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**'INDIA IS TODAY BRIMMING WITH
SELF-CONFIDENCE'**



SHAT SHAT NAMAN !
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
1924 - 2018

**राष्ट्रभक्ति की ज्वाला में जब एक महामानव तपता है...
तब कहीं जाकर देश को 'अटल' मिलता है। —अमित शाह**

THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, PM AND BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT, LEADERS FROM DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES AND FOREIGN DIGNITARIES PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE AT 6A, KRISHNA MENAN MARG IN NEW DELHI



President Shri Ramnath Kovind



PM Shri Narendra Modi



Vice-President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah



Senior BJP Leader Shri L.K. Advani



UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi



King of Bhutan Mr. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



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END OF AN ERA

BHARAT RATNA ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE

END OF AN ERA

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Atalji's way: Atal Bihari Vajpayee left a profound imprint on the polity, public speaking and, above all, the democratic awakening of India. A leader who was away from the public gaze, who had not spoken or was not heard in public for many years, who left...



twitter

@narendramodi



Atal Ji's passing away is a personal and irreplaceable loss for me. I have countless fond memories with him. He was an inspiration to Karyakartas like me. I will particularly remember his sharp intellect and outstanding wit.

@dramansingh



From today onwards the New Raipur will be known as Atal Nagar. Atal memorial will be constructed on a five-acre area in the city. It is a true homage from the people of the state to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who created the new state of Chhattisgarh and gave an identity to more than two and half crore people of the state.

@Devendra Fadnavis



Its impossible to believe that Atal ji is no more,an irreparable loss.Atalji will continue to inspire us by his thoughts,principles&teachings!Not just in the past but he will be a Role Model for generations to come. My Pranam to RashtraRushi Shri #AtalBihariVajpayee ji! Om Shanti.

facebook

Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji as the Bharatiya Janata Party's founding president, nursed a banyan tree in the country's politics with his tenacity and tireless work. He emerged as one of the most-popular national leader who believed that power is a means of service and led a spotless political life without compromising on national interest. The 'Dhruv Tara' of Indian politics has set with the passing of Atal ji. You will remain forever in our hearts. — **Amit Shah**



Atalji was a true 'Ajatshatru' who had many friends across the political spectrum. He believed in political consensus and his beliefs had consequential effect on Indian politics. In Atalji's demise the nation has lost a stalwart who was known for statesmanship and astute leadership. It is also a huge personal loss to me. — **Rajnath Singh**



Saddened by the demise of Atalji, unquestionably one of the tallest leaders of India. His contribution to India and India's democracy will be always remembered. His vision, oration, poetry, blended with his national commitment earned him respect from both friends and opponents. Atalji has left the world. But the era of which he laid the foundation will prosper even more. That is the Vajpayee legacy. — **Arun Jaitley**



Courtesy: Social Media

Our Atalji

As the mortal remains of Atal Bihari Vajpayee were consigned to the flames, the sky reverberated with chants of “Atal Bihari amar rahe” – Long live Atalji”. People from across the country thronged the Smriti Sthal in New Delhi, where the last rite was performed, to pay respect to their beloved leader. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP President Amit Shah led the last journey of Atal ji from BJP central office to Smriti Sthal walking along with a large number of people from every walk of life. Eminent personalities and politicians from India and abroad paid their respect in glowing terms. A towering personality in Indian politics, Atalji was equally loved and admired cutting across political divide within the country and beyond the borders. His long inning in politics saw him gaining love, affection and respect more and more with every passing day.

Atalji has left a unique and glorious legacy in Indian politics. He in fact represented the spirit of India where democratic traditions have shaped the socio-cultural fabric of the nation. While believing in the democratic functioning within a political party and in governance, he was quick in opposing emergency and dictatorial

tendencies in politics. His nationalism was imbibed with democratic spirit wherein the diversities of Indian society were to be addressed through tradition of evolving consensus on various issues of national and international concerns. In his long parliamentary life, he was able to leave his indelible mark on important issues even while being in opposition. It was by dint of his grasp over the various problems afflicting the nation that he tried to find solutions within the framework of national ethos and value system. A leader rooted to soil he was known for having political insights which was even valued by his political opponents. The nation had so much faith in him that in time of crisis his advice was sought even by his political adversaries. As a true son of Maa Bharati, he on occasions preferred to rise above the partisan politics as he chose to sacrifice interests of the party on the altar of national interests. When emergency was declared, Jansangh was merged with Janata Party in the national interest. As an uncompromising leader on principles and ideology, he came out of Janata Party along with his colleagues to form Bharatiya Janata Party. He had unflinching faith on principled and value based politics.

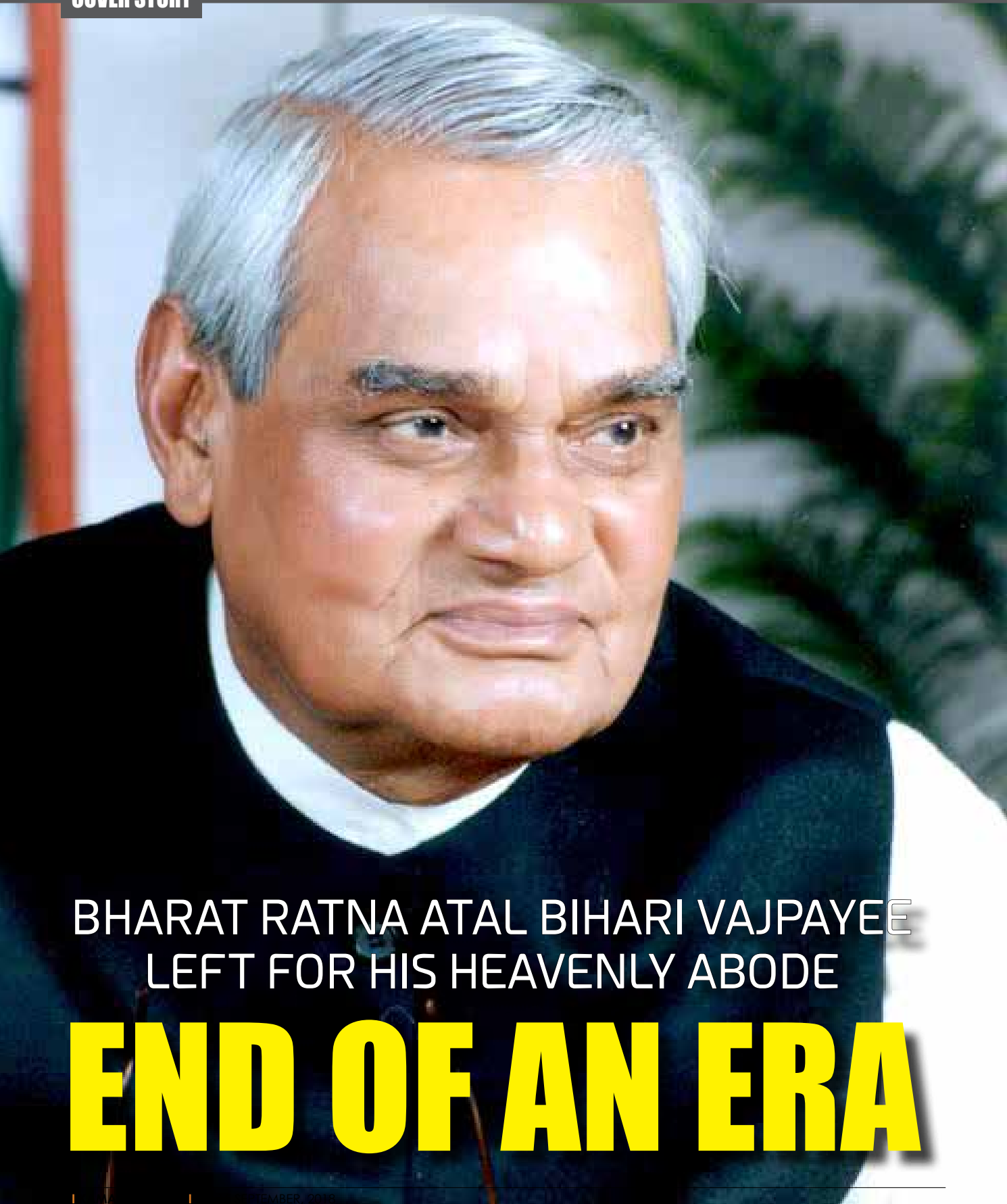
An orator par excellence, he mesmerised the masses with his magical appeal. The nation wanted to see him as prime minister and this dream was realized with the increasing support of the people in the country. As prime minister he led the country on every front with remarkable success. India emerged as a peaceful nuclear power state which became confident of itself even in the face of international economic sanctions. As a true ‘Atal’ he never buckled under pressure rather it was an opportunity for him to prove

India’s internal strength at global level. He wrote a new saga of good governance and development while giving a massive boost to infrastructure sector and making India self reliant on various fronts. As he rightly said in one of his speeches, he has left ineffaceable imprints on the canvas of time. The path shown by him has become guiding light for the emerging New India.

Atal ji inspired generation after generation to contribute to the national life with intense feeling of patriotism and love for the nation. The political movement which started with the aim of giving alternative in Indian politics culminated in him as he became the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India who completed his full term in office. It was a history created under his leadership and a legacy cherished by millions of people in the country. A true statesman, democate, a leader, a consensus builder and above all he was a gentleman in politics. We pay our rich tribute to the memory of our Atalji. ■

shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

AS PRIME MINISTER HE LED THE COUNTRY ON EVERY FRONT WITH REMARKABLE SUCCESS. INDIA EMERGED AS A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR POWER STATE WHICH BECAME CONFIDENT OF ITSELF EVEN IN THE FACE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. AS A TRUE ‘ATAL’ HE NEVER BUCKLED UNDER PRESSURE RATHER IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HIM TO PROVE INDIA’S INTERNAL STRENGTH AT GLOBAL LEVEL.



BHARAT RATNA ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
LEFT FOR HIS HEAVENLY ABODE

END OF AN ERA

THE END OF AN ERA : PM NARENDRA MODI

The founder president of BJP, former Prime Minister, beloved leader of millions, Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, one of India's most charismatic and tallest leaders who led the nation through several crises while holding together a tenuous coalition with his inclusive politics and superlative oratory, left for his heavenly abode in New Delhi on 16 August, 2018. He was 93.

