as 'awakener of India'.

In 1894, Tilak transformed the household worshipping of Ganesha into a grand public event (Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav). In 1895, Tilak founded the Shri Shivaji Fund Committee for celebration of "Shiv Jayanti", the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji, the founder of the Maratha Empire.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak breathed his last on 01 August, 1920 at the age of 64.

Kamal Sandesh Parivar pays tribute to this great son of Bharatmata on his Jayanti. ■



# THE GST EXPERIENCE



**ARUN JAITLEY**

It has been one year since the country's switchover to a new indirect taxation system - the Good and Services Tax. One single tax replaced seventeen taxes and multiple cesses imposed by the Central and the State Governments. This had obviously necessitated every assessee to file multiple returns, have an interface with multiple inspectors and assessing authorities, suffer the cascading effect of having to pay tax even on the tax component already paid, having to pay tax separately in every State when movement of goods took place, to suffer the inordinate delays of multiple checkpoints and obstacles, and being fed up with the taxation system devises measures on how to bypass the tax system. The very foundational idea of the Goods and Services Tax was not original. It had been experimented in several countries of the world. The Indian model had to be devised keeping several facts in mind. An indirect tax, unlike a direct tax, is

regressive. In a country where diverse sections of population with different paying capacities, everybody pays the same rate of tax, the rate cannot be different for the wealthy and the not so wealthy as in the case of a direct tax. But in the selection of the commodities which are tax-free or less taxed, a differential could be made in a society like India. Secondly, India had multiple markets, each constituting a different market which needed to be consolidated. Thirdly, the essence of Indian federalism had to be respected. India is a Union of States where both the Union and the States have to be fiscally strong. A weak Union is detrimental to both national sovereignty and growth and weak States won't be able to deliver development. India is not a confederation of States and, therefore, strengthening of State revenues cannot be at the cost of Central revenues. If the Union does not survive, what will happen to India i.e. 'Bharat' - the Union of States?

## THE FLAWED UPA MODEL OF GST

My friends in the UPA and the Congress Party occasionally raise

questions as to why some Chief Ministers were not comfortable with the idea of GST during the UPA period. The fact is that almost everyone wanted the GST but not a single State was comfortable with the UPA's model of GST. There were two prime reasons for this.

Firstly, the UPA Government lost the confidence of the States, including the Congress ruled States. In a move towards the single tax system, the UPA asked the States to abolish the CST. It promised the States that it would give them a compensation in lieu of the CST for a certain number of years. The States acted accordingly, abolished the CST and the Central Government owed the States several thousand crores as CST compensation. When the States demanded CST compensation, the Centre would look the other way. When I took over as the Finance Minister in May 2014, all the States, including the BJP ruled States, told me that they don't trust the Central Government because of what the UPA Government had done. They will discuss GST only if past CST compensation is paid. I conceded that the UPA let down of the States



was unacceptable and in order to bridge the trust, despite pressures on the Central revenue, I will clear the arrears of the Central CST. I, accordingly, did that. The CST compensation was paid. The States were then willing to come to the table and move further on the GST.

The second reason why the UPA failed in its effort to bring the GST was that every State was apprehensive that during the transition period there would be a loss of revenue to the States. How would the States be compensated for the loss of revenue? Their demand seemed logical but UPA chose not to address it. The Constitution amendment proposed by the UPA had no provision for compensating the loosing State. Manufacturing States like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka were particularly apprehensive. They had raised a flag “No Compensation No GST”. Having brought them to the negotiating table on the strength of the CST payment I agreed to pay to the States, after discussing in the GST Council, a 14% increase of revenue for the first five years for any loss of revenue. The States jumped for this proposal and we succeeded in winning trust of the States back for the GST enactment. Our positive commitment to the federal principles was unambiguously established.

### THE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ISSUE

Both Rahul Gandhi and P. Chidambaram have repeatedly demanded that petroleum products be forthwith brought within the GST. When I speak to

the Congress Finance Ministers' in the States, they don't seem to be ready for it. But what was the UPA's own track record on petroleum products in the GST? The Constitution amendment proposed by the UPA permanently kept all petroleum products outside the GST. Thus till such time that the Constitution was ever amended again (it is normally difficult to amend the Constitution), petroleum products would never be in the GST as per UPA. Having won over the trust of the States, I used the inclusion of petroleum

decides. For this I would continue to make my earnest efforts and hopefully when the States are more comfortable with the revenue position, it would be an ideal time to strike for a consensus between them.

