

KAMAL SANDESH



BUDGET TESTIMONY OF PM MODI'S VISION FOR 'NEW INDIA'

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16-29 February, 2020 (Fortnightly)

₹20

TRANSFER TO STATES
2,00,447 Cr

AGRICULTURE
1,54,775 Cr

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
1,44,817 Cr

BUDGET 2020

HEALTH CARE
69,000 Cr

DEFENCE
3,23,053 Cr

EDUCATION
99,312 Cr

JAN JAN KA BUDGET



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay on his Punyatithi at BJP Headquarters, New Delhi. National General Secy. (Org) Shri BL Santhosh and National General Secy. Shri Arun Singh are also seen



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Sant Ravidas Ji on his jayanti at BJP Headquarters, 6A, DDU Marg, New Delhi



After becoming BJP National President, Shri JP Nadda made a courtesy visit to Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah exchanging greetings with Assam CM Shri Sarbananda Sonowal after signing the historic agreement between GOI, Assam Govt and Bodo representatives to end a 50-year-old Bodo crisis.



Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh flanked by UP CM Yogi Aadityanath and others releasing a paper on DefExpo India in Lucknow.



Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari flags off 'Honey Mission', the first ever home to bees campaign mounted on a large vehicle. It aims at encouraging honey cultivation among the public and strengthening MSME sector in India.

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twitter

@narendramodi



Everyone knew that the condition of the Bru-Reang refugees was terrible. Those who ruled in various states of the Northeast for decades preferred to do nothing. Our Government had the privilege to bring a positive change!

@amitshah

Modi govt is a symbol of new hopes. #BodoPeaceAccord is yet another testimony of PM @narendramodi's decisive leadership and his efforts to bring lasting peace in Assam.



@nitingadkari



I am delighted to see that the automobile sector is focusing on research and technology to promote electric or biofuels. With these innovations, we will not only reduce pollution, but we will globally lead the automobile manufacturing sector.

facebook

The Union Budget 2020 embodies the vision of the New India of the respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This budget reflects the hopes, aspirations and faith of the country. For this I express my heartfelt gratitude to the respected Modi ji and the Finance Minister.



— Jagat Prakash Nadda

The Prime Minister Mr. @narendramodi Ji is only following the basic mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Viswas.



— Shivraj Singh Chouhan

644 insurgents from 8 extremist groups of North East surrendered with their arms in the presence of Assam CM @sarbanandsonwal .. Few days back it was solving BRU REANGS problem .. @narendramodi led Govt with @AmitShah as Home Minister on way to make North East insurgence free.



— B L Santhosh

KEY NUMBERS OF UNION BUDGET 2019-20



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
MAHA SHIVARATRI (21 FEBRUARY)
to all of its readers

BUDGET 2020 - A NEW MILESTONE IN INDIA'S GLORIOUS JOURNEY

The Budget 2020 has further strengthened the resolve to make India a USD 5-Trillion economy. It has addressed almost every sector of economy while giving a promising outline for future. It entails a broader vision about the economy including current requirements and long term goals along with deeper understanding of the needs and aspirations of the people. The budget has been welcomed by almost every section of the society and different sectors of economy for comprehensively covering various issues of concerns while reassuring the nation of its glorious future ahead. It has laid a roadmap which while adhering to the consistency maintained through earlier budgets of Modi-government, makes attempts to break new grounds with insightful initiatives. It is a welcome blend of action and vision showing the emergence of a confident India which is ready to create opportunities amidst plethora of challenges.

The three themes of 'Aspirational India', 'Economic Development of All' and 'Caring Society' that is both humane and compassionate, runs across the budget making it all embracing and all inclusive.

While addressing the aspirations of the people the budget has given special attention to agriculture, irrigation and rural development with 16-point programme and allocation of 2.83 lakh crores thus intensifying the efforts made by the Modi-government in last budgets focussing rural economy. In addition to these the budget seeks to address the issue of wellness, water and sanitation which has become so crucial for a healthy and prosperous society. The aspirations of the people cannot be met without addressing the issue of education and skill for which the budget has a huge provision of 99,300 crore. It will create new opportunities in the field of education and skill while leveraging the futuristic sectors.

While addressing the theme of 'Economic Development for all', the budget makes provision of 27,300 crore for the development and promotion of Industry and Commerce. In addition to this the Modi-government is set to invest 100 lakh crore in infrastructure in the coming five years which is sure to unleash the huge potential of this sector. The emphasis on building infrastructure pipelines, economic corridors, highways, expressways, coastal and land port roads, electrification of railway tracks, airports and many more such things will definitely help in creating a robust infrastructure of the USD 5-trillion Indian economy. As a commitment to the goals of a 'caring society' with 'Antyodaya' as an article of faith, provisions in the budget have been made for women and child and social welfare. The budget has also made a provision of 85,000 crore for the welfare of SCs and OBCs and 53, 700 crore for Scheduled Tribes. For the senior citizens and Divyangs, an enhanced allocation of 9,500 crore has been made.

India is today the fifth largest economy of the world which has grown at the rate of 7.4% during the period of 2014-19 with an average rate of inflation of 4.5%. The Modi-government is credited for taking many innovative initiatives which has rescued the economy from the crisis of large-scale corruption, loot of public money, misrule and policy paralysis of Congress led UPA era. It was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision and determination to act strongly even in the face of various criticism that the strength of Indian economy is today getting recognized globally. In the field of 'Ease of Doing Business' and in facilitating 'Ease of Living', India under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has become a shining example for the countries to emulate. The Budget 2020 represents the same vision, rigour and strong will to take India forward against all odds and challenges. The Finance Minister Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman should be congratulated for presenting a budget which meets the expectations and requirements of the people. There is no doubt that this budget will create a new milestone in the glorious journey of the nation. ■

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

WHILE ADDRESSING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE THE BUDGET HAS GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION TO AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH 16-POINT PROGRAMME AND ALLOCATION OF 2.83 LAKH CRORES THUS INTENSIFYING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE MODI-GOVERNMENT IN LAST BUDGETS FOCUSING RURAL ECONOMY.