It was this nationalist stalwart Shri Atalji's exemplary leadership that set the foundations for a developed, prosperous and inclusive India in the 21st century, for which his popularity was cut across party lines.

Shri Vajpayee was admitted on June 11, 2018 with a kidney tract infection, urinary tract infection, low urine output and chest congestion at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in New Delhi. Shri Vajpayee, had also only one functional kidney. He suffered a stroke in 2009 that weakened his cognitive abilities.

On 15 August, when Atalji's condition became critical, PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah all the senior leaders of BJP, a host of politicians from the Opposition and well-wishers gathered at AIIMS to enquire about his health condition and wish him speedy recovery.

However, doctors could not save him. In a statement on 16 August, the AIIMS said, "It is with profound grief that we inform about the sad demise of Former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at 05:05 PM 16 August, 2018". It said his condition was stable for the last nine weeks, but "unfortunately, his condition

PM Shri Narendra Modi condoled the death of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who breathed his last. Condoling his death in a series of tweets, PM Shri Modi said he was speechless. "India grieves the demise of our beloved Atal Ji. His passing away marks the end of an era. He lived for the nation and served it assiduously for decades. My thoughts are with his family, BJP Karyakartas and millions of admirers in this hour of sadness. Om Shanti," one of the tweets read.

In another tweet the Prime Minister said it was Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership that laid the foundation for a strong India, "It was Atal Ji's exemplary leadership that set the foundations for a strong, prosperous and inclusive India in the 21st century. His futuristic policies across various sectors touched the lives of each and every citizen of India".

Mentioning the work done by the former Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi added in another tweet, "It was due to the perseverance and struggles of Atal Ji that the BJP was built brick by brick. He travelled across the length and breadth of India to spread BJP's message, which led to the BJP becoming a strong force in our national polity and in several states".



MY SENIOR COLLEAGUE AND CLOSEST FRIEND FOR OVER 65 YEARS : ADVANI

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shri L K Advani expressed his deep grief and sadness and called Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as his “senior colleague and closest friend for over 65 years”.

Shri Advani spoke of his long association with Vajpayeeji going back to the “days as Pracharak of the RSS, to the inception of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the struggle of the dark months during the Emergency leading to the formation of Janata Party and later the emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980.”

“Atalji will be remembered as the pioneer of the first ever stable non-Congress coalition government at the Centre and I had the privilege of working as his deputy for six years,” said Shri Advani.



deteriorated over the last 36 hours and he was put on life support systems.”

A pall of gloom descended at the BJP headquarters and throughout the country as soon the news of Shri Vajpayee’s demise broke.

MORTAL REMAINS AT OFFICIAL RESIDENCE & BJP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

From AIIMS, on 16 August evening the mortal remains of the former Prime Minister were taken to his residence at 6-A Krishna Menon Marg in New Delhi where host of leaders cutting across party lines and people from

different walks of life paid their last respects.

The Central government announced seven-day state mourning from 17 August and various state governments announced a day’s holiday as a mark of respect to the former Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee. During this period, the national flag was flown at half-mast at all offices and institutions throughout the country. All the central government offices were functional only for half day.

On 17 August morning draped in a Tricolour, the mortal remains of Shri Vajpayee were taken to the BJP national headquarters at Deendayal Upadhyay Marg for the general public and the VIPs to pay their last respects to the departed soul. PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and all top leaders of the country received them.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, RSS Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, BJP veterans Shri LK Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Congress President Rahul Gandhi, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, all Central Ministers, Chief Ministers, Governors, Opposition Leaders, eminent citizens from various fields of the country and several top foreign leaders paid their last tributes to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the BJP national headquarters at Deendayal Upadhyay Marg in New Delhi.

Former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mallikarjun Kharge and Anand Sharma, Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M. Thambidurai, former Union Minister A. Raja, MDMK chief Vaiko and TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi, Army Chief Bipin Rawat, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval also paid their last tributes.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and AAP MP Sanjay Singh paid the last respects to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at BJP Headquarters.

Foreign dignitaries like Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, Nepal's Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Sri Lanka's Acting Foreign Minister Lakshman Kiriella and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali also paid their homage.

People from across the country also gathered in huge numbers outside the BJP head office and thousands lined up inside to pay homage to the former Prime Minister.

Condoling the demise PM Shri Narendra Modi said Shri Vajpayee's passing is a "personal and irreplaceable" loss for him and that his futuristic policies across various sectors touched the lives of each and every citizen of India. It was due to the perseverance and struggles of Atal Ji that the BJP was built brick by brick. He travelled across the length and breadth of India to spread the BJP's message, which led to the BJP becoming a strong force in our national polity and in several states," he added.

JOURNEY FROM CHILDHOOD

Shri Vajpayee, who joined the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangha in 1947 rose through ranks to become a stalwart of the BJP and was the first non-Congress Prime Minister to complete a full term in office.

In 1996 Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee first became Prime Minister leading a shaky coalition government. It lasted for 13 days and collapsed after losing a vote of no-confidence.

His second stint as Prime Minister was in 1998 when the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) again came to power but that lasted for just 13 months. Finally, the



VAJPAYEE NURSED BJP INTO A BANYAN TREE IN INDIAN POLITICS: AMIT SHAH



Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji left an indelible mark in Indian politics with his ideas and principles. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said while paying tributes to the stalwart leader.

BJP President Shri Amit Shah paid heartfelt tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji, saying he nursed the party to make it a banyan tree and left an indelible mark in Indian politics.

"Atalji emerged as a popular national leader who believed that power is a means of service and led a spotless political life without compromising on national interest. And that's why the people across political and social boundaries showered him with love and respect," Shri Shah tweeted. Describing the former prime minister as one of the most-popular Indian leader he said "Vajpayeeji, as the Bharatiya Janata Party's founding president, nursed a banyan tree in the country's politics with his tenacity and tireless work."

"A rare politician, brilliant speaker, poet and patriot, his demise is not just a irreparable loss for the BJP but also for the entire country," the BJP President said, adding that his thoughts, poems, foresight and political skills would always inspire and guide all. "On the one hand Atalji as the head of a party in opposition played the role of an ideal opposition while on the other hand he provided the country a decisive leadership as Prime Minister." Shri Vajpayeeji left an indelible mark in Indian politics with his ideas and principles, Shri Shah added, while praying for the peace of his soul.

TRIBUTE OF BJP LEADERS

@Narendra Modi

His passing away marks the end of an era. He lived for the nation and served it assiduously for decades. My thoughts are with his family, BJP Karyakartas and millions of admirers in this hour of sadness. Om Shanti.



has ended. He was liked by his opponents and loved by the party cadres. His amiability and generosity were the unique aspects of his personality. My heartfelt tribute to Shri Atal ji.

**@ Amit Shah**

“It was not easy to dedicate entire part of his life to the organisation and the ideology. In Atal Behari Vajpayee, we have seen a Swayamsevak, dedicated party worker, poet and great leader.”

**@Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

“This is an end of a political era, the void of his absence can never be filled.” He was a great politician & loved by millions. It’s unimaginable to think that our beloved Atal Ji is no more with us. This is an end of a political era, the void of his absence can never be filled #AtalBihariVajpayee

**@Sumitra Mahajan**

“Atal ji was like a star in the sky of politics, which shone brighter than everyone else. He had the unique ability to bring everyone together. Even if you ask the opposition they hold a sense of respect for him.”

**@Vasundhara Raje**

“India has lost its tallest leader of modern times, a political thinker whose wit was unparalleled and a champion of India - even when the motherland was marred by the emergency and had lost all hope.”

**@Rajnath Singh**

Atalji was a true ‘Ajatshatru’ who had many friends across the political spectrum. He believed in political consensus and his beliefs had consequential effect on Indian politics. In Atalji’s demise the nation has lost a stalwart who was known for statesmanship and astute leadership. It is also a huge personal loss to me.



“I remember those early days of BJP when under Atal ji and Rajmata ji I took my first steps into politics. Learning the ropes from the best, Atal ji’s wisdom and wit always proved to be an unmatched combination - his trademark style that India came to love”.

@arunjaitley

Saddened by the demise of Atalji, unquestionably one of the tallest leaders of India. His contribution to India and India’s democracy will be always remembered. His vision, oration, poetry, blended with his national commitment earned him respect from both friends and opponents. Atalji has left the world. But the era of which he laid the foundation will prosper even more. That is the Vajpayee legacy.

**@drramansingh**

From today onwards the New Raipur will be known as Atal Nagar. Atal memorial will be constructed on a five-acre area in the city. It is a true homage from the people of the state to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who created the new state of Chhattisgarh and gave an identity to more than two and half crore people of the state.

**@SushmaSwaraj**

With the sad demise of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, an era

@Yogi Adityanath

He worked in the national interest rather than personal interest; he brought a political stability to our country. His ashes will be spread in every river in UP to respect his grand stature: #AtalBihariVajpayee



@Dev_Fadnavis

He may be not with us physically but his vision will always be with us, losing a person whom we always looked up to is a personal loss for all of us and I am sure we will always take inspiration from his ideology: #AtalBihariVajpayee.

**@RSSorg****The void behind will remain forever: Mohan Bhagwat**

A great personality, a steadfast & universally accepted leader, who instilled Bharatiya culture & values in public life, Atalji has left us. The void left behind will remain forever. We join the nation in paying our deepest respects to the departed soul.



BJP led NDA with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as PM returned to power in 1999 and completed a full turn in government till 2004.

In 1975, Shri Vajpayee was arrested along with several other opposition leaders during the Internal Emergency imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of the Indian National Congress party. Emergency ended in 1977. A coalition of parties, including the BJS, came together to form the Janata Party, which won the subsequent general elections. Morarji Desai, the chosen leader of the alliance, became the prime minister. Shri Atak Bihari Vajpayee served as the Minister of External Affairs, in Desai's cabinet. As foreign minister, Vajpayee became the first person in 1977 to deliver a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi.

Shri Vajpayee resigned from his post in 1979. The erstwhile members of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh came together to form the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1980, with Vajpayee as its first President.

A lifelong bachelor, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was first elected to Lok Sabha in 1957 from Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh in India's second general elections. His maiden speech in Parliament so impressed the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his colleagues in Lok Sabha that Nehru introduced Shri Vajpayee to a visiting foreign dignitary thus: "This young man one day will become the country's Prime Minister."

He remained a Member of Parliament for 47 years — elected 10 times to the Lok Sabha and twice to Rajya Sabha.

