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'PEOPLE ALREADY DECIDED TO MAKE MODI JI PM AGAIN'



PEOPLE VOTING FOR A NEW INDIA

WILL 2019 WITNESS THE DYNASTY AS A LIABILITY ON THE CONGRESS PARTY?

HONOURS BESTOWED UPON MODI BY COUNTRIES SIGNAL SUCCESS ...

RAHUL GANDHI'S MAHAGATHBANDHAN FALLS FLAT, MODI STANDS TALL



Glimpse of a massive road show of BJP National President Shri Amit Shah in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paying floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar on his Birth Anniversary at Gandhinagar



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressing a massive election rally in Raiganj, West Bengal



Union Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressing a huge public meeting at Shadhol, Madhya Pradesh



Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing an election meeting in Sangola, Maharashtra

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BJP WILL BRING BACK UTTAR PRADESH ITS ANCIENT GLORY: PM MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed two massive rallies in Aligarh and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh on ...



VAICHARIKI

Integral Humanism Revisited 17

SHRADHANJALI

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat 19

ARTICLE

Will 2019 Witness the Dynasty as a Liability on the Congress Party? 22

Honours bestowed upon Modi by countries signal success of his foreign policy initiatives 26

Rahul Gandhi's Mahagathbandhan falls flat, Modi stands tall 28

OTHERS

'Kashmir integral part of India, can't be separated' 13

"My aim is to reach the 50th position in ease-of-..." 21

Since the days of Nehru, Congress has been ... 24

Congress misleading people with false promises... 25

Connected Northeast for a Connected India 30

Modi Government's Decisive, Multi-pronged Action... 32

Modi Govt. allowed Muslim women for Haj without... 33



11 PEOPLE ALREADY DECIDED TO MAKE MODI JI PM AGAIN: AMIT SHAH

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has said that the real issue in the current Lok Sabha elections is national-security,...

20 RUSSIA HONOURS PRIME MINISTER MODI WITH ITS HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was decorated On April 12, 2019, with the Order of St Andrew the Apostle - the...



14 MODI GOVERNMENT'S MEGA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

In the past five years, the delivery of infrastructure projects has been expeditious and highly efficient. Several projects have been inaugurated, some which have not only been...

16 DECISIVE STEPS TOWARDS SECURING THE HEALTH OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

That the future of the country lies in the hands of the young is well known. It is these young people of today who will shape and lead the country...



twitter 

Chowkidar Narendra Modi @narendramodi



2014 was a mandate for hope and aspiration. 2019 is about confidence and acceleration.

Chowkidar Rajnath Singh @RajnathSingh

We also believe that faith and tradition need to be respected and protected. The Congress should explain why it has two divergent views on Sabarimala and Triple Talaq.



Chowkidar Arun Jaitley @arunjaitley



An important question before the country is – who is best suited to handle the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and terrorism? It obviously can't be solved by those whose policies created the problem and are no longer willing to change their policies due to vote bank politics.

facebook

New India of ours is setting higher benchmarks in every field, whether it be on earth, water, sky or even space. I appeal to all the voters especially the young, that you must vote to keep this momentum going. In your one vote lies country's pride and progress.



— Chowkidar Amit Shah

Rahul Gandhi can't digest the fact that the Defence Ministry can function without middlemen.

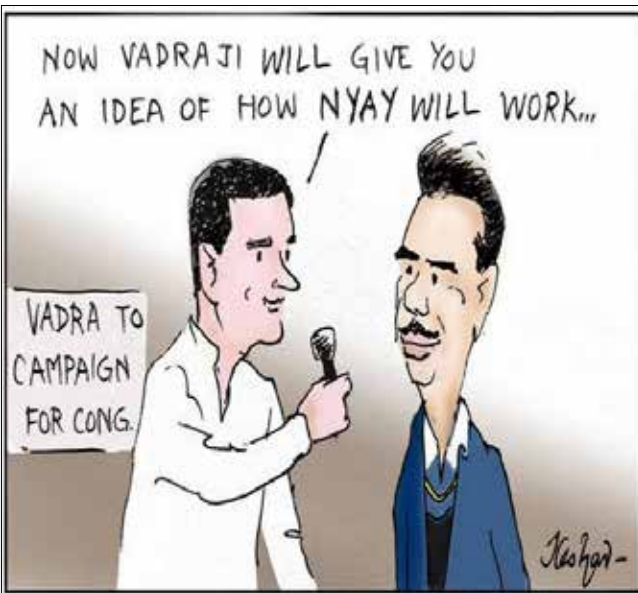


— Chowkidar Nirmala Sitharaman

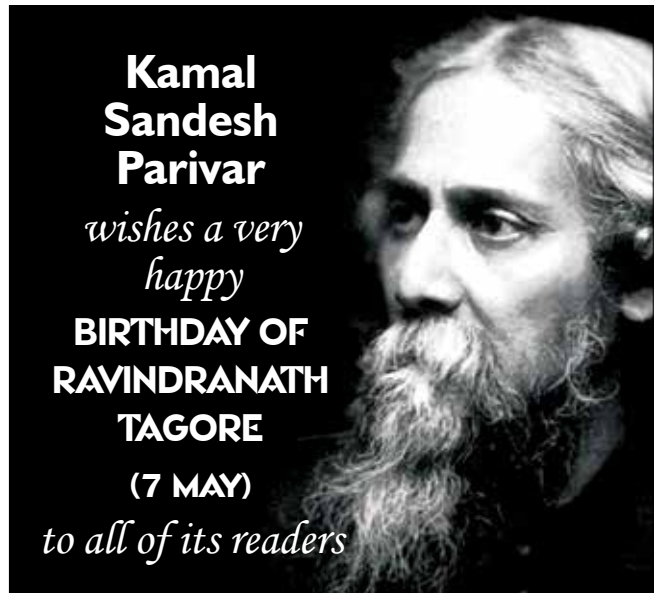
Bringing Safety Back on Track: Keeping passenger safety as its foremost priority, Indian Railways has registered its safest year ever with drastic reduction in number of mishaps in 2018-19.



— Chowkidar Piyush Goyal



Courtesy: Social Media



NARENDRA MODI SYMBOLIZES ASPIRATIONS & HOPES OF MILLIONS

On the completion of two phases of voting, it appears re-assuring to everyone that democracy is thriving in our country as people continue to vote in large numbers. The huge percentage of polling also indicates the fact that India has not only matured as a democracy but it represents an aspirational nation seeking to make its way forward in the comity of the nations. The aspirations of the youth, women, poor, farmers, workers, SCs, STs, OBCs and poor among the general classes are represented in the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Narendra Modi today symbolizes the aspirations and hope of the millions of people. The people now believe that they have a leader who can fulfil their dreams and take the country to new heights. The high percentage of voting is an indication that people are now coming forward to realize their aspirations under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI REPRESENTS THAT PHENOMENON WHICH MEETS THE ASPIRATIONS OF A NEW INDIA. IT IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT THAT THE OPPOSITION IS LEFT WITH NO ISSUE AND FINDING IT DIFFICULT TO EVEN CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT.

The Lok Sabha elections 2019 is proving to be a one-sided election with opposition failing to pose any credible challenge. While Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as a towering figure, there is no consensual candidate in the ranks of opposition who can be presented as an alternative to him. Although few parties in the opposition have formed alliances, they are not in a position to give a tough fight as their alliance is either ridden by their internal contradictions or they have failed to accommodate various other opposition parties within the declared alliance. As a result there is neither broader alliance on the ground nor any agenda for the nation – they appear to be the coming together of various caste groups fighting for their survival. In fact these are most opportunistic alliances already rejected by the people in earlier elections. These kinds of power hungry, family centric caste groups cannot offer an alternative to BJP which is committed to serve the people by creating 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' with the vision of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'.

In the last five years, the nation has not only witnessed transformative changes in governance, economy and development but also in politics and the manner in which people have chosen to exercise their voting rights. The BJP has scored victory after victory in many states and entered new areas as a political force to reckon with. This phenomenon has been unleashed mainly by the young voters who have chosen to vote above caste and regional lines and voted for development and good governance. It may be mindboggling for the political pundits who calculate on the basis of caste equations but the new politics has come to stay and that is the politics of development. It is a transformation that is now making India score big in almost every sector of development and helping in getting global recognitions.

India is ready for a huge leap in the days to come.

As the new politics is taking shape in the country, family-centric dynastic politics, caste and regional equations are on their last leg. The people of India have shown their determination to rise above these divisive and undemocratic politics and pave path for nation-centric politics of development and good governance. It is a politics which is democratic and in the interest of every individual and in the interest of the entire nation. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi represents that phenomenon which meets the aspirations of a New India. It is one of the biggest achievements of the Modi government that the opposition is left with no issue and finding it difficult to even criticise the government. As people vote for a New India, it is time to fulfil the aspirations and dream of the people in the coming five years. There is no doubt in the minds of the people that under the charismatic and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi India will achieve new heights and embrace a strong, prosperous and glorious future. ■

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org



ALIGARH AND MORADABAD IN UTTAR PRADESH

BJP WILL BRING BACK UTTAR PRADESH ITS ANCIENT GLORY: PM MODI

P rime Minister Narendra Modi addressed two massive rallies in Aligarh and Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh on 14 April, 2019.

Enlisting the key achievements of his government since 2014, PM Shri Modi said, "Since 2014, our government made 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' its guiding mantra to work equally for every Indian. While we constructed millions of toilets and increased the sanitation coverage in the nation from 38% in 2014 to 98% in 2019, we also curbed high inflation and made annual income upto ₹5 lakh tax-free. While we opened bank accounts for nearly every Indian household, we also increased the MSP of farmers' produce to one and half times their cost. So, in effect, we have devoted our five years to improve the life of every Indian without discriminating on the basis of caste, religion or economic status."

Lashing out at the Opposition parties such as Congress, BSP and SP for their decades of neglect and apathy towards the people of Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Shri Modi said, "We all remember how

the leaders who based their politics on the name of Dr. Ambedkar deceived his values and allied themselves with divisive politics of caste and dynasty. The people also clearly remember the time when Western UP was burning and people were forced to flee their homes and businesses. That is why the people of Uttar Pradesh stood strongly in support of the BJP in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and said that UP wants development and not caste politics.

The same was reiterated in 2017 when the people elected a BJP government with an overwhelming majority saying they want progress and not politics of caste and appeasement. I am certain the people will again stand with us in the ongoing Lok Sabha elections and strengthen our resolve to develop Uttar Pradesh rapidly and bring back its days of glory, Shri Modi added."