### THE EXPERIENCE AFTER ONE YEAR

When the GST was to be launched on the 1st of July, 2017, we were being advised by the Congress to postpone it. A reluctant Government can never take reformist decisions. We went ahead. At the initial stage,

**When the GST was to be launched on the 1st of July, 2017, we were being advised by the Congress to postpone it. A reluctant Government can never take reformist decisions. We went ahead. At the initial stage, we fixed the first set of rates. A large number of requests started coming from trades, industry and, therefore, we started rationalising the rates.**

products as a bargaining issue with the States while conceding the CST and compensation payment to the States. I worked out a formulae that petroleum products would be included in the Constitution amendment providing for the GST but the council can decide the date from which to bring them into GST. The States agreed. The UPA kept petroleum products permanently outside GST. On the contrary, we brought them back into the Constitution as levyable to GST and can gradually impose the GST when the GST Council so

we fixed the first set of rates. A large number of requests started coming from trades, industry and, therefore, we started rationalising the rates.

The initial few meetings of the GST Council started reducing the rates wherever it was desirable. If we look at the entire basket of goods and services, the rates today taken collectively are far lesser than under the previous taxation system. With the cascading effect of tax on tax going away, the liability in any case came down.

To develop a consensus, we passed the Constitution amendment enabling the GST unanimously. All legislations enabling the GST were passed unanimously. The rules were put before the GST Council. They have been approved unanimously. We have held 27 meetings of the GST Council so far where every decision has been taken by consensus and unanimity. All the rates are fixed through consensus on the recommendation of the Rates Committee. Whenever there are contrarian views in the Council, a representative Group of Ministers of the State is constituted to work out a way and we try to evolve consensus one way or the other. I do realise that the delicate federal balance in India has to be maintained. The GST Council is India's first experience at cooperative-federalism based decision-making authority. We cannot afford to risk a failure and, therefore, it is functioning as to arouse confidence amongst all States. The meetings have always been consensus based. The only area where unanimity seems to

be lacking is the television bites that some Ministers' give after the meeting, which may be necessary for their own political position. I am willing to live with the experience of a healthy debate and unanimity within the Council and a show of dissent outside the Council meetings.

We have had amongst the smoothest switchovers in one of the largest tax reforms in the country. All the check-posts disappeared overnight. The system of input tax credit ensures that disclosures are made. The GST has encouraged enormous voluntary tax registration. Detailed calculations done in this year's Economic Survey show that as of December 2017, about 1.7 million registrants were those who fell below the GST threshold but nevertheless chose to be part of the GST. Similarly, more than 50 percent of those who could have chosen to opt for the simpler composition scheme chose to register under the regular GST scheme.

To ensure further compliance, the e-Way Bill has been put in

place. Once the invoice matching starts, evasion would become extremely difficult. The assessee's life has become easier. He files his returns online and his interface with multiple authorities is gone. The return filing process is also being simplified. The Group of Ministers' has already worked out that mechanism. The overall weightable of the tax basket has come down. As the tax base increases, our capacity to rationalise taxes and slabs will increase further.

The very small businesses have been protected. Those with turnover of less than Rs.20 lakhs don't pay GST. Those with a turnover upto Rs.1 crore can compound their GST with a payment of 1% tax on the turnover, and file a quarterly return.

### A SINGLE SLAB

Rahul Gandhi has been advocating a single slab GST for India. It is a flawed idea. A single slab GST can function only in those countries where the entire population has a similar and a higher level of paying capacity. Being fascinated by the Singapore model is understandable but the population profile of a state like Singapore and India is very different. Singapore can charge 7% GST on food and 7% on luxury goods. Will that model work for India? Since GST is a regressive tax, the poor have to be given a substantial relief. Thus most food items – agricultural products and the Aam Aadmi used products have to be tax exempt. Some others have to be taxed at a nominal rate. The others could be taxed higher. Eventually, as the collections improve, many more

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items from the 28% category can possibly come down. Only sin products and luxury goods can remain there. There would also be a scope again, depending on the collection going up, to merge some of the mid category slabs but for that we have to see the progress of the new tax regime and the possible upward movement in the collections.

### THE TAX EFFECT

The impact of the GST on the direct tax is already visible. Those who have to disclose business turnover are now having to disclose their income for the purposes of the income tax. The direct tax collection have, therefore, picked up as per the initial indications. When we look at the GST performance in the first nine months from July, 2017 to March, 2018, and add the entire amount collected - the CGST, SGST, IGST and the composition cess, we will get the sum total of the GST collection. In the very first nine months, the total amount collected is Rs.8.2 lakh crore—Rs.11 lakh crores if annualised, yielding a revenue growth of 11.9% i.e. a tax buoyancy of 1.22, which has historically been achieved very rarely for indirect taxes and espite rates being lowered for consumers. As more and more anti-evasion steps will be put in place, the tax buoyancy will increase further. The GST will strengthen the country's tax base for the medium term, adding up to an additional 1.5 percentage points of GDP.

