



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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**Annual Rs. 100/-
For 3 years Rs. 250/-**

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Publisher and Printer : Printed by
Dr. Nandkishore Garg for Dr. Mookerjee
Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36, F.F.
Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and
Published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas,
PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New
Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

CONTENTS

Organisational Activities

President's Puducherry Pravas.....	10
BJP retains Bengaluru Civic corporation.....	11

Government's Achievements

Amit Shah welcomes decision on One Rank One Pension...	12
Petroleum ministry launches SAHAJ online LPG connections	13
PM releases digital version of the Ramcharitmanas.....	13
Make in India initiative helps revive FDI inflow.....	14

Vaichariki

Concept of Indian Secularism and Its Relevance - H. M. Patel	15
--	----

Shradhanjali

Deendayal India's Gift to the Bewildered - D.B. Thengdi	18
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Article

THE LAND ORDINANCE – The obvious answers - By Arun Jaitley	24
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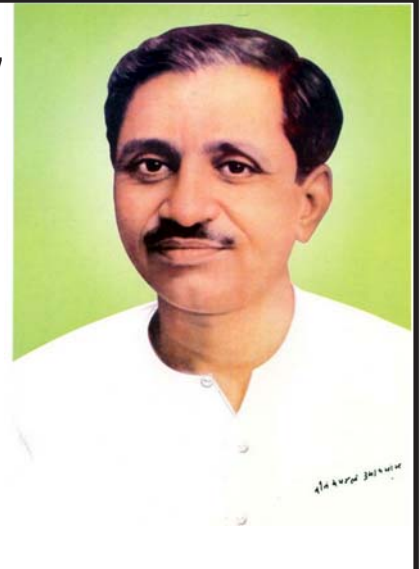
Others

PM inaugurates Badarpur-Faridabad Metro Line	7
Parivartan Rally Bhagalpur, Bihar.....	20
Mann Ki Baat.....	26

Shat-Shat Naman!

**Pt. Deendayal
Upadhyaya**

**Jayanti
25 September**





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You should perform your prescribed Vedic activities since actions are better than renouncing actions; by ceasing activity even your bodily maintenance will not possible.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 8)

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“Many people are trying to do politics. Those who didn't do anything for 40 years have no right to speak & speak on behalf of Jawans.”

-Narendra Modi

“The decision of #OROP will go long way in boosting morals of our soldiers & their families.”

-Amit Shah

Ganesh Chaturthi : September 17, 2015

Ganesha Chaturthi is a major Hindu festival celebrated on the birthday (rebirth) of Ganesha, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddesses Parvati. Ganesha is widely worshiped as the god of wisdom, prosperity and good fortune and traditionally invoked at the beginning of any new venture or at the start of travel.



The Ganesha Chaturthi festival also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi is observed in the Hindu calendar month of Bhaadra, starting on the shukla chaturthi (fourth day of the waxing moon period). The festival lasts for 10 days, ending on Anant Chaturdashi (fourteenth day of the waxing moon period). On Anant Chaturdashi, devotees immerse idol of Lord Ganesha in water body after a gala street procession.

Traditional Hindu Shastras tell that Lord Ganesha is son of Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva. Parvati created Ganesha out of sandalwood paste that she used for her bath and breathed life into the figure. She then set Ganesha to stand guard at her door while she bathed. Lord Shiva, who had gone out, returned and as Ganesha didn't know him, didn't allow him to enter. Lord Shiva became enraged by this and asked his follower Ganas to teach the child some manners. Ganesha who was very powerful, being born of Parvati, the embodiment of Shakti, defeated Shiva's followers and declared that nobody was allowed to enter while his mother was bathing. Angry Shiva severed the head of the child. Parvati seeing this became enraged. Seeing Parvati in anger Shiva promised that her son will be alive again. The Devas searched for the head of dead person facing North, but they found only the head of a dead elephant. They brought the head of the elephant and Shiva fixed it on the child's body and brought him back to life. Lord Shiva also declared that from this day the boy would be called Ganesha (Gana Isha: Lord of Ganas).

While celebrated all over India, it is most elaborate in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Outside India, it is celebrated widely in Nepal and by Hindus in the United States, Canada, Mauritius, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, and Guyana. ■



OROP – A promise fulfilled!

As the BJP led NDA government announced the decision to implement 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP), celebration started across the country. While people welcomed the decision with great enthusiasm, the announcement was seen as an expression of gratitude to the armed forces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised implementation of OROP before the Lok Sabha elections and as he fulfilled this promise it was cited as a huge achievement of his government. It reflected the sincerity with which the government is pursuing all its promises and setting a new trend in governance and development by making way through complicated and complex nature of different problems. It has sent a right message throughout the country and reassured the people that the government is committed to fulfill all its promises. While government was working out the details of OROP, the Prime Minister had reassured the people that his government was committed to OROP in principle and the nation will get good news soon. As stated by the Prime Minister the OROP was delivered to the optimum satisfaction of various stakeholders.

The demand for OROP was fulfilled after a long wait of over 40 years. The demand was made keeping in view the extraordinary circumstances and service rules under which armed force personnel serve the nation. It is in recognition of their service and the circumstances in which they are made to serve that the demand of OROP was raised by BJP and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Congress led UPA government which never paid heed to this demand tried to indulge in tokenism by announcing OROP with a mere 500 crore just before the elections. All through more than six decades of its rule Congress never bothered to address this question. While the BJP led NDA government was engaged in serious exercise of solving this complicated issue related to OROP, Congress tried to politicize it but they were beaten in their opportunistic game. Congress should learn a lesson from this, it just cannot revive its fortune by indulging in cheap gimmicks and mudslinging exercise. Its credibility is sliding with every passing day and if it fails to realize it will soon become a thing of past.

Entire country was eager to see that the OROP is announced at the earliest. The announcement in fact meant a salute to the dedication and commitment of our armed forces, their widows including war widows. But it was not an easy task to achieve given the complexity in addressing the interests of the various stakeholders. But it was sheer commitment and hard work of the government that it was made possible upto the maximum satisfaction of all the stakeholders. There is even room for further deliberations and improvement as One-Member Judicial Commission has also been instituted to look into other suggestions and grievances. The government rightly moved ahead to announce the decision as it could not be delayed endlessly by losing time in different layers of negotiations and consultations. The confusion which was sought to be spread in the name of VRS was clarified by the Prime Minister himself. It led to immediate response from all the stakeholders who wholeheartedly welcomed the decision and showed their willingness to further engage with the government in

implementation of the OROP.

The government should be congratulated for making possible what was thought to be a very tough task. OROP not only required resolution of various intricate issues but also finances. The Congress led UPA government which continuously rejected the demand allocated Rs. 500 crore just before the elections but could not gain the confidence of the veterans. It was in fact a mockery of the demand and no serious exercise was done to implement the OROP in reality. The BJP led NDA government not only engaged itself in serious exercise but it ended making available huge funds to the tune of 8,000 crore to 10,000 crore.

It was a long due right of our armed forces who spend best part of their life in securing our borders and unlike others retire early. They have earned this honour for themselves and the nation has recognized this under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

305 cities and towns identified for building houses for urban poor under Housing for All scheme

Within two months of the launch of the Housing for All (Urban) Mission, 15 States have signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation committing themselves to implement six mandatory reforms essential for making a success of the housing mission in urban areas.

305 cities and towns also have been identified in nine of these states for beginning construction of houses for the urban poor.

By signing the MoA, the States have taken up the responsibility of implementing the six reforms which include:

1. Doing away with the requirement of separate Non Agricultural Permission (NAP) in case land falls in the residential zone earmarked in the Master Plan of city or town;
2. Preparing or amending Master Plans earmarking land for Affordable Housing;
3. Putting in place a single-window-time bound clearance system for layout approvals and building permissions;
4. Doing away with approvals below certain built up area/ plot size in respect of Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups;
5. Legislating or amending existing rent laws on the lines of the Model Tenancy Act circulated by the Ministry of HUPA ; and
6. To provide additional Floor Area Ratio (FAR)/Floor Space Index/ Transferable Development Rights (TDR) and relax density norms , for slum redevelopment and low cost housing.

States that have agreed to implement the above reforms include : Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

305 cities and towns in nine of these states have been identified for building houses for urban poor. These include -Chattisgarh (36 cities/towns), Gujarat (30), Jammu & Kashmir (19), Jharkhand (15), Kerala (15), Madhya Pradesh (74), Odisha (42), Rajasthan (40) and Telangana (34). ■



The country grows from the policies of national interest, not from politics : PM

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated on September 6 the Badarpur-Faridabad Metro line and addressed Gati-Pragati Rally at Faridabad in Haryana.