Questioning the 'Maha-Milawat' leaders in Uttar Pradesh, SP, BSP and Congress about their vision for the future of India, PM said, "I want to ask their leaders if they have a vision to develop India in the

future. Do they plan to keep on playing their divisive politics of caste and votebank appeasement in the future too? If so, they must know that the people of Uttar Pradesh no longer trust such parties or their leaders. They want a government that works for them, that puts the 'country-first' instead of 'family-first.' That is why, the Congress and SP leaders have resorted to name-calling and call me a 'Chowkidar of Shauchalaya' (Keeper of toilets). But let me tell them, I am proud to have played a part in ensuring dignity and respect to millions of my sisters and daughters by building toilets for them. Such comments only show the narrow mentality of these parties and their blind hatred for Modi.

Despite being sworn enemies of each other for decades, SP-BSP have now joined hands in an opportunist alliance with the sole purpose to defeat Modi. Modi has become an existential threat to parties like SP-BSP and so they are leaving no stone unturned to defeat me. However, I have full faith in the people of my country and that they will never support such parties who have no agenda but to enrich themselves, not the people, he added."

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA

'Faith and affection towards BJP only increased over time'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive public meeting in Thiruvananthapuram in



Kerala 18 April, 2019.

Urging his supporters in the southern state to vote for the BJP in the ongoing General elections, PM Shri Modi said, "The faith and affection towards the BJP and me has only increased over time. I am here to seek the blessings of the people so that we continue to transform this faith into rapid development. This is why, I urge all the eligible voters in Kerala to turn out and exercise their franchise in support of the BJP during these elections and strengthen our resolve to bring rapid development in Kerala."

Taking on the regional rivals, the UDF and the ruling LDF for their ineffective policies and rampant corruption, PM said, "Only the BJP can ensure social justice for every group in Kerala. Everybody has seen how the UDF and LDF are threatening the traditions and religious practices of the people here while they indulge in corruption, bribery and other illegal activities. Can anyone forgive the Congress for the humiliation and suffering it gave to Mr. Nambi Narayan, whose entire career was destroyed by the false allegations of the Congress. This is the true face of these parties, they are not people-centric, they are 'family-centric' instead."

He further commented on the issue of Congress President contesting elections from the seat of Wayanad in Kerala and said that the Congress party had done so because it wanted to replicate the 'Amethi Model of Development' in Wayanad and added that contesting from South India was not giving a message to the people of the South, it was rather about appeasing specific communities that was the main motivation behind such a decision.





KATHUA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

‘Huge voting percentage in J&K reiterates that people want to strengthen the democracy’

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a huge rally in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir on 14 April, 2019.

Addressing the huge gathering, PM Shri Modi first paid tributes to the great son of soil, Dr. BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary. He said, “The huge voting percentages coming out from Jammu and Kashmir reiterated the fact that the people here want to strengthen the democratic structure in the state. They have given a befitting reply to the anti-India and separatist voices as well as to the ‘Maha-Milawati’ gang who have always doubted the people’s abilities and willingness to vote for elections in India.”

He further lashed out at the Congress and its regional allies PDP and NC for forging an opportunist alliance that stands against the interests of the country and said, “The recent statements given by one of Congress’ allies here asking for a separate Prime Minister for Jammu and Kashmir reveals how this alliance goes against our country. This alliance is an alliance of opportunism and hunger for power and not to provide better opportunities of life for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

In this context, the Prime Minister further took potshots at the Congress for the absence of its CM in Punjab to pay respects at the official Jallianwala Bagh memorial on 13 April in which the Vice-President of India was also present and said that such actions were not only disrespectful to the martyrs of the massacre but also revealed the petty politics of the Congress leaders.

MANGALURU AND BENGALURU, KARNATAKA

‘Petty politics of Congress goes against the aspirations of Karnataka’



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed two major public meetings in Mangaluru and Bengaluru South in Karnataka on 13 April, 2019.

Elaborating on significance of the upcoming Lok

Sabha elections for the future of the country, PM Shri Modi said, "The coming Lok Sabha elections are extremely crucial as they will decide the kind of India our young generation wants for its future. These elections will decide if nationalism prevails or dynasticism will. These elections will decide the face and form of the 21st century India. This is why, I appeal to all the voters to choose their votes wisely and keep in mind the track records of those that have only given false promises and those that have actually delivered those promises."

Launching a scathing attack on the state JD(S) government for entering into an opportunist alliance with the Congress just to remain in power, PM Modi said, "While the Opposition parties like Congress and JD(S) believe in 'Vanshoday' (empowering their lineage), the BJP believes and practices 'Antyodaya' (empowering the poor). While the former creates corruption, injustice and politics of appeasement and votebanks, the latter encourages transparency, social justice and politics of development under which India is constantly reducing its poverty levels and creating an ever-growing middle class full of aspirations and dreams. This is why the people no more put their faith on the divisive politics of the Opposition and instead stand besides the developmental agenda of the NDA."

Looking forward, Shri Modi assured his supporters of greater engagement and policies to fulfill the aspirations of the honest tax-paying middle class in his next term.

AHMEDNAGAR, MAHARASHTRA

'Lok Sabha elections will be decisive in charting the future course for our country'

Addressing a massive public meeting in the Maharashtrian city of Ahmednagar on 12 April, 2019 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "The Lok Sabha elections will be decisive in charting the future course for our country, in deciding whether democracy will prevail or dynasty, whether an honest

'Chowkidar' will prevail or a corrupt 'Namdar,' whether a 'people-centric' government will assumed power or a 'family-centric' government and whether 'Indian' hero will prevail or 'Pakistan's' sympathizers. These choices will affect the future of our country for many years to come and so I urge all the voters, particularly our young first-time voters, to exercise their franchise wisely and whole-heartedly."

Taking on the Congress and its Maharashtrian ally, NCP for ignoring the needs of the people while pursuing own selfish interests, PM Modi said, "Each of us clearly remembers how the country was attacked by terrorists frequently when the Congress-NCP combine was in power. The memories of Mumbai and Pune attacks are still fresh in our minds.



However, after 2014, the BJP-led NDA government has changed this policy of soft approach towards terrorists and as a result any terrorist attack against India is responded back strongly, hitting the terrorists where it hurts them the most. India no longer tolerates terror and its sympathizers."

PM Shri Modi further lashed out at the Congress for its endemic corruption and numerous scandals and said, "The entire country saw recently how the latest scandal of the Congress, 'Tughlaq Road Chunavi Ghotala' unfolded and huge amounts of illegal cash was found with senior Congress officials. The nation no longer trusts the Congress and stands firmly with the BJP in its resolve to eradicate corruption from India's governance, he said.



MANGALDAI AND SILCHAR, ASSAM

Congress neglected the North-East for decades

Addressing two huge public meetings in Mangaldai and Silchar in the North-Eastern state of Assam on 11 April Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "Subsequent Congress governments in the past hindered the North-East's development and delayed infrastructural projects which led to a stagnation of the local economies. However, we are changing this culture of policy-paralysis and are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that promising states like Assam catch up with the rest of the country and our North-East region prospers like the rest of India does."

Questioning the Congress policy towards India's national security on sensitive areas from Kashmir to Assam, the PM said, "After the 1971 war, Congress had the opportunity to solve the issues of internal security from Kashmir to Assam but they did nothing about them."

BHAGALPUR, BIHAR

'Bihar witnessed a change since the NDA and BJP assumed power'

"Over the years, people of Bihar saw the power of the politicians increase rapidly while the people remained helpless. However, Bihar has witnessed a change in this culture since the NDA and BJP governments

assumed power in the state and centre respectively. Our politics is 'people-centric' and we have spent our terms empowering the most vulnerable and poor sections of society by providing them complete access to basic necessities like sanitation, electricity and clean cooking fuel said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while addressing a massive public meeting in Bhagalpur, Bihar on 11 April.

PM Shri Modi also spoke at length about the radical shift in India's national security strategy under the BJP saying, "The whole nation remembers the



times when the Congress was in power and terrorist attacks had become very common across the country. Yet despite all this, India took a soft approach against the terror sponsored by Pakistan under the Congress rule. I changed this policy and decided that any attack against us will be responded back in the same language, he said." ■



BODELI OF CHHOTA UDEPUR, GUJARAT

PEOPLE ALREADY DECIDED TO MAKE MODI JI PM AGAIN: AMIT SHAH

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has said that the real issue in the current Lok Sabha elections is national-security, not the development.

Addressing two election rallies in Bodeli of Chhota Udepur district and Malanpada in Valsad district of Gujarat on April 19, 2019, Shri Amit Shah also hit out at Congress and its alleged anti-Gujarati attitude.

“This election is not a battle for development alone. Narendrabhai has already done a good deal of development but this is not the real issue. The issue is security of the nation and it can’t be assured by any other than Modi and the BJP. The pride of the country can also be increased by none other than PM Shri Modi who alone can speed up the economy, work for

the welfare of poor and make India a super-power,” Shri Shah said.

He alleged that it was a tradition of Congress to do injustice with Gujarat. “Nehru did injustice with Sardar Patel and Indiraben with Morarjibhai. And Sonia Gandhi called Narendrabhai a merchant of deaths,” he said.

He said that if Modi government would not have been formed at the Centre, the Narmada project would not have been completed in Gujarat and the water woes in the state would not have been ended. He also talked about the statue of unity as the tallest sculpture of Sardar Patel built during Modi government and various pro poor schemes including Ujjwala scheme, Ayushman scheme etc.

The BJP President said that the biggest thing that this government has done was ensuring the security of the country. "During 10 years of earlier UPA regime of Sonia-Manmohan at the Centre, any Tom Dick and Harry (terrorists) would come from Pakistan and triggers blasts but they were not given a befitting reply," he said.

The BJP President said that after Pulwama attack the terrorist camp at Balakot in Pakistan were completely destroyed in aerial strike and there were celebrations all over the country and mourning in Pakistan and also in the Congress office.

"When the whole country was happy there was mourning like scene in the Rahul Gandhi's Congress office also. It seemed as if they have lost their own family men. Party leader Sam Pitroda said that there should not be such an action for the act of seven to eight people," he said.