Today the States are getting a 14% increase on the tax base

**The biggest success of the GST has been that the GST Council has proved to be an extremely effective and powerful decision making federal institution. The Finance Ministers' of the States have created history in the matter of federal governance. It has indeed been my privilege to have got the cooperation of each one of them.**

of 2015-16 with the help of the compensation cess. Eventually, when the blocked IGST is gradually released to the Centre and the States, even without the compensation cess, most States would cross the 14% growth target. It may also be borne in mind that even today the compensation requirement are minimal and the current level of compensation cess about Rs.7000 crores monthly is more than adequate to ensure that the States are compensated for any loss of revenue. Significantly, the GST is expanding the tax base of the less developed consuming states which will provide more resources for them to devote for development purposes.

The indirect tax base is expanding. There is a seamless flow of goods and services across the country. The 'Doing of Business' has become simpler. The switchover has taken place without any major disruption. The IT system after initial teething trouble is functioning much better. For all of this, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to and appreciation for the efforts

of the Revenue Secretary Shri HasmukhAdhia, all the officers of the CBIC and revenue and tax departments of the Center and all the states, officials of GSTN, and the Chief Economic Adviser, Arvind Subramanian.

There is always scope for improvement. Key areas of future action will include further simplifying and rationalizing the rate structure and bringing more products into the GST. I am confident that once revenue stabilizes and the GST settles, the GST Council will look into these carefully and act judiciously.

The biggest success of the GST has been that the GST Council has proved to be an extremely effective and powerful decision making federal institution. The Finance Ministers' of the States have created history in the matter of federal governance. It has indeed been my privilege to have got the cooperation of each one of them. Thank you, Finance Ministers for having collectively made the GST a historic transformation and an experience worth it for the country. ■

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



# Social security schemes empower people: PM

PM interacts with beneficiaries of various social security schemes across the country through video bridge

**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on June 27 interacted with the beneficiaries of various social security schemes from across the country, through video bridge. The interaction covered four major social security schemes namely Atal Bima Yojana, Pradhan MantriJeevanJyoti Yojana, Pradhan MantriSurakshaBima Yojana and VayaVandana Yojana. This is the eighth interaction in the series by the Prime Minister through video conference with various beneficiaries of Government schemes.

Expressing happiness in interacting with people who fought adversities and emerged much stronger, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that Social security schemes empower people. He added that these social security schemes of the present Government not only help people effectively deal with the uncertainties of life, but also empower them to rise over the financially difficult situations of the family.

Prime Minister outlined the various aspects pursued by the Government to ensure financial security for the poor and the vulnerable. They are - opening the doors of the banks for the poor- banking the unbanked; ensuring access to capital for small business and budding entrepreneurs- funding the unfunded and; providing social security cover for the poor and vulnerable - financially securing the unsecured.

Interacting with beneficiaries Prime Minister said that the total number of 28 crore bank accounts opened under Pradhan MantriJan DhanYojana during the period 2014 – 2017 is nearly 55% of the total bank accounts opened in the world. He also expressed happiness that more women have bank accounts in India now and that number of bank accounts in India has reached 80% from 53% in 2014.

Listening to the adversities faced by people, Prime Minister said that even though the loss of a person can never be compensated, the Government has always strived to ensure economic security to the affected family. He said that more than five crore people have benefitted from Pradhan MantriJeevanJyoti Yojana, by paying a very low premium of around Rs. 300.

Talking about the accidental insurance coverage scheme, Pradhan MantriSurakshaBima Yojana, Prime

Minister said that more than 13 crore people have availed the scheme. Under Pradhan MantriSurakshaBima Yojana, people can claim accidental insurance coverage of upto Rs. 2 lakh by paying premium of just Rs. 12 per year.

During the interaction, Prime Minister summarized various initiatives of the government in taking care of the old and elderly. He said that about three lakh elderly people have benefitted from the VayaVandana Yojana started last year, under which citizens above 60 years get 8 % fixed return for 10 years. In addition, Government also increased the basic limit of income tax, from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh for senior citizens. He emphasized



that the government is committed to the wellbeing of the elderly population.

