

KAMAL SANDESH

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16-28 February, 2019 (Fortnightly)

₹20




'SHIVAKUMARA SWAMIJI CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO THE SOCIETY'

INCOME UPTO
₹5,00,000
EXEMPTED FROM
INCOME TAX


12 CRORE
FARMERS TO BE
PROVIDED WITH
ASSURED YEARLY
INCOME OF ₹6000

DEFENCE BUDGET
TO CROSS
₹3,00,000
CRORE FOR THE
FIRST TIME EVER

BUDGET FOR NEW INDIA



Allocation for SCs increased by 35.6% (₹76,801 cr) & STs increased by 28% (₹50,086 cr)




25% additional seats in educational institutions to meet the 10% reservation for the poor



Capital expenditure for Railways ₹1,58,658 crore



PM Gram Sadak Yojana ₹19,000 crore & MGNREGA ₹60,000 crore



All households to be provided electricity connections by March 2019



BUDGET WILL EMPOWER THE POOR, STRENGTHEN THE FARMERS AND MAKE THE ECONOMY STRONGER.



THIS BUDGET STRIKES A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN FINANCIAL PRUDENCE AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENRY.





BJP National President Shri Amit Shah flanked by Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh flagging off the 'Mann Ki Baat- Modi ke Saath' campaign in New Delhi



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressing a huge Trishakti Sammelen in Dehradun, Uttarakhand



UP BJP welcomes BJP National President Shri Amit Shah at the Booth Adhyaksh Sammelen of Kanpur-Bundelkhand region in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah flagging off Praja Chaitanya Yatra from Palasa, Andhra Pradesh



Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari along with Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha BJP President Shri Basant Panda and others inaugurating '#BharatKeManKiBaat - Modi ji ke saath' in Odisha.

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'A BUDGET FOR NEW INDIA AND FOR ALL INDIANS'



Interim Budget 2019-20 was presented in Parliament by the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal on 01 February, 2019. Besides having...

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India universally recognized as a bright spot of the global economy during last five years "Country witnessed its best phase of macro-economic stability during 2014-19", says FM...



twitter

@narendramodi



My battle against corruption has ruffled many feathers, including TMC. So, they all assembled in Kolkata and collectively abused me. They got together to save their own families and hide their corruption. I will not rest till the corrupt are punished.

@manoharparrikar



A balanced budget that will uplift every section of the society, & further stimulate India's economic growth. Farmers, poor, middle class & youth are all set to benefit from #BudgetForNewIndia. Congratulations to PM Shri @narendramodi ji, Sh. @arunjaitley ji & Sh. @PiyushGoyal ji.

@Dev_Fadnavis



Tax relief upto ₹5 lakh & other tax benefits to salaried citizens, capital gains, TDS, will fulfil aspirations of middle class & along with contributing in Nation's progress they will save more money for personal needs.

facebook

"Budgetary allocation for tribal welfare under Modi govt is substantially higher than what it was during UPA". Sonia-Manmohan govt had given Rs 30,700 crore for the Scheduled Tribes whereas present Modi govt has proposed Rs 50,000 crore for Tribal welfare.



— **Amit Shah**

2019 Election will be either Modi Vs. Chaos or Modi Vs. Anarchy. Mamata Banerjee's latest acrobatics are the best evidence of the kind of governance India's opposition can provide.



— **Arun Jaitley**

Opposition parties not wanting to face the truth & are trying to cobble up a coalition out of their own fear. We, in the BJP, have all resolved to ensure Modiji's return as Prime Minister by winning even more seats than before.



— **Nitin Gadkari**



Courtesy: Social Media

A BUDGET FOR EVERY INDIAN

It may appear unbelievable but it's a reality now – in the last five years India has undergone a massive transformation on almost every front. It seems unbelievable for those who have gone through the UPA era of corruption, misrule, policy paralysis, scams and open loot of public money. The economic parameters during the Congress led UPA were not only weak but created an environment of pessimism and negativity in such a manner that India was seen as a weak spot in the world economy. The rate of GDP dipped and inflation was in double digit with fiscal deficit rising to an alarming level. The situation appeared to be going out of hand when the Congress led UPA government known to have been badly afflicted by policy paralysis syndrome and failed to take any corrective measure blaming the worsening situation to global economic slowdown. The economic turnaround under the charismatic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi seems to be unbelievable when India has today transformed itself from a 'weak spot' to 'bright spot' in global economy.

INDIAN ECONOMY HAS COME A LONG WAY IN LAST FIVE YEARS. THE GLOOMY SCENARIO OF CONGRESS LED UPA ERA HAS TURNED INTO BRIGHT PROSPECTS GETTING ACKNOWLEDGED ACROSS THE WORLD. IT WAS THROUGH SYSTEMATIC AND PLANNED EFFORTS UNDER THE VISIONARY LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI THAT ECONOMY HAS NOT ONLY RECOVERED BUT CURRENTLY ON THE FAST TRACK OF DEVELOPMENT.

The interim budget presented by Finance Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has further strengthened people's faith in the transformative capacity of Modi government at the Centre. It may be seen that how through successive budgets under Modi government a saga of transformation has unfolded making India confident of its future. Today India is not only the fastest growing economy of the world but has become sixth largest economy which is ready to become fifth largest economy very soon. The budget has not only come upto the expectations of every section of the Indian society but also presented a rare example of fiscal discipline and prudence. It was for the first time under Modi government that budget shifted its focus to rural economy, poor and farming communities of the country by making huge allocations in the budgetary provisions. In the same spirit this time the PM-KISAN scheme is going to give a huge relief to the poor, marginal farmers and the farmers having upto two hectares of land. It is going to revolutionise the agricultural and rural sector by infusing cash in the economy thus empowering the poor. The raising of IT exemption upto five lac is sure to provide middle and salaried class relief which they were looking for in the budget. The massive increase in the budget for SC/ST communities will pave the way for their speedy upliftment in the society. In fact the budget has taken care of every section of the society, it has become everyone's budget – a budget for every Indian.

Indian economy has come a long way in last five years. The gloomy scenario of Congress led UPA era has turned into bright prospects getting acknowledged across the world. It was through systematic and planned efforts under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that economy has not only recovered but currently on the fast track of development. The major interventions like Demonetization, providing corruption free government, enacting of anti-corruption laws and major reform like GST have rejuvenated the economy and given new energy and vigour to the entire system. It was the political will and determination of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi against all odds that today the country can look forward to a bright future in the days to come. Today the economic might of the country is getting recognized across the world with every international rating agency acknowledging the rise of a New India. As India's poor and marginalised get economically and socially empowered, the country's march to prosperity and glory under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has become a certainty. ■

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org



' A BUDGET AND FO

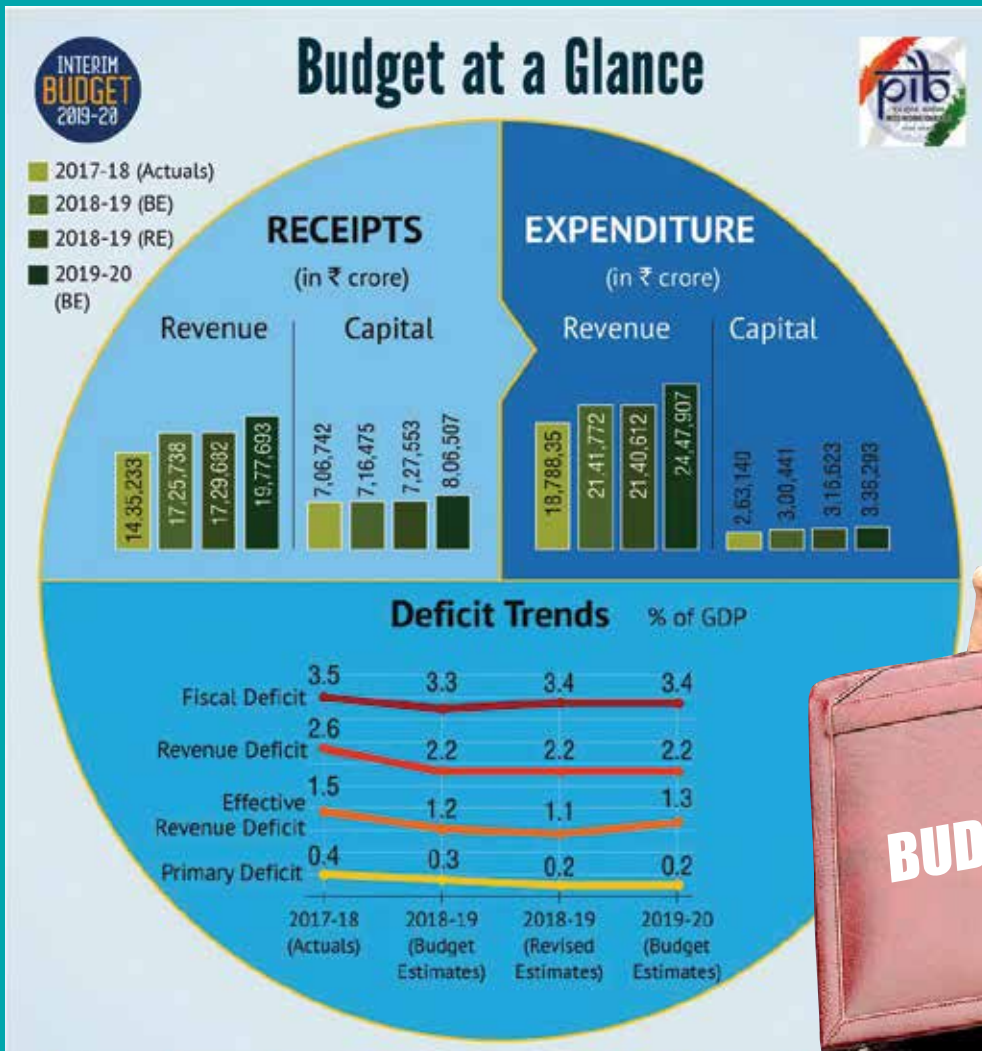


The development initiatives of the NDA government have touched several lives which have been reflected in the budget proposals from farmer welfare to middle class, from income tax relief to infrastructure, from manufacturing to MSME, from housing to healthcare and from the increased pace of development to the New India.

For years, many initiatives have been initiated for farmers but sadly lot of farmers never came under the ambit of these schemes. PM Kisan Nidhi is a historic step for farmer welfare which will help the farmers who have under 5 acres of land. The animal husbandry sector, fisheries have also been taken care of in the Budget for New India.