Shri Vajpayee's signature in politics was achieving pragmatic consensus, and in this process he earned the respect of his party, allies and opponents. Abroad, he projected a harmonious image of India and connected it to the world through his foreign policy outreach.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on 25 December, 1924 in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh to a schoolteacher, Shri Krishna Bihari Vajpayee and Smt. Krishna Devi. His birthday is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day' in the country.

After schooling, he graduated from Victoria College in Gwalior, now known as Laxmi Bai College. He did his M.A. in Political Science from DAV College in Kanpur. He became a full-time worker of RSS in 1947.

TRIBUTES FROM THE FILM FRATERNITY

Former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's death was mourned by several other prominent celebrities like Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Lata Mangeshkar, Shah Rukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra, Sonam Kapoor and others.

On his blog, **Amitabh Bachchan** described Shri Vajpayee as an 'extremely rare human.' "A stalwart, a poet, a writer, an enlightened mind and a compassionate being leaves this world and we mourn his passing. He was an admirer of my father and his works and there were many occasions when I would be present at their meetings".

@ Madhur Bhandarkar

I met him once in 2006. He was a very good orator. The void of his absence can never be filled by anyone in Indian politics; he has been a role model for everyone and inspired many through his poetry, speeches and oratorship.

@ Javed Akhtar

Paying their last respects Javed Akhtar & Shabana Azmi say, 'very rare that a politician is respected across party lines. People with different ideology have also come as they love him because he used to love all'

@Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

My Respect to him. Rest in Peace.

@ Shah Rukh Khan

For The Poet Prime Minister of our country, love you Baapji.

My father use to take me for every speech that Mr. Vajpayee made in Delhi when I was growing up. Years on I had the opportunity to meet him and spend lots of time discussing poetry, films, politics and our ailing knees. I also had the privilege of enacting one of his poems for screen. He was fondly addressed as 'Baapji' at home. Today the country has lost a Father Figure and a great leader. Personally I have lost a part of my childhood and growing up memories of learning smiling and of course poetry. I consider myself the luckiest to have had his influence on my life during my formative years. May his soul rest in peace. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. Will miss your smiling face Baapji.

THE FINAL JOURNEY

Shri Vajpayee's funeral procession or the final journey of the Poet-Politician was started from the BJP headquarters in the afternoon of 17 August and culminate at the Smriti Sthal where he was accorded a state funeral before his cremation.

A sea of followers from across the country attended the funeral procession of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as his mortal remains were taken for cremation to Smriti Sthal. Despite a hot weather in Delhi, lakhs of followers gathered on the streets and walked the 7-km stretch along with the BJP leaders to pay their last respects to the stalwart.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah, many CMs and Central Ministers walked along the mortal remains of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee from BJP headquarters till the end.

Some climbed on trees to capture the moment on their phones as Shri Vajpayee's cortege left the BJP's headquarters for the last rites. Some thousand followers walked along, showering petals on the carriage of Shri Vajpayee.

It was a sea of white, with most mourners dressed in the colour of mourning to remember the man who wove together pragmatism and his vision for an inclusive India. Some could be seen wiping their tears amid the

chants of 'Amar Rahe Atal Ji' and 'Atal Bihari Zindabad'. The intensity of the moment and the heat led to some mourners fainting.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi kept pace on foot with thousands of mourners as Shri Vajpayee's funeral carriage drove to the Rashtriya Smriti Sthal a 7 km stretch where the great statesman was cremated with full state honours.

The Prime Minister and BJP President surprised many by joining the procession on foot from the BJP office along with lakhs of followers who spilled over barricades and jostled to get a glimpse of the former Prime Minister.

LAST RITES AT SMRITI STHAL

The illustrious and much adored former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was cremated with the highest state honours as politicians across the spectrum were joined by leaders of foreign nations at the Smriti Sthal for the last rites of one of the tallest statesmen of India.

The former Prime Minister was cremated with full military honours amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns and firing of a 21-gun salute by soldiers. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, PM Shri Narendra Modi and Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu joined a galaxy of political leaders cutting across party lines in bidding adieu to the departed leader at the designated spot for the last rites of Presidents, Vice Presidents and Prime Ministers, on the banks of the Yamuna.

In a departure from tradition, Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Bhattacharya lit the funeral pyre as other family members accompanied her, including her



@rashtrapatibhvn

“Extremely sad to hear of the passing of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, our former Prime Minister and a true Indian statesman. His leadership, foresight, maturity and eloquence put him in a league of his own. Atalji, the Gentle Giant, will be missed by one and all #PresidentKovind.



daughter Niharika, as cries of “Atal Bihari Amar Rahe” ‘Vande Mataram’ and “long live Atal Ji, reverberated and the Army performed the 21-gun salute. Prior to that the Tricolour draping Shri Vajpayee was folded and handed over to his granddaughter Niharika.

Bugles sounded the last post, uniformed soldiers clicked their heels and a sombre silence fell over the crowd as Shri Vajpayee's mortal remains were consigned to the flames. The sun set on the life of a poet-politician who combined politics of all ideologies with graciousness.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Shri LK Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Congress President Rahul Gandhi and former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh were among the thousands of people who attended the funeral at Rashtriya Smriti Sthal on the banks of the Yamuna.

Several foreign dignitaries, including the king of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Bangladesh foreign minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Sri Lanka acting Foreign Minister Lakshman Kiriella and former Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai were also present at the event to pay their last respects to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat, Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba & Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, also paid last tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Smriti Sthal in Delhi.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mallikarjun Kharge and Anand Sharma, Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M. Thambidurai, former Union Minister A. Raja, MDMK chief Vaiko and TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi were among who witnessed the last rites at Rashtriya Smriti Sthal. ■



RECITING THE MANTRA “DAL ME ATAL, DIL ME ATAL” ALL PARTIES COME TOGETHER TO GIVE TRIBUTE TO VAJPAYEEJI

An all-party prayer meeting for former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was held in New Delhi at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium at 4 PM on 21 August, 2018. It was attended by leaders from BJP, Congress, DMK, AIADMK, SP, TMC and other different political parties and prominent citizens.

During the meeting, the PM Shri Narendra Modi paid his tributes to Atalji in his address. He said that how long our life is, is not in our hands, but we can determine ‘how’ our life will be. He said that Atal ji showed through his life, how life should be, and what its purpose should be. Atal ji lived each moment for the common man. Right from youth till the time the physical body supported him, he lived for the country, the Prime Minister added. He said Atal ji lived for the countrymen, for his principles, and for the aspirations of the common man.

Shri Narendra Modi said that Vajpayee ji respected Parliamentary traditions; and when the opportunity came, he implemented his vision for the benefit of the people.

In each moment you could feel the “Atal” in him, the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister recalled that on May 11, 1998, he surprised the world through the nuclear tests. He attributed the success of these tests, to the skill of our scientists. And despite the widespread adverse reaction globally, Atal ji did not buckle under pressure, and showed the world that India is “Atal,” the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said that Vajpayee ji changed the global narrative on Kashmir. He highlighted the issue of terrorism, and brought it to the center stage, globally.

Shri Modi said that Atal ji shall remain an inspiration. He was away from public life and politics for over a decade; and yet there was such an outpouring of emotion at his passing. This shows his greatness.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said Atal ji had a multifaceted personality. Besides being an ‘ajatshatru’ he was a great poet, journalist and politician

who never let the party deviate from the path of its ideology.

Shri LK Advani said, “I consider myself fortunate that my friendship with Atal ji lasted for 65 years during which I watched him closely. Working together, we shared our experiences, watched films together and read books together”.

Atal ji’s words and his life...be it someone who watched him closely or saw him from far away, everyone found him to be the same & believed in him said RSS Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat.

Even after his death he has brought us together in one room, which is great. When I was a minister & he was leader of opposition, we used to have lunch & tea in each others office said GN Azad of Congress.

Wo Wazire-e-Azam nahi Hindustan ke dilon ke maalik they. He was large-hearted. No one had a heart like him: Former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah said. Shri Abdullah ends his speech with loud chanting of ‘Bharat Mata ki Jai’ and ‘Jai Hind’.

Former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti said, “Atalji was a great human being but for the people of J&K he was not less than a Messiah. He was the first Indian leader who trusted the people of J&K and whom the people trusted.

TMC leader Derek O’Brien said, “There are many communities around the world, when someone passes away they always write RIP which means ‘Rest in Peace’ but maybe after 16th Aug 2018 RIP for this great man will mean ‘Really Incredible Person’”

BSP leader S Mishra said, “Although he was poetic and generous at heart, he took strong decisions, like nuclear test and Kargil war for nation. He was loved & respected by ruling party as well as opposition. We need to follow his principles.

Sharad Yadav said Atalji led an absolutely unblemished life. He had a unique style. He never worried about food, lifestyle or any other thing. I pay my tributes to such a man full of love and humanity.

TRIBUTE OF EMINENT CITIZENS

A reasoned critique in opposition and a seeker of consensus as PM: Pranab Mukherjee

Describing Vajpayee as "a reasoned critique in opposition and a seeker of consensus as PM," former president Pranab Mukherjee sent his condolences on Twitter. "Atal Ji was a democrat to the core. In his passing away, India has lost a great son and an era has come to an end. My deepest condolences," wrote Mukherjee.

His death leaves behind a huge void: Sonia Gandhi

I'm deeply saddened by the passing away of #AtalBihariVajpayee. Vajpayee was a towering figure in our national life. Throughout his life, he stood for democratic values & demonstrated this commitment in all his acts whether as a parliamentarian, a cabinet minister or PM.

His warm personality and his gift of friendship won him admirers and friends across the political spectrum and from every walk of life. His death leaves behind a huge void. I join millions of our fellow Indians in mourning his loss and pray for the departed soul.

India has lost the most admired and respected 'Bhishma Pitamah' of public life: Ch Vidyasagar Rao

Maharashtra Governor Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao mourned the death of Atal Bihari Vajpayee referring him as India's most admired and respected 'Bhishma Pitamah'.

Reminiscing Vajpayee's oratory skills and his poetry, Rao added, "In his demise, India has lost the most admired and respected 'Bhishma Pitamah' of public life; while I have lost my dearest leader."

He called Vajpayee as his "idol" and main inspiration to enter into public life.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar expresses grief

Counting traits of Vajpayeeji Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar says, "the nation has lost, in his

demise, a towering political personality, a brilliant orator, poet, writer and thinker....his personality earned him the respect of all, beyond political divides".