Reiterating Government's commitment to provide social security coverage to all, Prime Minister noted that over 20 crore people have been brought under the three major social security schemes (Pradhan MantriSurakshaBima Yojana, Pradhan MantriJeevanJyoti Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana ) in the last three years. Prime Minister also ensured the beneficiaries that the government will continue its efforts of ensuring welfare of all its citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable, and empower them in the best way possible.

Interacting with the Prime Minister, beneficiaries of various social security schemes explained how these schemes helped them during the times of great need. They also thanked the Prime Minister for the various schemes he introduced and pointed out that most of the schemes have been a life changer for many. ■



## AFTER FAILURE OF CONGRESS, IT'S BJP'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CARRY THE LEGACY OF 'GOOD POLITICS'

**A**s part of the ongoing Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan the BJP on 28 June, 2018 conducted a one-day meeting of the important functionaries of 29 departments and projects constituted by the party National President Shri Amit Shah at its headquarters in Delhi. This meeting was presided by the party National General Secretary & in-charge of national training program Shri P. Muralidhar Rao.

This meeting is also considered to be significant in the context of the upcoming assembly elections in 3 states viz. M.P, Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh and the general election of 2019. These departments consisting of Department for Good Governance, and Center State Coordination, Department for Policy Research, Media Department, Media Relations Department, Training Department, Department for Political Feedback, Department for Political Program and Meeting, Library & Documentation, Disaster Relief & Assistance, President's Office Tour & Programs, Department Publicity & Literature, Department Coordination of Trust, Department of Election Management, Department of Coordination with Election, Department for Law & Legal Affairs, Department for Journals and Publication, Department for Coordination of IT, Website and Social Media Activities, Department of International Relations, Department of Ajeevan Sahayog Nidhi. All these projects and departments are also crucial in gearing up the party for the upcoming political battles.

Speaking at the meeting, the BJP General Secretary and Training Incharge, Shri P. Muralidhar Rao said, "Congress has betrayed the nation and failed in its responsibility of taking forward the ideals of good politics. The spirit of mission which existed prior to independence no more exists in Congress and it has transformed into a family company. People now look upto BJP to carry the nations ethos, spirit and the mission of reform and BJP can't fail in it. Our

training program is designed so that we not only promote the best people but also groom our party workers to satisfy aspirations of the nation."

BJP initiated the Prashikshan Mahabhiyan in 2015 and during the 1st phase the party had taken up cadre training at Mandal, District & State level & has already trained over 10 Lakh party workers. In the 2nd phase training of under the "Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan" the training of all Morcha's and spokesperson, etc. has been initiated and initiation of this phase can be said to be the third phase of trainings.

"This is a unique political training project of party cadres which was taken up on the instructions of the party National President Shri Amit Shah who has focused on rebuilding & reorienting the party on firm ideological foundations. This is the first time any political party in India has ever taken up such a massive cadre training program. Under Shri Amit Shah the party had first taken up the Mahasadyata Abhiyan in which the BJP made a world record of inducting over 11 crores party members. Then as a part of the Mahasampark Abhiyan the BJP contacted all the new entrants in the party to acquaint to them with the party's core ideology and working methodology," Shri Mahesh Sharma, convener of the training program informed.

The important functionaries who attended the program were Shri Arvind Menon who is the coordinator for all the departments of the party. It was attended by Shri Jagdeep Dhankar (Ex Minister and Legal Cell Incharge), Shri V. Satish (National Jt. General Secretary, Organisation), Shri Ravindra Sathe, Shri R. Balashankar, Shri Sunil Pandey, Shri Hemant Goswami and Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi (In-Charge, Journals & Publications) of National Training Department, Shri Amit Malviya (IT Incharge), Shri Vijay Chauthaiwala (International Relations) and many other important national functionaries. ■

# A new India is rising: PM Modi and the NDA government are working hard to get us there by 2022



**RAM MADHAV**

**T**he government aims to build, over the next three years, 50 million houses for poor families. That will end India's homelessness completely. A 19 year young college graduate from a small village in Punjab, fired by the zeal to innovate, remotely runs a tractor in his small farmland sitting under a tree nearby. He says that he and other farmers in the village need no longer toil in scorching sun to till their lands.

Elsewhere in India, the daughters of a rickshaw puller and a madrassa teacher have impressive rankings in civil service exams and are getting ready to lead the administration. A group of six young women naval officers have just returned to our shores after circumnavigating the globe in a sailing boat called INSV Tarini, a heroic act by any standards.