Shri Shah said, "Should there not be a tough action for martyring our 40 jawans. Rahul baba, if you have to do ILU-ILU with terrorists you do, but BJP

AFTER PULWAMA ATTACK THE TERRORIST CAMP AT BALAKOT IN PAKISTAN WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED IN AERIAL STRIKE AND THERE WERE CELEBRATIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND MOURNING IN PAKISTAN AND ALSO IN THE CONGRESS OFFICE.

government would give them befitting reply. No one can crack a joke about our border security."

The BJP President also attacked Rahul for his silence on the statement of National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in which he had talked about a separate PM for Kashmir. He said that at the time of election Congress ally Abdullah was talking about two PM and Rahul was keeping mum for vote-bank. "Should anyone support such a party which puts on stake the unity and integrity of the country. We have categorically said in our manifesto that when we get majority in both

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha we will remove article 370 of the constitution. Even if BJP were not in power yet so long as even a single BJP worker was alive no one could separate Kashmir from India. It is and will remain the integral party of the country," he said.

He also hit out at Congress party on the National Census Register issue and said that why Congress and other opposition parties were trying to protect the illegal intruders in our country. "They indulge in terrorists activities and blast bombs to kill innocent Indians but the opposition parties for appeasement politics even talk about their human rights," he said.

He also talked at length about the pro tribal schemes of BJP governments saying that Modi as the then CM of Gujarat was first to allocate budget to the tribal in proportion of their population in 2005.

Shri Shah said that BJP was going to win the Valsad seat and whoever won on the seat makes the government at center.

He also appealed the people of Gujarat to make BJP victorious on all the 26 seats of the state. "Looking at the scenario during poll time, Narendrabhai's return to power was sure. Valsad was the 246th Lok Sabha constituency where he has come to do campaigning and wherever he had gone he saw people shouting Modi-Modi which indicates that the people of the country have already decided to make Modi ji PM again," he said. ■



RAIGARH IN CHHATTISGARH

‘KASHMIR INTEGRAL PART OF INDIA, CAN’T BE SEPARATED’

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said Kashmir is an integral part of India and cannot be separated from the country till a single BJP worker is alive, irrespective of whether the party is in power or not.

Addressing an election rally in Raigarh in Chhattisgarh on 18 April, 2019 he said when the Modi government is re-elected at the Centre, infiltrators will be identified across the country and deported.

“Election is underway in Jammu and Kashmir and an ally of Congress, leader of National Conference Omar Abdullah had advocated for a prime minister in Kashmir. Do you think it’s possible that a country can have two PMs? I have been asking Rahul baba to clarify his stand on the (Abdullah’s) statement, but he is silent,” Shah said slamming Congress chief Rahul Gandhi.

“Rahul baba listen carefully...Presently there is a government headed by Modi ji and it will be re-elected. But even if we are not in power, nobody can separate Kashmir from India till a single BJP worker is alive. Kashmir is an integral part of India and if anyone says that it will be isolated from the country, then people of the country will not tolerate it,” he added.

Shri Shah also accused the Congress and the National Conference of not being in favour of scrapping Article 370 of the Constitution, which grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

“Congress and National Conference don’t want to remove Article 370. But the BJP has promised in its poll manifesto that Article 370 will be scrapped,” he said.

“Another issue is that of NRC (National Register for Citizen). Congress is saying do not bring NRC, but I want to urge you to again elect the Narendra Modi government at the Centre...infiltrators will be identified right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Assam, and deported,” he said.

Describing infiltrators as termites, he said they are a threat to the nation’s security. “Our commitment is to throw them out of the country,” the BJP President added.

The BJP President also alleged that the Congress and

other opposition parties are unhappy with the success of the Indian Air Force’s strike on terrorist camps at Balakot in Pakistan in retaliation to the Pulwama terror attack.

“The Modi government has done the biggest work to safeguard the borders of the country. When terrorists attacked in Pulwama and killed our 40 jawans, there was anger and disappointment in the country. But the Modi government is not like the ‘mauni baba’ (silent) Manmohan Singh government. Barely 13 days after the attack, air strikes were carried out targeting terror camps in Pakistan,” he said.

“At a time when the whole nation rejoiced, there was grief in Pakistan. But there was also sadness in the office of Rahul baba and company,” Shri Shah said.

“The guru of Rahul Gandhi, Sam Pitroda, says some kids have committed mistakes and dialogue should be held with them. Do you think talks should be held with those who killed our 40 jawans? Our policy is clear that reply of the bullets will be given with shells. We will not hold talks with terrorists. BJP has a zero tolerance policy against terrorists.”

The Congress ruled the country for 55 years, but it did nothing for development of poor, Dalits, tribals, villages and cities of the country, he alleged.

In the five years of the Modi government, work has been done for the development of 50 crore poor.

Shri Shah also slammed the Congress government in Chhattisgarh and said Ayushman Bharat scheme has been stopped in the state which was meant for welfare of poor people.

He also targeted Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel for banning the CBI from investigating any fresh cases in the state without seeking the state’s consent.

“Why was Bhupesh Baghel so afraid of the CBI that he banned it in the state immediately after coming to power. What he has done?” he asked.

The Congress had promised to provide unemployment allowance in the state, Shri Shah said, adding, “Are you (people) getting it? No development work is taking place in the state. The law and order situation has collapsed, he said.” ■



MODI GOVERNMENT'S MEGA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

In the past five years, the delivery of infrastructure projects has been expeditious and highly efficient. Several projects have been inaugurated, some which have not only been conceptualized but also completed by the government under the leadership of the Prime Minister. In other cases, under PM Modi due attention has been paid to complete and speed up progress on projects which were incomplete or neglected. Some of the major infrastructure projects that were completed and some of them waiting completion are as follows:

NCR EASTERN AND WESTERN PERIPHERAL EXPRESSWAY

The 135 kilometers long Eastern Peripheral Expressway or the KGP Expressway has been completed in a period of two years, costing Rs 5,763 Crore. Similarly, the Western Peripheral Expressway also known as the KMP Expressway was inaugurated in November 2018 after a 9 year delay.

BOGIBEEL BRIDGE

The Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest railroad bridge with a serviceable period of around 120 years was completed in the year 2018. This bridge was sanctioned in 1997 and completed after a delay of over 21 years. This bridge is in line with PM Modi's vision that Northeast will be the gateway to New India.

CHENANI NASHRI TUNNEL

The 9.2 kilometer long Chenani Nashri Tunnel is the longest road tunnel in South Asia. It was inaugurated in 2017. This twin-tube tunnel reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by approximately 30 kilometers. It boasts of features such as smoke and

heat dampeners in case of a fire, air quality monitors and an integrated tunnel control system to name a few, proving to be a great advantage for our armed forces during times of crisis.

GOGHA DAHEJ RO RO FERRY

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the first phase of the Gogha Dahej Ro Ro Ferry in Gujarat in October 2017. Prior to the inauguration of the ferry, transportation between Gogha-Dahej took approximately 8 hours by road however with the ferry the distance is now covered within one hour. 12,000 passengers and 5,000 vehicles are daily beneficiaries.

COMMERCIAL AVIATION IN ARUNACHAL

Prior to May 2018, Arunachal Pradesh was not on the commercial aviation map of the country. However, on the 21st of May, Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off the first commercial flight in Arunachal Pradesh part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme of the Modi government. This will not only improve economic development but also provide a boost to tourism in the region.

SIKKIM'S FIRST AIRPORT

Under the UDAN scheme, PM Modi inaugurated Sikkim's first airport in September 2018. The airport was inaugurated almost 9 years after its foundation stone was laid. Prior to this airport's launch the nearest airport from Sikkim was 124 kilometers away in Bagdogra in West Bengal. Sikkim's airport will not only boost tourism and the economy in the region but is of significant strategic importance due to it being only 60 kilometers from the Indo-China border.

KOLLAM BYPASS

The 13-km long, 2 lane Kollam bypass on National Highway-66 (NH 66) was long awaited. The Modi government delivered the project at a cost of Rs 352 crore, thus reducing the travel time between Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala as well easing traffic congestion.

BIDAR KALABURAGI RAILWAY LINE

The 110 kilometer long Bidar Kalaburagi Railway Line was inaugurated by PM Modi in October 2017. The foundation stone for this project was laid in the year 2000 and it was completed after a delay of almost 17 years. With the inauguration of this railway line, the travel time between Bengaluru and New Delhi has reduced by 380 kilometers and 6-8 hours approximately.

MONORAIL IN MUMBAI

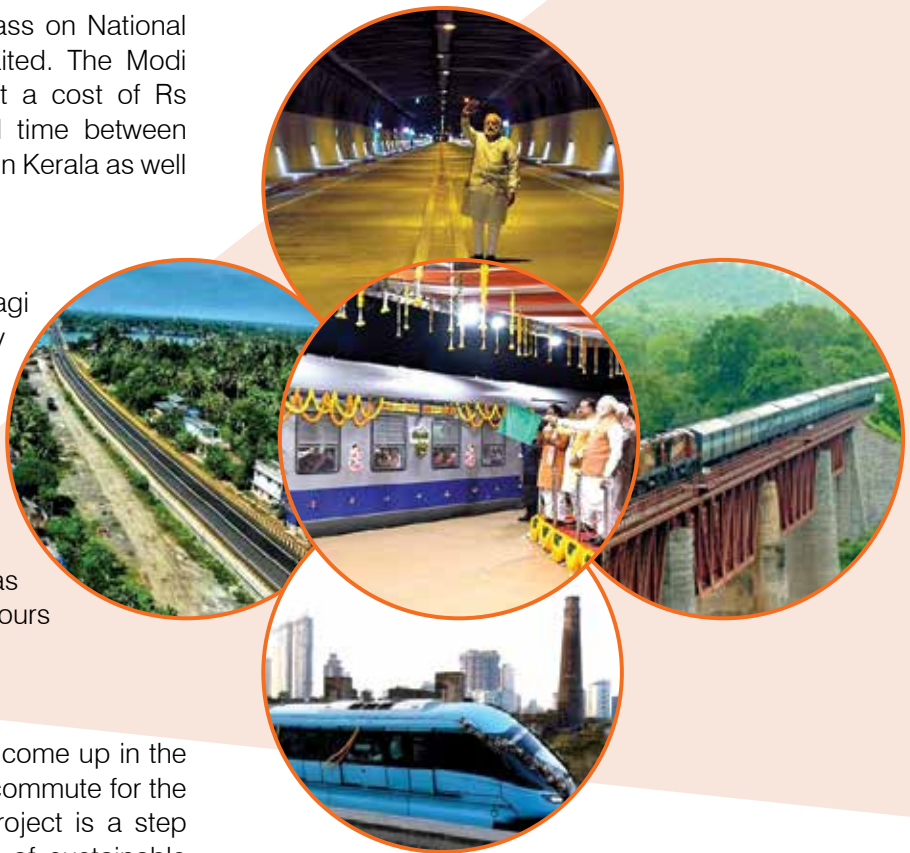
The first monorail of the country has come up in the Mumbai city, ensuring a hassle-free commute for the people of the maximum city. The project is a step ahead towards achieving the vision of sustainable transport system for sustainable cities.