CM Mamata Banerjee expresses her sorrow

Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee expresses her grief and says, "Very very saddened that the great statesman and former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is no more with us. His passing away is a very big loss to our nation. I will always cherish the many fond memories. Condolences to his family and his many admirers."

Ratan Tata admires Vajpayee's 'great sense of compassion and humour'

Chairman of Tata Trusts Ratan Tata expresses his sorrow over the demise of Vajpayee and says, "All of us who knew Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee are saddened to hear of his passing away. He was a great leader with a great sense of compassion and humour. He will be remembered fondly by a vast number of us."

@Sachin Tendulkar

India is at a great loss today. Shri #AtalBihariVajpayee ji's contributions to our nation have been innumerable. Thoughts and prayers go out to his loved ones.

**@SGanguly99**

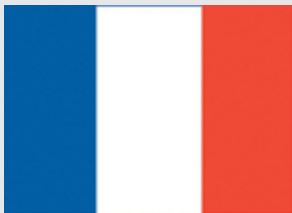
Bharat loses its gleaming Ratna... may his soul rest in peace.



MESSAGES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

VAJPAYEE'S DEMISE SENT SHOCKWAVES ACROSS INDIA AS WELL AS OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD: US

The American people and I stand with the people of India as we mourn Prime Minister Vajpayee's passing. Today, we hold the people of India in our thoughts and prayer. His demise sent shockwaves across India as well as other parts of the world. Tributes are pouring in for Vajpayee from other parts of the world as well. The country grieved with India on the loss of the former prime minister. "He will be remembered for his immense contribution in bolstering US-India relations," US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement.

**POET, POLITICIAN, VISIONARY, HE LEFT HIS MARK ON INDIA'S HISTORY: FRANCE**

France statement on former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's death: Poet, politician, visionary, he left his mark on India's history. His name remains linked to the Indo-French friendship,

which he shaped by launching the strategic partnership that has united our two countries since 1998.

HE WAS OUR FRIEND & HIGHLY RESPECTED IN BANGLADESH: PM SHEIKH HASINA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expresses her heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the government, people and Vajpayee's family members. In remembrance of the former PM, Hasina calls Vajpayee her friend and



recalls his invaluable contribution to the Liberation War in 1971 and how the Bangladesh government had conferred on him the Bangladesh Liberation War Honour.

AN ELOQUENT SUPPORTER OF TIBETAN PEOPLE AND A FRIEND: DALAI LAMA

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has condoled the death of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, saying he was an "eloquent" supporter of the Tibetan people and a "friend". In a letter to Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Bhattacharya, the Dalai Lama said with his passing away, India has lost an eminent national leader.

**PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT MOURNS VAJPAYEE'S DEMISE**

Pakistan government mourns Vajpayee's death and recalls his contributions in bringing a change in Indo-Pak relations. We have learnt with sadness the passing away of #AtalBihariVajpayee former Prime Minister of India, who was undergoing treatment in a hospital in New Delhi.



He was a renowned statesman who contributed to bringing a change in Indo-Pak relations & remained key supporter of SAARC & regional cooperation for development. Pakistan Govt & people extend their heartfelt condolences to his family & to Govt & people of India.

"We are here to share your grief and pay our condolences on the behalf of people of Pakistan and the Government of Pakistan," says Pakistan Law Minister Ali Zafar.

TRIBUTE OF LEADERS FROM OTHER PARTIES

@Dr. Manmohan Singh

The BJP stalwart Shri Vajpayee was a great patriot and among modern India's tallest leaders who spent his whole life serving the country.

**@Mohd Hamid Ansari**

#AtalBihariVajpayee was an eminent statesman known for his wisdom moderation intact. His way of communication was unique & made him extremely popular. This kind of a person comes once in a blue moon. He will be remembered for a long time: Former Vice President Mohd Hamid Ansari.

**@RahulGandhi**

Today India lost a great son. Former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, was loved and respected by millions. My condolences to his family & all his admirers. We will miss him. #AtalBihariVajpayee.

**@PawarSpeaks**

With the sad demise of Bharatratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, We have lost a great soul, an eloquent poet, orator par excellence, an excellent human being and one of the greatest Parliamentarians of India. His passing away is a personal loss, having spent numerous years in our parliamentary life together, and an irreparable loss to our country. I pray eternal peace for his departed soul.

**@MamataOfficial**

Very very saddened that the great statesman and former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji is no more with us. His passing away is a very big loss to our nation. I will always cherish the many fond memories. Condolences to his family and his many admirers.

**@Sitaram Yechury**

CPI leader Sitaram Yechury in his condolences message said that "though we opposed each other vehemently on political & ideological issues Atal Behari Vajpayee ji's good-nature, decency and willingness to engage with all political leaders always made him stand out. Condolences."

**@mkstalin**

On behalf of the DMK, I paid my last respects to the former Prime Minister #AtalBihariVajpayee in New Delhi. We join our fellow Indians in mourning the loss of this remarkable leader.

**@Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described Vajpayee as a great parliamentarian, orator and a diplomat who ably presented India's rights in international platforms.

**@Kerala Governor P Sathasivam**

"With the loftiest ideals of statecraft, the noblest sense of diplomacy and a masterfully poetic oratory, he was a perfect synthesis of sage-like wisdom and modernism. May his soul rest in peace."

**@Naveen Patnaik**

We are all deeply grieved by the sad demise of Vajpayee ji. He was one of the tallest leaders of India. He was loved by the entire nation. May his soul rest in peace:#AtalBihariVajpayee.

**@N Chandrababu Naidu**

We have lost one of the greatest visionaries the nation has seen, on this unfortunate day. The beloved former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji will continue to inspire us and the generations to come. May he rest in peace.



ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE'S ASHES IMMERSED IN GANGA AT HARIDWAR

People from across Uttarakhand and neighbouring states thronged Haridwar to witness ashes immersion of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Ganga. Every street, through which the Army vehicle carrying the ashes passed, was jam-packed.

Ashes were first put up at city's Bhalla college, where BJP Shri National President Amit Shah, Union home affairs minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Haridwar MP Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, eight cabinet ministers of Uttarakhand along with dozens of legislators, parliamentarians from UP-UK-Himachal Pradesh-Haryana offered floral tributes.

On a three kilometer route, ashes procession was carried till Har-Ki-Pauri, where people thronged in large numbers to pay their tributes. Namita, foster daughter of Shri Vajpayee, her husband Ranjan Bhattacharya and daughter Niharika brought the ashes in silver pitcher and immersed the ashes in Ganga. The ashes immersion of Shri Vajpayee Ji was performed as per Hindu rituals.

BJP WILL ORGANIZE "ATAL KALASH YATRA" TO IMMERSER ATALJI'S ASHES IN RIVERS ACROSS INDIA

PM Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah handed over urns wrapped in red cloth with Shri Vajpayee's ashes to state BJP Presidents at an event organized on 22 August, 2018 in New Delhi. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Kaul Bhattacharya was present on stage as the urns were handed over.

Respecting the sentiments of millions of followers of the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, his ashes will be immersed in rivers across the country. The BJP state organizations have been tasked with the job of organizing Yatras or processions and condolence meets before the urns are taken to rivers for immersion of the ashes.

The party has asked all its ministers and representatives to participate in the Kalash Yatra events in their states.

HERE'S HOW NEWSPAPERS COVERED FORMER PM ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE'S DEMISE



ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE ONLY MADE FRIENDS, NO ENEMIES



M VENKAIAH
NAIDU

Atal ji finally gave up and lost this one battle, as he set sail for new unseen horizons. This is a battle no one has won so far and Atal Bihari Vajpayee is no exception. But what makes him vastly different from others of his generation are the several battles that he had fought when he was alive by remaining “Atal” (unmoved) as far as his core values and convictions were concerned. He was both “Atal” and “Bihari” (a wanderer or dreamer) all through his life. He stayed rooted to his core beliefs even as he dreamt of a new India.

My first brush with Atal ji was in the late 1960s when I was going around Nellore city in a tonga announcing his visit. Little did I imagine at that time that I would one day be privileged to be the president of the party and sit between Vajpayee ji and Advani ji. Ever since, I have been fortunate to receive in great abundance

the bounty of his love, affection, guidance and patronage. I deem it a rare honour that such a person of many virtues has guided me through my career.

It is usually said that one’s “inner core” is reflected on one’s face. Atal ji is a fine example of this maxim. His clarity of thought, strength of convictions, vision for the country and his idea of the inescapable course the nation needs to take to attain glory made him relaxed, even look detached, to the amazement of his peers. His constant smile, in my view, is a clear manifestation of Atal ji’s inner core.

MY FIRST BRUSH WITH ATAL JI WAS IN THE LATE 1960S WHEN I WAS GOING AROUND NELLORE CITY IN A TONGA ANNOUNCING HIS VISIT. LITTLE DID I IMAGINE AT THAT TIME THAT I WOULD ONE DAY BE PRIVILEGED TO BE THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY AND SIT BETWEEN VAJPAYEE JI AND ADVANI JI.

Of his 65 years in active public life till 2009, Atal ji spent about 56 years in Opposition and only about nine years in power. He was elected to the Lok Sabha 10 times and twice to the Rajya Sabha. He was the Minister of External Affairs in the Morarji Desai government

and later became prime minister thrice. But whether he was in Opposition or in office, Atal ji made seminal contributions to the growth and evolution of India since Independence.

The great orator that he was, Atal ji excelled as a public speaker and Parliamentarian, winning wide acclaim from across the political spectrum, including from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. One may say that it is easy to speak eloquently without the responsibility of office. But Atal ji addressed such doubts squarely as external affairs minister first and later, as prime minister of this vast country. He

broke new ground, improving frosty relations with our neighbours and swiftly imparting a new perspective to our diplomacy, which won him wide acclaim. As prime minister, he demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the problems plaguing the

nation and the ability to address the same.

He decisively demonstrated that he was not a mere orator, enjoying the liberty of the flights of imagination while in Opposition but a decisive leader when required to resolve the problems

confronting the nation. He had won several battles both as an Opposition politician but even more as the prime minister.