Budget will empower the poor, strengthen the farmers and make the economy stronger. — **Narendra Modi**

BUDGET FOR NEW INDIA FOR ALL INDIANS'



Interim Budget 2019-20 was presented in Parliament by the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways and Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal on 01 February, 2019. Besides having a major Scheme for the farmers, it provides tax concession and sets the Developmental Agenda for the years to come.

A New Deal for 12 Crore Small and Marginal farmers with direct income support, a path breaking Pension initiative for 10 Crore unorganized sector workers, exempting income up to Rs 5 lakhs from Income Tax, reforms in stamp duty, highest ever budgetary allocation of Rs 3 lakh crore for Defence, record allocation of funds at Rs 58,166 crore for North Eastern Areas, a new AIIMS for Haryana, single window clearance for Indian film makers at par with foreigners and higher budgetary allocations for Education, Health, Infrastructure and for the welfare of weaker sections including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a Separate Department of Fisheries for welfare of 1.5 crore fisherman are some of the major highlights of the Interim Budget 2019-20.

MAJOR SCHEMES

New Scheme- namely “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)” to extend direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year to farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares is announced.

While presenting the Interim Budget 2019-20, Shri Piyush Goyal said that “our Government

is launching a historic programme PM-KISAN with an outlay of Rs.75,000 crore for the FY 2019-20 and Rs.20,000 crore in the Revised Estimates of FY 2018-19”.

Under this Government of India funded Scheme, Rs.2,000 each will be transferred to the bank accounts of around 12 crore Small and Marginal farmer families, in three equal installments. This programme would be made effective from 1st December 2018 and the first installment for the period upto 31st March 2019 would be paid during this year itself, Shri Goyal said.

To provide sustained and focused attention towards development of Fisheries, the Government has decided to create a separate Department of Fisheries. Finance Minister said

that through the measure, the Government wants to promote further growth over 7% to promote livelihood of about 1.45 crore people dependent on the sector.

The Finance Minister announced 2% interest subvention to the farmers pursuing the activities of animal husbandry and fisheries, who avail loan through Kisan Credit Card. Further, in case of timely repayment of loan, they will also get an additional 3% interest subvention.

Allocation of Rs.750 crore for Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been announced for the current year itself. Setting up of “Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog” to upscale sustainable genetic upgradation of cow resources and to enhance production and productivity of cows has also been announced.

INTERIM BUDGET 2019-20

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a for farmers, effective 01.12.2018

To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer families having cultivable land upto 2 ha

Direct transfer into the bank accounts in three equal instalments

First installment upto 31.03.2019, to be paid this year itself

₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19



This budget strikes a fine balance between financial prudence and welfare of the citizenry. Budget has provisioned a 75,000 crore outlay for farmers while holding the fiscal deficit at just 3.4%, which had ballooned to 6% during UPA era.

Due to progressive policies of Modi govt, number of tax payers have increased from 3.79 crore to 6.85 crore leading to increased revenue, which jumped from 3.68 lakh crore to almost 12 lakh crore. This has helped the govt increase its welfare programs without jeopardizing the economy. — Amit Shah

The Aayog will also look after effective implementation of laws and welfare schemes for cow.

To provide pensionary benefits to at least 10 crore labourers and workers in the unorganised sector a new Scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan' is announced. The Finance Minister said that within next five years it would be one of the largest pension schemes of the world. A sum of Rs.500 crore has been allocated for the Scheme. Additional funds will be provided as needed, Shri Goyal added. The scheme will also be implemented from the current year, he said.

TAX BENEFITS

Individual taxpayers having taxable annual income up to Rs.5 lakhs will not be required to pay any income tax. The Finance Minister said that persons having gross income up to Rs. 6.50 lakhs are not required to pay any income tax if they make investments in provident funds, specified savings and insurance etc. Additional deductions such as interest on home loan up to

Rs. 2 lakh, interest on education loans, National Pension Scheme contributions, medical insurance and medical expenditure on senior citizens etc, are also provided for in the Interim Budget 2019-20. Thus tax benefit of Rs. 18,500 crore is proposed to be provided to an estimated 3 crore middle class and small taxpayers comprising self employed, small business, small traders, salary earners, pensioners and senior citizens.

For salaried persons, Standard Deduction is being raised from the current Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000. This will provide additional tax benefit of Rs. 4,700 crore to more than 3 crore salary earners and pensioners.

Exemption on levy of income tax on notional rent on a second self-occupied house is also now proposed. Currently, income tax on notional rent is payable if one has more than one self-occupied house.

TDS threshold on interest earned on bank/post office deposits is being raised from Rs.10,000 to Rs.40,000.

TDS threshold for deduction of tax on rent is proposed to be increased from Rs. 1,80,000 to Rs.2,40,000 for providing relief to small taxpayers.

The Finance Minister says that the Government wants the GST burden on home buyers to be reduced and accordingly the GST Council was moved to appoint a Group of Ministers to examine and make recommendations in this regard at the earliest.

Shri Goyal said that soon, businesses comprising over 90% of GST payers will be allowed to file quarterly return.

INFLATION

The Finance Minister said that the Government has been successful in bringing down average inflation to 4.6% over last five years, which is lower than the inflation during the tenure of any other Government. In fact Inflation in December 2018 was down to 2.19% only. Shri Goyal said if we had not controlled inflation, our families would have been spending around 35-40% more today on basic necessities such as food, travel, consumer durables, housing etc. The average rate of inflation during previous five years 2009-2014 was a backbreaking 10.1%, he pointed out.

FISCAL DEFICIT

The fiscal deficit has been brought down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from the high of almost 6% seven years ago, the Finance Minister mentioned. He said, the Current Account Deficit (CAD), against a high of 5.6% six years ago, is likely to be only 2.5% of GDP this year.



I congratulate the Prime Minister and Finance Minister for this historic Interim Budget which is not only development friendly but also pays special attention to the middle class, farmers, workers in unorganised sector and other vulnerable sections of our society. This Budget will go a long way in accelerating the process of making a New India which is confident, self-reliant, developed and prosperous. It also highlights the vision and way forward for making India a 10 trillion dollar economy by 2030.

— **Rajnath Singh**



The Interim Budget presented by Shri Piyush Goyal marks a high point in the policy directions that the Government headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given to this nation. The economic reforms undertaken by the NDA Government have unshackled Indian economy, unleashed its potential and made us a global leader in growth. The future vision is to make India a Five Trillion Dollar economy. By the middle of the next decade we will achieve this and thereafter, target doubling that size of the economy.

— **Arun Jaitley**

GROWTH AND FDI

Shri Piyush Goyal stated that a stage for high growth in decades to come, has now been set, after a wave of next generation path breaking structural reforms over the last five years, including introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and other taxation reforms.

The country witnessed its best phase of macro-economic stability during the last five years. "We are the fastest growing major economy in the world with an annual average GDP growth during last five years higher than the growth achieved by any Government since economic reforms began in 1991. From being the 11th largest economy in the world in 2013-14, we are today the 6th largest in the world", the Finance Minister asserted in his Opening Remarks of his Budget speech.

Shri Goyal said that due to such

a stable and predictable regulatory regime, growing economy and strong fundamentals, India could attract massive amount of as much as \$239 billion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the last 5 years, when most of the FDI was allowed to come in through the automatic route.

ENHANCED ALLOCATIONS FOR MAJOR SCHEMES

Announcing an allocation of Rs.60,000 crores for MGNREGA for Budget Estimates 2019-20, the Finance Minister said that additional allocations will be made, if required.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is being allocated Rs.19,000 crore in BE 2019-20 as against Rs.15,500 crore in RE 2018-19. During the period 2014-18, a total number of 1.53 crore houses have been built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, he

announced.

By March, 2019, all households will be provided with electricity connection. Till now, 143 crore LED bulbs have been provided in a mission mode which has resulted in saving of Rs.50,000 crore for the poor and middle class.

He said through the world's largest healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, to provide medical treatment to nearly 50 crore people in the country, around 10 lakh patients have already benefited through free treatment for medical treatment which would have otherwise cost them Rs. 3,000 crore. Lakhs of poor and middle class people are also benefiting from reduction in the prices of essential medicines, cardiac stents and knee implants, and availability of medicines at affordable prices through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, the Finance Minister added.

Shri Goyal also said that 14 of the 21 AIIMS operating or being established in the country presently have been announced since 2014. He also announced setting up of a new - the 22nd AIIMS in Haryana.

Allocation for Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) is being increased from Rs.23,357 crore in RE 2018-19 to Rs.27,584 crore in BE 2019-20.

A substantial increase is proposed in the allocation for welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The allocation of Rs.56,619 crore made in BE of 2018-19 for Scheduled Caste, further increased to Rs.62,474 crore in RE is proposed to be enhanced to Rs.76,801 crore in BE for 2019-20, an increase of 35.6% over BE of 2018-19. For the Scheduled Tribes also, proposed allocation in 2019-20 BE is Rs.50,086 crore as against Rs.39,135 crore in BE 2018-19, an increase of 28%.

The Finance Minister said that a Welfare Development Board to frame special strategies for the benefit of the hard-to-reach De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities will be set up under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. He said that a Committee under NITI Aayog will also be set up to complete the task of identifying De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities not yet formally classified.

Shri Goyal said under the Ujjwala Yojana aiming delivery of 8 crore free LPG connections, more than 6 crore connections have already been given and the remaining will get free gas connections by next year.

The Finance Minister announced that a National Artificial Intelligence Portal will also be developed soon as a part of the National Programme on 'Artificial Intelligence'.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion will now be renamed as the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade.

The Finance Minister stated that the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), created by the present Government two years ago, resulted in average savings of 25-28% and the platform will now be extended to all CPSEs. Transactions of over Rs. 17,500 crore have taken place so far.

The Finance Minister announced that for the first time, the country's Defence Budget will

be of over Rs.3 lakh crore.

The Finance Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal pointed-out that domestic air traffic passengers have doubled during the last five years, leading to large number of jobs also being created. The number of operational airports has crossed 100 with the commissioning of the Pakyong airport in Sikkim. Arunachal Pradesh came on the air map recently and Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have come on India's rail map for the first time.