DIVERSION OF DISCHARGE TO THE RIVER GANGA

For decades on end, metric tonnes of sewage would be drained into the river Ganga, impacting the holy water's life force. In order to revive River Ganga, the government has been successful in diverting the sewage being discharged to the river from Sisamau drain, that is also Asia's oldest drain, to sewage treatment plants in Kanpur.

RAIL REACHING NORTHEASTERN STATES

Even after 70 years since independence, states of Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram remained devoid of railway connectivity. This further deepened the isolation of the region. Identifying the immediate need to correct the historical wrong, the Modi government took integration of Northeast India with a rest of the nation on a mission mode, with the entire network converted to broad gauge. It brought Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram on the rail map of India after 70 years of independence!



FIRST MULTI-MODAL TERMINAL ON RIVER GANGA

India's rivers provide a huge potential for developing a cost-effective and sustainable mode of transport. However, their potential had not been utilized since independence. In that sense, a beginning has been made in developing inland waterways with PM Modi inaugurating India's first multi-modal terminal on the Ganga river and receiving the first container vessel from Haldia to Varanasi. ■

DECISIVE STEPS TOWARDS SECURING THE HEALTH OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

That the future of the country lies in the hands of the young is well known. It is these young people of today who will shape and lead the country tomorrow. Therefore, in order to ensure that our country remains strong tomorrow, the health of the young today must be given utmost priority. Over the last four years, the Modi government has taken several measures to ensure that the health of infants and children are given maximum attention with a view to give them the utmost quality of life, preparing them for future when they can contribute productively to the cause of nation-building. Following are some of other major steps for the good health of our Future Generations.

IMPRESSIVE IMPROVEMENT IN INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES

1. When a child is born, both the child and the mother need the best healthcare possible under an integrated response mechanism. In India, the infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rates are improving and in the last few years, both the indicators have shown significant reduction.
2. The under-five child mortality (U5MR) of India showed an impressive decline from 49 per 1000 live births in 2013 to 39 in 2016. India, with the current rate of decline of U5MR is well on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals target of 25 for under-five child mortality by 2030.
3. Only half way through its term, the government had brought down the infant mortality rate by three points (8% decline), from 40 per 1000 live births in 2013 to 34 per 1000 live births in 2016.
4. In tandem with these gains in terms of infant and child health, the country has also shown remarkable reduction in maternal mortality rates with 22% reduction since 2013. Maternal mortality ratio of India has declined from 167 in 2011-2013 to 130 in 2014-2016.
5. The government launched Mission Indradhanush within the first year of its tenure. With the success of the programme, in order to accelerate mission, an Intensified Mission Indradhanush was launched, to reach each and every child up to two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation



programmes.

6. Four phases of Mission Indradhanush have been completed wherein 3.38 crore children were vaccinated, of which 81.67 lakh children have been fully immunized. 86.88 lakh pregnant women were vaccinated too.

SUCCESSFULLY HANDLING JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

1. Japanese Encephalitis which has proven to be a life-threatening viral disease affecting mainly children aged less than 15 years across many parts of the country, has been tackled head on by the government.
2. By the middle of 2018, over 15 crore children aged 1-15 years were vaccinated with the JE vaccine.

POSHAN ABHIYAAN

1. The government has sought to address the problem of malnutrition through the landmark POSHAN Abhiyaan to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating mothers by leveraging technology, targeted approach and convergence.
2. The aim is to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight.
3. The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022. A sum of Rs. 2122.27 crore has been released for FY 2017-18 & 2018-19 with over 10 crore people to benefit. ■

INTEGRAL HUMANISM REVISITED

Integral humanism is not a quick-fix solution for electoral success nor is it a convenient strategy for capturing power. It is not even a political philosophy devised to promote and support any political party. It is a comprehensive world-view which originated in India as a result of the profound insight of generations of wise men who are known as the 'Rishis'. It covers every spectrum of human life and its foundations are eternally sound and always relevant. It is from that rich philosophy that the great Indian culture evolved. Any truly nationalist movement can benefit from this all embracing philosophy. It is inclusive of spiritual as well as material progress of mankind.



P. PARAMESWARAN

The current global paradigm which is basically Western (American) is crumbling from within due to the weakness of its foundation and unsustainability. It is also being attacked by external forces. The world is desperately in quest of a different paradigm which is both sustainable and fair to all.

During the last quarter of the previous century there were discussions about a "Third Alternative". Shri. Dathopanth Tengdiji, a profound thinker, wrote a book "The Third Way". That was the time when there were two major paradigms claiming leadership of the world- the Capitalist and the Communist. Both were Western in origin though based on conflicting ideologies. But, the Communist paradigm collapsed in its own citadels, leaving capitalism triumphant and USA, its citadel

claimed monopoly for reshaping a new world order showcasing itself as the only successful paradigm for the whole humanity. But, the celebration did not last long. The recent collapse of American Economy, bursting like a balloon played havoc, not only within America but also among the countries of the world, which had integrated with the American economy in different degrees. Fidel Castro, the architect of a distinct paradigm of development, has now candidly admitted that the Cuban model is a total failure. Countries of Europe - the erstwhile imperial masters, colonizing large parts of Asia and Africa, have miserably fallen behind.

World is in need of a new paradigm considering the chaotic conditions engulfing the globe. What we need is not an alternative paradigm, but a "True Paradigm" based on a globally relevant view and vision of life. Any paradigm presupposes a vision of Reality which inspires to reconstruct a world order. Vision depends upon the level of consciousness

in which the visionary functions. The present chaotic, conflictual, exploitative, threatening scenario is a true reflection of the level of consciousness at which the leadership of the world operates. They cannot do better. All the machineries, all sophisticated instrumentations, all the economic and political apparatus, and all the cultural and civilizational structures, they have introduced are all the products of this consciousness. To have an alternative paradigm it is of utmost importance that the level of consciousness on which their conceptual framework functions must undergo corresponding changes.

The Western conceptual frame work, whether capitalist or communist, is basically materialistic. The changes they want to bring about are at the material level by re-arranging the resources, both human and natural, in such a way that an 'ideal' paradigm could be shaped. The concept of development and the concept of human welfare in all its aspects are measured

in terms of material parameters. Needs, comforts and luxuries all indicate that varying degrees of material possessions. Man, for whose sake all development programmes are aimed at also, according to them, is a material being with the body as the main substratum. This is a highly partial and parochial view of Man. Enjoyment and a materially satisfying supply of goods and services is what they aim at. In the whole process they totally ignore that man is much more than an advanced animal. The same is true with the Western vision about the reality. They see a compartmentalized world with conflicting interests.

There is a general consensus across the world that humanity is facing a civilizational crisis. Many leading thinkers rank it as an existential crisis, which if not immediately averted can even spell doom for the human species. But this awareness is only at the rational or intellectual level. It has not sufficiently seeped into the emotional dimension with the result that although there is enough of discussions and debate, they are not matched by adequate operational agenda. When it comes to that there is no unanimity of approach. Cancun conference is indicative of this. Decisions are postponed and follow up are not undertaken.

It is also accepted that the crisis is the outcome of the

aggressive western civilisational paradigm, mainly spearheaded by the world's lone superpower, the USA. That much is conceded even in the European countries. The American model is basically and essentially materialistic and consumeristic. It has its roots in the biblical command by the Lord that the Nature is meant for exploitation by man for his comforts. The communist model has not succeeded in evolving a suitable solution for the ills of capitalism, the main reason being

THE CURRENT GLOBAL PARADIGM WHICH IS BASICALLY WESTERN (AMERICAN) IS CRUMBLING FROM WITHIN DUE TO THE WEAKNESS OF ITS FOUNDATION AND UNSUSTAINABILITY. IT IS ALSO BEING ATTACKED BY EXTERNAL FORCES. THE WORLD IS DESPERATELY IN QUEST OF A DIFFERENT PARADIGM WHICH IS BOTH SUSTAINABLE AND FAIR TO ALL.

that it is equally materialistic. It is another version of Christianity turned upside down. It is only a reactionary fruit born out the root of capitalism.

Asian continent is on the rise. But Asia is not one united power nor has it one common civilization. There are two major contestants emerging as promising super powers, China and India. Among the two, China is ahead in many ways which compels world powers to rank China as the

immediate winner. China is in all likelihood to dominate the world scene in the near future. But that is not going to be for a long time. The world will not like to be under a dominating superpower especially when it is dictatorial and not democratic. The outcome is, in all probability to be in India's favour. It is only a matter of time. But meanwhile, India has to equip herself to play the role required and expected of her cultural and civilisational genius.

The really serious question that India has to face is what model of civilization and what fundamental values will India present before the world which is capable of providing a suitable alternative for the present crisis. It is not only a matter of theoretical or ideological paradigm but a practical and workable solution with a universal appeal. That means it should be sustainable and inclusive, tolerant and equitable. Such a model has to be evolved in all

spheres of life so that the world could appreciate it and draw appropriate and useful parallels for their application also. This will be the main job for India for at least the coming generation. But the crucial question is whether the dominant policy makers is sufficiently or even vaguely aware of this mighty challenges we are facing?

To be continued...

(Courtesy : Nationalism, Good Governance and Development : Kamal Sandesh Special Issue)

BHAIRON SINGH SHEKHAWAT

THE LION OF RAJASTHAN

(23 OCTOBER 1923 – 15 MAY 2010)

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat (23 October 1923 – 15 May 2010) was the 11th Vice President of India. He served in that position from August 2002, when he was elected to a five-year term by the electoral college until. He also contested unsuccessfully Presidential election in 2007. Shri Shekhawat was a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a leading member of the National Democratic Alliance. He served as the Chief Minister of Rajasthan three times, from 1977 to 1980, 1990 to 1992 and 1993 to 1998.