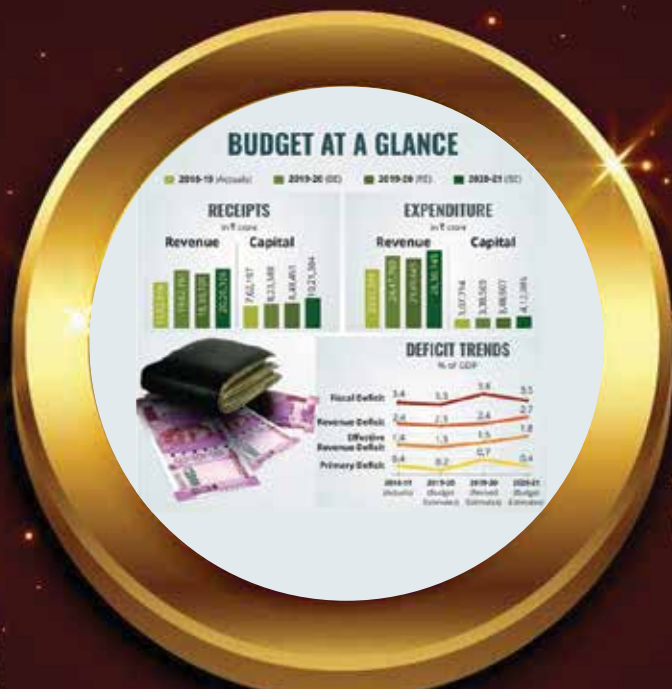
'JAN JAN KA BUDGET COMBINE DEFINITIVE ACTION

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the first Union Budget of the Modi Government 2.0 and first Budget of the third decade of 21st century on 01 February, 2020 at Parliament House in New Delhi and unveiled a series of far-reaching reforms, aimed at energizing the Indian economy through a combination of short-term, medium-term, and long term measures.

The Union Budget has been structured on the overall theme of "Ease of Living." This has been achieved by farmer friendly initiatives such as Agriculture credit target of Rs 15 lakh crore for 2020-21; schemes of "Kisan Rail" and "Krishi Udaan" for a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables; and expansion of PM-KUSUM to provide 20 lakh farmers for setting up stand-alone solar pumps.

@narendramodi

The first Budget of this new decade is a #JanJanKaBudget. It combines futuristic vision with a definitive action plan for growth. The Budget will boost income, investment, demand and consumption. It will strengthen our financial systems and the credit flow.



ES FUTURISTIC VISION WITH A PLAN FOR GROWTH'

In the health sector, the Budget proposes more than 20,000 empanelled hospitals under PM Jan Arogya Yojana for poor people; and expansion of Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts offering 2000 medicines and 300 surgical by 2024.

Infrastructure receives a boost, with 100 more airports by 2024 to support Udaan scheme; and operation of 150 passenger trains to be done through PPP mode.

Starting apprenticeship embedded courses through 150 higher educational institutions by March 2021 and a proposal to establish Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation are some of the other major highlights.

The Finance Minister said that the Union Budget Aims: To achieve seamless delivery of services through Digital governance, to improve physical quality of life through National Infrastructure Pipeline, Risk mitigation through Disaster Resilience and Social security through Pension and Insurance penetration.

THE BUDGET IS WOVEN AROUND THREE PROMINENT THEMES:

1. **Aspirational India** in which all sections of the society seek better standards of living, with access to health, education and better jobs.
2. **Economic development for all**, indicated in the Prime Minister's exhortation of "SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas, SabkaVishwas".
3. **Caring Society** that is both humane and compassionate, where Antyodaya is an article of faith.

The Finance Minister said the three broad themes are held together by Corruption free - policy-driven good governance, Clean and sound financial sector.

She said the three components of Aspirational India are- a) Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development b) Wellness, Water and Sanitation and c) Education and Skills.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Finance Minister said that more than Rs 2.83 lakh crore would be spent on Agriculture, Rural Development, Irrigation and allied activities as farmers and rural poor continue to remain the key focus of the Government. Reiterating the commitment of doubling farmers' income by 2022, She said, Government has already provided resilience for 6.11 crore farmers insured under PM Fasal Bima Yojana. Agriculture credit target for the year 2020-21 has be set at Rs 15 lakh crore. All eligible beneficiaries of PM-KISAN will be covered under the KCC scheme. Moreover, comprehensive measures for one hundred water stressed districts, proposal to expand PM-KUSUM to provide 20 lakh farmers for setting up stand-alone solar pumps and for another 15 lakh farmers to solarise their grid-connected pump sets, setting up of efficient warehouses at the block/taluk level and in Horticulture sector with focus on "one product one district" for better marketing and export are some of the steps in that direction.

	KEY NUMBERS			
	2018-19 (Actuals)	2019-20 (Budget Estimates)	2019-20 (Revised Estimates)	2020-21 (Budget Estimates)
Revenue Receipts	15,52,916	19,62,761	18,50,101	20,20,926
Capital Receipts	7,62,197	8,23,588	8,48,451	10,21,304
Total Receipts	23,15,113	27,86,349	26,98,552	30,42,230
Total Expenditure	23,15,113	27,86,349	26,98,552	30,42,230
Revenue Deficit	4,54,483	4,85,019	4,99,544	6,09,219
Effective Revenue Deficit	2,62,702	2,77,686	3,07,807	4,02,719
Fiscal Deficit	6,49,418	7,03,760	7,66,846	7,96,337
Primary Deficit	66,770	43,289	1,41,741	88,134



UNION BUDGET 2020-21

CENTRAL GOVT EXPENDITURE

Budget Estimates for 2020-21 (in ₹ crore)

Heads		Heads	
Pension	2,10,682	Interest	7,08,203
Defence	3,23,053	IT and Telecom	59,349
Major Subsidies	2,27,794	Planning and Statistics	6,094
Agriculture and Allied Activities	1,54,775	Rural Development	1,44,817
Commerce & Industry	27,227	Scientific Departments	30023
Development of North East	3,049	Social Welfare	53,876
Education	99,312	Tax Administration	1,52,962
Energy	42,725	Transfer to States	2,00,447
External Affairs	17,347	Transport	1,69,637
Finance	41,829	Union Territories	52,864
Health	67,484	Urban Development	50,040
Home Affairs	1,14,387	Others	84,256
		Grand Total	30,42,230

was launched on 31st December 2019 of Rs 103 lakh crore. It consists of more than 6500 projects across sectors and are classified as per their size and stage of development. She said that about Rs 22,000 crore has already been provided as support to Infrastructure Pipeline. Accelerated development of highways will be undertaken. This will include development of 2500 Km access control highways, 9000 Km of economic corridors, 2000 Km of coastal and land port roads and 2000 Km of strategic highways. Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and two other packages to be completed by 2023. Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway also be started.