On the occasion Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the country grows from the policies of national interest, not from politics; the country moves ahead with dialogues, not from disputes. He said that development is our only destination. He reiterated once again to offer house to every poor by 2022.

Speaking on 'One Rank, One Pension', Prime Minister said that the government has fulfilled its promise that we made.

Shri Modi slammed people trying to "mislead" over VRS. He said that those Jawans who left army due to major injuries at war front, will also get benefited, how can we left them behind? He said that the Prime Minister who loves the army, cannot do it and there is nothing big than the respect of soldiers.

He said that every military personnel, every pensioner, every army-men who completed the job and those who were forced to

leave the army under constrain, all will have the benefit of 'One Rank, One Pension'. He said, we can talk on some recommendation and a judicial committee is proposed to be set-up for this. Shri Modi said, "I tell our

development of the country.

Prime Minister said, "Previous Congress led government has made the budgetary allocation of Just Rs.500 crore for OROP. No one were listening the voice of army men. I delve into a



Jawans that this is your government and want to see your potent courage. The government will stand with our troops everywhere where they will need us in future." He said, 10% armed forces belongs to Haryana on an average, therefore, Haryana will get most of benefits. Shri Modi said, when ex-servicemen of Haryana will get crores of rupees then Haryana's economic growth will be even faster.

In an apparent attack on Congress, Prime Minister said that the Party has no rights to raise questions since it did nothing for our soldiers in 42 years. He said, those rejected by people, do not want the

lot and found that it cannot be done in Rs.500 crore, it will need 8-10 thousand crores while the previous governments were misleading the soldiers and the people of the country with just Rs.500 crores."

He said that it would be great if all the work get completed in last 60 years but I don't want to make just reasonable comments on their deficiencies. He said that we are making our efforts to lead the country on the roads of development by finding new ways of development and its quick implementation relentlessly.

Prime Minister said, the Urban Development Minister,

Shri Venkaiah Naidu has prepared a plan in which the people will not only get the house but also get the facilities

development.

He said that India remains firm despite the tremendous economic

just to stay at the same point.

Shri Narendra Modi said that the basic infrastructure is essential to move forward on the way of development and we are working in this direction on all means of transportation like railway, roads etc. He said, when we will celebrate 75 years of Independence, then my main objective will be that there would not be a single poor who does not own a home. He said that the work has increased but the hard work needs to be taken up too for development.



The Prime Minister travelled from central Delhi to Faridabad and back by metro. In the course of the journey he interacted with several people, especially youth, who were also travelling on board the metro train. ■

of electricity, water, schools etc. closer to their home. He said that Rural Development minister Chaudhary Birender Singh is preparing such schemes for rural areas.

Shri Modi said that Metro will open new doors of development in Haryana and we will be able not only to reach the destination quickly, but also it will speed up the development. He said, that's why this Rally is named as 'Gati-Pragati' Rally. He said, this work will not stop here, it will soon be completed by Ballabgarh.

On the success of 'Beti Bachao' campaign in Haryana, Prime Minister said, In Haryana Manohar Lal government's efforts are praise worthy. He said that the country will grow with the medicine of development and we are working on a single focus and our only mantra & objective is the

slowdown. It was the result of the policies we have adopted that India stood up firmly with its robust economy. He said that our objective is to move ahead on the roads of development, not

Suraksha Bandhan drive targets 11 thousand people in each assembly

On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan NDA government launched special drive named 'Suraksha Bandhan' from August 25 to 31st to promote 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana'. 'Under Suraksha Bandhan' drive people gifted social security schemes to loved ones. BJP also organized this drive to promote this scheme. Party's Karakartas targeted to provide benefit of the insurance to 11 thousand people in each Assembly. In this way the drive became a movement. The scheme offers a cover of up to Rs. 2 lacs in case of any mishappening, resulting into death or disability of the insured. It costs just Rs. 12 in annual premium for having an accidental death or disability cover of Rs. 2 lacs under the scheme. Earlier there was no coverage of Snake bite and death by drowning. First time Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana covers these both accidents. Participating banks and insurance companies also organized this drive on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan. ■

Promise of 'One Rank One Pension' for ex-Servicemen fulfilled

From Our Correspondent

The Government announced the 'One Rank One Pension scheme' for the Ex-Servicemen. This was announced by the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar on 05 September 2015

One Pension" (OROP) has been pending for nearly four decades. It is a matter of deep anguish that the various governments remained ambivalent on the issue of OROP. In February 2014, the then Government stated that

these reasons that the present government took some time to fulfil its promise.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has, on various occasions, reiterated the Government's commitment to implement

OROP for Ex-Servicemen under military pension. As stated above, the previous government has estimated that OROP would be implemented with a budget provision of a mere Rs. 500 crore. The reality, however, is that to implement OROP, the estimated cost



in New Delhi. The following is the statement of the Defence Minister :

"Government of India respects its Defence Forces and Ex-Servicemen for their valour, patriotism and sacrifices. The Government is proud of their devotion to duty and bravery. Our forces, besides vigilantly and gallantly defending the nation, have displayed exemplary standards of courage and bravery in natural calamities, law and order situations and other difficult circumstances.

The issue of "One Rank

OROP would be implemented in 2014-15, but did not specify what OROP would be, how it would be implemented or how much it would cost. An estimated Rs. 500 crore provided for OROP in the budget presented in February 2014 by the then government was not based on any thorough analysis. It is pertinent to mention that the then Minister of State for Defence in 2009 had, in reply to a question, informed Parliament that there are administrative, technical and financial difficulties in implementing OROP. It is for

to the exchequer would be Rs. 8,000 to 10,000 crore at present, and will increase further in future.

The Government held extensive consultations with experts and Ex-Servicemen. The main argument for OROP is that the Defence personnel retire early and thus are not able to get the benefits of serving till normal retirement age. Despite the huge fiscal burden, given its commitment to the welfare of Ex-Servicemen, the Government has taken a decision to implement the OROP.

...Continued on page 29

Government will do everything to fulfill the dreams of people : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said the victory of BJP was the victory of the unity and development of the country. Addressing party Karyakartas on 25 August, 2015 during his first visit to Puducherry, he said BJP is striving hard to establish itself as a force to reckon with in southern States, viz Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Shah listed out the major programmes launched by Modi Government in the last 15 months and reiterated his party's commitment to development. He exhorted party workers to work hard so that the party could win the next Assembly election in Puducherry with its alliance



BJP President visits Sri Aurobindo Ashram

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah visited Sri Aurobindo Ashram and stood in silence for a few minutes before the samadhis of Sri Aurobindo and his spiritual collaborator, SriMaa, paying tributes to them.

He went to the room of Aurobindo, where the revolutionary-turned-philosopher had stayed from 1926 to 1950 after retiring from daily contact with his followers. The followers had visited him in his room for darshan on a few occasions a year and these days were later known as darshan days. A major portion of his epic Savitri was written in this room.

BJP National President, who also visited the ashram's archives, was impressed by the way in which the manuscripts of Sri Aurobindo were preserved in a scientific manner by the trust. The archives have a cold storage vault, which regulates the temperature and humidity in a scientific manner to preserve the manuscripts.

Shri Amit Shah was accompanied by Union Minister Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, Tamil Nadu BJP President Smt. Isai Soundararjan, Puducherry BJP President R Visweswaran, BJP National General Secretary Shri Muralidhara Rao, and MP Shri Mahesh Giri. ■

partners.

Meeting and interacting with the captains of industry in the Union Territory the BJP President took note of their views in various issues. He said the party is aware of the great expectations of people had in Modi Government. He assured them all that the Union government will do everything to fulfill the dreams of the people before the next general election.

The National President had a busy itinerary in the Union Territory. Before addressing the Karyakartas Shri Amit Shah had a closed door meeting with the Chief Minister of Puducherry Shri N Rangasamy earlier. Shri R Randhakrishnan MP too was present at the meeting. Shri Shah offered prayers at the Nataraja Temple in Chidambaram in the morning.(FOC) ■

BJP retains Bengaluru Civic corporation

After Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan the Bharatiya Janata Party consecutively registered victory in civic polls of Bengaluru in Karnataka. The Bengaluru civic poll results is the third big victory for the BJP in the same month. In Congress-ruled Karnataka, People of Bengaluru have chosen the BJP in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The result was announced on August 25. The BJP won 101 of the BBMP's 198 wards, the Congress 75 and the Janata Dal (Secular) 14.