A new India is rising. It is rising out of the environment-friendly LPG gas stoves of our rural poor households; we have done away

with hazardous coal and wood-based cooking for our womenfolk by supplying LPG cylinders to more than 41 million households. It is rising out of the newly electrified remote villages of India; we have electrified all 5,97,464 villages and 99% urban and 87% rural households in the country.

It is rising on the able shoulders of millions of young men and women, especially the SCs and STs; we have extended soft loans to over 70 million of them through Mudra Yojana. A new, confident and well-trained India is rising; out of 20 AIIMS, 22 IITs and 20 IIMs that produce thousands of highly skilled doctors and engineers.

We have built over 1,20,000 km of highways in the last four years, almost doubling the existing network. We are dredging

our rivers so as to make dozens of waterways operational very soon; we are going to have a clean Ganga by March next year. We are building 101 smart cities. We have already built Metro train services in ten cities; another five cities will be added very soon. Urban connectivity has been totally transformed; electric public transport is the next priority for the government to build a pollution-free India.

We are going to launch Chandrayaan 2 later this year and a unique solar mission called Aditya-L1 next year. With almost 12 launches in as many number of months in this year, our Isro is adding new feathers to its glory on a monthly basis. We are in the process of building a million kilometre fibre optic network

**Elsewhere in India, the daughters of a rickshaw puller and a madrassa teacher have impressive rankings in civil service exams and are getting ready to lead the administration. A group of six young women naval officers have just returned to our shores after circumnavigating the globe in a sailing boat called INSV Tarini, a heroic act by any standards.**



to digitally connect 2,50,000 Indian villages by 2019. We have revolutionised the IT sector through Digital India campaign; the JAM trinity – Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile – has transformed the lives of ordinary Indians.

We are building a Swachh Bharat – clean and hygienic India; households with toilets have gone up in the last four years from 38% to 85%. Over 70 million toilets have been built in private and public places in the country. All this and more have been achieved in a record time due to the visionary and disruptive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Four years ago we inherited a crumbling and corrupt economy. The PM undertook the task of setting its basics right. It called for some harsh action that the economist Joseph Schumpeter has called “creative destruction”, or the “process of industrial mutation that incessantly revolutionises the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one”.

Demonetisation, GST, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), etc are such measures. As a result, after a brief slowdown, the Indian economy is rising fast. In Arth Shastra, Chanakya says “whoever imposes punishment as deserved becomes respectable. For, punishment, when awarded with due consideration, makes the people devoted to righteousness and to works productive of wealth and enjoyment”.

We are the fastest growing major economy in the world today with 7.5% annual GDP growth rate



**Corruption, once endemic to the Indian system, has largely disappeared from the public domain. The corrupt have to run today from pillar to post, ‘from Hong Kong to London’. They may remain fugitives for some time but they will have to return, to join their comrades in Ranchi jail. The PM has given a call to showcase a new India by the 75th year of its Independence in 2022 – free of homelessness, joblessness, poverty and disease; united, rich, confident and happy.**

as projected by the IMF, beating China at 6.6%. We have record forex reserves of \$415 billion. India climbed 30 ranks in ease of doing business to reach 100th position. Gross FDI inflow has gone up to \$61 billion this year.

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Hong Kong to London’. They may remain fugitives for some time but they will have to return, to join their comrades in Ranchi jail. The PM has given a call to showcase a new India by the 75th year of its Independence in 2022 – free of homelessness, joblessness, poverty and disease; united, rich, confident and happy. ■

(The writer is BJP National General Secretary)

## Central Government and State Government working together for the progress of Rajasthan: PM



**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a huge public meeting in Jaipur on 07 July, 2018. He unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone of 13 Urban Infrastructure projects for the State of Rajasthan.

He then witnessed an audio-visual presentation of experience sharing by select beneficiaries of schemes of the Government of India and Government of Rajasthan. This presentation was moderated by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje. The schemes included Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, among many others.

Addressing the large and enthusiastic gathering, the Prime Minister said he is witnessing first-hand, how Rajasthan welcomes visitors. He said visitors can see the true picture of the progress the State has made

@narendramodi

There is something very special about the land of Rajasthan. This is a land of courage. Next year Rajasthan completes 70 years. Let us reaffirm our commitment of creating a developed Rajasthan, which will play a pivotal role in the building of a New India.

in the last few years. He described Rajasthan as a land of courage. Be it living in harmony with nature or defending our nation, Rajasthan has shown the way, he added.

Praising the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje, Shri Modi said she had changed the work culture in the State. The Union Government

RALLY OF BENEFICIARIES OF WELFARE SCHEMES

**‘Congress is a ‘bail gaadi’, many of its leaders out on bail’**

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the opposition party was now being called a ‘bail gaadi’ as several of its leaders were out on bail.