Referred to as “Rajasthan ka ek hi Singh” (The only lion of Rajasthan) or “Babosa” (Head of the family of Rajasthan), Bhairon Singh Shekhawat entered politics in 1952. In 1952 he was MLA from Ramgarh, in 1957 from Sri Madhopur, 1962 and 1967 he was MLA from Kisan Pol. In 1972 elections he lost but in 1973 he was elected to Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh. In 1975 during emergency he was arrested and sent to Rohtak jail.

After emergency in 1977 he became MLA from Chhabra as Janata Party candidate. In that year the Janata Party won 151 of the 200 seats in the state assembly elections of Rajasthan and Shekhawat took over as the first non Congress Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 1977. His government was dismissed by Indira Gandhi in 1980.

In 1980, Shekhawat joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and became MLA again from Chabda and was leader of opposition. In 1985, he was MLA from Nimbahera. However, in 1989 an alliance between the BJP and the Janata Dal won all 25 of the Rajasthan seats in the Lok Sabha and also 138 seats (BJP:84+Janata Dal:54) in the 1990 elections to the Ninth Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. Shekhawat once again became Chief Minister of Rajasthan and was MLA from Dholpur. His government was

dismissed in 1992 and President's rule imposed.

In the next elections, in 1993, Shekhawat led the BJP to be the single largest party, winning 96 seats, himself becoming MLA from Bali but lost from Ganganagar seat. Three BJP-supported independents also won seats and other independents who supported the BJP took its total to 116 and he became Chief Minister of Rajasthan for third time.

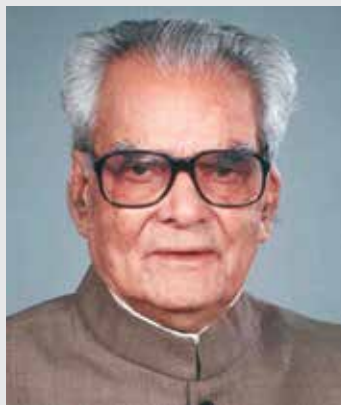
In 1998, Shekhawat was elected from Bali again but the BJP lost power and Shekhawat became Leader of Opposition in the legislative assembly. Shekhawat won every election to the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, except in 1972 when he lost from Gandhi Nagar in Jaipur and in Ganganagar.

Shekhawat was elected as the Vice-President of India in 2002, when he defeated the opposition candidate, Sushil Kumar Shinde by a margin of 149 votes out of the 750 votes polled.

In July 2007, Shekhawat fought the Presidential election as an independent candidate backed by National Democratic Alliance but lost to the United Progressive Alliance-Left backed candidate Pratibha Patil. He became the first vice-president to lose presidential election. Following this

defeat, Shekhawat resigned from the post of Vice-President on 21 July 2007.

Shekhawat started the “Antyodaya Yojna” scheme, which was intended to uplift the poorest of the poor. The chairman of the World Bank, Robert McNamara, referred to him as the Rockefeller of India. Shekhawat was also known for his control over bureaucracy and the police. He had involvement in policies designed to improve literacy and industrialisation in Rajasthan, as well as tourism centred on the themes of heritage, wildlife and villages. He was also lauded by both, national and international leaders for his historic conduct of the Rajya Sabha. ■



RUSSIA HONOURS PM MODI WITH ITS HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was conferred with the order of St Andrew the Apostle - the highest state decoration of Russia - for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples on April 12, 2019.

The Russian Embassy has said in a statement: "Narendra Modi has been declared the order of St. Andrew, Russia." This honor will be given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strengthen the relationship between India and Russia.

Prime Minister Shri Modi also thanked Russia for giving the highest civilian honor. He said thank you to the people of Russia and President Putin.

Prime Minister Shri Modi said, "Thank you for this dignified award. I express gratitude to President Putin of Russia and the people of Russia. The foundation of Russia and India's friendship is very deep. The future of our partnership is very bright. Cooperation between the two nations will bring extraordinary outcomes for



our citizens."

Recently, the United Arab Emirates had also announced to give a medal to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

In the past five years, PM Shri Modi has had six global awards conferred upon him by the United Nations and countries such as South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). ■

India suspends cross border trade in Pak controlled Kashmir in new crackdown

I ndia suspended cross-border trade with Pakistan-controlled Kashmir because it was being used to funnel weapons and drugs, the government said on 18 April, 2019 in a further crackdown in the volatile territory. The Indian home ministry said it had been receiving information that militant groups were using the cross border route to send arms, drugs and fake Indian currency.

"Unscrupulous and anti-national elements are using the route as a conduit for money, drugs and weapons, under the garb of this trade," the ministry said.

It said that inquiries by the National Investigation Agency had shown a significant number of firms engaged in the cross border trade were being operated by people with links to militant groups.

Soon after the attack on the

Indian security convoy, India withdrew Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan, accusing the neighbor of not doing enough to rein in militant groups operating from its soil. The Indian government said it believed that following the withdrawal of favoured status, more goods from Pakistan could be routed through the cross-border channels in Kashmir to avoid the higher duties. ■

“My aim is to reach the 50th position in ease-of-doing-business in next five years”



Addressing a huge 'Traders Sammelan' at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on 19 April, 2019 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said BJP government aims to raise India's ranking in ease-of-doing-business to top the 50 in the next five years from the current ranking of 77.

Speaking to the traders, PM Shri Modi said, "India has jumped to the 75th rank globally in terms of ease-of-doing-business in the last five years. My aim is to reach the 50th position in the next five years."

Emphasising that the traders have always "thought about the country" and attached themselves to the "needs of the nation", the PM said, "I am very much impressed with one thing from you – your hard work."

Calling traders the backbone of the Indian economy, the PM said, "You do not just run business. In fact, you serve the people by working for long hours every day".

The prime minister said he always believed that traders are also meteorologists. "Because they plan everything in advance and estimate beforehand," he said.

Making a strong re-election pitch, Shri Modi promised traders a Rs 50-lakh loan without any collateral, credit card facility and a pension scheme for small shopkeepers.

Lashing out at the Congress, he said earlier the Congress-led governments used to insult traders. "They called all businessmen chor (thieves) without realising the contribution of the business community to the Indian economy," he said.

PM Shri Modi said his government has abolished as many as 1,500 archaic laws in the last five years. "In the run up to 2014 elections, I had promised that if voted to power, we will end one law every day. You will be happy to know 1,500 laws have been abolished in the last five years," he said.

"Our government has brought in Startup India Standup India initiative. We have promoted the digitisation of business. Now, youth are very much interested in starting their own business," PM said. "Now you can get a loan of up to Rs 1 crore in less than one hour," he said.

Stating that his government has implemented the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Shri Modi said, "The GST has brought in transparency in business which has in turn raised state revenues by one-and-a-half times."

Emphasising that his government has brought changes in income tax assessment, he said, "Now the whole system of income tax assessment is being done without any human interface." ■

WILL 2019 WITNESS THE DYNASTY AS A LIABILITY ON THE CONGRESS PARTY?



ARUN JAITLEY

The first two rounds of the voting for the 2019 General Elections are over. What are the early trends? What are the initial lessons?

A COMPARISON OF THREE CAMPAIGNS

The BJP/ NDA campaign is focussed. It sets the agenda. There is clarity about the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. There appears to be a strong groundswell in his favour. The campaign focusses on major achievements of the past five years, particularly relating to strengthening the poor and the middle-class, a clean Government and a special emphasis on national security. The alliance is coherent and the issues being projected are focussed.

Based on fake issues, the key thrust of what the Congress was building up in the last one year, has cracked up. They are now concentrating on a new scheme declared in their manifesto which is cutting no ice with people. The entire reliance on the members of the first family to deliver a sustainable campaign is proving

to be a non-starter. Wherever the contest is primarily between the BJP and the Congress, the BJP is comfortably placed.

The regional parties in West Bengal and Odisha may be in for a major surprise. The Left parties did badly in 2014. If at all, their parliamentary strength will weaken further. The regional parties will do well only in regions where the BJP still lacks major strength.

However, a major factor for a large part of the electorate, Prime Minister Modi appears to be the obvious choice. This is particularly true in the case of voters below 35 years of age. 'My vote is for Modi' is the general refrain from the ground.

The NDA is running a positive campaign. It looks at an India without poverty and which gives a much better quality of life to its

people. The Congress and the regional parties concentrate on only removing one man – Narendra Modi. Where the incumbent's acceptability is at 70%, they are whipping up a non-existent anti-incumbency.

THE STATE OF SOME CASTE BASED AND DYNASTIC PARTIES

The Congress is seeing some of its traditional bright faces deserting the party. Are these desertions only because of particular incident or do they reflect a larger disillusionment with the leadership? When mindsets are feudal, dynasties survive. Dynasties also survive when they are charismatic and have an ability to deliver. A lot of supporters accept subjugation because of the ability of the dynasty to put them in positions. What happens to dynasties when

BASED ON FAKE ISSUES, THE KEY THRUST OF WHAT THE CONGRESS WAS BUILDING UP IN THE LAST ONE YEAR, HAS CRACKED UP. THEY ARE NOW CONCENTRATING ON A NEW SCHEME DECLARED IN THEIR MANIFESTO WHICH IS CUTTING NO ICE WITH PEOPLE. THE ENTIRE RELIANCE ON THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST FAMILY TO DELIVER A SUSTAINABLE CAMPAIGN IS PROVING TO BE A NON-STARTER.

the feudal mindsets change and nations become more aspirational? The socio-economic profile of India is moving up the growth ladder. It may be difficult for a country with this socio-economic profile to accept dynasties. If the Congress's dynast has only an ability to deliver 44 seats or 60 seats in Parliament, what then is the incentive for conventional Congressmen to bear humiliation of subjecting themselves to a dynast? Ultimately, in dynastic parties one has to accept political slavery. These Congressmen today look at a party like the BJP where men and women of talent have a huge opportunity to move up, both in Party, legislatures and Governments. The two Prime Ministers which BJP gave to India, namely, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Narendra Modi, were by a mile the tallest politicians of their generation. Today, this can happen in merit based parties, not in dynastic parties. A relevant question with this changing socio-economic profile of India is – "Are dynasties an asset for a party or are they a liability?" Unquestionably, the present generation of dynast has become a liability rather than an asset for the Congress Party.