Capital support from the budget for Indian Railways is proposed at Rs.64,587 crore in 2019-20 (BE). The Railways' overall capital expenditure programme is of Rs. 1,58,658 crore. The Finance Minister, who is also holding the portfolio of Railway Ministry, announced that the Operating Ratio



THIS BUDGET IS NOT ONLY REALISTIC & ADDRESSES THE CURRENT CHALLENGES OF THE ECONOMY, BUT IS AT THE SAME TIME PROGRESSIVE, LAYING OUT THE VISION FOR INDIA AT 2030.

—MR SANDIP SOMANY, PRESIDENT, FICCI_INDIA

RELIEF FOR MIDDLE CLASS HOME OWNERS AND FOR FARMERS WOULD BE A BOOST TO AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND THE REALTY SECTOR!

— NADIR GODREJ, MD, GODREJ INDUSTRIES AND CHAIRMAN, GODREJ

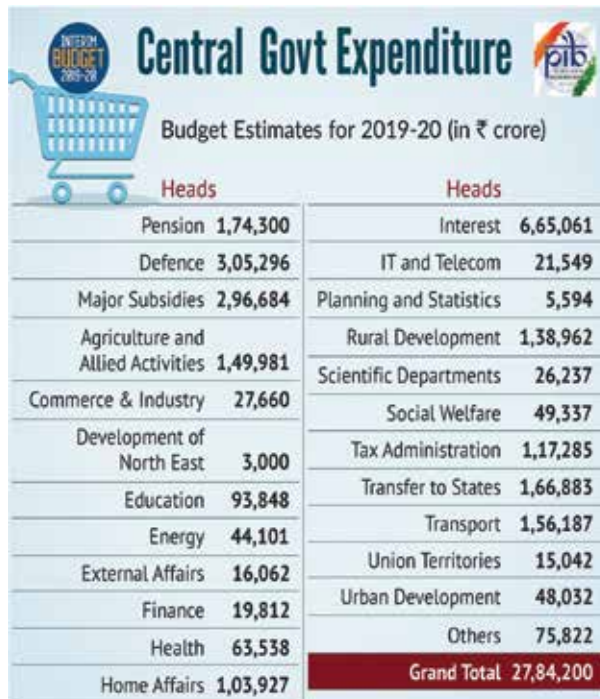
IN CII'S PRE-BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS, WE HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THE NEED TO FOCUS ON CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF THE SOCIETY. IT IS GOOD TO SEE HOW BUDGET 2019 HAS FOCUSED ON THOSE LINES.

— CHANDRAJIT BANERJEE, DG, CII

is expected to improve from 98.4% in 2017-18 to 96.2% in 2018-19 (RE) and further to 95% in 2019-20 (BE).

India's installed solar generation capacity has grown over ten times in last five years. Stating this, Shri Goyal said that "our commitment to promote renewable energy is reflected in setting up the International Solar Alliance, the first treaty based international inter-governmental organisation headquartered in India. This sector is now creating lakhs of new age jobs, he added.

The Finance Minister announced that in Entertainment industry, which is a major employment generator, regulatory provisions will now rely more on self-declarations. To promote entertainment industry, the Single window clearance for ease of shooting films, now available only to foreigners, will



| Heads | | Heads | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Pension | 1,74,300 | Interest | 6,65,061 |
| Defence | 3,05,296 | IT and Telecom | 21,549 |
| Major Subsidies | 2,96,684 | Planning and Statistics | 5,594 |
| Agriculture and Allied Activities | 1,49,981 | Rural Development | 1,38,962 |
| Commerce & Industry | 27,660 | Scientific Departments | 26,237 |
| Development of North East | 3,000 | Social Welfare | 49,337 |
| Education | 93,848 | Tax Administration | 1,17,285 |
| Energy | 44,101 | Transfer to States | 1,66,883 |
| External Affairs | 16,062 | Transport | 1,56,187 |
| Finance | 19,812 | Union Territories | 15,042 |
| Health | 63,538 | Urban Development | 48,032 |
| Home Affairs | 1,03,927 | Others | 75,822 |
| | | Grand Total | 27,84,200 |

also be made available to Indian filmmakers. "We will also introduce anti-camcording provisions in the Cinematograph Act to control the menace of piracy", he said.

Saying that "We are poised to become a Five Trillion Dollar Economy in the next five years

and aspire to become a Ten Trillion Dollar Economy in the next 8 years thereafter", Shri Piyush Goyal said that there has been a Growth of 18% in Direct Tax Collections in 2017-18 and increase in tax base by as many as 1.06 crore people filing income tax returns for the first time in FY 2017-18, mainly on account of demonetization.

In all the total expenditure is to increase from Rs.24,57,235 crore in 2018-19 RE to Rs.27,84,200 crore in 2019-20 BE. A rise of Rs.3,26,965 crore or approximately 13.30%. This reflects a high increase considering low inflation.

The fiscal deficit of year 2019-20 is estimated to be 3.4% of GDP.

The Finance Minister pointed out that after completion of the fiscal deficit consolidation programme, the Government would now focus on Debt consolidation. ■



Under the inspiring leadership of PM @NarendraModi our Government has announced a truly inclusive and people friendly budget benefiting every section of our society particularly farmers, middle class, and unorganised workers who are the backbone of our nation.

In the last 5 years, the government led by PM @NarendraModi has consistently provided good governance, maintained fiscal discipline and ensured that every section of society particularly the poor, farmers, and middle class enjoys the fruits of development.

From this budget the middle class can get a complete tax rebate on taxable income upto ₹5 Lakh. Many taxpayers earning more than ₹5 lakh can also take exemptions of lakhs of rupees to become tax free. — **Piyush Goyal**

Highlights of the Budget 2019-2020

The key highlights of the Interim Budget 2019-20 presented by the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal Shri Piyush Goyal in Parliament are as follows:

FARMERS

- 12 crore small and marginal farmers to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs. 6000 per annum under PM-KISAN
- **Outlay of Rs. 75,000 crore for FY 2019-20 with additional Rs. 20,000 crore in RE 2018-19**
 - Outlay for Rashtriya Gokul mission increased to Rs 750 crore

LABOUR

- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme to ensure fixed monthly pension to 10 crore unorganized sector workers
- **Rs 3000 per month after 60 years of age with an affordable contribution of only Rs 100/55 per month**

HEALTH

- 22nd AIIMS to be setup in Haryana

MGNREGA

- Rs. 60,000 crore allocation for MGNREGA in BE 2019-20

DIRECT TAX PROPOSALS

- Income upto Rs. 5 lakh exempted from Income Tax
- More than Rs. 23,000 crore tax relief to 3 crore middle class taxpayers
- Standard Deduction to be raised to Rs. 50,000 from Rs. 40,000
- TDS threshold to be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 40,000 on interest earned on bank/post office deposits

FISCAL PROGRAMME

- Fiscal deficit pegged at 3.4% of GDP for 2019-

20

- Target of 3% of fiscal deficit to be achieved by 2020-21.
- Fiscal deficit brought down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from almost 6% seven years ago
- Total expenditure increased by over 13% to Rs.27,84,200 crore in 2019-20 BE
- **Allocation for SCs increased by 35.6% – from Rs. 56,619 crore in BE 2018-19 to Rs. 76,801 crore in BE for 2019-20**
- **Allocation for the STs increased by 28% – from 39,135 crore in BE 2018-19 to Rs. 50,086 crore in 2019-20 BE**

NORTH EAST

- Allocation to be increased by 21% to Rs. 58,166 crore in 2019-20 BE over 2018-19 BE
- Arunachal Pradesh came on the air map recently
- Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram came on India's rail map for the first time

DEFENCE

- Defence budget to cross Rs 3,00,000 crore for the first time ever

RAILWAYS

- Capital support of Rs.64,587 crore proposed in 2019-20 (BE) from the budget
- Overall capital expenditure programme to be of Rs. 1,58,658 crore

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

- Indian filmmakers to get access to Single window clearance as well for ease of shooting films

FARMERS

- Assured MSP of minimum 50% to all 22 crops
- Interest subvention doubled in last 5 years
- Soil Health card, Neem coated Urea game

changer in farm sector

LABOR

- Employment opportunities expanded ; EPFO membership increased by 2 crore
- Minimum income for every category of workers increased by 42% in last 5 years

POOR AND BACKWARD CLASSES

- 10% reservation for the poor in educational institutions and government jobs
- Free electricity connection to every household under Saubhagya Yojana
- World's largest healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, for nearly 50 crore people
- Aspirational Districts Programme for development in 115 most backward districts
- Rs. 1,70,000 crore spent during 2018-19 for cheaper food grains to poor and middle class
- 143 crore LED bulbs provided in mission mode with the cooperation of private sector
- Poor & middle class are saving Rs. 50, 000 crore p.a. in electricity bills due to LED bulbs
- 10 lakh patients benefited from free treatment under Ayushman Bharat
- Jan Aushadhi Kendras providing medicines at affordable prices to poor and middle class
- 14 out of 21 AIIMS operating presently have been announced since 2014
- Government tripled rural roads' construction under the PMGSY
- 15.80 lakh habitations out of 17.84 lakh connected with pucca roads
- Rs. 19,000 crore for PMGSY in BE 2019-20 against Rs. 15,500 crore in RE 2018-19
- 1.53 crore houses built under PM Awas Yojana during the 2014-18

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT TO WOMEN LED DEVELOPMENT

- 6 crore free LPG gas connections provided under Ujjwala Yojna ; All 8 crore by next year
- 70% of MUDRA Loan availed by Women
- Maternity leave extended to 26 weeks
- Financial support for pregnant women under

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana

YOUTH

- Over one crore youth trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana
- Self-employment boost through MUDRA, STAND-UP and START-UP India

MSME AND TRADERS

- Up-to Rs 1 crore loans can be availed in less than an hour
- 25%-28% is the average savings due to GeM (Government e-Market place)

INCOME TAX

- Tax collections nearly doubled in five years- from Rs. 6.38 Lakh crore in 2013-14 to almost Rs. 12 lakh crore this year
- 80% growth in tax base- from 3.79 crore to 6.85 crore in five years
- Tax administration streamlined- Last year, 99.54% of the income-tax returns accepted as were filed

GST

- Exemptions from GST for small businesses doubled from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 40 lakh
- Small businesses having turnover up to Rs. 1.5 crore pay only 1% flat rate and file one annual return only
- Small service providers with turnover upto Rs.50 lakhs can opt for composition scheme and pay GST at 6% instead of 18%

KEY MESSAGE IN THE INTERIM BUDGET 2019-20

- Moving towards realizing a 'New India' by 2022 –
 - Clean and healthy India with universal access to toilets, water and electricity to all
 - An India where Farmers' income would have doubled
 - Ample opportunities to youth and women to fulfil their dreams
 - An India free from terrorism, communalism, casteism, corruption and nepotism



‘ENORMOUS DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF TRIBAL POPULATION BY BJP GOVERNMENTS’

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressed the delegates gathered at BJP National Adivasi Adhikar Samavesh programme in Puri, Odisha on 03 February, 2019. The programme was attended by the party’s tribal representatives across the country.