Several leaders who are called stalwarts of the Congress and former ministers are out on bail these days, Shri Modi said at a rally in Jaipur, making a pun using the Hindi word for bullock cart.

Making an apparent reference to the surgical strike on terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in 2016, he criticised the Congress for questioning the capabilities of the Army.

“It is unfortunate that political opponents also committed a sin by raising questions on the capabilities of the Army. This has never happened before and the people will not forgive those who are doing this kind of politics,” he said.

The Prime Minister said his government had

resolved the issue of one rank, one pension for defence personnel.

Shri Modi was addressing a rally of beneficiaries of welfare schemes run by the Centre and the



state government in BJP-ruled Rajasthan, where assembly elections are scheduled later this year.

Rajasthan Governor Shri Kalyan Singh, Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje, BJP state president Shri Madan Lal Saini and other leaders attended the public meeting at ‘Amrudon ka Bagh’.

and the State Government are working together for the progress of Rajasthan, he said. He said that the happiness of the beneficiaries, who featured in the presentation today, was evident to everyone present at the gathering.

The Prime Minister spoke at length about how the Union Government is working for the welfare of the farmers. He talked about the increase in Minimum Support Price for various crops, announced for the current Kharif season.

Shri Narendra Modi also mentioned the progress made by various schemes of the Union Government in the State of Rajasthan, including Swachh Bharat Mission, Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, and Saubhagya Yojana.

Noting that Rajasthan completes 70 years next year, the Prime Minister gave a call to reaffirm the commitment of creating a developed Rajasthan, which will play a pivotal role in the building of a New India. ■



# ‘GST is not only the victory of integrity but it is also a celebration of honesty’

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his monthly radio programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’ interacted with the nation. In this episode Prime Minister Shri Modi appreciated Indian cricket team for their sportsman spirit and sportsmanship during test match with Afghanistan. He also discussed how GST curbed the inspector raj in taxation. Here, we are giving excerpts of the interaction for our esteemed readers:

I'm fortunate once again to be face to face with you in the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme. Just a few days ago, a historic Cricket match took place in Bengaluru. Of course you must have realized that I am referring to the test match between India and Afghanistan. It was Afghanistan's first international match and it's a matter of honour for us that this historic match for Afghanistan was played with India. Both teams performed par excellence. Besides, bowler Rashid Khan had performed exceedingly well in the IPL earlier this year. I remember Afghanistan President Shriman Ashraf Ghani's words on Twitter tagging me along "The people of Afghanistan are extremely proud of our hero Rashid Khan. I'm also thankful to our Indian friends who created a platform for our players to showcase their skills". Rashid represents what constitutes the best of Afghanistan. He is an asset to the world of cricket. Then he quipped "No, we are not giving him to anyone!" This match will remain etched in our memories for a long time. Anyway, being the first match, it is naturally memorable, but I will cherish it for a special reason. The Indian team did something that is exemplary to the whole world. What does a winning team do while receiving the trophy? The Indian team, while receiving the trophy, warmly invited the Afghanistan team which had played its first international match to pose together for photographs. This incident exemplifies the very spirit of sportsmanship.

- My dear countrymen, this 21st of June, the fourth Yoga Day presented the rarest of sights. The whole world appeared as one entity. In the European Parliament in Brussels, at the UN headquarters in New York, on Japanese naval warships, there were sights of people performing yoga. Saudi Arabia

witnessed its first, historic yoga programme and I am told many aasans were demonstrated by women. On the snow capped mountain peaks of Ladakh, Indian and Chinese soldiers performed yoga in unison. Yoga breaks all barriers of borders and unites people. Zealous citizens of hundreds of lands overlooked divisions of caste, religion, region, colour and gender to transform this occasion into a massive festival. If people from the entire world ardently participated in programmes on Yoga Day, why should India not feel elated many times over?