WOMEN AND CHILD, SOCIAL WELFARE

Harping on the theme of Caring Society, the Finance Minister said that Rs 35,600 crore proposed for nutrition-related programmes for the financial year 2020-21. Rs 28,600 crore proposed for programs that are specific to women. Moreover, Rs 85000 crore would be allocated towards the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Other Backward classes for 2020-21. Similarly, for furthering development and welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Rs 53,700 crore is proposed for 2020-21. She said, the government is mindful of the concerns of senior citizens and Divyang.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On Environment, States that are formulating and implementing plans for ensuring cleaner air in cities above one million to be encouraged. Parameters for the incentives to be notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change and the allocation for this purpose is Rs 4,400 crore for 2020-21.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

The Finance Minister said that In the last few years, Government of India has infused about Rs 3,50,000 crore by way of capital into Public Sector Banks for regulatory and growth purposes. Governance reforms would be carried out in these banks, so that they become more competitive. Government has already approved consolidation of 10 banks into four. Further, the Deposit Insurance

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

On Education and Skill front, the Finance Minister said Rs 99,300 crore is being allocated in 2020-21 and Rs 3000 crores for skill development. New Education Policy will be announced soon. About 150 higher educational institutions will start apprenticeship embedded degree/diploma courses by March 2021. Degree level full-fledged online education programme to be started. Under its "Study in India" programme, an Ind-SAT is proposed to be held in Asian and African countries.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT

Referring to the theme of Economic Development, the Finance Minister said that Rs 27300 crore would be allocated for development and promotion of Industry and Commerce for the year 2020-21. An Investment Clearance Cell will be set up to provide "end to end" facilitation. It is proposed to develop five new smart cities in collaboration with States in PPP mode.

INFRASTRUCTURE

On Infrastructure sector as highlighted by the Prime Minister that Rs 100 lakh crore would be invested over the next 5 years, National Infrastructure Pipeline

and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has been permitted to increase Deposit Insurance Coverage for a depositor, which is now Rs one lakh to Rs five lakh per depositor.

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Union Government has spearheaded radical fiscal measures to ensure that India's economy continues to tread the path of high growth. She said that to make sure India stays globally competitive and a favoured destination for investment, a bold historic decision was taken to reduce the corporate tax rate for new companies in the manufacturing sector to an unprecedented level of 15%. For existing companies, the rate has been brought down to 22%. As a result, our corporate tax rates are now amongst the lowest in the world.

The Finance Minister said that in continuation of the reform measures already taken so far, the tax proposals in this budget introduce further reforms to stimulate growth, simplify tax structure, bring ease of compliance, and reduce litigations.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX AND SIMPLIFICATION OF TAXATION

In order to provide significant relief to the individual taxpayers and to simplify the Income-Tax law, the Finance Minister has proposed to bring a new and simplified personal income tax regime, wherein income tax rates will be significantly reduced for the individual taxpayers who forego certain deductions and exemptions.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN TAX SLABS ARE LISTED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

Taxable Income Slab (Rs.)	Existing Tax Rates	New Tax Rates
0-2.5 Lakh	Exempt	Exempt
2.5-5 Lakh	5%	5%
5-7.5 Lakh	20%	10%
7.5-10 Lakh	20%	15%
10-12.5 Lakh	30%	20%
12.5-15 Lakh	30%	25%
Above 15 Lakh	30%	30%

In the new tax regime, substantial tax benefit will accrue to a taxpayer depending upon exemptions and deductions claimed by him. For example, a

person earning Rs. 15 lakh in a year and not availing any deductions etc., will pay only Rs. 1,95,000 as compared to Rs. 2,73,000 in the old regime. Thus, his tax burden shall be reduced by Rs. 78,000 in the new regime. He would still be the gainer in the new regime, even if he was taking deduction of Rs. 1.5 Lakh under various sections of Chapter VI-A of the Income Tax Act under the old regime. The new tax regime shall be optional for taxpayers.

MEDIUM, SMALL AND MICRO ENTERPRISES

In order to reduce the compliance burden on small retailers, traders, shopkeepers who comprise the MSME sector, the Finance Minister has proposed to raise by five times, the turnover threshold for audit from the existing Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crore.

'VIVAD SE VISHWAS' SCHEME

Under the proposed 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme, a taxpayer would be required to pay only the amount of the disputed taxes and will get complete waiver of interest and penalty, provided he pays by 31st March, 2020. Those who will avail the scheme after 31st March, 2020 will have to pay some additional amount. The scheme will remain open till 30th June 2020.

INDIRECT TAX (GST)

A simplified GST return shall be implemented from the 1st April, 2020. It will make return filing simple with features like SMS based filing for nil return, return pre-filing, improved input tax credit flow and overall simplification. Dynamic QR-code is proposed for consumer invoices. GST parameters will be captured when payment for purchases is made through the QR-code.

To give impetus to domestic industry, and to generate resource for health services Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to impose a nominal health cess of 5% on imports of specified medical equipment.

Basic customs duty on imports of newsprint and light-weight coated paper is being reduced from 10% to 5%. An increase is proposed in National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on Cigarettes and Tobacco products. NCCD on Bidis remains unchanged. ■

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF UNION BUDGET 2020-21

16 ACTION POINTS FOR AGRICULTURE

IRRIGATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Rs. 2.83 lakh crore to be allocated for the following 16 Action Points:
- Rs. 1.60 lakh crore for Agriculture, Irrigation & allied activities.
- Rs. 1.23 lakh crore for Rural development & Panchayati Raj.

AGRICULTURE CREDIT:

- Rs. 15 lakh crore target set for the year 2020-21.
- PM-KISAN beneficiaries to be covered under the KCC scheme.
- NABARD Re-finance Scheme to be further expanded.
- Comprehensive measures for 100 water-stressed districts proposed.

BLUE ECONOMY:

- Rs. 1 lakh crore fisheries' exports to be achieved by 2024-25.
- 200 lakh tonnes fish production targeted by 2022-23.
- 3477 Sagar Mitras and 500 Fish Farmer Producer Organisations to involve youth in fisheries extension.
- Growing of algae, sea-weed and cage culture to be promoted.
- Framework for development, management and conservation of marine fishery resources.
- Kisan Rail to be setup by Indian Railways through PPP:
- To build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables (milk, meat, fish, etc.)
- Express and Freight trains to have refrigerated coaches.
- Krishi Udaan to be launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation:
- Both international and national routes to be covered.
- North-East and tribal districts to realize Improved

value of agri-products.

- One-Product, One-District for better marketing and export in the Horticulture sector.
- Balanced use of all kinds of fertilizers - traditional, organic and innovative fertilizers.
- Measures for organic, natural, and integrated farming:
- Jaivik Kheti Portal – online national organic products market to be strengthened.
- Zero-Budget Natural Farming (mentioned in July 2019 Budget) to be included.

PM-KUSUM TO BE EXPANDED:

- 20 lakh farmers to be provided for setting up stand-alone solar pumps.
- Another 15 lakh farmers to be helped to solarise their grid-connected pump sets.

VILLAGE STORAGE SCHEME:

To be run by the SHGs to provide farmers a good holding capacity and reduce their logistics cost. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – 0.5 crore households mobilized with 58 lakh SHGs for poverty alleviation.