A similar situation arises with regard to the caste based parties. This INLD has cracked up. BSP got zero in the Lok Sabha Elections in 2014 and 19 seats in the Assembly Elections. The SP could only retain seats for its family members in the 2014 elections. The RJD was down to two seats. Thus, the changing socio-economic profile of India is no longer conducive to caste based parties perpetuating

THE MOMENTUM IS CLEARLY WITH THE BJP AND THE PRIME MINISTER MODI. IN TERMS OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONTEST FOR A PRIME MINISTERIAL ELECTION, IT IS ALMOST BECOMING A ONE HORSE RACE. THERE IS NOBODY ELSE MEASURING UP TO PRIME MINISTER MODI'S LEVEL OF CAPACITY AND ACCEPTABILITY.

indefinitely. The sun will slowly but surely come down on that era. Another important trend which is visible is that wherever national parties lack strength, the vacuum was filled up by strong regional parties. The BJP, which was a Party of the North, expanded to Central and Western India, and has now captured a large part of the political space in the East. To that extent, it has already consumed some of the space which was occupied by the regional parties of Bengal, Odisha, Assam and North-East. It is already lead player in the South in Karnataka. This election will witness BJP as a co-equal in Kerala. The unprecedented turnout at the Prime Minister's Thiruvananthapuram rally on the 18th of April, would leave many scratching their heads for a reanalysis. The BJP has the ability to fight and occupy more political space from the regional parties is already visible. The Congress inherently lacks that instinct.

THE DIRECTION OF 2019

The direction of 2019 General Election is clear. The centre-stage is occupied by the BJP. Both in terms of agenda setting and

leadership, the Congress is failing to make any impact. Regional parties are putting up a fight. Their agenda is mostly State based. The national vision in their leaders is lacking. The country doesn't trust them to form a coherent, stable and long-lasting coalition. Can a federal front be trusted with an effective management of national security?

HOW DOES THIS ELECTION CONVERT IT INTO PARLIAMENTARY SEATS?

The momentum is clearly with the BJP and the Prime Minister Modi. In terms of national leadership contest for a Prime Ministerial election, it is almost becoming a one horse race. There is nobody else measuring up to Prime Minister Modi's level of capacity and acceptability.

Is history going to witness something wholly unprecedented? Are we going to witness the rejection of caste based and dynastic parties? And will aspirational India make a harsh judgement on electing a merit based leadership? This may well be the case. ■

(The writer is Union Finance Minister, GoI)

HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL

'Since the days of Nehru, Congress has been promising eradication of poverty: Rajnath Singh

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on 18 April, 2019 mocked Congress's promises to eradicate poverty, and said India will actually be freed of poverty the day it gets rid of the Congress.

Addressing an election rally Howrah, West Bengal Shri Singh said since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress has been promising eradication of poverty. "Now, Rahul Gandhi is also assuring that. The fact is the day the country becomes free of the Congress, it will also get freedom from poverty," he said.

Lashing out at the TMC in Bengal, he alleged that democracy has ceased to exist under its rule in the state. "Democracy ceased to exist in Bengal. The way violence has been unleashed on opposition parties, is it a sign of democracy? In Bengal, we would fight till we restore democracy," he asserted.

Under the TMC rule, "all the three -- the mother, the motherland and the people are suffering," he said, referring to the TMC slogan of 'Ma, Maati and Manush'.

SHAHJAHANPUR, UP

'INDIA EARNED RESPECT AT GLOBAL LEVEL DURING BJP GOVT.'

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on 18 April, 2019 said the country has earned respect across

the world during the last five years of the Modi government.

Speaking at an election rally in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh Shri Singh said the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the BahujanSamaj Party (BSP), saying BJP cannot get success on the basis of national security. "The country has earned respect at the global level during the BJP government. We made an anti-satellite missile which only Russia, China and the US had," Shri Singh said.

India is on the sixth spot "as far as economy is concerned whereas in 2014 it was ninth. We want the country to become a superpower and 'vishwa guru,'" he said.

The home minister said after the Mumbai attack in 2008, "The then Congress government did nothing, but after the Pulwama attack, Indian forces went inside Pakistan and carried out its operation." ■



PM MODI CONDEMNS THE TERROR ATTACKS IN SRILANKA

Nearly 300 people were killed and more than 500 other injured after six blasts in three Sri Lankan churches and three five-star hotels on Easter on April 21. In the blast till now five Indians were also killed. There is possibility of the death of few more Indians.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, strongly condemned the horrific blasts in Sri Lanka.

"Strongly condemn the horrific blasts in Sri Lanka. There is no place for such barbarism in our region. India stands in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka. My thoughts are with the bereaved families and prayers with the injured", the Prime Minister said.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had telephonic conversations with the President and Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and conveyed heartfelt condolences on his own behalf and on behalf of all Indians at the loss of over one hundred and fifty innocent lives in today's terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister renewed the offer of all possible help and assistance to Sri Lanka for ensuring its security against the challenges such as those posed by terrorism. He also wished the injured speedy recovery and offered all required assistance for their treatment. ■

PATHALGAON, CHHATTISGARH

Congress misleading people with false promises : Gadkari



Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 19, 2019 accused Congress President Rahul Gandhi of misleading people with a false promise of providing a minimum income of Rs 72,000 per year.

Addressing a campaign rally at Pathalgaon in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh, he also said the credit for transforming the country's image in the last five years not only go to the BJP government, but also to the people who gave majority to the BJP.

"Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, all gave the slogan 'garibi hatao' and people voted for them, but they did nothing.

"Similarly, Rahul Gandhi has started misleading the country by lying to people. He is making a false promise of giving Rs 72,000 per year to the poor," Shri Gadkari said. "It is wrong, because they cannot give it. From where they will get the money? To mislead people has been the Congress' policy," he said.

"During its 50-year-rule, the Congress spread the poison of casteism and communalism. They misled people by telling them that the BJP government is anti-Dalit and it will change the Constitution. They

tell Muslims that this government will chop them off ('katwa denge') and send them to Pakistan," he said.

"The Congress is spreading lies because it cannot seek votes on the basis of its work," he said.

"We are working to fulfill the dream of making India a super-economic power," he added. He sought votes so that the BJP could continue the process of development and crack down on corruption.

He also referred to the Modi government's initiative to clean up the Ganga, saying now its water was so clean that Congress general secretary Smt. Priyanka Gandhi could drink it (when she visited Varanasi). Smt. Priyanka Gandhi could also travel from Varanasi to Prayagraj by a boat because of the Modi government's internal waterway development program, he added.

Key irrigation projects remained incomplete for want of funds earlier, but the Modi government helped states to complete such projects and take water to the fields, Shri Gadkari said.

Shri Gadkari, also said that 450 buses are being run in Nagpur on bio-CNG, saving on diesel consumption, and the experiment will be extended to many other cities. ■

HONOURS BESTOWED UPON MODI BY COUNTRIES SIGNAL SUCCESS OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES



VIJAY
CHAUTHAIWALE

There are several “firsts” in the foreign policy initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It began with an invitation to all SAARC country leaders for the NDA government’s swearing-in ceremony. There are at least seven countries which no Indian head of government or state ever visited before 2014.

Advertising Modi also addressed the British Parliament and World Economic Forum. His multilateral initiatives like the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit in Jaipur, India-Africa Forum Summit-III (IAFS-III, where participation by African countries was increased from 17 to 54), participation of all the 10 ASEAN countries in India’s Republic Day celebrations, the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm deserve special mention. There were more than 20 countries where no high-level visit from India had taken place for more than a decade; the gap was bridged by the Modi government.

Another significant aspect of this story is the number of

prestigious awards conferred on PM Modi by various countries and UN bodies. He has received the King Abdullaziz Sash Award of Saudi Arabia, Amir Abdulla Khan Award of Afghanistan, Grand Collar of the State of Palestine, the UN Champions of the Earth award, Seoul Peace Prize 2018 and the Zayed Medal of UAE. The latest is the highest order of the Russian Federation, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle.

Four of these awards are the highest civilian awards of the respective countries, while the UN award is for PM Modi’s contribution to addressing climate change and the Korean award recognises his contribution to global peace. It

everyone expected that he would strengthen relations with Israel but no one thought that he will take relations with Islamic countries to new heights. Modi became the first Indian PM to visit Israel. However, it’s important to note that before visiting Israel, he visited all major oil-producing countries in the Middle East and strengthened our traditional relations with them. He didn’t visit the West Bank during his Israel visit but went there separately, giving a clear signal that India will deal with Israel and Palestine independently.

Energy security is amongst the main agenda of Modi’s foreign policy. India. In 2015, he negotiated the waiving off the penalty of one

ENERGY SECURITY IS AMONGST THE MAIN AGENDA OF MODI’S FOREIGN POLICY. INDIA. IN 2015, HE NEGOTIATED THE WAIVING OFF THE PENALTY OF ONE BILLION DOLLAR BY QATAR FOR LOWER INTAKE OF NATURAL GAS. IN 2018, US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP WITHDREW FROM THE NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN AND IMPOSED SANCTIONS ON THE COUNTRY.

is noteworthy that all four state awards are from Islamic countries.

When Modi took over as PM,

billion dollar by Qatar for lower intake of natural gas. In 2018, US President Donald Trump withdrew

from the nuclear deal with Iran and imposed sanctions on the country.

Moreover, the OPEC countries were determined to cut production of crude oil so as to “stabilise” oil prices. This resulted in significant rise of petrol/diesel prices in India. India convinced the US to exclude it from the ambit of sanctions against Iran. Also thanks to the excellent relations with Saudi Arabia, New Delhi could convince Riyadh to take into consideration consumer interests in India. In a widely circulated interview, the Saudi energy minister admitted how PM Modi was forcefully arguing India’s case and how they needed to listen to major consumer country like India. These negotiations prevented energy prices in India from skyrocketing.

These are short-term measures. India is also working on long-term energy security. Due to the excellent personal rapport between UAE’s crown prince and PM Modi, a consortium of Indian companies have bought a 10 per cent stake in Lower Zakum offshore oil field of Abu Dhabi. It is India’s first investment in a UAE oil field. In a mega investment of 44 billion dollars, the Saudi oil company Aramco will set up a refinery in the west coast of Maharashtra.

India-UAE cooperation is not confined to energy security and trade. Recent deportation of offenders from UAE to India, the UAE giving permission and extending all cooperation for building a grand Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, presence of the UAE’s Crown Prince chief guest at India’s Republic Day parade show

the depth of relations between the two countries. In spite of a threat of boycott from Pakistan, the UAE invited India as a guest of honour to the foreign minister’s conclave of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

India-Saudi Arabia relations are also not confined to the

Pakistan.