- Many of you have urged me on MyGov and Narendra Modi app to mention Doctor's Day, the 1st of July. You are absolutely right. We think of doctors only during times of distress. But this is a day when the nation celebrates the achievements of our doctors and expresses gratitude for their spirit of service and commitment towards society. We are a people who, by nature, revere the Mother as the equivalent of god since she is the source of our very existence, our life. On the other hand, there are times when it is the Doctor who gives us re-birth. The role of a doctor is not limited to mere treatment of ailments. Often a doctor plays the role of a family friend, a lifestyle guide. They not only cure but also heal. Today, doctors possess not just medical expertise; they have a vast experience on the co- relation between general lifestyle trends and their effect on our health. Indian doctors have carved a niche for themselves in the entire world through their capabilities and skills.
- Very few people would also be knowing that in 1937, on the invitation of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore addressed the convocation in Kolkata University in Bangla. This was

the first time under British rule that the convocation in Kolkata University had been addressed to in Bangla. From 1947 to 1950, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was the first Industries minister of India and, in a sense, helaid a strong foundation for India's industrial development, he had prepared a solid base, it was he who had prepared a stout platform. The first industrial policy of Independent India, which came in 1948, was stamped with his ideas and vision. Dr. Mukherjee's dream was for India to be industrially self-reliant, competent and prosperous in every sphere. He had wanted India to develop heavy industries and also pay full attention to MSME, handloom, textiles and cottage industry. For the proper development of cottage and small industries with finance availability and organizational setup- All India Handicrafts Board, All India Handloom Board and Khadi &



Village Industries Board were established between 1948 and 1950. There was also a special emphasis by Dr. Mukherjee on indigenization of India's defence production, in the establishment of four most successful mega projects- Chittaranjan locomotive works factory, Hindustan aircraft factory, Sindri fertilizer factory and Damodar Valley Corporation and other river valley projects, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee contributed significantly. He was very passionate about the development of West Bengal. It was the result of his understanding, prudence and activism that a part of Bengal could be saved and it is still a part of India.

- For Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the most important thing was the integrity and unity of India - and for this, at the young age of 52, he also sacrificed

his life. Come! Let us forever remember Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's message of unity imbued with the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood and remain proactive with all our might for the progress of India.

- In far-distant villages, daughters are providing services ranging from pension to issuance of passport to senior citizens through the aegis of common service centers. Asister from Chhattisgarh collects custard apple and does business by making its ice cream. Like Anjan Prakash in Jharkhand, many lakhs of young besides running the Yuva – Jan Aushidhi kendras in the country are providing affordable medicines in the nearby villages. At the same time a young man from West Bengal desperately seeking a job two to three years ago is now a successful entrepreneur ; And not only this he is providing employment to ten to fifteen people. Whereas young school students from Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Goa are working on an important topic like waste management in their school's tinkering lab. I just do not know how many such stories were shared with me, there wasn't a single corner of the country where people did not have a success story of theirs to share with me. I am glad that in this entire programme I witnessed the accomplishments of the common man more than the achievements of the government, of the country's power, the power of New India's dreams, the power of the resolve of the new India – this is what I experienced!

GST is not only the victory of integrity but it is also a celebration of honesty. Earlier, in the case of taxation and allied affairs in the country, there were rampant complaints of Inspector Raj. In the GST scheme, information technology has replaced the inspector. Everything from return to refund is done through online information technology. ..It is generally believed that such a big tax reform, in a huge country like ours with such a large population takes 5 to 7 years for effective adoption. However within a year, the enthusiasm of the honest people of this nation, the celebration of integrity in the country and the participation of people resulted in this new tax system managing to create a space for itself, has achieved stability and according to the need, it will bring reform through its inbuilt arrangement. This is a huge success in itself which 125 crore Indians have earned for themselves. ■

## Emergency was a black spot on democracy: Modi



**P**M Shri Narendra Modi hit out at the Congress party and the Gandhi family on the Emergency Anniversary, saying the draconian measure (Emergency) was a “sin” of that party and the Constitution was misused for “one family”.

Speaking to party karyakartas at a programme on the Dark Days of Emergency in Mumbai he said, “Emergency was a black spot on democracy. Marking its anniversary as black day is not just to criticise the Congress for its sin of imposing Emergency but also to make the present and future generations aware of what transpired and to learn lessons to protect the Constitution and democracy,” Shri Modi said. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, PM Shri Modi stated, while reiterating his government’s commitment to safeguarding the Constitution and protecting democracy. ■

## ‘Even 100 Indiras cannot shake up Indian democracy’

**B**haratiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah on 26 June, 2018 hit out at the Congress party as the country marked the anniversary of the imposition of Emergency in 1975, stressing that India has deep roots in democracy. “India has deep roots in democracy... not one but 100 Indiras cannot shake it up through Emergency,” the BJP President said while speaking in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

“People who talk about Independence today don’t remember the time their ancestors ruled and how freedom of newspapers was curbed then. Akaashwani was made ‘Congresswani’,” Shri Shah said, recalling the Emergency days. He described Emergency as a black mark on India’s democratic history, saying his party doesn’t want people to forget the dark era and “that is why we will repeatedly remind them” about it.