Speaking to the delegates and later to the common public in a rally Shri Shah said, “If we look at tribals in the country, the condition of the ST community in Odisha is the worst which is evident from the incidence of Dana Majhi. If a Government cannot make sure that a tribal woman’s body is transported for her last rites then it has no right to stay in power.”

“There are 47 Scheduled Tribe (ST) seats in the country. BJP has the highest ST MPs, at 32. In 2014, 28 ST reserved seats were won by the BJP and four general seats were won by BJP’s ST candidates. In Rajya Sabha, there are no reserved seats. But the BJP has four ST representatives there,” he said.

“Arunachal (Pradesh) and Assam have tribal chief ministers because of the BJP. Shri Jual Oram, a leader from Odisha, is the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs. This ministry was created for the first time in Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s government,” Shri Shah said.

He said, “In Rahul Baba’s and Sonia-Manmohan Sarkar, the highest budgetary allocation for tribal affairs was Rs 30,700 crore. In Narendra Modi’s budget, presented by Piyush Goyal, Rs. 50,000 crore was allocated for tribal development,” he said. The Modi government also assigned minimum support price (MSP) for 49 forest products compared to MSP for only six such items during the UPA tenure, he said. Many tribal communities in the country depend on sale of forest products as their source of income. The BJP

government has done enormous developments for the welfare of tribal populations in the country, he added.

Giving the example of the Dana Majhi case, the BJP President said Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik should be ashamed of the condition of tribals in the state. In 2016, Majhi, a tribal farmer from Kalahandi district, made national headlines when photographed carrying his dead wife on his shoulders. “Such governments have no right to stay in power,” he said, referring to the incident.

He criticized CM Patnaik for lack of fluency in Odiya language and appealed to voters to elect an Odiya-speaking chief minister, who he said can understand problems articulated in the language.

Shri Amit Shah also spoke about Prime Minister’s Kisan Samman Nidhi and the Direct Benefit Transfer assistance for farmers, claiming that it will mostly help tribals who make up small and marginal farmers in the country. He said that under Congress, DBT meant “dealer-broker transfer”.

The BJP National President said, “Odisha is rich with natural resources, but tribal youths are migrating to other States because it is being ruled by a Chief Minister who has no idea about their plight since he does not know speaking Odia.” He alleged the BJD is not concerned about providing better healthcare to people. The Naveen Patnaik Government did not implement the Centre’s Ayushman Bharat scheme fearing to lose votes in the elections, he added.

The BJP National President came down heavily on the State’s BJD Government by comparing it with a “fused transformer” and urged the people to throw it out in the coming elections. ■



WHERE IS TAGORE'S SONAR BANGLA, ASKS AMIT SHAH

The golden Bengal that Rabindranath Tagore spoke of is missing today; can you see it, asked BJP National President Shri Amit Shah. He was addressing a massive rally in East Midnapore in West Bengal on 29 January, 2019.

Shri Shah said the people of India are today looking at Bengal. "But what has happened to Bengal? Where did 'Sonar Bangla' (golden Bengal) go?" he asked.

Blaming the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress

government for its mis-governance he said Bengalis in India are looking for a golden Bengal today but present condition of Bengal disappoints all, Shri Shah said.

Shri Amit Shah also slammed the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal and said for the rest of the country the Lok Sabha election may be about making Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Minister again. "But for people in Bengal, this election is about making Bengal 'Sonar Bangla'," he said. He further added the upcoming Lok Sabha polls would be about restoring democracy in the state.

The BJP National President mocked Priyanka Gandhi for becoming the AICC general secretary of Uttar Pradesh East and said a government run by a dynasty could not serve the people but could only provide a "majboor (helpless) government."

Mocking the entry of Priyanka Gandhi into active politics, he said, "During the UPA rule, we had witnessed huge scams such as 2G. Now the third G has jumped on the bandwagon.... Now we have Priyanka G (Gandhi). What will be the amount of the scam? So now, they (the Congress) want to add 2G and the third G and indulge in more corruption," Shri Shah said.

The BJP President also raised the issue of the Citizenship Bill. He said, "I would like to ask Mamata ji if she will support the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha. Tell the people of Bengal."

He said, "I would like to tell all the refugees in West Bengal that BJP and Narendra Modi government will grant them the citizenship." ■

TMC SUPPORTERS CLASH WITH BJP WORKERS AFTER THE RALLY

Tensions prevailed in Kanti area of East Midnapore district of West Bengal after BJP President Shri Amit Shah addressed the rally. Soon after Shri Shah left the venue, supporters of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) clashed with BJP workers and common people who attended the rally.

Notable, the BJP rally was reportedly attended by lakhs of BJP workers and supporters and the TMC had planned a bike rally in the area during the same time. However, as the BJP workers were returning towards their buses after Shri Amit Shah's rally, a massive traffic jam was created and the cops failed to manage it. Because of this, the TMC workers clashed as the TMC bike rally could not take place due to the jam.

‘BJP IS COMMITTED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RAM TEMPLE AT THE SAME SITE IN AYODHYA’



Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah on 06 February, 2019 targeted the opposition parties over contentious issues including Ayodhya dispute and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) while addressing a huge rally of party's booth-level workers in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. He said the BJP is committed for construction of a Ram temple at the same site in Ayodhya and dared the Congress, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) to clarify their stand on the matter.

Shri Shah said the Narendra Modi government submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court to return the land acquired near the disputed site in Ayodhya by the Centre to its owners. "We want that a grand Ram temple is constructed at the same spot (where there was Mughal era Babri Mosque). The Congress, the SP and the BSP, if they have guts, should clarify their stand on Ram temple," said Shri Amit Shah.

On the question of the NRC, which is being prepared for Assam, Shri Shah said the Modi government wants to implement the register of citizens but Congress president Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders are opposing it. Should not we drive away the infiltrators, Shri Shah asked the huge gathering from the stage.

"After winning 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Modi

government will drive out every single infiltrator from the country. Infiltrators can be vote bank for the SP and BSP but it is a question of national security for the BJP," Shri Shah said.

The BJP President mocked the opposition's attempt to present a united front against the BJP-led NDA in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections saying, "The grand alliance is a farce...It won't make any difference to the election results."

He said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and other leaders of the grand alliance are all regional leaders with no national influence.

The BJP President also took a dig at Congress president Rahul Gandhi for dismissing the assured income assistance scheme – PM Kisan - for the farmers announced in the Budget 2019 by the Modi government. Shri Shah said the previous Congress-led UPA government gave Rs 53,000 crore to farmers as loan waiver while the Modi government announced an annual scheme of Rs 75,000 crore for assured income of farmers.

Among others UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, UP BJP President Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey, Union minister Smt. Maneka Gandhi and other leaders attended the rally. ■

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2014-19

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

- India universally recognized as a bright spot of the global economy during last five years
- "Country witnessed its best phase of macro-economic stability during 2014-19", says FM
- India is now the 6th largest economy in the world from being the 11th largest in 2013-14
- Annual average GDP growth during 2014-19 higher than any government since 1991
- Government has broken inflation's back from backbreaking inflation during 2009-14
- Average inflation down to 4.6%, lower than during any other Government
- Inflation in December 2018 down to 2.19% only
- Fiscal deficit down to 3.4% in 2018-19 RE from the high of almost 6% seven years ago
- CAD likely to be only 2.5% of GDP this year against a high of 5.6% six years ago
- India attracted massive amount of FDI, worth \$239 billion, during the last 5 years
- "India is solidly back on track and marching towards growth and prosperity", says FM
- India becomes the fastest growing major economy in the world
- Double-digit inflation contained and fiscal balance restored
- Liberalization of FDI policy,

allowing most FDI to come through the automatic route

FARMERS

- Assured MSP of minimum 50% to all 22 crops
- Interest subvention doubled in last 5 years
- Soil Health card, Neem coated Urea game changer in farm sector

LABOR

- Employment opportunities expanded ; EPFO membership increased by 2 crore
- Minimum income for every category of workers increased by 42% in last 5 years

POOR AND BACKWARD CLASSES

- 10% reservation for the poor in educational institutions and government jobs
- Free electricity connection to every household under Saubhagya Yojana
- World's largest healthcare programme, Ayushman Bharat, for nearly 50 crore people
- Aspirational Districts Programme for development in 115 most backward districts
- Rs. 1,70,000 crore spent during 2018-19 for cheaper food grains to poor and middle class
- 143 crore LED bulbs provided in mission mode with the cooperation of private sector
- Poor & middle class are saving

Rs. 50,000 crore p.a. in electricity bills due to LED bulbs

- 10 lakh patients benefited from free treatment under Ayushman Bharat
- Jan Aushadhi Kendras providing medicines at affordable prices to poor and middle class
- 14 out of 21 AIIMS operating presently have been announced since 2014
- Government tripled rural roads' construction under the PMGSY
- 15.80 lakh habitations out of 17.84 lakh connected with pucca roads
- Rs. 19,000 crore for PMGSY in BE 2019-20 against Rs. 15,500 crore in RE 2018-19
- 1.53 crore houses built under PM Awas Yojana during the 2014-18

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT TO WOMEN LED DEVELOPMENT

- 6 crore free LPG gas connections provided under Ujjwala Yojna ; All 8 crore by next year
- 70% of MUDRA Loan availed by Women
- Maternity leave extended to 26 weeks
- Financial support for pregnant women under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana

YOUTH

- Over one crore youth trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikash Yojana
- Self-employment boost through

MUDRA, STAND-UP and START-UP India

MSME AND TRADERS

- Up-to Rs 1 crore loans can be availed in less than an hour
- 25%-28% is the average savings due to GeM (Government e-Market place)

INCOME TAX

- Tax collections nearly doubled in five years- from Rs. 6.38 Lakh crore in 2013-14 to almost Rs. 12 lakh crore this year
- 80% growth in tax base- from 3.79 crore to 6.85 crore in five years
- Tax administration streamlined- Last year, 99.54% of the income-tax returns accepted as were filed
- Technology intensive project approved to improve assessee friendliness –In two years, returns to be processed in 24 hours and refunds issued simultaneously
- Earlier benefits given to middle class-
- Basic exemption limit increased from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh
- Tax rate reduced from 10% to 5% for the tax slab of Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh
- Standard deduction of Rs. 40,000 introduced for the salaried class
- Deduction of savings under section 80C increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh
- Deduction of interest for self-occupied house property raised from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh
- Special benefits and incentives already given to small businesses and startups-
- Overall compliance processes simplified.