WELLNESS, WATER AND SANITATION

- Rs. 69,000 crore allocated for overall Healthcare sector.
- Rs. 6400 crore (out of Rs. 69,000 crore) for PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY):
- More than 20,000 hospitals already empanelled under PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to offer 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals in all districts by 2024.
- TB Harega Desh Jeetega campaign launched - commitment to end Tuberculosis by 2025.
- Rs. 3.60 lakh crore approved for Jal Jeevan Mission:
- Rs. 11,500 crore for the year 2020-21.
- Rs.12, 300 crore allocation for Swachh Bharat Mission in 2020-21:

- Commitment to ODF-Plus in order to sustain ODF behaviour.
- Emphasis on liquid and grey water management.
- Focus also on Solid-waste collection, source segregation, and processing.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- Rs. 99,300 crore for education sector and Rs. 3000 crore for skill development in 2020-21.
- New Education Policy to be announced soon.
- National Police University and National Forensic Science University proposed for policing science, forensic science, and cyber-forensics.
- Degree level full-fledged online education program by Top-100 institutions in the National Institutional Ranking Framework.
- Budget proposes to attach a medical college to an existing district hospital in PPP mode.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND INVESTMENT

- Rs. 27,300 crore allocated for 2020-21 for development and promotion of Industry and Commerce.
- Investment Clearance Cell proposed to be set up:
- To provide “end to end” facilitation and support.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Rs.100 lakh crore to be invested on infrastructure over the next 5 years.
- National Infrastructure Pipeline:
- Rs. 103 lakh crore worth projects; launched on 31st December 2019.
- More than 6500 projects across sectors, to be classified as per their size and stage of development.

HIGHWAYS

- Accelerated development of highways to be undertaken, including:
- 2500 Km access control highways.
- 9000 Km of economic corridors.
- 2000 Km of coastal and land port roads.
- 2000 Km of strategic highways.
- Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and two other packages to be completed by 2023.
- Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway to be started.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

- Large solar power capacity to be set up alongside rail tracks, on land owned by railways.
- Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains through PPP.
- More Tejas type trains to connect iconic tourist destinations.
- High speed train between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to be actively pursued.
- 148 km long Bengaluru Suburban transport project at a cost of Rs 18600 crore, to have fares on metro model.

AIRPORTS

100 more airports to be developed by 2024 to support Udaan scheme.

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EAST REGION

- Improved flow of funds using online portal by the Government.
- Greater access to financial assistance of Multilateral and Bilateral funding agencies.
- Development of Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh:
- An amount of Rs. 30,757 crore provided for the financial year 2020-21.
- The Union Territory of Ladakh has been provided with Rs. 5,958.

FINANCIAL SECTOR

- Reforms accomplished in PSBs :
- 10 banks consolidated into 4.
- Rs. 3,50,000 crore capital infused.
- Governance reforms to be carried out to bring in transparency and greater professionalism in PSBs.
- Few PSBs to be encouraged to approach the capital market to raise additional capital

INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

- Rs.103 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline projects earlier announced.
- Rs 22,000 crore to cater to the equity support to Infrastructure Finance Companies such as IIFCL and a subsidiary of NIIF.
- An International Bullion exchange(s) to be set up as an additional option for trade by global market participants with the approval of regulator.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Online issuance of learning licence & vehicles registration
- Accelerated development of Highways
- 4 station redevelopment projects
- 150 passenger trains through PPP Mode
- Corporatizing at least one major port
- 100 more airports to be developed under UDAAN
- Replace conventional energy meters by prepaid smart meters
- Expand National Gas Grid to 27,000 km

National Logistics Policy to be launched

FOR THE FY 2019-20:

- Revised Estimates of Expenditure: 26.99 Lh cr.
- Revised Estimates of Receipts: estimated 19.32 Lh cr.

FOR YEAR 2020-21:

- Nominal growth of GDP estimated at 10%.
- Receipts: estimated at Rs.22.46 lakh cr
- Expenditure: at Rs.30.42 lakh cr.

Fiscal deficit of 3.8% estimated in RE 2019-20 and 3.5% for BE 2020-21. It comprises two ingredients; 3.3% for year 2019-20 and 3% for the 2020-21 budget estimate.

TAX CONCESSION FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS:

100% tax exemption to the interest, dividend and capital gains income on investment made in infrastructure and priority sectors before 31st March, 2024 with a minimum lock-in period of 3 years by the Sovereign Wealth Fund of foreign governments.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Additional deduction up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs for interest paid on loans taken for an affordable house extended till 31st March, 2021.
- Date of approval of affordable housing projects for availing tax holiday on profits earned by developers extended till 31st March, 2021.

INDIA NOW THE FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMY OF THE WORLD

- 7.4% average growth clocked during 2014-19 with inflation averaging around 4.5%.
- 271 million people raised out of poverty during 2006-16.
- India's Foreign Direct Investment elevated to US\$ 284 billion during 2014-19 from US\$ 190 billion during 2009-14.
- Central Government debt reduced to 48.7% of GDP (March 2019) from 52.2% (March 2014). ■

GST COMPENSATION FUND:

- Balances due out of collection of the years 2016-17 and 2017-18 to be transferred to the Fund, in two instalments.
- Hereinafter, transfers to the fund to be limited only to collection by way of GST compensation cess.
- Overhaul of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes necessary:
- To align them with emerging social and economic needs of tomorrow
- To ensure that scarce public resources are spent optimally
- On the recent debate over transparency and credibility of projected fiscal numbers, it is assured that procedure adopted is compliant with the FRBM Act.



A BUDGET WITH 'VISION AND ACTION', WILL GIVE PUSH TO ECONOMY: MODI

Asserting that the Union Budget will accelerate the economic growth, financially empower every citizen and strengthen the foundation of the economy in the new decade, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi heaped praise on it for having both "vision and action".

He said provision of faceless appeal, new and simple structure of direct tax, move towards unified procurement system, stress on disinvestment are some of the steps which will reduce the government out of people's lives and will enhance their "ease of living".