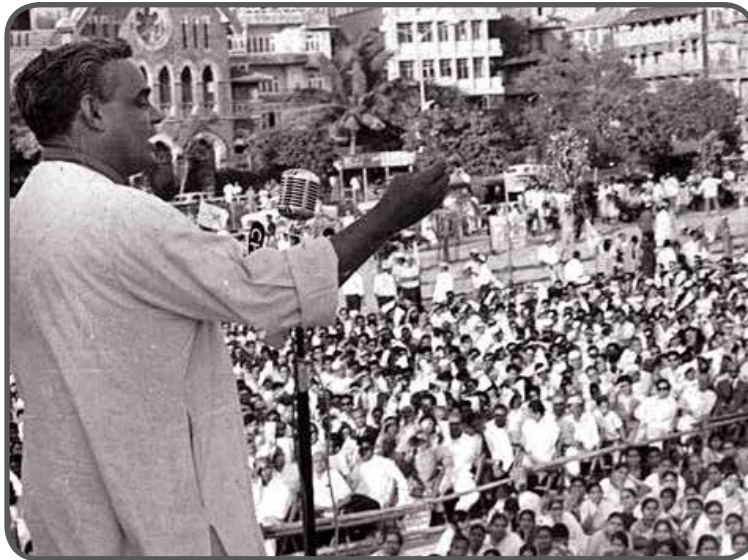
As prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee pioneered “Mission Connect India” by radically re-scripting the contours of various core sectors like telecom, infrastructure — including national highways, rural roads, airports and ports — private-sector participation and disinvestment. He proved to be a reformer par excellence, of which the nation is still reaping rich dividends. Atal ji added “jai vigyan” to Lal Bahadur Shastri’s slogan of “jai jawan, jai kisan”, underscoring the sense of importance he accorded to knowledge in the contemporary times.

Vajpayee ji was a fine blend of tenderness and toughness. While the former trait was on show for long, the latter came out when the Pokhran-II nuclear tests were conducted and the way the aggressors were forced to retreat from the heights of Kargil. The tenderness of his personality was quite evident in the way he dealt with his peers across the political spectrum and in the manner he nurtured and led coalition governments at the Centre at a critical time.

Owing to his personal qualities, Vajpayee became the first non-Congress prime minister to

complete a full term in office. He provided an alternate political thought and succeeded in providing a real alternative to the ruling party. He successfully led a coalition of 13 parties, proving that he was an able leader providing a stable government.

Vajpayee contributed to the Indian polity in multiple ways. He made a major contribution to strengthening democracy in the true spirit of the ideals enshrined in our Constitution. His name will go down in history as synonymous



with and exemplary of the essence of good governance in the country.

Both the common man and the political class were won over by his charm, character and conduct. He was both the source and object of confidence of the people, which made him one of the tallest leaders of our country post Independence.

What made Vajpayee ji endearing to all the countrymen was the way he related to different sections of society. This was possible for him

because he saw no contradiction in his commitment to the core values he believed in and in speaking for India as and when required. This was because he was and remained a true Indian, appealing to all Indians. He never compromised but he also never hesitated to speak his heart when a larger consensus needed to be articulated. This was Atal ji’s remarkable ability. In the process, he mesmerised and motivated millions like me to follow a true nationalist ideology. He was a national icon and a true “Ajatha Shatru”, one who had no enemies.

In our early days, we used to fondly call Atal ji “Tharuna Hriday Samrat”, a leader with a young heart. He remained so till illness struck him. That infectious smile stayed with him all through.

Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s qualities of

vyakhithva (personality), vakruthva (oratory), karthruthva (devotion to duty), mithruthva (friendliness) all combined in nethruthva (leadership). They will be remembered for a long time to come. He was in the mould of a “philosopher-king”. A king who ruled the hearts of all Indians by his words and deeds. Such statesmen and visionaries walk on this earth but once in a while. Let’s resolve to carry forward his legacy as a true tribute to him. ■

(The writer is Vice President of India)



A LEADER FOR THE AGES, HE WAS AHEAD OF THE TIMES



NARENDRA MODI

In times of turbulence and disruption, a nation is blessed to have a leader who rises to become its moral compass and guiding spirit, providing vision, cohesion and direction to his people. And, in such a moment at the turn of the century, India found one in Atal

Bihari Vajpayee, who was gifted in spirit, heart and mind.

For those of us who knew him, he was, first, the rarest of human beings, who touched and inspired everyone he met. He was compassionate to the core, generous in spirit, warm beyond measure and kind to a fault. He was deeply respectful of others and gifted with a rare sense of humour that he often turned upon himself.

Orator without parallel, he could switch from disarming humour to a lofty vision with ease, with a

rare ability to connect with people naturally, to stir them to self-belief and to a higher cause. Sharply perceptive, he could summarize the most complex issues and discussions in a single sentence or question.

Born into a family of modest means and high ideals, he hailed from a small town in MP. His youth was defined by academic excellence and quest for public service during the gathering momentum of freedom struggle. Starting as an ordinary Karyakarta in the Jana Sangh, he organized

the only truly national-level party to be formed in independent India – the BJP – and helmed its organization work after the passing away of Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Through the four decades of leadership in Parliament, the struggle against Emergency (who can forget that memorable rally in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan when his speech became the roar of the nation), the clarity to represent his party with passion but always speak for the nation, he defined the spirit of democracy in India. Firm in his political beliefs, but always accommodating and respectful of other points of view, he set the standards of debate in Parliament. In his simplicity and

integrity, in his dignity and empathy, and a sense of personal non-attachment to the office, he became an inspiration for a nation of youth.

He rescued the economy from the morass of the mid-1990s, when

decades. For him, growth was a means to empower the weakest and mainstream the marginalized. It's that vision that continues to drive our government's policy.

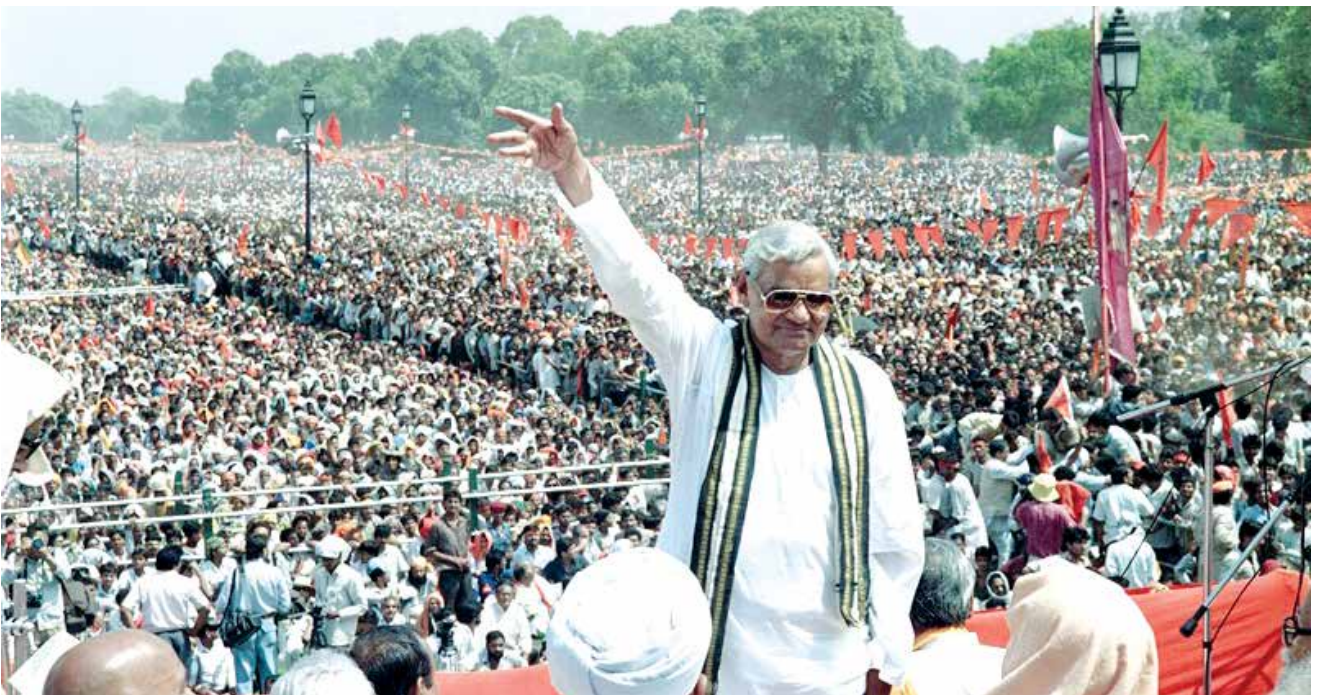
It was Atalji who prepared the foundations of an India that is ready to take on the mantle of global leadership in the 21st century. The futuristic economic policies and reforms of his government ensured prosperity for several Indians. His thrust on next-generation infrastructure particularly roads

and telecom contributed to our country's economic as well as social empowerment.

Atalji irreversibly changed India's place in the world. He overcame the hesitation of our nation, the resistance of the world and threat

ATALJI WAS AN IDEAL, A GURU, AND ROLE MODEL WHO INSPIRED ME DEEPLY. IT WAS HE WHO ENTRUSTED ME WITH RESPONSIBILITIES BOTH IN GUJARAT AS WELL AS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

political instability at home and an uncertain global environment had threatened to derail a still incipient economic reforms process. He sowed the seeds of much of the economic success that we have experienced over the past two



of isolation to make India a nuclear weapons power. It was not a decision he took lightly, but one he knew was of paramount importance in the face of mounting challenges to India's security. No longer would India's security be vulnerable. At that moment of surge in national pride, his was a voice of restraint and responsibility. And, the world listened to the wisdom of the man of peace. Equally important, he then brought to bear his extraordinary understanding of world affairs and formidable diplomatic skills to gain global acceptance of new realities. Indeed, it is the combination of his legacies of creating strategic capabilities, promoting stronger economic growth, undertaking multi-directional diplomacy and harnessing of diaspora energies that is today the basis for the respect we command across the world.

He transformed five decades of estrangement with USA into an enduring strategic partnership in the course of five years. He also steered India to deep friendship with a new post-Soviet Russia through a strategic partnership in 2000. I had the privilege of accompanying him on a visit to Russia in November 2001 when we concluded a sister province agreement between Gujarat and Astrakhan.

With China, he made the boldest move for peace in an effort to overcome the burdens of a difficult past by establishing the mechanism of Special Representatives for boundary talks. Atal Ji's conviction that these two ancient civilisations – which are rising powers – can work together to shape the global future

continues to guide my thinking.