- Threshold for presumptive taxation of business raised from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore
- Benefit of presumptive taxation extended for the first time to small professionals fixing threshold limit at Rs. 50 lakh
- Presumptive profit rate reduced from 8% to 6% to promote a less cash economy
- Tax rate for about 99% companies reduced to 25%

GST

- GST made India a common market
- GST led to increased tax base, higher collections and ease of trade
- Inter-state movements now faster, more efficient, and hassle free
- Responsive and sensitive reduction of tax rates - Most items of daily use now in the 0% or 5% tax slab
- Relieving the businesses and service providers-
- Exemptions from GST for small businesses doubled from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 40 lakh
- Small businesses having turnover up to Rs. 1.5 crore pay only 1% flat rate and file one annual return only
- Small service providers with turnover upto Rs.50 lakhs can opt for composition scheme and pay GST at 6% instead of 18%
- Soon, businesses comprising over 90% of GST payers to be allowed to file quarterly return
- Encouraging GST revenue trends - The average monthly tax collection in the current year is Rs. 97,100 crore per month as compared to Rs. 89,700 crore

per month in the first year

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Civil Aviation – UDAN Scheme
- Number of Operational Airports crossed 100
- Latest: Pakyong airport in Sikkim
- Domestic Passenger traffic doubled in last 5 years

ROADS

- India is the fastest highway developer in the world
- 27 kms of highways built each day
- Stuck projects completed - Eastern Peripheral Highway around Delhi
- Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

WATERWAYS

- Flagship programme of Sagarmala along the coastal areas
- For first time, container freight movement started on Kolkata to Varanasi inland waterways

RAILWAYS

- 'Safest year' for railways in its history
- All Unmanned Level Crossings on broad gauge network eliminated.
- Semi high-speed "Vande Bharat Express" introduced - first indigenously developed and manufactured

CLIMATE CHANGE

- International Solar Alliance
- To promote renewable energy
- First treaty based international inter-governmental organisation headquartered in India
- Installed solar generation

capacity grown over ten times in last five years

- Now creating lakhs of new age jobs

INDIA REVOLUTION

- More than 3 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) exist to deliver services to the citizens
- India now leading the world in the consumption of mobile data
- Monthly consumption of mobile data increased by over 50 times in the last five years
- Under Make in India, mobile and parts manufacturing companies increased from 2 to more than 268 providing huge job opportunities

JAN DHAN-AADHAAR-MOBILE (JAM) AND DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER

- In the last five years, nearly 34 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts opened
- Aadhaar now near universally implemented
- Ensure the poor and middle class receive the benefits of Government schemes directly in their bank accounts by eliminating middlemen

CUSTOMS AND TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

- Customs duties on 36 capital goods abolished
- Digitization of import and export transactions
- RFID technology to improve logistics

STEPS AGAINST CORRUPTION

- Government walked the talk on corruption and ushered in a new era of transparency: FM

- RERA and Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act have brought transparency in real estate
- The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 to help confiscate economic offenders
- Government conducted transparent auction of natural resources such as coal & spectrum

DRIVE AGAINST BLACK MONEY

- Undisclosed income of about Rs 1,30,000 crore brought under tax through initiatives like Black money Law, Fugitive Criminal offenders Act, Demonetisation etc.
- Benami assets worth Rs 6,900 crore have been attached
- 18% growth in Direct tax

BANKING REFORMS AND INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (IBC)

- The IBC has institutionalized a resolution-friendly mechanism
- Government has stopped the culture of "phone banking": FM
- Government adopted 4Rs approach of recognition, resolution, re-capitalization & reforms
- Government has implemented measures to ensure 'Clean Banking'
- Government has already recovered Rs. 3 lakh crore in favor of banks and creditors
- Government has invested Rs. 2.6 lakh crore for recapitalization of public sector banks

CLEANLINESS

- Government launched Swachh Bharat Mission as a tribute to 150 years of Gandhi Ji

- FM thanks 130 crore Indians for translating Swachh Bharat into a national revolution
- India has achieved 98% rural sanitation coverage
- 5.45 lakh villages have been declared "Open Defecation Free"

DEFENCE

- OROP under implementation in full spirit with Rs 35,000 crore already disbursed
- Military pay service hiked

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Government put a stop to questionable practices of hiding high NPAs
- Swachh Bharat Mission as the world's largest behavioral change movement

KEY MESSAGE IN THE INTERIM BUDGET 2019-20

- Moving towards realizing a 'New India' by 2022 -
- Clean and healthy India with universal access to toilets, water and electricity to all
- An India where Farmers' income would have doubled
- Ample opportunities to youth and women to fulfil their dreams
- An India free from terrorism, communalism, casteism, corruption and nepotism

VISION FOR THE NEXT DECADE

- Foundation for India's growth and development laid in the past 5 years
- Poised to become a Five Trillion Dollar Economy in the next five years
- Aspire to become a Ten Trillion Dollar Economy in the next 8 years thereafter. ■

ONE OF MANY GEMS

I SRI GURUJI

ACCORDING to an anecdote about a very great leader of our country, when an old man went to see him the leader bowed to him very respectfully. On being asked why he did so, he said the old gentleman had been his teacher in the primary school. He added, "Because of the education that he gave me and because of his blessings I have become what I am today". The teacher of course knew that his capacity was only that of a primary school teacher, and he did not have the learning to impart to the leader the deep knowledge that the latter had later acquired. I would say that my relationship with Pandit Deendayalji was more or less the same as that of this primary school teacher.

A speciality of our Deendayalji was that whenever he spoke or wrote about something he discussed even a topical subject from a permanent, ideological level. It was not in his nature to stop with discussing only the contemporary aspects of any problem. I knew him as a student of basic thoughts. Even when writing or speaking about a topical problem he never forgot that there was some enduring principle behind it.

His writings as the leader of an opposition party had a certain gentleness. Even when he criticised a party or an individual, he never had a feeling of disrespect or distance about the subject of his criticism. Rather, he had an attitude of affection. For if a party or a person was going the wrong way, not only would that party or person suffer, but ultimately the country itself would suffer, because that party or person was after all a part of our country.

Pandit Deendayal was the leader of an opposition party. He considered it his duty to express a clear opinion about whatever he thought was improper or wrong in the country, and he always discharged it. But

none of his writings has any bitterness in it. He was full of love and sweetness. He was not angry even with those who did harm or damage. He was like Yudhishtir, who used to call Duryodhana 'Suyodhana' because he did not wish to pronounce 'Dur', which means bad.

COMPREHENSIVE OUTLOOK

The democracy that we have inherited from the British has now-a-days been called finally the best system of government. But Deendayalji's pith in democracy was a discerning one. When he wrote on democracy he not only discussed its qualities and the way franchise should be exercised and of course wrote in favour of his party, but at the same time stated basic principles which were applicable to all people and all parties for all time. Such comprehensive thinking was necessary for successful democracy, and Deendayal showed his capacity for it. The thoughts he expressed on politics and economics in his writings are deep and are such as would provide food for thought to those who read them. A student of Deendayal's writings can achieve the capacity to think for himself and to make his own contribution to the democratic structure of the country as a whole.

As a Swayamsevak of the Sangh I saw him grow from a boy. It was at the request of the late. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who wanted workers for a political party he wanted to found, that we gave him Deendayal. The growth of the Jana Sangh proved what a great worker he was.

DESTINED FOR EMINENCE

I knew Deendayal's capacity, his qualities and intellect. I experienced his great skill in the art of





Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya, National President of Jana Sangh and other karyakartas in Nairobi

organisation as a Pracharak of the Sangh. I knew that because of his sweet tongue, affectionate behaviour and wonderful mental and intellectual balance he would attain extraordinary heights in the field he had entered. He had already attained a high place in the country and could and would have attained a higher one. He would have even achieved a place of high eminence in the whole world, but before he could do so he left us. We lost him so early perhaps because, it is said, 'those whom the gods love die young...

The way Deendayal left us was tragic. But the fact that the facts of the event could not be found out is still more tragic and shameful. Rather, in my opinion, the investigation that was done was meant to cover up what actually happened. I think this was most unfortunate. For if this happened with one party, can one say it won't happen with another? Therefore, such a situation has to be guarded against in the first place. It is necessary to create an atmosphere in which no individual or group of individuals would dare to raise a hand against any party or person promoting

democracy in the country. My grief is that this was not done.

MORE GEMS WILL FOLLOW

But what has happened has happened. There is no time to weep. This is the time for work. And what if we have lost one gem? This our earth is the mother of many such gems. Our society has produced many extraordinary personalities one after the other. Deendayal was not the last one. Rather, he was an assurance that great men like him would be born again. So let us keep the hope and confidence in our heart that our dedication to our ideal and our endeavours would enable this society to produce such eminent workers and thinkers again. We shall again have such symbols of sacrifice among us, and our first duty is to strive for their rise.

**(Based on the speech in Bombay on May 17, 1968 while presiding over release of Deendayalji, book "Political Diary")
(Courtesy: 'Destination' published by Deendayal Research Institute on 18 January, 1978)**

GEORGE FERNANDES NO MORE

George Mathew Fernandes (3 June, 1930 – 29 January, 2019) was an Indian trade unionist, statesman, journalist, freethinker, and member of Rajya Sabha from Bihar. He was a key member of the Janata Dal and the founder of the Samata Party. He held several ministerial portfolios including communications, industry, railways, and defence.

A native of Mangalore, Fernandes was sent to Bangalore in 1946 to be trained as a priest. In 1949, he moved to Bombay, where he joined the socialist trade union movement. Becoming a trade union leader, Fernandes organised many strikes and bandhs in Bombay in the 1950s and 1960s while working with the Indian Railways. He defeated S K Patil of Indian National Congress in the 1967 parliamentary elections from the South Bombay (now south Mumbai) constituency. He



During his long years in public life, George Sahab never deviated from his political ideology. He resisted the Emergency tooth and nail. His simplicity and humility were noteworthy. My thoughts are with his family, friends and lakhs of people grieving. May his soul rest in peace.