"After MP & Rajasthan, BBMP poll results complete a hat-trick of wins for BJP. This is a win for politics of development & good governance," tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his party celebrates in Bengaluru.

"Mindless negativity is counterproductive. This is the electorate's

Victory of ideology of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'

BJP President Shri Amit Shah congratulated the people of the state, the BJP workers and organization officials on BJP's grand success in Bengaluru civic polls. He stated that this victory is the victory of BJP's development-oriented policies and the ideology of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas".

Commenting on the comprehensive mandate given by the people in favour of BJP, in Bengaluru civic polls, the mandate proved favorable for the party despite the claims against the BJP in various exit polls, Shri Shah added, "the people of Karnataka are feeling neglected and betrayed from corruption, anti-poor and anti-development policies of the local Congress government of Karnataka. Therefore, the people of Bengaluru have shown the mirror of truth to Congress through this victory".

He said that there is an anger in public against negative politics of the Congress Party to obstruct country's economic growth & development and the people will be giving a similar befitting response to Congress in the near future.

Lambasting the Congress Shri Shah said that the false and baseless allegations of the Congress Party have been dismissed in the public court and the people have expressed their faith in BJP's pro-development policies and good governance. He added that the Congress Party standing on the sidelines in country's politics, needs serious introspection over its negative politics.

message to Congress after MP, Rajasthan and Bangalore civic elections," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley tweeted

Parliamentary Affairs Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said the result is a "lesson" for all. "Its message is clear that negative politics is not going to yield any benefit to anyone."

Union Minister & Bangalore MP Shri Ananth Kumar dedicated this clear mandate to the people of Bengaluru and BJP workers. He said that workers had created this historic win.

In 2010, the BJP had won control of the BBMP for the first time, winning 111 wards. The Congress had won 66. At that time the BJP was in power in Karnataka. In 2013, the Congress wrested the state from a deeply fractured BJP, and this win will be a major boost for the BJP's cadres.

For the first time, 50 per cent seats were reserved for first women candidates in the BBMP elections. (FOC)■

Amit Shah welcomes NDA government decision on One Rank One Pension

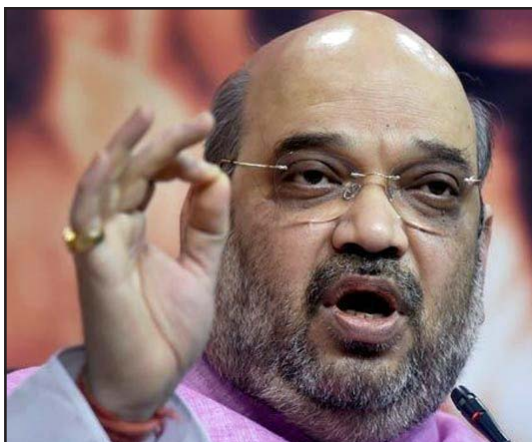
From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has welcomed the decision of Shri Narendra Modi led NDA government to accept the principle of One Rank One Pension. Terming as "historic" the Centre's decision on 'One Rank, One Pension', Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled the commitment he made to ex-servicemen and provided them economic security.

BJP President said that government of India has accepted the four decade old demand of ex-servicemen regarding the 'One Rank, One Pension'. On behalf of BJP, he congratulated all the ex-servicemen in the country. Shri Shah expressed thanks of Prime Minister for this historic decision.

Shri Shah said that in 1973, their pension was reduced from 70 per cent to 50 per cent (of salary) and the demand for OROP has been hanging since. Recalling that it was Shri Modi's poll promise during the 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign, Shri Shah said the Prime Minister had fulfilled it now. He said that the decision would come into effect from the time Shri Modiji came to power.

Shri Shah said that soldiers, widows and those with disabilities will stand to



means paying same amount of pension to persons retiring in the same rank with equal length of service) with renewed vigour in 2010, the UPA government after much reluctance allocated only Rs. 500 crore for it and this was a joke

get the maximum benefit of the Modi government's decision on 'One Rank, One Pension'. He said that widows will get all arrear in one installment.

Shri Shah said that the Modi Government has finally found a solution to a four decade old problem left hanging by successive governments. With most of their demands being fulfilled by this decision of government, the veterans have much to celebrate today. For the remaining minor anomalies, the government has announced to appoint a one member judicial review committee.

Shri Shah said that for nearly four decades (1973 to 2010), no government paid heed to OROP. After ex-servicemen started demanding One Rank One Pension (which in essence

with servicemen.

Shri Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reiterated his government's commitment while announcing the acceptance of OROP in principle. He said that Modi government has accepted four decade old demand in just 15 months of tenure which is significant. Shri Shah said that on the implementation of this decision of Modi government, ex-servicemen will get an additional amount of Rs. 9,000-10,000 crore annually.

He said that we all are grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modiji for this historic decision. It shows the feeling of government towards ex-servicemen. BJP President also congratulated the Defense Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar and all the ex-servicemen on the decision on 'One Rank, One Pension'. ■

Petroleum ministry launches SAHAJ online LPG connections to make it more convenient for consumers



For making LPG connection easy for consumers the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry on August 30 launched SAHAJ online LPG connections.

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan launched the facility in the national capital. The facility was simultaneously launched at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna and Pune. All state-run fuel retailers would be joining the e-tail bandwagon with a web-based system for selling new LPG connections.

The new system would be available on the websites of each oil company and the government's LPG portal, Pahal. This will allow prospective consumers online filling of application form for a new connection.

The system will then automatically detect a dealer best suited for the consumer and email or message a customer ID number within 48 hours of applying. This new system will bring to an end unnecessary delay which consumer generally faces. ■

PM releases digital version of the Ramcharitmanas

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the digital version of the Ramcharitmanas, as a set of digital CDs produced by All India Radio on 31 August, 2015 in New Delhi.

Praising the efforts of the artistes who had contributed to this musical production, the Prime Minister



said they had performed not just *Sangeet Sadhna*, but also *Sanskriti Sadhna* and *Sanskaar Sadhna* (devotion not just to music, but also to culture and tradition).

The Prime Minister described the Ramcharitmanas as a great epic which contained the "essence of India." He mentioned how the Indians who had travelled to various parts of the world, such as Mauritius, kept alive their link with India over successive generations, through the Ramcharitmanas.

Shri Modi appreciated the role played by All India Radio - *Akashvani* - in uniting the people and spreading awareness and information in India.

He said that he has been informed that All India Radio has approximately 9 lakh hours of audio recordings of various artistes from across the country. He said this was a priceless collection, which should be documented in detail for posterity.

The Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Arun Jaitley, and the Chairman Prasar Bharati Board Shri Suryaprakash were present on the occasion. ■

Make in India initiative helps revive FDI inflow after 3 years slump

Financial express writes commenting on 50% jump in FDI “Bucking a three-year declining trend, the manufacturing sector in India witnessed a sharp jump of 50 per cent in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the year 2014-15, thereby reflecting the traction received by the government’s ‘Make in India’ initiative.”

According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its annual report for the financial year 2014-15, the aggregate FDI received in rose 54 per cent to \$24.7 billion from \$16 billion in the previous year ended March 2014. This is also the highest FDI received in at least five years. The data relates to FDI received through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and RBI routes only.

The manufacturing sector continued to be the largest beneficiary and accounted for 38 per cent of the total FDI received and rose to \$9.6 billion. Interestingly, it is the first time in 3 years that FDI in manufacturing has witnessed an expansion. While it stood at \$9.3 billion in 2011-12, it declined in the following two years to \$6.5 billion and \$6.3 billion in FY13 and FY14, respectively. However, as a result of the



government’s push on manufacturing in India and ease of doing business initiative, the FDI in manufacturing has witnessed a boost.

While manufacturing has seen a revival, the financial services has witnessed the maximum jump among the major sectors and the FDI in the sector rose 200 per cent

from \$1.02 billion in FY14 to \$3.07 billion in FY15.