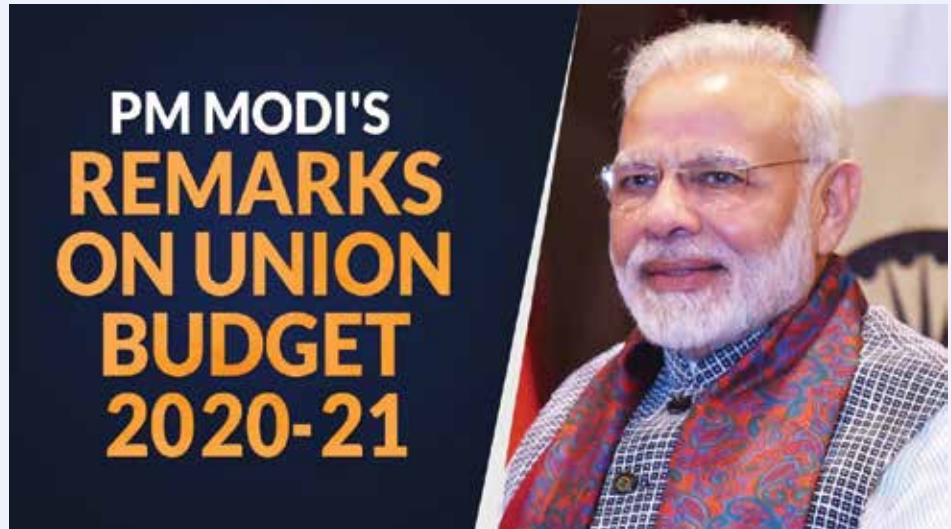
"I believe that this budget will increase income and investment, increase demand and consumption, bring new vigour in the financial system and credit flow," he said.

The Budget, Shri Modi noted, will meet the current needs of the country as well as the future expectations in the decade. "The new reforms announced in the Budget will work to accelerate the economy, financially empower every citizen of the country and strengthen the foundation of the economy in this decade," PM Shri Modi said in his comments.

Noting that the main areas of employment are agriculture, infrastructure, textiles and technology, he said the four have been given great emphasis in the Budget to increase employment generation.

Referring to the government's efforts to double the income of farmer, he said 16 action points have been created which will serve to increase employment in rural areas.

Integrated approach has been adopted for the agriculture sector in the Budget, which along with traditional methods will increase value addition in horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry and also



increase employment, he said. "Under the Blue Economy, the youth will also get new opportunities in the field of fish processing and marketing," Shri Modi noted.

Referring to the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the PM said it has given a new expansion to the health sector of the country. "In this sector, there has been a lot of scope for human resources - doctors, nurses, attendants as well as medical device manufacturing. New decisions have been taken by the government to increase it," he said.

The PM said in the budget, the government has made several special efforts to promote employment generation in the field of technology. A number of policy initiatives have been taken for areas such as new smart cities, electronic manufacturing, data centre parks, biotechnology and quantum technology.

Shri Modi hoped that India will move strongly towards becoming an integral part of the global value chain.

Steps like establishing a common online exam for government jobs, Kisan Rail and Krishi Udaan are going to have long-term benefits for a cross section of citizens. He said to get government jobs, youth have to take many different exams and travel to places. "Changing this arrangement, appointments will now be made through the online Common Examination taken by the National Recruitment Agency," he said. ■

BUDGET TESTIMONY OF PM MODI'S VISION FOR 'NEW INDIA': JP NADDA

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri JP Nadda on February 01 hailed the Union Budget and said it will ensure all-round development.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has ensured all-round development of all sections of the society. The Budget 2020, presented in the Parliament is the testimony of the vision of PM Narendra Modi ji for 'New India'. I express my gratitude for our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and congratulate Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman ji and her team for the visionary and futuristic, growth-oriented and all-inclusive Budget," he tweeted.

He said the Budget gives impetus to the fulfillment of aspirations of the middle income groups with focus on home for all by giving subsidy to first time buyers and announcing relaxation in income tax.

"Inspired by the mantra of sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, the central budget 2020 is a significant step in strengthening the efforts towards a new and developed India. My heartfelt gratitude to PM Narendra

**BJP NATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S
REMARKS
ON UNION
BUDGET
2020-21**



Modi and the finance minister for this transformative and holistic budget," Shri Nadda tweeted.

The BJP National President said PM Shri Modi has ensured all-round development of all sections of society and Budget 2020 is a testimony of his vision for "New India".

"The budget reflects aspirations, hopes and the country's faith. It aims at aspirational India, the economic development of all and caring society. This budget of the Modi government dedicated to the poor, deprived, oppressed, farmers, women and the youth," he said. ■

HERE'S HOW INDIA INC HAS REACTED TO THE UNION BUDGET 2020

FICCI:

The industry body welcomed Union Budget 2020, saying this could be a Budget which is a step towards further empowering individual, industry and the nation as a whole.

NASSCOM:

The apex body for information technology industry sees the Budget as a huge win for India's start-up ecosystem. It said that the government has taken a positive step towards enhancing the start-up ecosystem by allowing 100 per cent profit deduction for 3 years out of 10

years for start-ups with turnover up to Rs 100 crore.

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY (CII):

The industry think-tank termed Budget 2020 encouraging as it focused on enhancing purchasing power, creating jobs and innovative business.

It also appreciated removal of Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) and introduction of classical system of taxing dividend in the hands of shareholders.

KUNAL BAHL, CEO OF SNAPDEAL:

"Overall, Budget 2020 is a

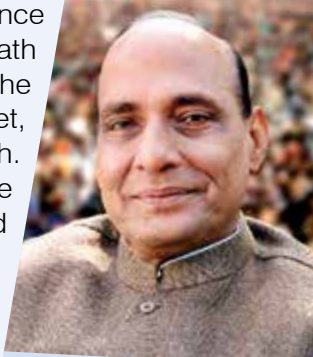
thoughtful weaving together of specific proposals to tackle varied issues. Measures to improve access to finance for MSMEs and reduced taxation for the middle-income segment are welcome steps.

S. CHANDRAMOHAN, CHAIRMAN, CII

Tamil Nadu State Council, said the scheme of solar grid connected power set in barren land for farmers and the support given for horticulture in the Budget through "one district one product" announcement was welcome.

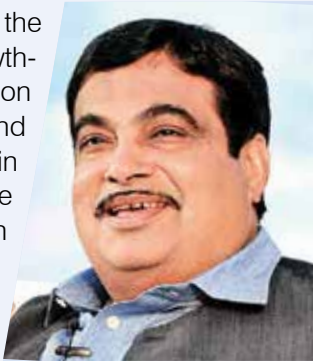
BUDGET WILL REVIVE GROWTH: RAJNATH SINGH

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh hailed the Union Budget, saying it will revive growth. "The first budget of the new decade presented by Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman gives an outline of a new and confident India. It is a promising, proactive and progressive budget which will make India healthy and wealthy in coming years," he said. ■



BUDGET GROWTH ORIENTED: NITIN GADKARI

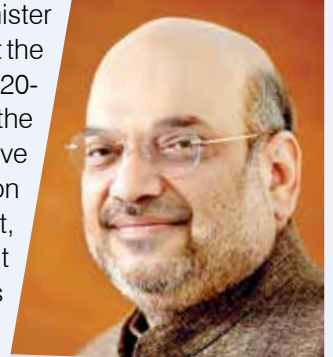
Welcoming the Budget as growth-oriented, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said: "A massive boost to investment in infrastructure, MSME, affordable housing, agriculture, irrigation, rural development would help revive industrial production and generate employment opportunities creating more than two crore jobs."