In 2016, PM Modi and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani inaugurated the Afghan-India friendship dam. India has also built the parliament building in Kabul and is committed to undertake more than 100 community development projects

INDIA IS BUILDING THE CHABAHAR PORT IN IRAN. IT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE TRANSPORTATION COST OF CRUDE OIL FROM IRAN AND ENABLE BETTER CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN INDIA, AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN — EVENTUALLY WITH CENTRAL ASIA AND RUSSIA, BYPASSING PAKISTAN. INDIA AND IRAN ALSO HAVE COMMON INTERESTS IN COMBATING TERRORIST GROUPS IN PAKISTAN.

energy sector. In February 2018, for the first time, Saudi Arabia invited India as a guest of honour to its prestigious annual “National Heritage and Cultural Festival”, Janadriyah festival. Yoga has been recognised as a “sport” in Saudi Arabia, paving the way for coaching centres in that country. During his recent visit to India, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman announced investments of \$100 billion.

India is building the Chabahar port in Iran. It will significantly reduce the transportation cost of crude oil from Iran and enable better connectivity between India, Afghanistan and Iran — eventually with Central Asia and Russia, bypassing Pakistan. India and Iran also have common interests in combating terrorist groups in

in Afghanistan, enabling the war-torn country to build democratic and civil institutions.

The prestigious awards conferred upon PM Modi by these countries need to be understood in these contexts. The fact that other recipients of most of these awards are mostly are leaders from developed countries — such as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, Former US President Barack Obama and President Xi Jinping of China — show India’s rising stature in global affairs under Modi’s leadership. These show a strengthening of bilateral ties with these countries. In the process, India has secured its strategic interests and strengthened its role as a global responsible power. ■

(The writer is Convener of BJP Foreign Affairs Department)

RAHUL GANDHI'S MAHAGATHBANDHAN FALLS FLAT, MODI STANDS TALL



DR. R.
BALASHANKAR

The Lok Sabha election 2019, has become presidential, with the entire campaign theme of the NDA and the opposition becoming Modi-Centric. The BJP election slogan is "Fir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar". The opposition has reinforced this thrust by running a unifocal attack on the Prime Minister's Persona, and by trying to set the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) as an anti-Modi front. The Mahagathbandhan so far has been a cropper, but it has damaged the opposition plank and derail its credibility. The election has been turned into a referendum on Modi: The absence of any towering pan-Indian personality on the opposition ranks has added the sheen and glamour of the Teflon Modi imagery.

The NDA has come up as a cohesive election machinery. The opposition, conversely, is at each other's throat in most states. Their antipathy for Modi has not helped them sink their differences or consummate grand standing.

It is thus the much-touted idea of Mahagathbandhan has fallen flat and Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands taller on invincible as the Lok Sabha Poll 2019, has reached the

second phase.

Some disgruntled leaders like Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie, who have been strategizing with the Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, wanted one opposition candidate against the NDA in all the 543 constituencies. Mahagathbandhan proposal was mooted to achieve this end. The so-called grand alliance in a sense was solely on anti- Narendra Modi formation to stop Modi at any cost. This was templated as almost like the 1971 Grand Alliance, which was against Indira Gandhi. Then Indira Gandhi had famously campaigned saying "I want to remove poverty; they want to remove me".

A similar situation has emerged in the run up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election, with the only difference being the protagonist of the new

off mainly because of the decline of the Congress as a central force and the reluctance of other parties in the opposition to accept Rahul Gandhi as their leader. In the past one year, Rahul had approached almost all regional leaders mooted this idea. After the big show of opposition unity, in Bengaluru in June 2018, when the Congress conceded chief ministership to Kumaraswamy of the JD(s), who had only one third of the Congress strength in the assembly, the impression had gained ground that the Congress was stooping to conquer. But the euphoria was shortlived. The ego clashes among the opposition ranks came to the surface, in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra and the three Congress ruled north Indian States.

For the Mahagathbandhan,

For the Mahagathbandhan, each state presented a conflicting picture. Each party wanted to maximize their gain. To expand at the cost of the Congress party. Senior opposition leaders like N. Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra, Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav in UP were unwilling to play second fiddle to Rahul Gandhi.

Grand Alliance, now is Indira Gandhi's grandson. The grand alliance of 2019 has failed to take

each state presented a conflicting picture. Each party wanted to maximize their gain. To expand

at the cost of the Congress party. Senior opposition leaders like N. Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra, Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal, Mayawati and Akhilesh Yadav in UP were unwilling to play second fiddle to Rahul Gandhi. In Andhra the attempt failed also because of the humiliating defeat of the Congress-TDP alliance in Telangana in December last. Leaders like chief minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao in Telangana, Naveen Patnaik in Orissa and Jagmohan Reddy of YSR Congress in Andhra, were more keen on the federal front idea, which is yet to take shape. These leaders were disinclined to align with the Congress and were often seen as more keyed up towards the NDA.

In Uttar Pradesh, which sends the largest contingent of MPs to Lok Sabha, Mayawati and Akhilesh formed a tie-up without even leaving any scope for the Congress to get accommodated.

This irritated the Congress to no end, and the party decided to offer a counter offensive by projecting Priyanka Vadra on the scene and launching a desperate campaign in at least two dozen constituencies putting up formidable candidates.

The Congress was able to work out a respectable, partnership only in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar. In Tamil Nadu and Bihar, it is playing the junior partner, and in Maharashtra, it is at the mercy of Sharad Pawar's NCP, which on many occasions in the past has been hobnobbing with the BJP. The Congress and the CPM tried a tie-up in West Bengal but failed. The same seems to be the case in Haryana, Punjab and Delhi, where

its talks with the AAP is still hazy. Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest also from Wayanad in Kerala, a minority dominated, most backward constituency in Kerala has further spoiled his chemistry with the

action plan or governance agenda, it looked power hungry and blindly running a hate-Modi campaign. This has generated a revenge response from the electorate, investing Modi with the "underdog image". The

Rahul's strategy has been one of hit and run. He never tried to offer convincing, coherent, facts, for the baseless allegations he has been revelling against Modi. Rahul had got personal in his accusations against the prime minister which unwittingly damaged the Congress image.

left. The Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has accused him of fighting the left, "After trying to stop Modi all these years". The BSP supremo, Mayawati is piqued with Rahul Gandhi, as he had failed to accommodate BSP in MP and Chhattisgarh in the December 2018 assembly poll. The break down of negotiations with BSP on seat sharing in these states sealed the scope for any adjustment in UP in the Lok Sabha poll. In the end there are at least a dozen candidates against Narendra Modi's candidates in almost all the 543 Lok Sabha constituencies. The talk about post poll adjustment have not convinced everyone. Who is alternative for Modi is question voters are asking the opposition?

The Congress strategy from the beginning was flawed. It only helped to project a larger than life image for the prime minister. Everytime the opposition spoke of stopping Modi, without offering any convincing

voters naturally sympathized with Modi.

In this national security and the Balakot Air Strikes proved the defining moments. Modi stood for taking India forward. Protecting it from Pak-Sponsored terror, and the hydra-headed monster of divisive politics. Against this the Congress manifesto which promised a free run to the "Break India brigade" offering repeal of AFSPA, repeal of sedition law, pro-separatist stand on J & K etc, convinced the voter, that Modi, stood for strong and united India.

Rahul's strategy has been one of hit and run. He never tried to offer convincing, coherent, facts, for the baseless allegations he has been revelling against Modi. Rahul had got personal in his accusations against the prime minister which unwittingly damaged the Congress image. ■

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



CONNECTED NORTHEAST FOR A CONNECTED INDIA

The Modi Government's 'Act East' policy comprises of a big push towards the road, railway, air connectivity, and related infrastructure initiatives to boost the Northeast's holistic development. The government's initiatives significantly contribute to bringing the region to the mainstream of India's development and ensure inclusive growth.

The major milestones in paving the path of all-round development of Northeast region are as follows;

1. The completion of India's longest railroad bridge- Bogibeel Bridge built over Brahmaputra and India's longest bridge Dhola Sadiya connecting Assam to Arunachal reducing travel time while also affirming security and strategic objectives.
2. The Agartala-Akhaura rail project connects India to Bangladesh improving trade & business. It also brings Kolkata closer to Tripura by many hours, reducing the distance.
3. There has been great emphasis on air connectivity in the region. Under the UDAN scheme, Northeast is a priority region. 92 new routes will be opened under UDAN making the dreams of more air travel in the Northeast a reality.
4. Many airports are being developed or upgraded.
5. The aviation projects in the Northeast include newly operational airports in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, besides other works at Silchar, Lilabari, Rupsi, Agartala, Dimapur, Shillong and Tura.
6. Recently, the airport at Pakyong, in Sikkim, was operationalized.
7. The state of Arunachal Pradesh is about to have its first greenfield airport operationalized which will deepen its connectivity with the rest of the country, especially the metro cities.
8. As recently as May 2018, the state witnessed its first commercial flight landing at Pasighat airport.
9. The government has ensured allocation of Rs 3,400 crore for the upgradation of airports in the Northeast region.

9. Projects worth Rs. 934 crore have already been completed while the rest are in the various stages of implementation.
10. The aviation projects in the Northeast include newly operational airports in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, besides other works at Silchar, Lilabari, Rupsi, Agartala, Dimapur, Shillong and Tura.
11. 19 new waterways have been declared as National Waterways. For the first time, Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram entered the rail map of India, 70 years after independence!
12. Across the Northeast, the government has converted more than 900 km of tracks to broad gauge. It has also launched a Rajdhani Express and the Tripura Sundari Express between Agartala and Delhi.
13. The Dhansiri-Kohima railway track, connecting Kohima to the national railway network is progressing swiftly. The Agartala-Akhaura railway line will transform the trade ecosystem of the region. With access to ports through Bangladesh, a new wave of economic growth will be unleashed.
14. The National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL) was set up in July 2014. It maintains and upgrades NH and strategic roads in parts of the country which share international boundaries.
15. NHIDCL is working on more than 100 road connectivity projects, costing more than Rs.



- 80,000
- crore. The North-East Road Sector Development Scheme was launched in 2015 for rehabilitation and upgradation of important but neglected inter-state roads.
16. Around 4,000 kms of National Highways had been sanctioned in the Northeast with an investment of Rs. 32,600 crore. In just the first 3 years of the Modi government, 1,266 kms of National Highways were constructed.
 17. Investment of more than Rs 30,000 crore is set aside for development of National Highways under Bharatmala in the Northeast.
 18. Recently, PM Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation a 271-km two-lane national highway connecting Tura in western Meghalaya to the state capital Shillong.
 19. In a one-of-its-kind initiative, 100% financial support is being provided for Central government projects implemented in the Northeast instead of the previous practice of sharing 90% of the cost.