The other major gainer was the computer services industry which saw FDI rise by 130 per cent from \$934 million to \$2.15 billion in the same period. Even the retail and wholesale trade segment saw a 124 per cent rise in FDI from \$1.1 billion to \$2.55 billion. ■

COUNTRY-WISE AND SECTOR-WISE FDI FLOWS

TOP 5 CONTRIBUTORS	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 P*	Change (%)**
COUNTRY				
Mauritius	8,059	3,695	5,878	59.1
Singapore	1,605	4,415	5,137	16.4
Netherlands	1,700	1,157	2,154	86.2
Japan	1,340	1,795	2,019	12.5
USA	478	617	1,981	221.1
United Kingdom	1,022	111	1,891	1603.6
TOTAL FDI	18,286	16,054	24,748	54.2
SECTOR				
Manufacturing	6,528	6,381	9,613	50.7
Financial services	2,760	1,026	3,075	199.7
Retail & wholesale trade	551	1,139	2,551	124.0
Computer services	247	934	2,154	130.6
Construction	1,319	1,276	1,640	28.5

*Provisional: Includes FDI through SIA/FIPB and RBI routes only. All figures in \$ million unless specified, **Change in FY15 over FY14

Concept of Indian secularism and its relevance

- H. M. Patel

'Secularism' as a concept has invited debate on various occasions in almost every part of the world and continues to be differently interpreted by different people in India also. An article published in quarterly journal of Deendayal Research Institute "Manthan" in December 1979 discusses various aspects of the debate on 'Secularism'. We are publishing this article for our esteemed readers to apprise them of different facts of the debate in two parts :

According to the Oxford English Dictionary secularism is described as meaning "sceptical of religious truth or opposed to religious education". In this sense the Indian people can scarcely be termed as secular. They are, generally speaking, devoted to their respective faiths and religious practices, and are far from being opposed to religious instruction. There is however another sense in which the word secularism is used. As defined in Webster's Dictionary, secularism is "a view of life or of any particular matter based on the premise that religion and religious considerations should be ignored or purposely excluded". A variant of the usage of this expression is in the sense of, to quote, "a system of social ethics based upon a doctrine that ethical standards and conduct should be determined exclusively with reference to the present life and social well-being without reference to religion". Then again, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, 'secular' means "non-spiritual, having no concern with religious or spiritual matters anything which is distinct, opposed to or not connected with religion, or ecclesiastical things, temporal as

opposed to spiritual or ecclesiastical". Bearing these definitions in mind, it would be appropriate to define a secular State as a State "which guarantees individual and corporate freedom of religion, deals with the individual as a citizen irrespective of his religion, is not constitutionally connected to a particular religion nor does it seek either to promote or interfere with religion". India fulfils all the requirements of this definition and can therefore be said to be a secular State in this sense. Secularism is very much a reality in India.

In my belief, secularism does not, however, require that religion should be ignored. It is not necessary that one should be irreligious. All that it requires is that in one's actions, one does not allow one's religious beliefs or bias per se to influence one in any way whatsoever. The paradox is that the average Indian cannot strictly be called secular in this sense even though he is agreeable to his Government adopting secularism as a fundamental policy.

The average Indian is secular to the extent that though religious-minded, he is tolerant and accommodating of faiths and beliefs other than his own.

Secularism — A Universal Concept

It is essential that right at the outset we examine the significance of the title of this talk "Concept of Indian Secularism and its Relevance", which is the first in the Zakir Husain Memorial series of talks entitled "Indian Secularism : A Myth or Reality". The definition of secularism makes it clear that there cannot be any such thing as Indian, or for that matter European or African secularism. The concept of secularism is essentially a universal concept which may be adopted by any country or any people who do not discriminate between one citizen and another on the ground of religious faith, who guarantee freedom in the practice of religion and who formulate or support policies which are not influenced by religious considerations. In India, the concept of secularism or the secularist way of thought has, through historical circumstances, acquired special significance. Right from the day this country became Independent it accepted the concept of secularism in its classic sense as a fundamental and essential concept in its Constitution and as a way of life. Indeed, many feel that we may perhaps have

gone a little too far in forbidding the imparting of religious instruction in educational institutions which are wholly financed by the State. Since religious instruction in schools, whatever the religion, would be concerned in the main with the philosophy, morality, or ethics underlying the teachings of any religion, by its policy of forbidding religious instruction in educational institutions wholly financed by the State, the Government has unwittingly contributed, to no small extent, to the progressive falling off of moral standards.

Although the freedom struggle which led to Independence on August 15, 1947 had been inspired throughout by a secular attitude and outlook, it must be admitted that religion in a sense had played a major part in our freedom struggle. Every effort was made by some of our foreign rulers, as by religious fanatics, to create communal discord whenever and wherever possible. During the final phases of the freedom struggle, communal frenzy was deliberately provoked to an extraordinary degree leading to violence and indeed brutality. It was of course responsible for the final acceptance of the partition of the country. And even after the goal of partition was achieved, the fanatics succeeded in bringing about an unprecedentedly massive transfer of population. Against this background of such experience, the founding fathers of our Constitution felt that a country in which so many religions were practised by its

the founding fathers of our Constitution felt that a country in which so many religions were practised by its citizens, and which wished to live and develop as a democracy in which every citizen was equal before the law, must necessarily accept also, as its basic principle of administration, the concept of secularism requiring that religion or religious considerations should not be allowed in any way whatever to interfere with the policies and actions of Government.

citizens, and which wished to live and develop as a democracy in which every citizen was equal before the law, must necessarily accept also, as its basic principle of administration, the concept of secularism requiring that religion or religious considerations should not be allowed in any way whatever to interfere with the policies and actions of Government. In India certainly, the principle of secularism has been accepted in this sense, and it is true to say that it has been given effect to in that sense by every successive Government of our country since Independence.

Because of this historical background of the acceptance by India of the concept of secularism, there is some justification for distinguishing the secularism accepted by us as a distinctive Indian secularism. Without secularism, it was realised only too clearly that the unity and

integrity of the country would be impossible. Thus for India, the adoption of secularism as a major aspect of its policy is vital for its very existence. It was hoped that after the country had been partitioned, all those who remained in the country, or chose so to remain, would do their utmost to merge with the mainstream of national life and to refrain from allowing religion alone to dominate or determine their outlook and actions. And yet, or perhaps because of that, for political purposes, charges continue to be made by almost every political party of this country against every other that it pays scant respect to secularism and in reality worships at the altar of communalism.

Secularism and Communalism

It will clear the confusion that is thus created if we analyse for a moment this expression 'communalism' and why it has become such a word of opprobrium. Quite literally the word is used to signify exclusive or disproportionate interest in the welfare and progress of one's own community or co-religionists. If we refer again to Webster's Dictionary, we find that this expression is defined as "a system or principle of communal organisations in which rival minority groups are devoted to their own interests rather than to those of the whole society". Another possible meaning may be "strong loyalty and adherence to one's community and its values, sometimes appearing in excess, and with nationally divisive effects". Unquestionably, communalism is among the most

serious of our problems. The average Indian's loyalty to his caste and community is intense, and constitutes a constant undermining factor for India's secularism. In an undeveloped economy, and a poor country, economic pressures are also ever present to convert caste and community loyalties into dangerous communal rivalries. And this may easily lead to communal violence.

In India, unfortunately, minorities, and in particular the

which one of the basic tenets is the rule of law; that is the law shall not differentiate between one citizen and another, it is sad but true that Muslims have consistently opposed the enactments of a common civil law in India that would be binding equally on all its citizens, whatever be their caste or creed. Anyone who adopts this attitude must realise that he is in effect opposing secularism.

Recently, when a Member of Parliament introduced a Private

unacceptable unless it was radically amended, since it would have to fit into and not fall foul of the provision in the Constitution which assured the citizens of this country the right not only to practise any religion they profess but also to propagate it. The Catholics made no attempt whatsoever to state precisely what it was in the Bill they found objectionable. The operative parts of the Bill required that conversion would not be permitted and would be punishable if it was effected by fraud, force or inducement. It was claimed that the expressions – force, fraud or inducement – were so drafted as to make the fundamental right to profess and propagate one's religion, meaningless. No attempt was made to show how the expressions force, fraud or inducement, as defined in the proposed Bill, would nullify the right to propagate one's religion. Nor, of course, was any effort made to indicate how they would modify the proposed definition of these expressions so that only conversions effected through fraud, force or inducement would be prevented and none others. I am assuming of course that none of these critics from the Archbishop downwards would advocate conversion through fraud, force or inducement! The significant point finally to note is the ease with which it became possible to organise such a powerful campaign against what in effect was an imaginary wrong for it indicated clearly that few in this country have a genuine or realistic understanding of the expression 'secularism'.

In India, unfortunately, minorities, and in particular the Muslims and Sikh minorities, are inclined to suspect any policy they do not like or approve of, to be in some way or other due to communalist tendencies on the part of the authorities! Even a proposal to regulate the adoption of children, even orphans or abandoned and unwanted children, has been opposed as being in some way harmful to Muslims.