A person of grassroots, our neighbours were his priority. In many ways, he was the inspiration for, and even pioneer of, our Neighbourhood First policy. He was unwavering in his support as an opposition leader towards Bangladesh's liberation. He went to Lahore in search of peace. With persistence and optimism that was his nature, he continued to search for peace and heal the wounds in J&K. But, he was resolute in winning the Kargil War. And, when our Parliament was struck, he made the world recognize the true

people's expectations. The faith he had in me was humbling.

Today, we are a self-assured nation, brimming with the energy of our youth and resolve of our people, eager for change and confident of achieving it, striving for clean and responsive governance, building future of inclusion and opportunity for all Indians. We engage the world as equals and in peace, and we speak for principles and support the aspirations of others. We are on the path that Atalji wanted us to take. He was ahead of the times, because he had a deep sense of

A LIFE IS TO BE JUDGED NOT JUST BY THE EXTENT OF GRIEF THAT FOLLOWS WHEN ITS LIGHT GOES OUT. IT IS ALSO TO BE MEASURED BY THE LASTING IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF PEOPLE AND THE COURSE OF TIME. FOR THAT REASON, ATALJI WAS A TRUE RATNA OF BHARAT. HIS SPIRIT WILL CONTINUE TO GUIDE US AS WE BUILD THE NEW INDIA OF HIS DREAMS.

nature and source of cross-border terrorism against India.

Personally, Atalji was an ideal, a guru, and role model who inspired me deeply. It was he who entrusted me with responsibilities both in Gujarat as well as at the national level. It was he who called me one evening in October 2001, and told me to go to Gujarat as the chief minister. When I told him that I had always worked in the organization, he said he was confident I would fulfill the

history, and he could peer into the soul of India from his grasp of our civilizational ethos.

A life is to be judged not just by the extent of grief that follows when its light goes out. It is also to be measured by the lasting impact on the lives of people and the course of time. For that reason, Atalji was a true Ratna of Bharat. His spirit will continue to guide us as we build the New India of his dreams. ■

(The writer is Prime Minister of India)

ATALJI, THE QUINTESSENTIAL GENTLEMAN – HOW HE MADE A DIFFERENCE?



ARUN JAITLEY

Atalji's demise is referred to by many as end of an era. I, however, consider it as a continuation of the era of which he was one who laid the foundation.

THE POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL JOURNEY

His political journey shaped his ideology. His convictions were shaped by his deep commitment to the nation from the student days association with the Quit India Movement to his joining the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and then being associated with Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee as one of the founders of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh. During his early days in the Jan Sangh, he was associated with the 'Kashmir Satyagraha' which wanted to lift several restrictions on Indian citizens in relation to the State. He was, alongwith Dr. Mookerjee, a strong opponent of the Liaquat-Nehru Pact. Once in Parliament from 1957 his speeches as a young parliamentarian on the Tibet crisis and the 1962 war debacle left their impact on all. At a young age, he became a principal face of the Jan Sangh. He travelled across the country and was being hailed as a charismatic orator. He once told us that till the mid-1980s most of his travel was either by trains

or by roads. At times even by busses. During his tours he mostly stayed at the homes of political workers. This was when a young party was being built up.

Disillusionment with the Congress had started after the 1962 China war debacle. It was at this stage that Dr. Lohia pioneered the idea of 'Congress Hatao Desh Bachao' and seat coordination in critical bye-elections between Dr. Lohia, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Acharya Kripalani had begun. Deen Dayalji, alongwith his political team, mostly young leaders in their 30s, was busy creating an organisational structure of the party. It bore results in 1967 when the Jan Sangh emerged with a large contingent of MPs in Parliament, got the absolute majority in National Capital Territory of Delhi and made a sizeable presence in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab. After Deen Dayalji's sudden demise, the mantle of Jan Sangh leadership fell on Atalji. Not compromising with Party's core beliefs, he started coordinating with other political parties and became a nationally respected and acceptable face of the Jan Sangh. He had an ability to rise above partisan interests which he displayed by strongly standing behind the Government during the 1971 war. In 1974, the movement led by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan witnessed the Jan Sangh under Atalji plunge into it and give it a core strength. The battle against the Emergency and for restoration of

democracy was fought by Jan Sangh under his leadership. After a brief experience in the Janata Government, the Jan Sangh was back to square one. The merger of the Jan Sangh and other political parties in the Janata Party had failed. It was a short lived experiment. Thus in 1980 he revived the BJP. The inaugural session of the BJP witnessed an aspirational cadre with a self-belief chanting 'Pradhan Mantri Ki Agli Bari – Atal Bihari, Atal Bihari'.

When the BJP was formed, it suffered initial isolation. Its parliamentary presence was minimal. It faced its lowest ebb in 1984. Notwithstanding this adversity, the duo of Atalji and Shri L.K. Advani held on to their political space and remained determined to expand the BJP. From 89 Lok Sabha seats in 1989 to 121 seats in 1991, to 166 seats in 1996 and finally 183 seats in 1998. The isolated BJP had now become the center-stage party of Indian politics. Atalji led the party to great victories in 1998 and 1999 and had a successful tenure as a Prime Minister. India has now witnessed the demolition of a single party domination in the electoral space. The BJP had expanded its geographical and social base.

ATALJI'S POLITICAL STYLE

The essential aspect of his political journey, true to his name 'Atal' was determination. In the world's largest democracy only the Congress Party dominated in the first few decades. Atalji created an alternative, which

in the last two decades became larger and bigger than the Congress. Alongwith Advaniji, he created a second line leaders both in the Center and the States. He was always open to ideas; always gave priority to national interest; was always at ease in dealing with both friends and opponents and never allowed himself to get into any petty controversy. He had no personal enemies since he spoke mostly on issues rather than individuals. He was a wordsmith. He could use the facility of language to get out of any challenging situation. What he will be remembered for most will be is oration both in Parliament and outside. In Parliament, he was heard in pin drop silence. In his public meetings audiences waited for hours before he could arrive. His oration was always blended with humour. His ability for an instant response was unmatched. His choice of words, his turn of phrases, the poetry that he injected in his expression, gave him the ability to even explain the most complicated issue in a simple language.

HIS PRIME MINISTERIAL TENURE

Besides the BJP, his coalition at different points of time had the Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, National Conference, Janata Dal (U), Trinamool Congress, BJD, TDP, DMK, AIADMK, besides individuals like Shri K.C. Pant and Shri Ramakrishna Hegde.

The Nuclear Test in 1998 was a defining moment of his Government. He went out of the way to work for peace with Pakistan. But when the need arose, he inflicted a severe blow to it in Kargil. Both Pokhran and Kargil were his high points. On the economic front, he was a liberaliser. National Highway, rural roads, better

infrastructure, a new telecom policy which was pragmatic, a new electricity law are evidence of this. In any intra-Governmental debate, his nod inevitably was for the liberal economic view. He corrected the foreign policy imbalance in the changed global environment.

SEVERAL PERSONAL TRAITS

As a Prime Minister, he was never harsh on either the bureaucrats or his Ministers. In a polite but firm language he could convey more to his subordinates than what he desired. The Cabinet Meetings that he presided lasted for hours. He allowed a discussion on almost every subject and eventually reconciled the conflicting viewpoints depending on their merits. He loved food. Ministers in his Government still occasionally speak about the quality of snacks which was served in his Cabinet Meetings. He even loved to experiment foods when he travelled internationally. In India, he had his own favourite places in various cities and occasionally when he got out of the trains in the morning, he would have breakfast on one of them before reaching home.

The poet in him also created a dreamer. He dreamt of his own vision. Many of those were born out of his idealism. In fact, several lines of different poems that he wrote reflected his own mood.

During the Emergency, he had a serious problem with his back. He was brought to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences while in detention for treatment. His orthopaedic doctor asked him he should have always sat straight, how can the pain occur? "Kya Aap Jhuk Gaye The?", to which the man in pain not losing his sense of

humour replied in the context of the Emergency:

“शुक्रना तो सीखा नहीं डॉक्टर साहब। यूँ कहिये मुड़ गए होमे”

This made him pen down on his hospital bed his famous lines against the Emergency:

“टूट सकते हैं मगर हम झुक नहीं सकते”

This poem became one of the most distributed pamphlets during the Emergency.

Atalji was a democrat. His political style was liberal. He accepted criticism. He was a product of parliamentary democracy and, therefore, valued consensus. He bore no malice. He communicated even with those who disagreed. Whether in opposition or the Government, his attitude never changed. He was an iconic communicator unparalleled in recent history. All this added to his charisma.

His greatest asset was his credibility where he was never in any controversy. Yet in an era dominated by the Nehruvian Congress, he created a political party which was an ideological alternative to the Congress which disagreed on various issues with the Congress, which took the Congress head on, struggled for almost five decades and in the last two decades not only became an alternative to Congress but overtook it. Atalji ran a marathon. He was a patient runner. But for him, Advaniji and their other colleagues, Indian democracy would have looked different – dominated by one party, one family with a lot of scattered smaller parties. That did not happen. Atalji and his colleagues made the difference. Atalji has left the world. But the era of which he laid the foundation will prosper even more. That is the Vajpayee legacy. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance)



ATALJI'S WAY



**RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD**

Atalji's way: Atal Bihari Vajpayee left a profound imprint on the polity, public speaking and, above all, the democratic awakening of India. A leader who was away from the public gaze, who had not spoken or was not heard in public for many years, who left the office of prime minister more than 14 years ago, yet he could generate so much emotion, empathy and profound goodwill in his death — that is the true legacy of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

After the death of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Atalji became the principal proponent of the ideology of the Jan Sangh and then the BJP. He travelled through the country, stayed in the homes of party workers, addressed public meetings and by the sheer strength

of his persona and eloquence spread the message of the party. There will be hundreds of homes where Atalji stayed during his visits and developed family bonds. My home in Patna was one such home.

After Independence, the Congress led by Nehruji and Indiraji dominated the country's politics. The left, of various shades, and socialists, had their own influence. It was a huge task to find space for the ideology of the Jan Sangh with its stress on nationalism, security of the country and proud adherence to our cultural and civilisational heritage, yet Atalji could manage to carve out that place.