20. The government has also ensured the fast-paced implementation of the 1,360-km long India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway. This will enhance regional trade and tourism, and significantly contribute to establishing the Northeast as a launchpad for India's Act East policy.

All these projects that have been completed in the last five years are testimony to the neglect north east faced since independence. It is the reason for its alienation from the national mainstream which is no more a case as seen from a number of connectivity projects being planned, initiated and finished in record time. ■



Modi Government's Decisive, Multi-pronged Action Against Corruption

One of the biggest evils plaguing our nation was the curse of corruption. Winning on the plank of eradicating corruption from the very roots, Modi government has provided an incorruptible administration at the helm. It has taken stringent steps to arrest generation of black money as well ensure that economic offenders are brought to book. Following are some of the other major steps to eradicate corruption from the country.

1. As its first cabinet decision, it set up a court monitored SIT which made several recommendations through its interim reports to check generation of black money, many of which were accepted by the government. The SIT had detected black money of more than Rs. 70,000 crores, including Rs. 16,000 thousand crores in offshore accounts.
2. In order to provide legal teeth to the fight against corruption, the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 was enacted by Modi government. The Act allows a penalty up to 90% of the value of an undisclosed asset in addition to tax at 30%, as well as rigorous imprisonment in certain cases. These stringent penalties and imprisonment, act as an effective deterrence against entities involved in stashing Black money.
3. Modi government has strengthened the Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with various countries, such as Mauritius, Singapore, Cyprus, etc. The government renegotiated tax treaties to curb treaty abuse, tax evasion and round-tripping of funds—the practice of money stashed overseas by Indians returning home through tax haven countries. These amended tax treaties are considered as a big victory in India's fight against black money.
4. Under the leadership of PM Modi, the government has taken various proactive measures against black money stashed abroad which have led to positive results. There has been significant decrease in the loans and deposits in the Swiss banks as well as in Swiss non-bank loans and deposits.
5. The steps taken by Modi government to check the flight of black money in off-shore accounts include, India and Switzerland signing a Joint Declaration on the introduction of the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) on tax matters. This will ensure that India will receive information on accounts held by Indian residents in Switzerland from September 2019 for 2018 and subsequent years on an automatic basis.
6. The Modi government successfully enacted the long pending Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016 to enable confiscation of Benami property and prosecution of Benamidar and the beneficial owner, which may result in rigorous imprisonment up to seven years and fine up to 2 percent of the fair market value of the property.
7. The 24 dedicated Benami Prohibition Units (BPUs) have been set up all over India to ensure swift action in respect of Benami properties. This resulted in around 1,600 transactions being a part of provisional attachment while the value of properties under attachment is worth Rs. 6,900 crores.
8. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, a brainchild of Modi government, equip the



investigative agencies going after absconding economic offenders. It allows the law enforcement agencies to confiscate assets of those who cheat the nation and flee the jurisdiction of Indian courts. This will force the accused to return to India and face trial for his offenses and in turn, help the banks and financial institutions to achieve higher recovery from financial defaults committed by fugitive economic offenders.

9. Additionally, Fugitive Economic Offenders (Procedure for Conducting Search and Seizure), Rules, 2018 ensures faster attachment and confiscation of assets.
10. The spirited fight against black money is ensuring that the decades of corruption is put to a halt and justice is served. It is for the time that the government has been proactive in curbing generation of black money.
11. The anti-black money measures taken during the tenure of Modi government have brought undisclosed income of about Rs. 1,30,000 crore to tax.

12. Enforcing corporate accountability and accountability towards loans taken from public money is also an important way to clean the economy.
13. The UPA dispensation had left behind banks in a woeful state. From independence till 2008, that is, in 60 years banks gave loans of Rs. 18 lakh crore. However, from 2008 to 2014, in just 6 years, the Congress government took this figure to Rs. 52 lakh crore! These created massive NPAs which too were hidden by the UPA government.
14. The Modi government not only unearthed these NPAs but also set about resolving them by passing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. So far, the government has helped banks and creditors recover more than Rs. 3 lakh crore.
15. Be it in clean governance or going after black money, be it launching a multi-pronged war against corruption or resolving NPAs, the Modi government has made every effort to usher in a clean economy for New India. ■

Modi Govt. allowed Muslim women for Haj without any male companion

MUSLIM WOMEN OF KERALA SEEMS TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS DECISION

Last year, Modi government at the centre changed rules to allow Muslim women above 45 years of age to travel in groups of four for Haj without being accompanied by a male companion, and Muslim women from Kerala seem to have taken advantage of this.

Freshly released government data shows that 86% of Muslim women who will travel from India to Saudi Arabia this year for the Haj pilgrimage without a male companion (mehram) are from Kerala. Of 2,340 Muslim women going to Saudi, 2,011 are from the southern state. More women than men have applied for Haj from Kerala this year. In all, there are more than 11,000

pilgrims from the state —6,959 women (with or without mehram) and 4,513 men.

Last year saw a similar trend, when 1,124 out of 1,340 women who undertook the pilgrimage without a male companion came from Kerala.



The number of women from Kerala is 2,011, while much larger states like Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have very few women travelling without a man — 99 and 39, respectively. There are 37 applicants from Tamil Nadu, 31 from Maharashtra, 27 from Madhya Pradesh, 26 from Rajasthan and 23 from Karnataka. Delhi has 12 applicants, while Bihar has nine, Assam eight, Jharkhand five and Chhattisgarh four. ■



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

BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi flanked by UP CM Yogi Adityanath and others waving at the massive gathering in Etah, Uttar Pradesh




The wind of change blowing in West Bengal this time. This glimpse of PM Shri Narendra Modi's huge rally in Buniadpur tells the truth



PM Shri Narendra Modi at a massive election rally in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

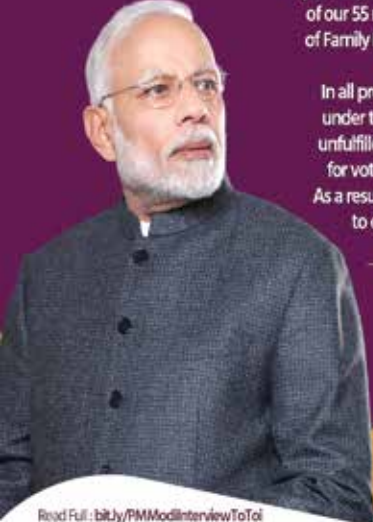


PM Shri Narendra Modi pays tributes to the architect of our Constitution Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on his Birth Anniversary



This election is about hopes, expectations and aspirations

If someone is at the centre of these elections, it is 130 crore people of India. This election is not about one individual, but about hopes, expectations and aspirations of 130 crore individuals. People of India have seen obstacles of past 55 years and they have seen optimism of our 55 months. They have seen 55 years of Family First and 55 months of India First.




In all previous elections, governments under the burden of their failures and unfulfilled promises, were afraid to ask for votes in the name of their leader. As a result, they would change the track to divert elections with some other issues.

PM Modi's interview with The Times Of India

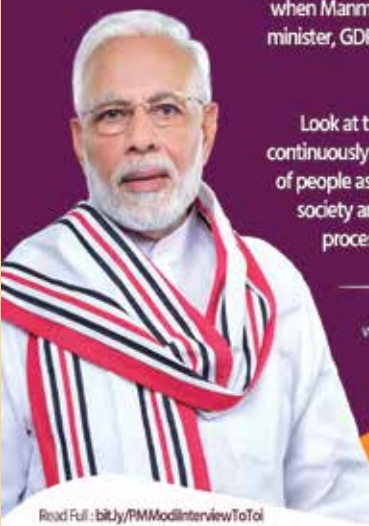
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Demonetisation and GST are big structural resets in the economy

Demonetisation and GST were big structural resets in the economy. When changes of this magnitude occur, a temporary blip in growth is natural. Do you know that after the 1991 reforms, when Manmohan Singh was the finance minister, GDP growth rate came down to around 2%?




Look at the evolution of GST. We continuously took into account the views of people as well as various sections of society and strove to improve the processes as well as the tax structure.

PM Modi's interview with The Times Of India

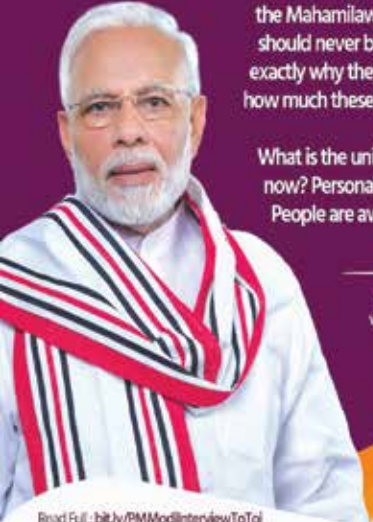
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What is the unifying factor for the Mahamilawat now?

The analysis of Mahamilawat must take into account the intelligence of the people. People's ability to understand the arithmetic and the logic behind the coming together of the Mahamilawat (great contamination) parties should never be underestimated. People know exactly why they are coming together, no matter how much these parties themselves try to mislead.




What is the unifying factor for the Mahamilawat now? Personal survival and personal interest. People are aware of this and will reject such opportunism.

PM Modi's interview with The Times Of India

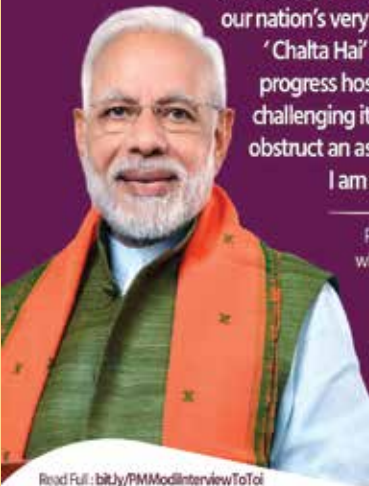
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I am a challenger, fighting forces that harm India

I am a challenger who is fighting against those things that harm India. Corruption weakens our country from within, I am challenging it. Dynasty politics weakens our democracy, I am challenging it. Terror threatens our nation's very existence, I am challenging it. 'Chalta Hai' attitude held our nation's progress hostage for a long time, I am challenging it. Forces of negativity try to obstruct an aspirational India from rising, I am challenging them.



PM Modi's interview with The Times Of India

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