Muslims and Sikh minorities, are inclined to suspect any policy they do not like or approve of, to be in some way or other due to communalist tendencies on the part of the authorities! Even a proposal to regulate the adoption of children, even orphans or abandoned and unwanted children, has been opposed as being in some way harmful to Muslims – and this in spite of the fact that the proposed legislation was only permissive and did not require a Muslim to adopt a child if he did not wish to do so. If the legislation had been allowed to go through, it would have helped in transforming the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of orphans and other waifs and strays, not wanted for some reason or the other. Living in a parliamentary democracy, of

Member's Bill entitled "Freedom of Religion" Bill, the Roman Catholic community in particular, encouraged perhaps by the political parties in opposition, organised a countrywide campaign to condemn the Bill, even though Government pointed out repeatedly that the Bill was a Private Member's Bill: that it was the right – a very jealously preserved right – of individual Members of Parliament, to bring up for consideration a Bill on practically any subject they chose: that the Government had no reason to formally determine its attitude towards the Bill, and would have needed to do so only if and when this bill succeeded in the ballot for listing among the bills to be taken up for consideration. And finally that on the face of it, the Bill would be

To continue...

Deendayal India's Gift to the Bewildered

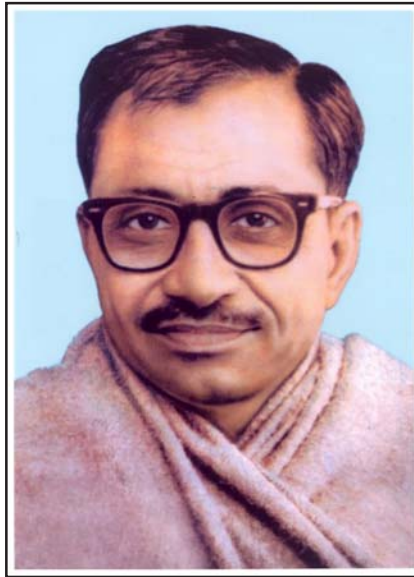
- D.B. Thengdi

PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA was a nationalist to the core. He loved not only the abstract concept of "Nation" but also the nation in flesh and blood. But his patriotism did not prevent him from being an internationalist. Rather internationalism was only the natural evolution of his enlightened nationalism. He had realised that affinity of an individual with different organisms, ranging from family to the Universe, was only an outward manifestation of the evolution of his consciousness. The more developed the consciousness, the larger and higher would be the organism with which one is identified. But this being a process of evolution, the higher level of consciousness does not preclude the previous lower levels. It is inclusive, not exclusive, in character. One can be equally and simultaneously attached to all the organisms without doing injustice to any one of them. What is needed is a realistic, an integral view of things.

Even a human being must be considered in an integrated way; the body, mind, intelligence and soul of a person must not be thought of separately.

This realisation led Deendayalji to expound his

theory of "Integral Humanism", which is in direct contrast with the compartmentalised thinking of the West. The latter has given rise to strife and struggle at all levels in all



departments of life. The seed, the slifout, the trunk, the branch, the leaves and the fruit constitute one single, continuous process of evolution. They are not mutually conflicting or exclusive.

In fact, Panditji's comprehension was not confined to the human species. His integral-ism indicated the flowering of the human consciousness into universal consciousness. That is why he was a humanist without being homocentric. Consequently

he thought that the more appropriate term for his thought-system would be "Integralism". But in view of his field of practical activity he considered the term "Integral Humanism" more convenient in the immediate context, as a compromise between his ultimate concept and the common level of understanding in the field, even as his use of the term 'ism' was, again, a similar concession to the common level of understanding which could not comprehend the grand 'ism'-lessness of the eternal Dharma.

He was the first political leader of the country who added yet another dimension to the traditionally defined 'nation'-concept. Every nation has its soul, its 'Chiti', he declared. The strength and energy activising the nation is its 'Virat'. It is channelised by 'Chiti'. The place of 'Virat' in the life of a nation is similar to that of 'Prana' in the body. Just as 'Prana' infuses strength in various organs of the body, refreshes the intellect, and keeps body and soul together, so also in a nation, with a strong 'Virat' alone can democracy succeed and the government be effective. "When the 'Virat' is awake, diversity does not lead to conflict, and people cooperate

with each other like the various limbs of the human body, or like the members of a family.”

Panditji was, again, the first political leader in post-independence era to declare unequivocally that what mankind needed most was a Dharma-Rajya, not merely a rule by majority. He took pains to explain how Dharma was different from Religion and Dharma Rajya from theocracy.

But Dharma alone is supreme. State is one of the several institutions or instruments of Dharma; an important one, but not above Dharma. It is subject to Dharma: Sovereignty vests in Dharma. Dharma sustains the Nation. Even the Constitution must be in tune with Dharma. The Articles of the Constitution violating Dharma must be considered null and void to that extent. Both the Legislature and the Judiciary are on an equal plane. Neither is superior to the other.

Dharma is higher than both; both are governed by Dharma. The people have a right to elect their own government. But neither the government nor the people have any right to act against Dharma.

Panditji was a votary of ‘Bharatiyata’ not only because it was his national heritage. He was convinced that the maladies of humanity in general and India in particular could be remedied

only on the strength of Bharatiya culture. Is it possible for the West to reconcile individual liberty with social discipline? In the materialistic West, liberty soon degenerates into licentiousness, and discipline into regimentation. The West could never conceive of basic organic unity in the midst of apparent diversities, for it mistook uniformity for unity. It could never appreciate the merit of the Bharatiya socioeconomic order, for it mistook our stability for stagnation and its own adventurism for dynamism. Western thinkers could not conceive of a unitary form of government with maximum decentralisation of administrative authority, because it is beyond their comprehension that there can be set up a central state authority without statism, and with regional, industrial and civic self-governments – which has been the special characteristic of the Bharatiya social order. The West considered national self-reliance incompatible with the spirit of international co-operation. In the West, nationalism can degenerate into imperialism and internationalism into disloyalty to one’s own nation.

The ‘Integral Humanism’ expounded by Panditji has exposed the inadequacies, lopsidedness, imbalance and futility of the compartmentalised thought-

systems of the West. His integralism enabled him to visualise the emergence of a World State enriched by the growth and contribution of different national cultures, and evolution of ‘Manava Dharma’ enriched by the perfection of all religions, including ‘materialism’.

Deendayalji was a ‘Drashta’, a seer, not merely a philosopher. Because of his ‘Sadhana’, his identification with Dharma, he could, like a Time Machine, roll himself back and forth in the centuries and stand face to face with the ancient seers as well as unborn generations. He worked out for us the solutions of modern problems in the light of ancient wisdom. He foresaw and diagnosed maladies that would afflict humanity in the distant future; and prescribed for them the remedies tested with success by ‘Sanatana Dharma’.

It has been said that people without a vision perish. A nation without its ‘Drashta’ is doomed to decay and death. But our Dharma is Sanatana, i.e. endless as well as beginningless. It has, therefore, been the sacred mission of Bharat Mata to give birth, in every age, to Drashtas who deliver a message of hope to the otherwise frustrated mankind pursuing false ideals.

In this age, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya has been the precious gift of this Dharma Bhumi to the bewildered. ■

Vote for development; vote to change the fortune of Bihar : Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive Parivartan Rally on 01 September, 2015 in Bhagalpur, Bihar. Huge crowd gathered at the venue, to listen to the Prime Minister. "This is my fourth NDA rally but I can say that this rally has broken records of the all previous rallies", said Shri Narendra Modi.

Shri Modi said the people of Bihar have decided to vote for development and the political experts could well gauge which way the wind has been blowing. He said that no one could stop this 'Vijay Yatra' or victory march in Bihar.

Taking a dig at other parties, the PM noted, "The governments which have been ruling Bihar for over 25

years should give a report of their work but instead of doing so they keep asking

Shri Modi said that it was a 'tilanjali rally' that was organized two days back in Patna. The whole nation, Shri Modi said, was disappointed as there were no discussions to take Bihar forward and ideals of Jayaprakash Narayan and Lohia were discarded. "It was the Congress Party that imprisoned JP for protesting against corruption. He was subjected to ill-treatment in prison. He could not recover from this"

Modi for answers." He alleged that all other parties united to spread lies and betray people of Bihar on the grounds of communalism and casteism.

The Prime Minister said the current government in Bihar was not ready to give a single account of their work. He appealed to the people of Bihar to question those in power who promised to provide electricity but failed to deliver.

Hitting back at JDU, RJD and Congress in Bihar Prime Minister Shri Modi said that it was a 'tilanjali rally' that was organized two days back in Patna. The whole nation, Shri Modi said, was disappointed as there were no discussions to take Bihar forward and ideals of Jayaprakash Narayan and

Lohia were discarded. "It was the Congress Party that imprisoned JP for protesting against corruption. He was subjected to ill-treatment in prison. He could not recover from this", the PM added further.