Shri Gadkari said, "The government aims to take up massive highway works in the financial year 2020-2021 including 15,500 km of highways and 9,000 km of economic corridors. Accelerated development of highways will be undertaken. This will include the development of 2500 km access control highways, 9000 km of economic corridors, 2000 km of coastal and land port roads and 2000 km of strategic highways". ■

BUDGET WILL MAKE INDIA A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY: AMIT SHAH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Union Budget 2020-21 will further the Modi government's resolve to make India a USD-5 trillion economy. "In this budget, the Modi government has taken effective steps to rationalize the tax system, boost the basic infrastructure, strengthen the banking system, promote investment and ease of doing business, which will further Modi government's resolve to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy," he tweeted. ■



LAI D FOUNDATION FOR \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY: SITHARAMAN

Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that Budget 2020 has laid the foundation for increasing consumption and building assets to push India towards its goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy.

"I think we have laid the foundation for increasing consumption, ensuring government's investment goes towards asset-building. This is sure to have a cascading effect, both in the short term and in the long term. "And with that, the virtuous cycle of triggering the economy to perform and move forward will be happening, that is the basis on which majority of government expenditure is going towards infrastructure construction," Smt. Sitharaman said.

She said, "In order to address rural distress, 16 focused action points have been announced in the budget. So I expect all this will lead to a five trillion dollar economy." ■



BJP LIFTS ITS VOTE SHARE FROM PREVIOUS ELECTION

The Bharatiya Janata Party improved its vote share in the Delhi Assembly elections declared on 11 February, 2020. However, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party holds on to its vote share. The BJP won 38.51% of the votes cast. Its allies JD(U) got 0.91% & LJP got 0.35% votes respectively. The NDA garners 39.77% vote share of the total vote casts in Delhi.

This was higher than the 32.3% vote share for the BJP in the 2015 elections. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party saw a slight dip in its vote share. It had won 53.57% of the votes counted. In the last Assembly elections, it had bagged 54.5% of the votes.

The elections marked the continuing decline of the Congress in the national Capital, where it was in power from 1998 to 2013. The Congress was not in second place in any of the 70 seats in the city, and 63 i.e. 90% of candidates forfeit their deposit. According to the Election Commission, a candidate has to forfeit his or her security deposit if they receive fewer than one-sixth of the total votes polled – or less than 16.66% of the votes.

Even voter turnout in the elections decreased from a record 67.47% in 2015 to 62.59%. The BJP won eight seats with an improvement on its 2015 tally of three.

Addressing a Press Conference, Delhi BJP President Shri Manoj Tiwari said that the mandate of the people in the Delhi Assembly Elections is paramount and thanked the voters besides congratulating Shri Arvind Kejriwal.

Thanking the BJP workers for their hard labour, Shri Tiwari expressed his hope that Shri Kejriwal



will work in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Delhi. BJP had great hopes but we could not succeed as expected and BJP will make assessment about it.

Shri Tiwari said that a new politics of two party system has started in Delhi and we will have to make preparations accordingly because Congress has become extinct. BJP will work with full dedication through its MPs and the form in which BJP has support in Delhi and try to perform better.

PM Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri Kejriwal for victory in Delhi Assembly Elections.

In a tweet Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Aam Aadmi Party and Shri Arvind Kejriwal for the victory in the Delhi Assembly Elections. The PM wished them the very best in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Delhi.

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda said that BJP accepts the mandate given by the people of Delhi and it will play the role of a constructive opposition. He congratulated Aam Aadmi Party for its victory in the Delhi assembly election. ■

IN SECOND PHASE 11.69 CRORE SOIL HEALTH CARDS DISTRIBUTED TO FARMERS IN TWO YEARS

The Soil Health Card scheme launched by the Modi Government during the financial year 2014-15 with a view to address the decline of soil nutrients, has started reaping fruit. In the second phase of the scheme 11.69 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers in the last two years.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and directions of the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, the Ministry is issuing the Soil Health Cards. This has enabled the farmers to understand the soil health parameters and improve its productivity by judicious application of soil nutrients.

A study conducted by the National Productivity Council (NPC) says the application of Soil Health Card recommendations has led to a decline of 8-10% in use of chemical fertilizers and also raised productivity by 5-6%.

Under the Central Government's Soil Health Card Scheme Phase-I (Years 2015 to 2017) 10.74 crore cards were distributed, while under the Phase-II 11.69 crore cards have been give away during the period 2017-19.

In the current financial year a pilot project "Development of Model Villages" is being implemented under which the sampling and testing of cultivable soil is being encouraged in partnership with the farmers. Under the project a Model Village has been selected for aggregation of soil samples and analysis of each agricultural holding. As part of the scheme 13.53 lakh Soil Health Cards have been distributed during the year 2019-20.

For the setting up of Soil Health Laboratories under the scheme the states have been sanctioned 429 static labs, 102 new mobile labs, 8,752 mini labs, 1,562 village-level laboratories and strengthening of 800 existing labs.

The scheme provides for the analysis of soil composition by the State Governments once in every



two years so that remedial steps can be taken to improve soil nutrients. Farmers can track their soil samples and also obtain their Soil Health Card report.

While the Soil Health Management Scheme has turned out to be a blessing for the farmers, it is also creating jobs for the agrarian youth. Under the scheme village youth and farmers up to 40 years of age are eligible to set up Soil Health Laboratories and undertake testing. A laboratory costs up to Rupees Five Lakhs, 75% of which can be funded by the Central and State Governments. The same provisions apply to Self Help Groups, Farmers' Cooperative Societies, Farmers Groups and Agricultural Producing Organisations.

Interested youth farmers and Organisations can submit their proposals either in person to the Deputy Director (Agriculture) / Joint Secretary (Agriculture) or in their offices in respective districts. For details visit websites agricoop.nic.in or soilhealth.dac.gov.in or dial Kisan Call Centre (1800-180-1551). ■

CABINET APPROVES THE MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. The Bill will be introduced in the ensuing session of the Parliament.

SALIENT FEATURES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Proposing requirement for opinion of one provider for termination of pregnancy, up to 20 weeks of gestation and introducing the requirement of opinion of two providers for termination of pregnancy of 20-24 weeks of gestation.

Enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women which will be defined in the amendments to the MTP Rules and would include 'vulnerable women including survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (like differently-abled women, Minors) etc.

Upper gestation limit not to apply in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by Medical Board. The composition, functions and other details of Medical Board to be prescribed subsequently in Rules under the Act.