Right from my childhood days I have heard him speak in Gandhi Maidan of Patna and I became mesmerised. It was not only the Jan Sangh or BJP supporters, but also people, including government employees and Opposition workers, who wanted to hear Atalji, not just for his Hindi or poetry but also on issues concerning the country. In some meetings people

used to come with tape recorders. Ram Manohar Lohia was also a powerful speaker but both Lohia and Deendayal Upadhyay died young. In independent India, I have not the slightest hesitation to state that Vajpayee was the most powerful public speaker in Parliament or outside. Young people started emulating his style and there are hundreds of young workers who pride themselves as mini-Atals. In one public meeting in Delhi, a speaker in his presence emulated him very well. Atalji said, "if the duplicate is so good then why trouble the original?"

He always stressed on a few important principles. Be dignified in your utterances. "Rajneeti mein mat-bhed ho, man-bhed nahin hona chahiye", he said. Have abiding trust in the heritage, and faith in the future of India. Proudly explain your ideology, criticise your opponents but don't treat them as enemies. I remember when Indira Gandhi announced the election in 1977 (after Emergency), Atalji rang

me up from Delhi and informed me that he was coming to Patna to meet Jayaprakash Narayan. From the airport I brought him to my house and during a conversation I said something in anger about Indira Gandhi, which was not very dignified. Being a product of the JP Movement and having fought during the Emergency and having seen the way political leaders including JP were treated, the anger was not unjust. But Atalji snubbed me and pointedly said that he did not expect this kind of language from me. Here was a man just released from prison, where he had undergone two surgeries, and yet he had no ill-will against Indira Gandhi. It left a powerful impact on me personally. During my parliamentary or public interventions at times I strongly criticise my opponents but once it is over, I never make it personal.

The sheer height to which he took parliamentary debate with the depth of his commitment, wit, humour and sarcasm, including the ability to laugh at himself, has become the stuff of legend. His speech in 1996 in the Lok Sabha just before he resigned after serving as PM for 13 days will remain one of the finest moments of Indian parliamentary debate. I still remember, while speaking in the Lok Sabha he said, "Somnath" and then paused and looking at the Opposition benches, said, "Somnath Mandir, Somnath Chatterjee nahin". The late Somnath Chatterjee, a close friend of Atalji, laughed.

Apart from Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Narendra Modi, Vajpayee was the only PM popularly elected by the people of India. Rajiv Gandhi had won not on his own persona but because of the sympathy

generated by the assassination of Indira Gandhi. As the first true non-Congress PM, Atalji led path-breaking initiatives for the country. The courage he showed when India undertook the nuclear tests and the way he held on against global pressure made us proud. He led the nation down the path of economic reforms, too, by choice and not under compulsion.

I had the privilege to serve in his council of ministers and for me it was a great moment that he had seen me as a child and also as minister in his government. He lent

based upon information from a source in the PMO, wrote that Atalji will never make Advani the Deputy PM. On the same day, Advani was appointed as Deputy PM.

My father Thakur Prasad was a close associate of Atalji. He passed away in April 1994. Atalji had just returned from the US that evening and without even caring for jet lag he rushed to Patna to console my mother and attend his last rites.

During the Iraq war, it was widely expected that in view of the improving India-US relationship, some Indian forces would be sent

MY FATHER THAKUR PRASAD WAS A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF ATALJI. HE PASSED AWAY IN APRIL 1994. ATALJI HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE US THAT EVENING AND WITHOUT EVEN CARING FOR JET LAG HE RUSHED TO PATNA TO CONSOLE MY MOTHER AND ATTEND HIS LAST RITES.

the weight of his personality to far-reaching reforms like the national highway programme, unleashing the mobile phone revolution, kisan credit card, higher spending on school education, rural roads etc. I still remember his prophetic words — "karna hai" — when there were some loud voices of dissent on the national highway project.

He had his own way of sending messages. There were baseless rumours in Lutyens' Delhi about differences between Atalji and Advani. One day he suddenly rang up late Kamla Advani, said he was coming for lunch. A leading journalist,

to Iraq as well. Atalji put his foot down and refused to send Indian troops to Iraq. He told us, "If a soldier died defending India I would tell his mother that her son died for the country. If an Indian soldier died in UN peacekeeping mission, I would tell his mother her son died defending global peace. What would I tell a mother whose son died in Iraq?"

India has lost a great leader whose deeds will continue to inspire the coming generations. My respectful pranam to his soul. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Law & Justice, Information Technology)

ATAL JI HAD IDEAL OF RAM, VIGOUR OF LAKSHMAN, GRAVITY OF VIVEKANANDA, FASCINATION OF LORD KRISHNA & CONCENTRATION OF LORD BUDDHA: SHIV KUMAR



Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, a close and long time associate of the former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee talked to Kamal Sandesh Associate Editor Vikash Anand about the life and times of one of the most charismatic and tallest leaders of India, Atalji. Shri Sharma discussed about Atalji's nature, his art of speech, the happiest moment and other aspects of his life. We are publishing the excerpts of the interview for our esteemed readers.

When and how did you come in contact with Atal ji?

Being a Swayamsevak of Sangh and worker of Jan Sangh I used to meet Atalji on various functions. After the tragic murder of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ji I felt that I must stay with Atalji. Once I requested Atalji that someone should be with him. He declined and said, "You have a family; you are a practicing lawyer in Supreme Court and my party and me are not in a position to give you something for your survival."

I said, "Sahab! I will come to associate with you after completing all my responsibilities. I have already taken a decision and managed all my responsibilities. If you (Atalji) remain safe and sound, Bharatiya Jana Sangh will grow further and crores of workers like me will be nourished during its journey. Then, he agreed saying, "Come and join me". Since 1967 I had been with him and stayed with him till the last journey of his life.

What was his daily routine?

When he was in sound health, he used to be on regular pravass. He travelled across the country. His stay in Delhi was minimal. He stayed in Delhi only during parliamentary sessions. But in 2005 he publicly declared that now he would be not active in politics. Only once in 2007 when Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was contesting the Presidential election, at that time Atalji called the meeting of NDA allies at his residence. In 2009 Atalji suffered a stroke and spent two months in hospital on ventilator. However, he came back to home after recovery. This time he was admitted in hospital for two months but could not recover from multiple ailments and left us for his heavenly abode.

What was the happiest and saddest moment of his life?

The happiest moment of his life was in 1998 when the Pokharan nuclear tests took place and when hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814 came back to India safely

without any major casualty. The saddest moment of his life was when the plane was hijacked to Kandahar, the Parliament was attacked and the Akshardham was attacked in Gujarat.

Have you ever seen him getting angry?

No, I have never seen him getting angry.

What were the hobbies of Atalji other than politics and literature?

He liked cooking, listening music etc. He liked listening classical songs and songs of Lata Mangeshkar.

What was his routine in free time?

He was always busy in party activities. He had no free time.

When did he find time for writing?

Generally, while travelling in train or car, he found time for writing and composing poems. Whatever a thought occurred in his mind, he wrote it on a piece of paper during his journey.

Can you tell any memorable incident of Atal ji which highly influenced you?

Every incident of his life influenced me. Actually, his happiness was my happiness and his sorrow was mine. Once, I had to go to receive Atal ji from airport. The plane was to land at 10 O'clock. It was delayed. At that time Mathurji (JP Mathur), was the secretary of BJP. He came and asked me to accompany him for a movie. I replied that at 9 O' clock I had to leave for airport to receive Atal ji. I further added that his flight was delayed by one and half hours and would land at 10 O'clock. He said movie was of only one and half hours and asked me to accompany him. Under his repeated insistence I had to go with him. The movie was of more than two hours. I was in a soup. The flight landed on time without any delay. By the time I

reached airport, Atalji had left for home. I had the keys of the house. I returned home to find that Atalji was taking walk outside in the lawn. Firstly, I did not dare to face him. Somehow, I mustered courage and opened the gate and took his briefcase. He asked where I was. I told him that I had gone for a movie. He asked why didn't I inform him. He further said that had he told him he would have also accompanied him to the movie. Contrary to my fears, I was greatly relieved.

What were the noteworthy qualities embodied in Atal ji?

He had enormous patience. He did not meet people casually. He gave a patient hearing to help them and tried to solve their problems. Atal ji had ideal of Ram, vigour of Lakshman, gravity of Vivekananda, fascination of lord Krishna and concentration of Lord Buddha.

These all five qualities were embodied in Atal ji. He used to say that tongue was required to speak and wisdom was required for keeping silence.

I RECALL AN INCIDENT ABOUT IT. HE HAD GONE TO MUMBAI. AT A HOST'S RESIDENCE, HE WAS HAVING MEAL. THE HOST SERVED RASGULLA WITH MEAL. HE (HOST) ASKED HOW THE RASGULLA WAS. ATAL JI SAID, IT WAS VERY GOOD.

You have plans to write a book on Atal ji. Would you like to tell something about the book?

Yes, I want to write a book on Atalji. Let's

see if it becomes a reality. The proposed book's name will be "Shradha, Samkalp and Sansmaran".

What was your work with Atal ji?

My work was to assist him, keeping his documents properly, travelling with him, and to take care of his day to day requirements.

What was his favorite food?

He liked Khichadi very much. He also liked to cook Khichadi. He liked sweets but he had no specific sweet which he liked the most.

I recall an incident about it. He had gone to Mumbai. At a host's residence, he was having meal. The host served rasgullas with meal. He (host) asked

how the Rasgulla was. Atal ji said, it was very good. The host came with two more rasgullas. We were on seven days of Maharashtra pravas. Now, wherever Atal ji went after that he found rasgullas in his meal. Atal ji asked why everywhere rasgulla was served. I told him that it was written in note book that you liked rasgulla. He said that I like all sweets but remove the name of rasgulla from the list. Atal ji said, "If you go to someone's house and he serves food affectionately what would you say, whether food was good or not. You have to say it is good," he said.

Mostly Atalji took Daal and Roti in meal. In the morning he took bread and a cup of milk. But he liked to drink milk at night. Since his childhood, he had habit to taking milk before going to bed. Once upon a time



Deendayalji and Atalji were on pravas. During Night halt, Atal ji also insisted Deendayalji to take milk; but Deendayalji did not like milk very much.

Where did Atalji's ancestors belonged to?