Shri Narendra Modi also noted that when he announced a special package of Rs. 1.65 lakh crore in Arrah, he was mocked for the same. "They made fun of our Government, but people were not amused. They realized that if they continue to criticize the package, people of Bihar would turn away from them", said Shri Modi.

The Prime Minister took note of the fact that Bihar has longed for a pro-farmer government, a government that would provide employment and a government that would work towards development of the state.

He exhorted to the people of Bihar to elect a stable and development focused NDA Government in the upcoming elections to change the fortune of Bihar.

Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology Shri Ravishankar Prasad, Minister of Agriculture Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, MoS for Skill Development Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and other BJP and NDA leaders attended the rally.

Highlights of the speech:

- Shri Narendra Modi said this is NDA's fourth rally in the state but today's rally has broken all records.
- First time in 25 years, people of Bihar have decided to vote for development.
- No one can stop NDA's 'Vijay Yatra' in Bihar.
- Bihar wants a pro-farmer government, a government that will provide employment, development and security to women.
- The governments which have been ruling Bihar for over 25 years should give a report of their work.
- When Lok Sabha elections will come, I will give an account of each penny in 2019.
- Current Bihar government is not ready to give an account of their work.
- Sunday's rally of JD (U), Congress and RJD in Patna was a 'Tilanjali Rally' or betrayal of socialist values of leaders like Jay Prakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia.
- Not just Bihar, but the whole country is disappointed with the Patna rally as there were no answers on how to take Bihar forward.
- When the people who are in power now come and ask you for votes, ask them what happened to their promise in the previous election of providing electricity to all houses in Bihar.
- Ask your people why there are no jobs in Bihar.
- There was only one agenda for the opposition, for JD (U), Congress and RJD; that is - Modi Modi Modi Modi Modi Modi Modi Modi. They are chanting my name.
- JD(U) and RJD are agenda-less in Bihar.
- There is a finance commission that decides how much money the Centre will give to the states. The 14th Finance Commission has said that Bihar will get Rs. 3.76 lakh crore from the Central Government.
- Shri Modi said so you tell me: If Rs. 3.76 crore is coming from us (Centre). State is giving a package of Rs. 2.7 lakh crore. Where the remaining will Rs. 1 lakh 6 thousand crore will go? Will the remaining money go into the books of fodder?
- I was the first person to call Nitish Kumar during Nepal earthquake to enquire about damages in Bihar.
- Shri Narendra Modi said, 'Vote for development; vote to change the fortune of Bihar'.

98 cities selected for smart city nominees

The names of the cities selected for the Rs 48,000 crore Smart Cities project was released on August 27 by the Union Government pending a nomination each from Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister of Urban Development Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu announced a list of 98 cities and towns selected for development as smart cities. These cities and towns were nominated by respective States and Union Territories at the end of first stage of 'City Challenge' competition in which all the urban local bodies in each State and UT were evaluated based on their financial and institutional capacities and past track record. After releasing the list of selected cities at a media conference, Shri Naidu complimented States/UTs for conducting objective evaluation in the first stage of competition.

The details of profiles of all the selected cities and towns in terms of population and characters of each city/town are following:

- 24 cities are capital cities;
- 24 are business and industrial centres;
- 18 are of cultural and tourism importance;
- 5 are port cities and three are educational and

- healthcare hubs.
- In terms of population ;
- 8 have population up to one lakh. These being: Panaji, Diu, Silvassa, Kavaratti, Dharmashala, New Town Kolkata, Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh and Namchi(Sikkim)
 - 35 have population

Shri Naidu observed that 65 small and medium towns and cities making to the list of smart city aspirants is a welcome feature since making them smart would lay good foundation for better urban management when they further expand.

The Minister informed that nine capital cities viz.,



- between one and five lakhs;
- 21 cities are in the population range of five to ten lakhs;
- 25 have population of above 10 lakhs and below 25 lakhs;
- 5 in the range of 25 to 50 lakhs and
- Four viz., Chennai, Greater Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Greater Mumbai have population above 50 lakh.

Itanagar, Patna, Shimla, Bengaluru, Daman, Thiruvananthapuram, Puducherry, Gangtok and Kolkata failed to be selected and this goes to prove that the smart city selection was not influenced by the stature or importance of the cities.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu informed that two more cities would be announced in due course since the Government of Jammu & Kashmir sought more time to make up its

choice while additional information was sought from the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding the 13th smart city slot allotted to that State.

The Minister said that the 98 cities selected under Smart City Mission have a population of about 13 crore accounting for over 35% of the country's urban population. He further said that under Smart City Mission and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), 80% of total urban population would benefit from enhanced quality of living.

He said that with the selection of almost all the cities under the Smart Cities Mission, all the selected cities will have to prepare city level Smart City Plans and these will be evaluated in the second stage of competition based on a broad set of criteria to pick up the top scoring 20 cities for financing during this financial year. Funds may be released to these 20 cities by the end of this year, he said. Others will be asked to improve upon the identified deficiencies before participating in the next two rounds of competition.

Those cities to be selected in the second stage of competition would be provided with central assistance of Rs.200 cr in the first year followed by Rs.100 cr each year during the next three years, the Minister

...Continued on page 29

Here is the list of states and number of cities that have been nominated by the government:

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands** 1 (Port Blair)
 - Andhra Pradesh** 3 (Vishakhapatnam, Tirupati, Kakinada)
 - Arunachal Pradesh** 1 (Pasighat)
 - Assam** 1 (Guwahati)
 - Bihar** 3 (Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Biharsharif)
 - Chandigarh** 1
 - Chhattisgarh** 2 (Raipur, Bilaspur)
 - Dadra and Nagar Haveli** 1 (Silvassa)
 - Daman and Diu** 1 (Diu)
 - Delhi** 1 (NDMC)
 - Goa** 1 (Panaji)
 - Gujarat** 6 (Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dahod)
 - Haryana** 2 (Karnal Faridabad)
 - Himachal Pradesh** 1 (Dharamshala)
 - Jharkhand** 1 (Ranchi)
 - Karnataka** 6 (Mangaluru, Belagavi, Shivamogga, Hubballi-Dharwad, Tumakuru, Davanegere)
 - Kerala** 1 (Kochi)
 - Lakshadweep** 1 (Kavarrati)
 - Madhya Pradesh** 7 (Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Sagar, Satna, Ujjain)
 - Maharashtra** 10 (Navi Mumbai, Nashik, Thane, Greater Mumbai, Amravati, Solapur, Nagpur, Kalyan-Dombivali, Aurangabad, Pune)
 - Manipur** 1 (Imphal)
 - Meghalaya** 1 (Shillong)
 - Mizoram** 1 (Aizawl)
 - Nagaland** 1 (Kohima)
 - Odisha** 2 (Bhubaneswar, Raurkela)
 - Puducherry** 1 (Oulgaret)
 - Punjab** 3 (Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar)
 - Rajasthan** 4 (Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, Ajmer)
 - Sikkim** 1 (Namchi)
 - Tamil Nadu** 12 (Tiruchirapalli, Chennai, Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Vellore, Salem, Erode, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Dindigul, Madurai, Thoothukudi)
 - Telangana** 2 (Greater Hyderabad, Greater Warangal)
 - Tripura** 1 (Agartala)
 - Uttar Pradesh** 13 (Moradabad, Aligarh, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Jhansi, Kanpur, Allahabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Ghaziabad, Agra, Rampur)
 - Uttarakhand** 1 (Dehradun)
 - West Bengal** 4 (New Town Kolkata, Bidhannagar, Durgapur, Haldia)
- * Jammu & Kashmir has asked for more time to decide on the potential cities)
- * 12 cities have been shortlisted from Uttar Pradesh against 13 cities nominated for Smart City project.

THE LAND ORDINANCE – The obvious answers

-By Arun Jaitley

The Ordinance to amend 'The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013' has lapsed on 31st August, 2015. The Bill to replace the Ordinance is pending for consideration before the Standing Committee of Parliament. Questions are being raised with regard to the nature and future of the Land Acquisition Law in India.

The 2013 Act

I am of the opinion that the 2013 Act is badly drafted legislation. It has lot of ambiguities and obvious errors. The effect of certain provisions of this Act is contrary to the language used therein. A series of legitimate difficulties would arise once the Act is seriously implemented. The provisions of the Act would also prevent the development of the rural areas through rural infrastructure and further prevent job opportunities created in those areas by industrialisation. This was the principal object of the Central Government when the Ordinance to amend the Act was issued on 31st December, 2014.