Name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed except to a person authorised in any law for the time being in force.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds. The proposed amendments include substitution of certain sub-sections, insertion of certain new clauses under some sections in the existing Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, with a view to increase upper gestation limit for termination of pregnancy under certain conditions and to strengthen access to comprehensive abortion care, under strict conditions, without compromising service and quality of safe abortion.

It is a step towards safety and well-being of the women and many women will be benefitted by this. Recently several petitions were received by the Courts seeking permission for aborting pregnancies at a gestational age beyond the present permissible limit on grounds of foetal abnormalities or pregnancies due to sexual violence faced by women. The proposed increase in gestational age will ensure dignity, autonomy, confidentiality and justice for women who need to terminate pregnancy.

In order to increase access of women to safe abortion services and taking into account the advances in medical technology, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare proposed amendments after extensive consultation with various stake holders and several ministries. ■

UTTARAKHAND'S FIRST HELI SERVICES UNDER UDAN FLAGGED OFF

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on February operationalized the first ever helicopter services from Dehradun's Sahasradhara helipad to Gauchar, and Chinyalisaur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) of Government of India. Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and Shri Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, MoCA. The inauguration of the heli routes in the Uttarakhand region is in line with the objective of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to enhance the aerial connectivity of the hilly areas in the country. ■



UNDER MODI GOVT. Rs. 4 LAKH CRORE RECOVERED THROUGH INSOLVENCY, BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS

Due to the Narendra Modi government's efforts to bring down non-performing assets (NPAs) in banks and financial institutions, Rs 4 lakh crore has been recovered through insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings since 2014 which is a "major achievement," Union minister Shri Anurag Thakur said on 07 February, 2020.

Addressing the 70th annual function of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), he said when PM Shri Modi assumed office in 2014 in his first term, NPA stood Rs 52 lakh crore.

Due to the strong action taken by the financial institutions by initiating legal proceedings and following due process on the orders of the Central government, NPAs were brought down to Rs 18 lakh crore. The legal proceedings further continued wherein Rs 4 lakh crore was recovered, he said.



"It is our collective responsibility to help in further boosting the country's economy," Shri Thakur said. ■

INDIA GETS \$463.44 MILLION FDI IN FOOD PROCESSING IN APR-SEP FY20

India has received foreign direct investment (FDI) of USD 463.44 million in the food processing sector in the first half of the current fiscal, the government informed 11 February, 2020.

The country had received USD 628.24 million FDI in the food processing sector during the full fiscal year 2018-19 and USD 904.90 million during 2017-18, it added.

The government has permitted 100 per cent FDI through automatic route in manufacturing of food products subject to sectoral rules and regulations. Also, 100 per cent FDI is allowed through government route in retail trade in respect of food products produced/manufactured in India.

During the first quarter of the fiscal, maximum FDI of USD 244.95 million was made in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, followed by USD 25.08 million in



Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, while USD 22.99 million in Delhi and part of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, the data showed.

As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries, the minister said the invested capital in the registered food processing sector was 3,86,350 crore in 2015-16, 4,17,695 crore in 2016-17 and 4,48,938 crore in 2017-18. ■

ASPECTS OF ECONOMICS

PROSPERITY VERSUS DHARMA

NOT only an absence of material prosperity but also an excess of material prosperity leads to an end of Dharma. This is the special point of view of this country. The West has not thought of the result of material means. When these means create an addiction to them or to the things and pleasures to be had through them, then we can say that material influence has been established. In the absence of material wealth it ceases to be a means and becomes an end in itself. When there is too much of it, it ceases to be a means of righteous conduct and becomes a means of sensual pleasure. As these pleasures have no limit a person given to them will always feel a want of wealth and at the same time his addiction to pleasures will reduce his capacity to produce wealth.



SWADESHI AND DECENTRALISATION

“SWADESHI” and “Decentralisation” are the two words which can briefly summarize the economic policy suitable for the present circumstances. Centralization and monopolization have been the order of the day for all these years, knowingly or unknowingly. The planners have become prisoners of a belief that only large-scale centralized industry is economic and hence without worrying about its ill-effects, or knowingly but helplessly they have continued in that direction. The same has been the case with “Swadeshi” The concept of “Swadeshi” is ridiculed as old-fashioned and reactionary. We proudly use foreign aid in everything, from thinking, management, capital, methods of production, technology, etc. to even the standards and forms of consumption. This is not the road to progress and development. We shall forget our

individuality and become virtual slaves once again. The positive content of “Swadeshi” should be used as the cornerstone of reconstruction of our economy.

DEPENDENCE ON WESTERN ECONOMICS

NOT only because of different ideals of life but also because of different conditions in terms of time and place the way of our economic development will have to be different from that of the West. But we are tied to Marshall and Marx. We believe that the economic principles they have discussed are eternal. Even those Who realise that they are dependent upon certain systems are not able to step out of their orbits. The economic prosperity of the West has created a blind belief in us about the Western system of production. Western economists have produced so much critical literature that we easily feel overwhelmed by it.

We cannot rise above it. It is possible that this science of economics may have some principles that do not depend upon time, place or system and can prove useful to all, but very few have the capacity to assess this quality. Our education cannot create people with such a capacity. Our economists may be experts in Western economics, but they have not been able to make any solid contribution to it because the Indian economy can neither provide them the necessary thought nor the necessary field for experimentation.

NO RIGHT ETERNAL

NO fundamental rights, whether related to property or other things, are eternal. They are all dependent upon the interest of society. In fact these rights are given to the individual in order that he may perform his social duties. A soldier is given weapons because his duty is to protect society. If he does not do his duty

he loses the right to bear weapons. Similarly the right to property is given to an individual so that he could do his duty by society. For this purpose it becomes necessary to define and modify these rights from time to time. No right to property is absolute of society.

RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP

THE right of ownership is actually the right to use a particular thing within definite limits and for a definite purpose. These rights keep changing with the times. Hence as a matter of principle we may not get entangled in the quarrel between the individual's rights and the right of society. For us the State is not the only form of society. We believe that the individual, the family, the community, the State are all different forms in which society expresses and fulfils itself. The joint family is the practical unit in this country in which we seek to preserve the social sense in the individual, in which every individual has the right to earn, but the right of ownership vests in the family. Wealth is used for the benefit of the family. It is this Indian principle of Trusteeship that has been propounded by Gandhiji, Guruji and other thinkers.

OWNERSHIP RIGHT FOR WORKERS

IT is a matter of surprise that today a share-holder in joint stock companies, who has no other connection with the company except a share in its profit, should be able to exercise ownership rights while the worker who works in an industry, sets its machines into motion and depends upon it for his livelihood should experience a feeling of being a stranger to it. This feeling is not proper. It is therefore necessary that along with the share-holder the worker should be given ownership rights and a share in its management and profit.