— Narendra Modi



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paying last respect to George Fernandes ji at his residence in New Delhi. He also offered deepest condolences to the bereaved family.

organised the 1974 Railway strike, when he was President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency on 25 June 1975 due to internal political disturbances. Accordingly, all fundamental rights enjoyed in the Indian Constitution were suspended. Political dissidents, newspaper reporters, opposition leaders who opposed the emergency were jailed. George Fernandes, along with like-minded leaders, opposed what he saw as a blatant misuse of power. Therefore, a warrant was issued in Fernandes's name.

On June 25th, 1975 the day when emergency was declared George Fernandes was in Berhampur, Odisha. He attended several meetings of the Berhampur University Employees Association, meeting with socialist leaders & workers and a gathering of

intellectuals in Berhampur. He was scheduled to attend a meeting of the Railways Workers Association on June 26 in Berhampur city but before that he went underground secretly to escape arrest and prosecution. Later it was revealed that during that time George Fernandes hid himself for some time at his father-in-law Humayun Kabir's house at Gopalpur-On-Sea near Berhampur, Odisha and later moved to Baroda. When the police failed to capture him, they arrested and tortured his brother, Lawrence Fernandes, to reveal his brother's whereabouts. Snehalata Reddy, a chronic asthmatic was arrested for being in touch with George Fernandes and as she was not given adequate care in the prison, died soon after her release.

On 10 June 1976, he was finally arrested in Calcutta. After his arrest, Amnesty International members cabled the Government requesting

that he be given immediate access to a lawyer and that his physical protection be guaranteed. Three world leaders from Germany, Norway and Austria were believed to have cabled Indira Gandhi and cautioned her against harming Fernandes. From Baroda, the accused were shifted to Tihar Jail.

Fernandes served as the Defence Minister of India in both the second and third National Democratic Alliance governments (1998–2004). During his tenure as the defence minister, the Kargil war broke out between India and Pakistan in 1999. The war began when heavily armed Pakistan-backed intruders dug themselves in at heights of 16,000 feet (4,900 m) – 18,000 feet (5,500 m) on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC) along 80 kilometers (50 mi) stretch north of Kargil. They began attacking the strategic highway linking Srinagar and Leh. As a result, the Indian army undertook the Operation Vijay to push back the Pakistani intruders and regain the occupied territories.

In May 1998, India conducted five nuclear tests at the Pokharan range in Rajasthan. Fernandes openly endorsed the NDA government's decision to test the nuclear bombs. He made 18 visits to the icy heights of the 6,600 meters (4.1 mi) Siachen glacier in Kashmir, which holds the record of being the world's highest battlefield. He was known for overseeing a huge increase in India's defence budget as compared to the allocations made by previous governments.

After prolonged illness George Fernandes died on 29 January, 2019 at the age of 88. ■



Pranab Mukherjee, Nanaji Deshmukh & Bhupen Hazarika gets India's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna

Government of India on January 25 selected great social activist and Jana Sangh leader Shri Nanaji Deshmukh (posthumously), Singer Dr Bhupen Hazarika (posthumously) and former President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee for Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Bharat Ratna Awardees. Shri Narendra Modi praised Nanaji Deshmukh for his contribution to the society and said "Nanaji Deshmukh's stellar contribution towards rural development showed the way for a new paradigm of empowering those living in our villages. He personifies humility, compassion and service to the downtrodden. He is a Bharat Ratna in the truest sense."

"The songs and music of Bhupen Hazarika are admired by people across generations. From them radiates the message of Justice, harmony and brotherhood. He popularized India's music traditions globally. Happy that the Bharat Ratna has been conferred on Bhupen Da." the Prime Minister said.

While speaking on Shri Pranab Mukherjee he said, "Pranab an outstanding statesman of our times. He has served the nation selflessly and tirelessly for decades, leaving a strong imprint on the nation's growth trajectory. His wisdom and intellect have few parallels. Delighted that he has been conferred Bharat Ratna." ■

The BJP national President Shri Amit Shah said in his tweet "I congratulate Shri @CitiznMukherjee ji on being conferred the Bharat Ratna. He is a statesman whose long years in public life as a law maker and dedication towards serving the nation is an inspiration. Few people have dominated India's public discourse for as long as he has.

He added "Bharat Ratna is a befitting tribute to Nanaji Deshmukh ji. Nanaji dedicated his entire life to serving the poorest among the poor. He was a firm believer in the philosophy of integral humanism, did remarkable work for Gramin Vikas & established the Deendayal Research Institute.

He said "This recognition for Bhupen ji is a matter of great pride for the people of Assam & North East as much as it is for the whole of India, which continues to be mesmerised by the earthiness of his music. Grateful to Prime Minister Modi for recommending the Bharat Ratna for him."

He added "Bhupen Hazarika ji, popularly known as Sudhakantha has made significant contribution to Indian music and film industry. His music was full of empathy and his art held out a strong message for humanity and universal brotherhood."

THE INTERIM BUDGET (2019) AND A FIVE YEAR DIRECTION



ARUN JAITLEY

The Interim Budget presented by Shri Piyush Goyal today marks a high point in the policy directions that the Government headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given to this nation. Interim Budgets which are presented in the Election Year seek a Vote on Account for a limited period till the post-election Government can decide the further direction of the economy. However, past precedents have conclusively shown that urgent steps are required in the larger interests of the economy and they can be taken. We have the immediate precedents of the year 2009 and 2014 where significant taxation changes were brought about in the Interim Budgets.

Interim Budgets are also an opportunity for the Government of the day to introspect their performance of the last five years and place its facts before the people. The Government also outlines its vision for the future of the Indian economy. This is precisely what Shri Piyush Goyal's Budget Speech has done.

Let me try to expand and illustrate the performance of the past five years and the further

direction which the Interim Budget has given.

THE POLITICAL THRUST

The political thrust of the past five years both through budgetary outlays, tax policy and legislative and administrative steps have been to create a Government which is decisive, compassionate and clean. The economic reforms undertaken have unshackled Indian economy, unleashed its potential and made us a global leader in growth. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world and is becoming a nation where it is easier to do business. The Prime Minister's leadership has provided India with a decisive Government which is capable of even taking difficult decisions.

REFORMS

Reforms have been undertaken with the idea of enhancing growth and the benefits of high growth have gone predominantly to the poor, the rural and the farm sector and infrastructure creation. Major reliefs have been provided to the taxpaying segments of the population. The anti-corruption and pro-transparency thrust of the Government involved elimination of routine permissions and approvals, ending of discretions in determination of contracts, licenses and natural resources. They would be allowed only through a market mechanism. An enhanced payment

of State support through the Direct Benefit Transfer eliminated all leakages.

The major reforms undertaken by the Government involved significant steps like the GST, elimination of human interface in both the Direct and Indirect Taxes, the lowering of both Direct and Indirect Taxes and the expansion of the tax base. The Government has undertaken a major investment through capitalization to revive the banking system which was stressed on account of past legacy issues. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code being enacted, major credit schemes like the MUDRA loans, low-cost insurances and pensions and a major thrust towards funding the MSMEs, have all been key Banking Sector Reforms. The Demonetisation was a major assault on a high-cash economy which generated black money, tax evasion and even corruption. Demonetisation proved to be a major step towards formalization of the economy significantly enhancing India's tax collection and a movement towards the digitalisation of the economy. The long pending reform was enacted in terms of the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI. The Unique Identity Number provided by AADHAAR is a significant reform which is peculiar only to India. This covers 99% of India's population.

Social sector reforms such as financial inclusion, connecting every family to banking, every

home to electricity, every kitchen to cooking gas, every home to a toilet have been witnessed in the past five years.

India has become the largest recipient of FDI thanks to a liberalized policy. Our infrastructure sector in highways, ports, airports and civil aviation, power, smart cities, Metro systems, improved urban facilities has made a significant contribution.

The Government personnel, both Government employees and as those of the armed forces and paramilitary forces have benefited by the enhanced benefits being given to them through the implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission, OROP and by the improvements made in the New Pension Scheme.

MACRO-ECONOMIC DATA

India's macro-economic stability has unquestionably witnessed 2014-19 as perhaps the best-performing period in Indian history. The GDP growth during this five year period will be about 7.5%. The inflation will be in the range of 4%. The average fiscal deficit in the past five years has fallen from UPA 2's figure of 5.3% to 3.7%. We will close a five year period by a figure of 3.4%. We would ordinarily have maintained a target of 3.3% but have a major announcement involving extra expenditure being made in the current Budget. The Current Account deficit from the UPA 2's five year figure of 3.3% with a high of 5.6% has fallen during this period to an average of 1.5%. Similarly, external debt to GDP has fallen from 23.9% to 20.5% till March, 2018. Foreign exchange reserves are comfortable at US\$396 billion and touched an all-time high

of US\$ 425 billion. It is, therefore, obvious that India is being hailed as a bright spot in the global economy.

THE INDIAN MIDDLE CLASS

Shri Piyush Goyal has today made a significant announcement wherein income earners earning upto Rs. 5 lakhs have been exempted from payment of Income-tax. This effectively strengthens the great Indian Middle Class whose expansion of purchasing power holds the key for India's future.

The immediate implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission, the resolution of the long-pending OROP, improvement of the New Pension Scheme, grant of crores of loans under the MUDRA Scheme to aspirational entrepreneurs, provision for housing subsidies for Middle Income Group, downward reduction of both direct and indirect taxes, containing the double digit inflation left by the UPA to what is now a little over 2% itself brings relief to the middle class.

However, in each of the Budget's of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government, there has been significant relief to India's middle class. The tax exemption limit was first raised from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 2.5 lakhs. Thereafter, without altering the slabs, people earning upto Rs. 3 lakhs were exempted from payment of taxes. In a further calibrated move, those in the income bracket of Rs.3 to 5 lakhs witnessed their tax liability being halved from 10% to 5% and today this category has been completely exempted. To this, if the other tax reliefs under the Income-tax Act are added, the number of beneficiaries will further rise. For payment of interest on

housing loans, the deduction limit was expanded from Rs. 1.5 to Rs. 2 lakhs. The section 80C deduction limit was expanded from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh. The Government believes that salary-paid employees whether in the Government or in the private sector are an honest set of tax assesses. Their entire tax is deducted at source. Last year the Government restored the benefit of Standard Deduction to them at Rs.40,000/-. This year this benefit is being extended to Rs.50,000/-. For Senior Citizens, the limit for benefits accruing on account of health care, tax payment and insurance is higher. Thus if all these benefits given to India's Neo-Middle Class and Middle Class are added, a person earning about Rs. 8 lakhs a year can get away by paying almost no tax.