It has been argued by many in the Congress Party that the 2013 law provided

It was at the request of the State Governments that the amendment to Land Acquisition law of 2013 was issued. However, after the issuance of the Ordinance, the Congress Party changed its position and wanted to oppose the Ordinance for political reasons.

for consent of the farmers before the land is acquired and the 2015 law has snatched away this mandatory consent of the farmers. It is contrary to the language of section 2(1) of the 2013 law. For development of the project related to national security, infrastructure, agro-processing, industrial corridors, water harvesting, Govt. aided educational institutions, sports and tourism facilities, rehabilitation project, affected families, housing projects, planned development of villages etc.; no consent is required. This provision is partly diluted by the use of the word "also" in section 2(2) where it indicates confusion in the mind of the draftsman with regard to non-applicability of the consent provisions to section 2(1). This ambiguity is required to be corrected.

Provisions relating to

'social impact assessment' and various steps to be taken therein required a large timetable which taken together could go up to several years. The language of the time provisions uses the word "within" the time period. This time requires to be shortened or exempted in some cases.

2013 Act required the entire acquired land to be utilised within a period of five years. Townships cannot be completed within five years. Since some key corrections were required in the badly drafted legislation, most of the State Governments represented to the present Central Government in 2014 that these amendments should immediately be carried out. It was at the request of the State Governments that the amendment to Land Acquisition law of 2013 was issued. However, after the issuance of the Ordinance, the Congress Party changed its position and wanted to oppose the Ordinance for political reasons. The Ordinance was re-issued on two more occasions but the political stalemate has continued and the Bill requiring amendment is pending before the Standing Committee of Parliament. The Prime Minister convened a meeting of the Chief

Ministers again under the aegis of the NITI Aayog wherein all Chief Ministers were of the opinion that some flexibility should be given to the States if the stalemate at the Centre continues, the States should be empowered to bring their own amendments.

Can the State bring amendment to the Central Government?

Acquisition of property is a List-III, Entry 42 subject provided for in the concurrent list. The provisions of article 254(2) clearly provide that a State Government can bring a legislation on a Concurrent List Subject which conflicts with the Central legislation provided the Presidential assent is given to such legislation. The States are thus fully empowered to amend the 2013 Land Law and seek Presidential assent before the amendment can be effected. This has been precisely agreed to in the meeting convened by the NITI Aayog. One State has already brought the amendments and some others are likely to follow.

The States can provide for alternative mechanism which balances the interests of farmers and also provides for land required for acquisition. Has the Centre moved back?

The amendments to sections to the 2013 Act which were brought by the Ordinance, were incorporated in Section 10A. The provisions

of section 10A provide that the States can provide for any or all of the five purposes mentioned in section 10A and exempt the consent and the social impact assessment provisions. The Ordinance, therefore, left it to the wisdom of the States as to whether they wanted to notify any of the five Exempted Purposes. The position in the Ordinance remains unchanged. Pursuant

The States are thus fully empowered to amend the 2013 Land Law and seek Presidential assent before the amendment can be effected. This has been precisely agreed to in the meeting convened by the NITI Aayog. One State has already brought the amendments and some others are likely to follow.

to the decision taken by the NITI Aayog, the State Governments are still empowered to so decide. Earlier, there was delegation under the Ordinance which even otherwise under the Constitution remains on account of land being a concurrent subject and State can amend the law with the approval of the President.

The object of the 2015 Ordinance was to give certain amount of flexibility to the States. They know their requirements the best. That flexibility is made available to the States even now under the decision taken in Chief

Ministers' meeting. The position, therefore, currently remains is as follows:-

- (a) The 2013 Act occupies the field;
- (b) The Bill remains for consideration of the Standing Committee and if some consensus suggestions are made, the same would be implemented;
- (c) That if any State wishes to make some amendments in the Central law, the same would be permitted by the Central Government.

Was the notification under section 105 necessary?

Section 105 of the 2013 Act exempted 13 legislations listed in Schedule IV of the Act from the applicability of the provisions of the Act. They were exempted from consent and social impact assessment provisions. They were also exempted from the provisions of additional compensation, relief and rehabilitation. The section requires issuance of the notification within a period of one year which would make compensation and the relief and rehabilitation provisions applicable to the notified 13 laws. This enhanced compensation was statutorily incorporated in the Ordinance. Since amendment to Ordinance has lapsed on 31st August, 2015, it is incumbent upon the Central Government to issue the notification before 31st August, 2015. The same has been done now. ■

(The writer is Union Finance and I&B Minister)

No matter which religion we belong to, we must learn about Sufism : PM

11 crore families enrolled in Suraksha Bandhan says Narendra modi

Expressing satisfaction over the public response to government programmes for social security, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 30 said 11 crore families had so far enrolled in the recently launched 'Suraksha Bandhan' scheme, of whom around half were women.

He was addressing the people of the country in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.

"So far, 11 crore families have joined the 'Suraksha Bandhan' scheme, of whom approximately half the beneficiaries are our mothers and sisters," Modi said in his Mann ki Baat address.

"I regard this as a good augury, and many greetings to mothers and sisters on Raksha Bandhan," he added.

As part of celebrations on Raksha Bandhan, banks have vowed to push the social security schemes launched by the prime minister, including Suraksha Bandhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

The government this month launched a special 'Suraksha Bandhan'



The Suraksha Bandhan drive seeks to encourage people to gift social security plans to their near ones. It will be supported through the Jeevan Suraksha gift cheques to be made available for Rs.351 in bank branches to facilitate one year payment of premium for PMJJBY and PMSBY by the recipient.

enrolment drive for its social security schemes through innovative plans like gift cheques and special deposits coinciding with the Raksha

Bandhan festival, it was announced.

"The drive will reach out to the pool of eligible bank account holders who are yet to be enrolled under these schemes - namely the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for accident and disability cover of up to Rs.2 lakh at an annual premium of Rs.12 and the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) for a term life cover of Rs.2 lakh at an annual premium of Rs.330," the finance ministry announced earlier this month.

The Suraksha Bandhan drive seeks to encourage people to gift social security plans to their near ones. It will be supported through the Jeevan Suraksha gift cheques to be made available for Rs.351 in bank branches to facilitate one year payment of premium for PMJJBY and PMSBY by the recipient.

The recipient of the gift cheque would deposit the instrument in the bank account for a realisable value of Rs.342 (Rs.12 + Rs.330) to cover one-year subscription to the schemes.

The balance of Rs.9 would be retained by the issuing bank as a service charge.

Banks will also provide a facility to account holders under the Suraksha Deposit Scheme and the Jeevan Suraksha Deposit Scheme aimed at enabling them to deposit Rs.201 or Rs.5,001, respectively, in their accounts either on their own initiative, or based on cash or cheques received as gifts on Raksha Bandhan for subscription to the schemes, the ministry said.

Prime Minister said "You will be happy to know that for financial inclusion of poor people government has organized one lakh thirty-one thousands financial literacy camps in the country. Now thousands of people have become eligible for getting overdraft under Jandhan Yojana.

"Just the way we have gotten rid of polio and tetanus, we have to save our mothers and infants. It's true that every year in India, almost 50, 000 mothers and 13 lakh babies die during or soon after delivery. It is quiet worrying and frightening. But there has been a lot of improvement and India is being praised on a global level. But this is not enough."

"On August 15, I had questioned that why there was a need for interviews for low-level jobs. It's been mere 15 days but I am happy to say that the government has been working very speedily and that low-level jobs will get rid of interviews, The poor will not have to run from pillar

"On August 15, I had questioned that why there was a need for interviews for low-level jobs. It's been mere 15 days but I am happy to say that the government has been working very speedily and that low-level jobs will get rid of interviews, The poor will not have to run from pillar to post for recommendation. There will be no corruption, no exploitation."

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He added " I salute all those associated with the triumph in 1965 war. Just two days ago, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of 1965 war and 1965 war reminds us of Lal Bahadur Shastri and 'his slogan Jai Jawaan, Jai Kisaan'".

It is not a slogan, is our mantra. From today itself, we will implement 13 new pointers to the land bill, which will benefit the farmers. The ordinance on land bill comes to an end on August 30. We will let it end tomorrow. We are ready to amend land acquisition act to benefit farmers, who have been misinformed leading to a fear in their minds. If we have to

develop our villages, we must free the law from the shackles of bureaucracy and red-tapism. There is a debate brewing over the issue of Land Acquisition Bill. The government is open to all suggestions for the sake of welfare of the farmers."