The BJP President said June 26, the day when Emergency was imposed in the country in 1975, will be remembered as a Black Day to honour the bravery of those who were jailed for 21 months.

Hitting out at those who level allegations of freedom of speech and expression being curbed under the present regime, Shah asked whether these people really care about the country’s past and history. He recalled that legendary Bollywood singer Kishore Kumar’s



songs were also banned during the Emergency days because of Congress leader Sanjay Gandhi. Recalling the contribution of RSS and Jan Sangh leaders and workers, Shri Shah said most of them worked against the Emergency and even went to jail.

“India was used to be a democracy since ancient times. Dwarka had democracy and Magdha also had it. There are deep roots of democracy in India and Indira Gandhi had made attempts to uproot it. Indira Gandhi also made attempts to disrupt elected representatives and parties,” he said. ■



## PM PAYS HOMAGE TO THE GREAT SAINT AND POET KABIR ON HIS 500<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh on 28 June, 2018.

He offered floral tributes at Sant Kabir Samadhi, on the occasion of the 500th death anniversary of the great saint and poet, Kabir. He also offered Chadar at Sant Kabir Mazaar. He visited the Sant Kabir Cave, and unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of Foundation Stone of Sant Kabir Academy, which will highlight the great saint's teachings and thought.

At a public meeting, the Prime Minister said that a wish which he had for years, had been fulfilled, by paying homage to the great saint Kabir, at the hallowed land of Maghar, where legend says that Sant Kabir, Guru Nanak and Baba Gorakhnath, had engaged in spiritual discussion.

The Prime Minister said that Sant Kabir Academy, to be built at a cost of about Rs. 24 crore, would create an institution to preserve the legacy of Sant Kabir, as well as regional dialects and folk arts of Uttar Pradesh.

The Prime Minister said that Sant Kabir represents the essence of India's soul. He broke the barriers of caste, and spoke the language of the ordinary, rural Indian, Shri Narendra Modi added.

The Prime Minister said that saints have risen from time to time, in various parts of India, who have guided society to rid itself of social evils. Naming many such saints from various parts of India, across different eras, the Prime Minister mentioned Babasaheb Ambedkar who ensured for every citizen of India, equality, through the Constitution.

Making a strong statement against political opportunism, the Prime Minister recalled Sant Kabir's teaching that the ideal ruler is one who understands the feelings and suffering of the people. He said Sant Kabir had criticized all social structures which discriminated among people. In this context, the Prime Minister mentioned the various schemes of the Union Government which seek to empower the poor and under privileged sections of society, such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, insurance schemes, toilet construction, and direct benefits transfer. He also mentioned the increase in pace in various infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, optical fibre network etc. He said the Union Government is working to ensure that all parts of India receive the fruits of development.

He hoped that the teachings of Sant Kabir would help us give shape to the vision of New India. ■



THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI AND  
 BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHRI AMIT SHAH  
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**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**





Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with UP CM Yogi Adityanath at the Samadhi of great saint and poet Kabir at his village Maghar in Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh



PM Shri Narendra Modi paying floral tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on his birth anniversary (6 July) in central hall of parliament, New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with a group of sugarcane farmers at his residence in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi receiving a plough from the farmers of Rajasthan and interacts with several beneficiaries of various schemes of the Central and Rajasthan Government in Jaipur





कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय  
कसत लखनऊ

## किसानों की आय बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार ने उठाया महत्वपूर्ण कदम



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AND FARMERS WELFARE

### MSP ENHANCED, PROMISE FULFILLED

FOR KHARIF CROPS OF 2018-19 SEASON

Rs/Quintal

Commodity	Variety	Cost	MSP	% Return Over Cost*
Paddy	Common	1166	1750	50.09
	Grade A		1770	-
Jowar	Hybrid	1619	2430	50.09
	Maldandi		2450	-
Bajra	-	990	1950	96.97
Ragi	-	1931	2897	50.01
Maize	-	1131	1700	50.31
Arhar(Tur)	-	3432	5675	65.36
Moong	-	4650	6975	50.00
Urad	-	3438	5600	62.89
Groundnut	-	3260	4890	50.00
Sunflower Seed	-	3596	5388	50.01
Soyabean	-	2266	3399	50.01
Sesamum	-	4166	6249	50.01
Nigerseed	-	3918	5877	50.01
Cotton	Medium Staple	3433	5150	50.01
	Long Staple	-	5450	-

\* Includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour; bullock labour/machine labour; rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, Depreciation on implements and farm buildings, Interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc, Miscellaneous expenses. and imputed value of family labour.