As the tax base increases, which it has, the Government's abilities in future years to move in this direction will further increase.

The GST was enforced 19 months ago. It has already brought down most taxes on goods from 31% tax to the 18%, 12% and the 5% bracket. Never in the history of India during the five year tenure of a Government, we have witnessed tax reduction and a Middle Class relief of this magnitude. Lower taxes, higher base and larger collections are the high point of the past five years. This has been made possible because an anti-corruption regime made non-compliance more difficult.

Inflation being contained from a Double-digit inflation during the UPA Government to be within the mandated range of 4% itself has led to the reduction of interest rates

which also has provided relief to those seeking credit for building houses and other economic activities.

A recent global study has shown that India's Middle Class from 18% in 2005 expanded to 29% in 2015 and will reach 44% in 2025. We want this direction to not only continue but to be further expedited putting more money in the pockets of the Middle Class will ensure this.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure does not recognise caste, creed or religion. It is a facility that the State provides to all. We are today the fastest highway developer in the world. Our port sector both in the government and the private sector is expanding its capacity and making large profits. On the Civil Aviation front, we are amongst the fastest growing Civil Aviation economies of the world with already 100 functional airports. Our national Inland Waterways have been put to effective use. The Indian Railways are not only expanding each day but improving upon quality of their services and performance. Our power sector has expanded its capacity to ensure that every household has an electricity connection. Our current emphasis on non-conventional energy is producing results. Each of the last five year's Budgets has expanded the expenditure on infrastructure. The Interim Budget maintains the same direction.

THE POOR

The Government has been guided by Gandhi ji's Talisman, "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask

yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it?".

The Government valued the above dictum and worked in that direction from day one. India's Financial Inclusion program the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has been globally recognized. The Unique Identification ensured that pilferages, leakages and misuse of Government support programmes does not take place. The money spent from this was also directed at the poor. The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeewan Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana were all an extension of this inclusion programme. The urban and rural AAWAS Yojanas have ensured that by 2022 there should not be a single roofless family in India. The right to food has been ensured by making the largest ever allocation for cheap ration to a large section of India's population. Almost doubling the actual expenditure on MNREGA has ensured that the rural unemployed can get a livelihood source. To make the right of life respectable in a short span, the government ensured that the overwhelming number of rural houses get sanitation. The BPL families are switching over to the cooking gas. Every willing household has been connected with electricity.

The last five years have seen liberalization of the criterion and eligibility of Bonus, Gratuity and several other benefits by India's working class. In the same direction is the major scheme ensuring a pension of Rs. 3,000/- to each unorganized sector worker. The employee and the Government

would make an equal contribution. Effectively, it is one more step in the direction of making India a greater pensioned society to ensure social security.

The political act of the Government to provide a 10% reservation for the economically weaker sections of the non-reserved category in educational institutions and jobs. The Government healthcare programme Aayushman Bharat has been globally recognized. 40% of India's population encompassing the weakest is now entitled to hospital treatment free upto Rs. 5 lakhs a year at State cost. The Government's concern for naming 115 under-developed Districts as the aspirational Districts has been guided by the Antyodaya philosophy.

Conventionally, the poor of this country were bluffed by attractive slogans which had short-term impact and no lasting value. As observed by Nobel Laureate Gary Becker that poverty perpetuates not because poor are no less capable than the rich but because the poor can be habituated for making myopic choices because of the daily constraints that force them to always focus on survival.

India's poor only got the benefit of slogans in the past. Today they have seen resources being actually transferred to them. They are today all candidates who are aspiring to enter the neo-Middle Class.

AGRICULTURE

Last year in the Budget, the Government had announced that the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission would be implemented and every

farmer would be entitled to get 50% more than his input cost. Prof. Swaminathan himself has appreciated the Government decision. The others had only promised it, the Government delivered it. However, in view of the inadequacy of the procurement system in certain States, many farmers did not get the full benefit and had to sell their produce at softer prices. The Government has made massive efforts to improve the quality of rural life. It has enhanced agricultural credit, ensured a crop insurance scheme, enhanced investments in irrigation and still the requirements of the economy are that the Indian farmer who gives us the surplus produce deserves a lot more. The farmer's welfare cannot wait. In another step in this direction, the Budget has announced today a significant income support scheme for every small and marginal land owning family involved in agriculture. They will each be entitled to a sum of Rs. 6,000/- annually. This will be a major step to put more money in the pockets of our food producers. This necessarily expand the Government expenditure in the FY 2018-19 as also in the future years. This has had marginal impact on our projections of the fiscal deficit but we are confident of being on the glide path as per the recommendations of the FRBM Committee. Improving the lot of the Indian farmer and adding to his purchasing power in the long run will help the economy much more than the expenditure being undertaken.

THE FUTURE VISION

The future vision is to make India a Five Trillion Dollar economy. By the

middle of the next decade we will achieve this and thereafter, target doubling that size of the economy. With the present growth rates, we are on track to achieve this. This involves a commitment to make sure that we work for every Indian and not just for the unduly privileged dynasties. We envisage an India where poverty is eliminated, the Eastern regions of India grow at par with other parts of the country, rural India having urban-like facilities, and that female employment in India in the formal sector expeditiously increases. Challenges of the future are going to be met by special emphasis on food processing, green energy, health care, world-class educational institutions, multiplying tourism potential, global quality infrastructure, making India a hub of electronic manufacturing, textile and apparel with a special focus on organic farming and non-conventional energy. More modern cities and urban renewal will be the focus.

We are growing at a rate faster than other comparable economies. We are proud of our performance. Yet we are impatient. We wish to grow faster than even our present status of the world's fastest growing economy so that we can cover up for the missed historical opportunities.

FINALLY A RESPONSE

Two comments have recently been made by various individuals. The first relating to job creation in the economy and the second on the impact of demonetization on the GDP.

The last five years have seen an average of about 7.5% real GDP growth. If the inflation figure is added to this, the nominal growth,

on an average will be between 11.5 to 12%. Is it possible to conceive that such high nominal growth despite controlled inflation will not lead to any job creation. Several datas including the EPFO data have given a detailed indication of the job creation. If there is no job creation, as alleged, there should have logically been a great social unrest in the country. Past five years have passed off without a single major protest movement.

There were no globally established models on the immediate impact of demonetization on the GDP growth. The former Prime Minister's statement that it will lead to a 2% drop in the GDP captured the imagination of the Government's critics. Neither the original data for 2016-17 and 2017-18 nor the first revision proved that. When India had a large parallel economy we were all told that our growth figures do not correctly capture the GDP growth because a lot of activity takes place outside the formal economy. When demonetization led to depositing the entire cash into the banking system and led many future transactions to be more recordable, logically the GDP had to grow post-demonetisation. The impact of demonetization could only be transient as the Government always maintained. The present data conclusively establishes this. This is further fortified by the high tax collections both in the direct and indirect taxes during 2016-17 and 2017-18, Tax payments do not rise when the economy is not adequately expanding. Growth figures are based on estimates, tax collections are real. ■

(The writer is Union Minister, GoI)



PM DEDICATES 220 KV SRINAGAR- ALUSTENG - DRASS- KARGIL – LEH TRANSMISSION LINE TO THE NATION; LADAKH NOW CONNECTED TO NATIONAL GRID

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the 220 kV Srinagar- Alusteng - Drass- Kargil – Leh Transmission System to the Nation February 3, a step that would ensure quality power supply to Ladakh round the year. This would give huge boost to the tourism sector and enhance socio-economic development of Ladakh.

The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for this project on 12 August, 2014 and within 4.5 years, the project has been completed by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Navratna Company of Government of India, under Ministry of Power. While inaugurating this projects PM said, “We’ve left behind culture of delays”.

The Rs. 2266 crore project will result in minimizing the massive use of diesel generating sets during winters, and thus will help in protection of beautiful environment, of pristine Ladakh region.

About Srinagar- Alusteng - Drass- Kargil – Leh Transmission Line:

Built at a height of around 3000-4000 meters, this approx. 335 km long transmission line has been constructed by POWERGRID. In this project, the four new State-of-the-Art 220/66 kV Gas Insulated Sub-stations built at Drass, Kargil, Khaltsi and Leh will help to ensure 24x7 quality power in all weather conditions. Funding provisions have been in the ratio of 95:05 (95% Govt. of India share and 5% J&K state share).

BENEFITS TO THE REGION

The implementation of this project was also aimed to

supply power to the people of Ladakh in harsh winters and evacuation of surplus power of Kargil & Leh Hydel stations of NHPC in summers. It is a flagship project of Government of India, under PMRP scheme which was aimed to improve reliability & quality of power supply in Ladakh region of J&K by connecting with National Grid.

This will not only help evacuate power in summers, but will also supply power to the region in winters when temperatures dip and hydro electricity generation do not match up. The project will meet the power demand of Ladakh region at economical rates.

With quality electricity available at reasonable rates, hospitality industry in Ladakh will get a boost, as their reliance on diesel sets will reduce. This will also attract tourists looking for affordable stay in all weathers.

CHALLENGES IN EXECUTION

This herculean task executed by POWERGRID in unforeseen weather conditions was made possible by immaculate project monitoring skills, high team spirit and strategic planning and use of modern technologies. The line remains snow covered for nearly six months with the minimum temperature going down to as low as -40 degrees at Drass. Therefore, specially designed tower foundations were constructed with assistance from Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) for spotting the tower foundations, as the work force braved the challenge of working at lesser oxygen levels. It shall also provide grid connectivity and reliable quality power supply to the strategically important Ladakh region including defence establishments in the area. ■

A FEEL GOOD BUDGET WITH BIG BANG RELIEF MEASURES



DR. R
BALASHANKAR

The budget presented by Finance Minister Piyush Goyal is a rain of goodies for all sections of people. From the Rs 6000 per annum dole to 12 cr. farmers whose land holding is upto 2 hectares of land, to doubling bonus ESI scheme benefit and minimum wages to laborers, extension of credit card with interest concession of 2.5 percent to horticulture, fishing and cattle breeding along with farmers, Modi has tried to touch every section with bonanza.