No matter which religion we belong to, we must learn about Sufism, said Shri Modi. He added " It has become very important to convey to the world the true nature of Islam religion. I believe the Sufi tradition, which is associated with benevolence and love, will take this message very far. I got to meet some Sufi scholars and I was pleased to listen to them. Peace, unity and brotherhood – this is the only right path and development is solution to all our problems." He said " It is commendable that in very less time, my brothers and sisters in Gujarat managed the situation and Gujarat was back on the path of peace.

In last few days, events in Gujarat the disastrous dance of violence have distressed the nation. It is usual for the entire nation to be pained and anguished if this happens in the land of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel. But in very short span of time intelligentsia of Gujarat brought the situation under control.

My Brothers & Sisters of Gujarat played important role in managing the situation from deterioration."

(FOC) ■

Teachers should also write about their experiences with various children : PM

PM releases commemorative coin on Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, and launches Kala Utsav website

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on September 4 interacted with school children from across the country, on the eve of Teachers' Day. In a unique event anchored entirely by school children themselves,

promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students at the secondary stage in the country.

In his opening remarks on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that there is a

the student, both have a unique importance for each other. He said that teachers should also write about their experiences with various children. He said teachers consider all students as important, and should remember them all – not just the ones who excelled academically.

The Prime Minister recalled former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, and said Dr. Kalam wanted to be remembered as a teacher. He said that Dr. Kalam had a passion for teaching, and he was interacting with students even upto the final moments of his life.

The Prime Minister said India had great teachers even today, who were helping to create engineers, doctors and scientists that were making a mark globally.

He said the aim of teachers should be to avoid creating robots, but to nurture an entire generation.

Union Minister for Human Resource Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, and Union Ministers of State Shri Upendra Kushwaha, Shri Ram Shankar Katheria, and Shri Jayant Sinha were present on the occasion. ■



the Prime Minister released commemorative coins of denomination Rs. 125, and Rs. 10, to mark the birth anniversary of India's second President, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The Prime Minister also launched the website for Kala Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to

special significance of interacting with school children on the eve of Teachers' Day. He said a teacher is known by the accomplishments of his students. He said that while a mother gives birth, it is the teacher who actually provides life.

The Prime Minister explained that the teacher and

...Continued from page 9

In simple terms, OROP implies that uniform pension be paid to the Armed Forces personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of their date of retirement. Future enhancements in the rates of pension would be automatically passed on to the past pensioners. This implies bridging the gap between the rate of pension of current and past pensioners at periodic intervals.

Under this definition, it has been decided that the gap between rate of pension of current pensioners and past pensioners will be bridged every 5 years.

Under the OROP Scheme:

The benefit will be given with effect from 1st July, 2014. The present government assumed office on 26th May, 2014 and therefore, it has been decided to make the scheme effective from a date immediately after.

Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly instalments. All widows, including war widows, will be paid arrears in one instalment.

To begin with, OROP would be fixed on the basis of calendar year 2013. Pension will be re-fixed for all pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension in 2013. Those drawing pensions above the average will be protected.

Personnel who voluntarily retire will not be covered under the OROP scheme. In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years.

It is estimated that the expenditure on arrears alone would be ten to twelve thousand crores of rupees. Apart from the fact that the previous government had provided for only Rs. 500 crore in the budget, it is noteworthy that the Koshiyari Committee had accepted the estimate of Rs. 235 crore as additional financial burden to implement OROP. The present government has accepted OROP in true spirit without being constrained by these inaccurate estimates.

OROP is a complex issue. A thorough examination of interests of retirees of different periods and different ranks is needed. The inter-service issues of the three Forces also require consideration. This is not an administrative matter alone. Therefore, it has also been decided that a One Member Judicial Committee would be constituted which will give its report in six months.

Prime Minister Shri Modi has fulfilled his commitment and approved OROP for Armed Forces personnel. Ministry of Defence will soon issue detailed Government Order." ■

..Continued from page 23

informed.

Elaborating on the concept of Smart City, Shri Naidu said : " A smart city would ensue core infrastructure needed for decent living in urban areas. We are not aiming at making our urban landscape look fanciful and flashy. The prime objective is to enhance the quality of urban life by addressing deficiencies in core infrastructure. Expectations in various quarters may be high but the Mission is very practical and realistic in its intentions and objectives."

Shri Naidu said that making smart cities is a challenging task and States and urban local bodies have to rise to the challenge. He said that the Central Government has undertaken measures to empower them to meet the challenge through substantially enhanced central assistance and decentralizing decision making besides assisting in capacity building of urban local bodies. He informed that as against the central assistance of only Rs.36,000 cr during the 10 years of JNNURM, centre would provide about Rs.3.00 lakh crored under various new urban initiatives.

Shri Naidu observed that the country can not afford to miss this opportunity of recasting country's urban landscape and the situation is 'perform or perish' for the States and urban local bodies.

He said that formulation of new urban sector initiatives is based on 'bottom up' planning based on citizen consultations as desired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He thanked the Prime Minister for his sustained interest in the new urban initiatives and support. ■

PMJDY moves from Account Opening to the Provision of Cash-Out Facilities

The achievement under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is heading towards saturation. Initial demand for bank accounts was expected to be around 7.5 crores (75 million). However, so far close to 18 Crore (180 Million) accounts

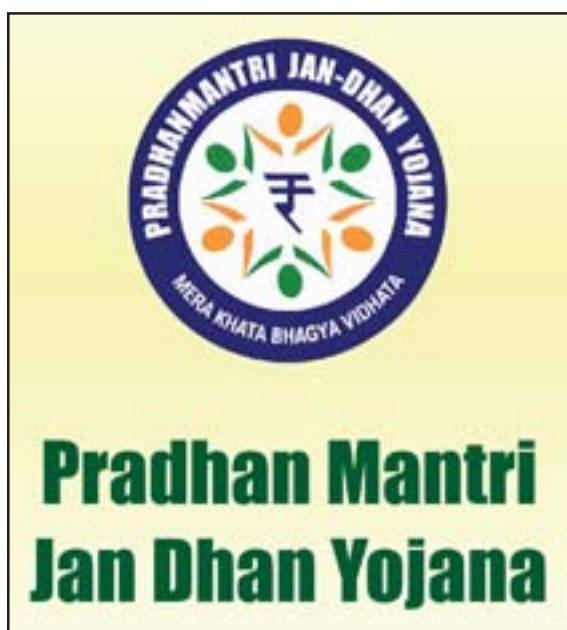
revised guidelines to all banks. Overdraft facility has been availed by 1,64,962 account holders as on 01.09.2015.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, (PMJDY) was announced by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on 15th August, 2014 and launched across the country on 28th August, 2014.

Now the focus of PMJDY has moved from account opening to the provision of cash-out facilities at an approachable distance to reap the real benefits

onsite ATMs.

- ♦ *In the year 2014-15, 8227 Branches and 21,197 ATMs were added to the network.*
- ♦ *1,26,062 Bank Mitras deployed as on 08.08.2015*
- ♦ *Limit for cash withdrawal at POS (for debit cards and open system prepaid cards issued by banks in India) has been enhanced from Rs.1,000/- to Rs.2,000/- per day in Tier III to Tier VI centres.*
- ♦ **One of the basic objectives of Financial Inclusion is the delivery of financial services at an affordable cost to the vast sections of the disadvantaged and low income groups. To achieve this objective banks are not levying any SMS/Message charges on Prime Minister Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts and Basic Savings Bank Deposits (BSBD) Accounts.**
- ♦ **The network of bank branches, ATMs, Bank Mitras (Business Correspondents) equipped with micro ATMs, availability of merchant PoS, issuance of Debit Card, and enhancement of limit of cash withdrawal at PoS will help the customers in meeting their cash withdrawal facility at an approachable distance. ■**



have been opened. 15.74 crores Rupay Debit cards have been issued.

There has been mobilization of more than Rs 22,000 crores (Rs 220 Billion) in these bank accounts.

Banks have been directed to disburse overdraft facility upto Rs.5,000/- under PMJDY. As per guidelines, Aadhaar is not mandatory for availing this facility. In this regard, Indian Banks Association (IBA) has been asked to issue

of PMJDY.

To facilitate cash out facility, the banking network across the country comprises of the following:-

- ♦ *Network of 1,25,857 branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on 31.03.2015, out of which 48557 (38.58%) are in rural areas.*
- ♦ *1,84,221 ATMs of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on 30.06.2015, out of which 91486 are*