His ancestors lived in Bateshwar. His grandfather was well versed in Bhagwat Katha. He used to deliver sermons on Bhagwat Katha moving from village to village. He was also an Aashukavi(a ready poet). Atal ji's father was also a poet. Atal ji attended Kavi Sammelan with his father. He also started composing poem. This quality he got in legacy.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee along with his father got enrolled in a Kanpur college to study law. Both became classmates and roommates in hostel. Atal ji did not complete his study in law but his father completed the course. At the same time Atalji did MA with first

division in political science. At that time law and MA could have been done simultaneously. He did BA with first division too. At that time Gwalior Raja had given scholarship to those who got first class. But there was a condition to get scholarship. The condition was that after completing study he/she had to join the service of Gwalior Raja. Atal ji did not agree with this condition and went to Kanpur to join DAV College for his MA.

Could you tell about his art of speech?

Maa Saraswati resided at the tip of his tongue. He was wizard of words. While delivering speech, his action happened according to his words. He knew reading the face of listeners and what audience expected of him.

If you want to know Atal ji then read his poems. He composed poem in humor, satire and also in anguish. He also composed poems on contemporary issues. 'Hindu Tanman, Hindu Jivan, Rag Rag Hindu Mera Parichay....,' 'Hriday Se Hridaymilav...' are examples of his poems on contemporary issues. During Punjab disturbances he wrote 'Doodh Me Darar Pad Gayi, Khoon Kyon Safed Ho Gaya'. He was Ajatashatru. He had good relations across the political parties.

Please tell something more about Atalji.

As Nehru ji was also jailed during freedom struggle, he had regards for him. After Independence, Nehru emerged as hero. In those days Jana Sangha had few seats in Parliament. So our leaders got very little time to speak in Parliament. Once Atal ji got chance to speak on foreign policy. In those days members generally spoke in English on foreign affairs. Atal ji spoke in Hindi. Nehru ji also replied in Hindi. Nehru ji said I had no idea that anyone could speak on foreign affairs so meaningfully in Hindi.

The same day Atal ji was invited to a function organized for foreign dignitaries of a communist country. Nehru ji also attended the function. He thought Nehru ji was angry for his criticism and remarks on foreign policy. Therefore, he stayed away from Nehru ji. However, Nehru ji called Atal ji and introduced him by saying that he was my country's young opposition leader. Nehru ji further added that he (Atal ji) would be the future leader of our country. Even now, people remember Atalji's touching speech in Nehru's Shardhanjali Sabha. ■

Chhattisgarh Governor Balram Das Tandon Passes Away

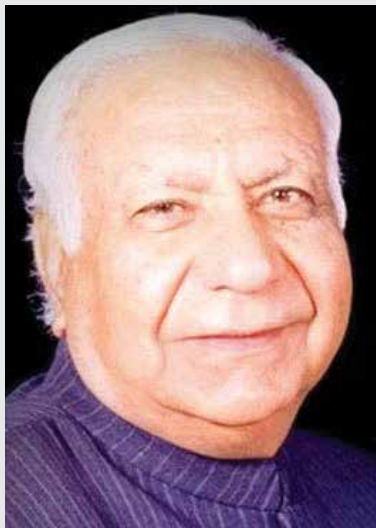
Balram Das Tandon, Governor of Chhattisgarh passed away at the age of 90 on August 14 afternoon due to cardiac arrest. He was admitted to Dr B R Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in Raipur and was put on life support in the morning after his health condition turned critical. Chief minister Shri Raman Singh expressed his profound grief over the death of Governor Balaramaji Das Tandon. He said "He was the father figure to Jan Sangh, BJP and also to all of us. The people of Chhattisgarh will always remember him." The Chhattisgarh government declared a seven-day state mourning. Shri Tandon was one of the founding members of the Jan Sangh which later became the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He became

the governor of Chhattisgarh in July 2014. Born on November 1, 1927, Shri Tandon started his political career as corporator of Amritsar Municipal corporation in 1953.

In his 65 years of political career, Shri Tandon has served in various political postings, including as deputy chief minister of Punjab.

The six time MLA Tandon was also jailed from 1975 to 1977 during Emergency. He was recently in news in June when he decided not to accept the raise in salary. The Centre had issued fresh guidelines on allowances to Governors for tours, hospitality, entertainment and furnishings.

It is also to be mentioned that Balram Tandon was among the few leaders who did not accept the rise in his salary as Governor, proposed by the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the 2018 Budget. ■



@narendramodi

Saddened by the demise of Shri Balramji Dass Tandon, the Governor of Chhattisgarh. We have lost a widely respected public figure whose service to society will always be remembered. My thoughts are with his family and well-wishers in this hour of grief.

@AmitShah

Condolences on the sad demise of Governor of Chhattisgarh, veteran leader and exemplary politician Shri Balram Das Tandon ji. May God render peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family. Om Shanti. #BalramDasTandon

His whole life was dedicated to society: Amit Shah

Saddened to learn about the demise of Chhattisgarh governor Balramji Dass Tandonji. His whole life was dedicated to society. He was multi- talent and efficacious personality. Shri Tandon had been Pracharak of RSS. He also served as deputy Chief Minister in Akali Dal-Bharatiya Jana Sangh coalition in 1969-70. He became two times Cabinet minister in 1977-79 and second time in 1997-2002 under chief minister-ship Shri Prakash Singh Badal. He was also imprisoned during emergency from 1975 to 1977. Shri Tandonji continuously actively participated in social and public activities. Due to social and welfare work he had been popular among people of Punjab. Balram Das Tandonji who sacrificed his all for the nation and the party, his demise is imparable loss to the BJP. In this time of grief I on behalf of the BJP's crores of karykartas and myself expressed deepest sympathies to the bereaved family. May God grant the courage and strength to bereaved family and his near and dear to bear the grief.



INDIA IS TODAY BRIMMING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE: PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 15th August addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, on the occasion of the 72nd Independence Day. In his address asserting that India is today brimming with self-confidence, the Prime Minister mentioned developments such as the success of Navika Sagar Parikrama by six young women naval officers, and the achievements of young Indian sportspersons from humble backgrounds.

He mentioned the blooming of Neelakurinji flowers in the Nilgiri hills, a phenomenon that occurs once every 12 years. He said that the recently concluded session of Parliament, was one dedicated to the cause of social justice. He noted that India is now the world's sixth largest economy.

The Prime Minister paid homage to the freedom fighters and martyrs. He saluted the jawans of

the security forces and police forces. He recalled in particular, the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which happened on Baisakhi day in 1919. He offered condolences to people affected by floods in some parts of the country.

He quoted poet Subramaniam Bharti to say that India will show the world the path to freedom from all kinds of shackles. He said such dreams were shared by countless freedom fighters. And an inclusive Constitution was drafted by Babasaheb Ambedkar to achieve this dream of a nation where there is justice for the poor, and equal opportunities for all to move forward. He said that Indians are now coming together to build the nation. He gave examples of the pace of development in various fields such as toilet construction, electricity reaching villages, LPG gas connections, house construction

etc.

He said that the Union Government had taken decisions which had been pending for long, including higher MSP for farmers, GST, and One Rank – One Pension. He said this has become possible because the Union Government has kept national interest supreme.

The Prime Minister mentioned how international organizations and agencies were looking at India very differently today, as compared to 2013. He said that from a time of “policy paralysis”, India had moved to “Reform, Perform, Transform.” He said India is now a member of several important multilateral organizations, and is leading the International Solar Alliance.

The Prime Minister said that the North-East is today in the news for achievements in sports, for connecting the last unconnected villages with electricity, and for becoming a hub of organic farming.

The Prime Minister mentioned 13 crore loans being disbursed under the Mudra Yojana, and four crore loans out of this number, being disbursed to first time beneficiaries of such loans.

The Prime Minister said that India is proud of its scientists. He announced “Gagan-Yaan” a manned space mission, to be undertaken by India by 2022, using its own capabilities. He said India would become the fourth nation in the world to do so.

Reiterating the vision to double farmers’ incomes by 2022, the Prime Minister asserted that the aim is to accomplish tasks which seem extremely difficult. He said initiatives such as Ujjwala Yojana and Saubhagya Yojana are providing dignity to the people. He said organizations such as the WHO have appreciated the progress made in the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Shri Narendra Modi announced the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan on 25th September this year – the anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. It is high time we ensure that the poor of India get access to good quality and affordable healthcare, he asserted. He said this scheme would positively impact 50 crore people.

The Prime Minister explained how better targeting of government benefits has been achieved by weeding out about 6 crore fake beneficiaries. The

honest taxpayer of India has a major role in the progress of the nation, he said, adding that it is due to them that so many people are fed, and the lives of the poor are transformed.

The Prime Minister asserted that the corrupt, and those who have black money would not be forgiven. He said that Delhi’s streets are now free from power brokers, and the voice of the poor is heard.

The Prime Minister announced that women officers of Short Service Commission in the Indian Armed Forces would now be eligible for permanent commission through a transparent selection process.

Noting that the practice of Triple Talaq has caused great injustice among Muslim women the Prime

The Prime Minister mentioned how international organizations and agencies were looking at India very differently today, as compared to 2013. He said that from a time of “policy paralysis”, India had moved to “Reform, Perform, Transform.” He said India is now a member of several important multilateral organizations, and is leading the International Solar Alliance.

Minister assured Muslim women that he will work to ensure that justice is done to them.

The Prime Minister spoke of the decline in Left Wing Extremism in the country. He reiterated former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s vision of “Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat, Kashmiriyat,” for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

He emphasized on the vision of Housing for All, Power for All, Clean Cooking for All, Water for All, Sanitation for All, Skill for All, Health for All, Insurance for All, and Connectivity for All.

He said that he is impatient, anxious and keen to see India. ■



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

BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE

GLIMPSES OF THE 'LAST JOURNEY' OF BHARAT RATNA SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE



PM Shri Modi and Shri Amit Shah walking along with sea of crowd during the last journey of Atalji



Leaders at Smriti Sthal during cremation



Atalji's family members along with leaders from all political parties and leaders from abroad are at Smriti Sthal during last rites of Shri Vajpayee



PM Shri Narendra Modi paying floral tribute to Atalji



PM Shri Narendra Modi speaking during the all-party prayer meeting for former PM Shri Atalji in New Delhi



Amidst the chants of "Atal Bihari Amar Rahe", "Long live Atal Ji" and Army's 21-gun salute Shri Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Bhattacharya lighting the funeral pyre as PM Shri Modi and other family members of Atalji accompanied her.



A MEMORABLE MOMENT FOR 'KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR'

Former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee along with other senior BJP leaders unveiling a special issue of Kamal Sandesh at Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas in November 2006, New Delhi.

Kamal Sandesh Parivar pays glowing tributes to our inspiration and beloved leader Atalji.