Health care is to help 50 crore people and it has already benefited ten lakh families. The Ujjawala which has already reached 6 crore families, is now being extended to 8 crore families.

Special care is taken to propitiate women and youth through a number of schemes. Self employment is given a big boost. India is the second largest start up hub.

The biggest booster came in the form of 6.5 lakh tax exemption limit which is too cover upto 3 cr. Tax payers. Add to this the exemption on interest gains from fixed deposits, capital gains and doubling of rental income tax limit

and helping urban middle class to possess a second house. The booster shot for the middle class is bound to create feel good across the spectrum.

Narendra Modi's budget for 2019-20 is more an expression of his confidence of getting a renewed mandate from the people of India than a vote on account for the remaining four months when a full budget of the new government id presented in May by the new government after the Lok Sabha polls. This has many new features. But essentially a reiteration of the economic growth model Modi followed since 2014. The budget has given huge relief to farmers, middle income groups and with

over 300 million small and medium self-employed people taking benefit the Mudra scheme has become a big bang relief brand of the Modi government.

The tax reform through the GST is now streamlined and the deceleration due to demonetisation has been overcome if the budget is an indicator.

The biggest achievement of the Modi government is that after a disastrous five years of Dr Manmohan Singh between 2009 and 2014 the confidence in the Indian economy has been restored to emerge as the fastest growing economy in the world at 7.2 per cent annual growth. This has shattered the claims of Modi baiters including

#BudgetForNewIndia

Easing Lives of Taxpayers (1)

- Exemption from tax on the income of upto ₹ 5 lakh per annum
- Individual with gross income up to ₹6.5 lakh not to pay any tax if they make investments in provident Funds and prescribe equities
- Standard tax deduction from salaried persons raised from ₹40,000 to ₹50,000
- Gratuity limit increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹30 lakh
- TDS threshold on interest earned from Bank/Post Office deposits raised from ₹10,000 to ₹40,000
- TDS threshold for deduction of tax on rent to be increased from ₹1,80,000 to ₹2,40,000

Transforming India

Dr Singh who after demonetisation predicted economy to crash to abysmal levels.

What the budget loudly proclaims is that Modi has been able to achieve most of his goals to take India on a fast track to recovery. While Opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi still rehashing the 1972 Garibi Hatao unfulfilled promise to offer poverty doles to the poor after the 2019 polls Modi has projected a vision of a country devoid of poverty, open defecation, homeless citizens and drinking water and sanitation to all.

The budget has emphasized the gains of the past five years. A comparison between what Modi inherited in 2014 and what he has achieved is quite instructive. From the top in the rank for corruption India has become less corrupt compared to most other democracies like US and even China, which is not democracy. From flight of capital, today India is a hot destination for foreign direct investment. In ease of doing business India moved ladders from 152 to 78.

Inflation is at a record low of 6.5 per cent which was 10.5 percent under UPA. Lending rates have almost halved in the last five years. Fiscal prudence and keeping deficit at 3.6 percent have been the hallmark of Modi governance model. India has taken a quantum leap in mobile, smart phone and internet connectivity and digitalization.

Is in 2014 11kms of road was built per day now the per day average is 28 KM which is the highest in the world. Rural road building and infracture



WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT TO WOMEN LED DEVELOPMENT





Securing health of every homemaker -
over **6 crore free LPG** connections
given under Ujjwala Yojana



More than **70%** of beneficiaries of
Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana are women



Benefits of **Maternity leave of
26 weeks** and Pradhan Mantri
Matru Vandana Yojana for pregnant
women financial empowerment of
women by increased participation
in work



development have trebled. Be it port, water ways or rail and air connectivity have seen tremendous progress. Air fares have almost become half making it possible for more common people to travel air and do business faster. Tourism section sector has seen the largest number of foreign visitors coming to India in recent years. The country terror strike free in the past five years which helped business and tourism grow in a big way.

Modi's earlier budgets have been free of freebees and populism. For the first time now he has taken to extensively woo the middle class and the farmers. The tax concessions will put more money in the pockets of the common man. This will trigger a spending spree helping economy grow faster. Of late, the consumer

sector and manufacturing sector have seen buoyancy. The boom is bound to accelerate. Modi is clearly looking at good economics as good politics. It is certain that in the polls 2019, he is planning to face the electorate on the development plank. There is a huge element of populism in the new budget.

For instance the big bang health sector reform is going to benefit almost half the population in a big way. The budget tells the story how the free cooking gas connection to the poor, rural roads and electrification, a house for all and the deep penetration of toilets from 38 per cent to 98 per cent are potential game changers. The budget is proving to be Modi's manifesto for the 2019 poll. ■

(The writer is a Political Analyst and former Editor of Organiser Weekly)

SHIVAKUMARA SWAMIJI CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO THE SOCIETY: PM

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi began his 52nd episode of Mann Ki Baat on 27th January 2019 with paying tribute to Lingayat Seer Shivakumara Swamiji, said the religious leader contributed immensely to the society via educational institutions, hospitals, etc. Shri Modi said "On the 21st of this month, our Country received very sad news. Dr. Shri Shri Shri Shiva Kumar Swamiji of District Tumukur, Karnataka was no more. ShivaKumar Swamiji dedicated his entire life to Social Service. Lord Basaveshwar has taught us, "Kayakave Kailas"" meaning discharging one's duties with due diligence and perseverance is akin to being in the abode of Lord Shiva ie Kailasha Dham. ShivaKumar Swamiji was a true follower of this tenet ... during his life spanning a hundred and eleven years, he strived tirelessly towards the social, educational and economic upliftment of thousands of people. He was renowned to be a masterly scholar of languages such as English, Sanskrit and Kannada. He was a social reformer. He dedicated his life in ensuring that food, shelter, education and spiritual knowledge reached out to people. The welfare of farmers was a priority in his life. The Siddhganga Mutt regularly used to organise cattle and agricultural fairs. I have had the fortunate opportunity to be blessed by Swamiji, many a time. In the year 2007 on the occasion of the Centenary celebration of Sri Sri Sri Shivakumar Swamiji our former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam had paid a visit to Tumukur. On this occasion Prime Minister recited Dr. Kalam's poem 'Giving is Happiness' dedicated to revered Swamiji.

Dr. Kalam Saheb's poem portrays the life of Shri Shri Shri Shivakumar Swamiji and the mission of the Siddhganga Mutt beautifully. Once again, I pay tribute to this great man.

PM Modi wishes students, parents and teachers luck for exams. He added, Space technology is being deployed in every aspect of development, such as housing scheme, farming, communication, etc. All the space projects launched recently were started in last four years. Today, our space programme is

powered by several young scientists. We must take pride in the fact that the satellites developed by our students are reaching the space today. On 24 January Kalam SAT, created by our students, was launched. Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi remembered Vikram Sarabhai, gave him credit for India's space programme. The PM encouraged people from across the country to visit places associated with India's



historic bravehearts and artists, including Subash Chandra Bose, BR Ambedkar and Rabindra Nath Tagore.

On this episode PM Modi remembered Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. He said "For many years it was being demanded that the files related to Netaji be made public and I am happy that we fulfilled this demand." PM Modi requested first time voters to understand the importance of vote and treat it like a responsibility.

He praised Election Commission, security forces and every one else involved in the electoral process of ensuring free and fair polls across India.

He said that every voter should practice their right to vote and feel proud of Election Commission. PM also Modi wished the nation of National Voters' Day, celebrated on the day of foundation of Election Commission. ■



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

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS



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| | Three Years | ₹1000/- | <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Time (English+Hindi) | ₹5000/- | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(DETAIL OF THE PAYMENT)

Cheque/Draft No. : Date : Bank :

Note : * DD/Cheque will be made in favour of "Kamal Sandesh"
* Money order and Cash accepted with details

(Subscriber's Signature)



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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with the President of South Africa Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman and others at the 70th Republic Day Parade in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi paying homage at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, on the occasion of Martyrs' Day at Rajghat in New Delhi





PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing the New India Youth conclave in Surat, Gujarat







Tamil Nadu BJP welcomes PM Shri Narendra Modi at a public meeting in Madurai, Tamil Nadu


#BudgetForNewIndia

Shrimev Jayate: Upholding Dignity of Labour

-  National Pension Scheme liberalised – Share of employee continues to be 10% & share of Government to be 14%
-  Maximum ceiling of Bonus for labour increased from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 7000 per month, gratuity ceiling increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs
-  Withdrawal limit from EPFO on account of death increased from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh



Transforming India  2/2

#BudgetForNewIndia




Shrimev Jayate: Honouring Shram Yogi

Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana Proposed

-  To provide assured monthly pension of ₹3000 per month for workers joining at the age of 29
-  Monthly contribution of ₹100 for workers in unorganized sector till 60 years of age
-  To benefit 10 crore workers in unorganized sector



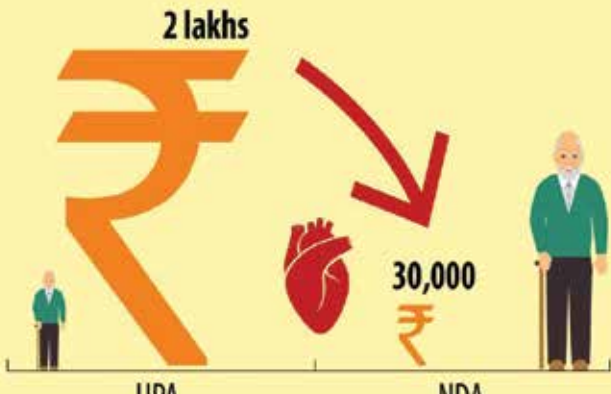
Transforming India  1/2

#MiddleClassWithModi

Stent Prices Slashed, Healthy Heart for All

Families don't have to go bankrupt over medical expenses

A heart patient now saves Rs. 80,000 - Rs. 90,000 per stent.
 Gross annual relief of Rs. 4,547 crores for cardiac patients.



2 lakhs

30,000


UPA NDA

Cost of Cardiac Stents

#MiddleClassWithModi

Knee Implants Are No Longer Expensive!

A patient now saves up to Rs. 1 lakh- 1.25 lakh for knee implant and walks with a healthy knee.
 Annual savings of Rs.1,500 crore for 1.5 lakh patients requiring knee implants.



2 lakhs

30,000

UPA NDA

Cost of Knee Implants