RIGHT TO FOOD

THE slogan commonly heard now-a-days is "one must earn his bread". Normally communists use this slogan, but even the capitalists are not fundamentally in disagreement with it. If there is any difference between them, it is only as regards who earns and how much. The capitalists consider capital and enterprise as important factors of production and if they take a major share of profit, it is because they think it is their due. On the other hand, communists believe only labour to be the main factor in production.

Therefore they concede a major share of production to the labourers. Neither of these ideas is correct. Strictly speaking, our slogan should be that he who earns will feed and every person will have enough to eat. The right to food is a birthright. The ability to earn is a result of education and training. In a society even those who do not earn must have food. The children and the old, the diseased and the invalids, all must be cared for by society. Every society generally fulfils this responsibility. The social and cultural progress of mankind lies in the readiness to fulfil this responsibility.

FOOD VERSUS FREEDOM

WHILE imports may help us tide over our present difficulties, the real solution to the problem lies in maximising agricultural production in the country. That we have not done sufficiently in this direction needs no saying. The present agreement is an eloquent testimony to the Government's failure on this front. With the passage of time we have become increasingly dependent on foreign sources. We fear that due to availability of food in plenty at present the Government may become complacent in their efforts to raise production locally. The US Ambassador feels that America is following this policy only to let the struggling people of the democratic world realise that "there can be both freedom and food". But what we want is our freedom and our food. That is possible only if we revive our old slogan of "Freedom from foreign food". Dependence on foreign sources will impoverish and entangle us.

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

IF a vote for everyone is the touch-stone of political democracy, work for everyone is a measure of economic democracy. This right to work does not mean slave labour as in communist countries. Work should not only give a means of livelihood to a person but it should be of the choice of that person. If for doing that work the worker does not get a proper share in the national income, he would, be considered unemployed. From this point of view a minimum wage, a just system of distribution and some sort of social security are necessary. ■ *(To be continued..)*

(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Raje)

P PARAMESWARAN IS NO MORE

Senior Pracharak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and former leader of the erstwhile Bharatiya Jana Sangh Shri P Parameswaran passed away at the age of 91 on February 9, 2020.

Shri Parameswaran, who had worked with leaders like Deendayal Upadhyaya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani during the Jana Sangh days, was honoured with Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award in 2018 and Padma Shri in 2004.

He was a prolific writer, poet, researcher. He was the Bharatiya Jana Sangh's secretary (1967-1971) and vice president (1971-1977), as well as the director of the Deendayal Research Institute (1977-1982), New Delhi. Born in 1927 in Muhamma, Alappuzha district, he was associated with the RSS during his student days. During the days of Emergency, he courted arrest as part of the all India Satyagraha against it and was jailed for 16 months. Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram was established by Parameswaran in 1982 "to promote nationalist thoughts among Keralites".

Born in Thamarasseril Illam, Muhamma village in Alappuzha district in the year 1927, Shri Parameswaran after his schooling at his birthplace, continued his studies at St. Berchmans College, Changanacherry and graduated from University College, Thiruvananthapuram with distinctions in BA (Hons.) in History. From early childhood, he had a great inclination towards the study of Hinduism. He was intimately connected with most of the Hindu social and cultural organizations.

PM CONDOLES THE DEMISE

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has condoled the demise of P Parameswaran, a veteran social worker. "Shri P Parameswaran was a proud and dedicated son of Bharat Mata. His was a life devoted to India's cultural awakening, spiritual regeneration and serving the poorest of the poor. Parameswaran Ji's thoughts were prolific and his writings were outstanding. He was indomitable.

An institution builder, Parameswaran Ji nurtured eminent institutions such as the



BharatheeyaVicharaKendram, Vivekananda Kendra and others. I am fortunate to have interacted with him many times. He was a towering intellectual. Anguished by his demise, the Prime Minister said.

DEMISE AN IRREPARABLE LOSS: JP NADDA

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said on demise of the leader, "The demise of our senior RSS Pracharak Padma Vibhushan Sh P Parameswaran ji is an irreparable loss to the society. He was the founder of Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram & many other institutions. He inspired many lives."

PARAMESWARAN A GREAT SOCIAL REFORMER AND A TRUE NATIONALIST: AMIT SHAH

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said in a tweet on demise of Shri Parameswaran, "Saddened to learn about the demise of senior Pracharak and Padma Vibhushan P. Parameswaran ji. He was a great social reformer and a true nationalist who devoted his entire life in the service of nation & humanity. His passing away is an irreparable loss to the society. Om Shanti." He added "Parameswarji was the director of Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram & President of Vivekananda Kendra. His writings & thoughts on social, cultural, religious and national issues were unparalleled. His contribution to restore democracy during the emergency will always be remembered." ■

PM ANNOUNCES SETTING UP OF 'SHRI RAM JANMA BHOOMI TIRTHA KSHETRA' TRUST

The Centre paved the way for the construction of the grand Ram Temple at Ayodhya, in accordance with the Supreme Court order of November 09, 2019 that ended the longstanding dispute. The independent Trust tasked with the building of a Ram temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, will be called the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi personally announced the Trust's formation in a speech he made in the Lok Sabha on 05 February, 2020 as Members of Parliament chanted "Jai Shri Ram" after its announcement.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister said, "I am happy to share with my fellow Indians that an important decision has been taken with regard to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi. These are in line with the verdict of the Honourable Supreme Court of India. "The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra" will be formed and this trust will be completely independent."



Later in the day, the government notified the formation of the trust. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra will have its office at R-20, Greater Kailash, Part-I in Delhi.

An independent 15-member team will be on the board of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, which will always have a trustee from the Dalit community, Home Minister Amit Shah later informed.

ALL THE TRUST MEMBERS:

The strength of trust will be 15 and that will be led by Shri K Parasaran, being referred to as 'God's advocate'.

RELIGIOUS GURUS

- Jagatguru Shankaracharya Jyothish Peethadheswar Swami Vasudevanand, Prayagraj
- Jagatguru Madhavarcharya Swami Vishwa
- Prasannatheerth, Udupi
- Yugpurosh Parmanand, Haridwar
- Swami Govinddev Giri, Pune

CIVILIANS

- Vimlendu Mohan Pratap Mishra - a descendant of Ayodhya royal family, Dr Anil Mishra, doctor Kameshwar Chaupal (SC), Patna - the Dalit man who laid the foundation stone of Ram Temple in 1989 during 'sheelanyas' organised by VHP

- Mahant Dharendra Das, Nirmohi Akhara, Ayodhya - the SC verdict in Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute had directed the government to give Nirmohi Akhara a seat at the trust table

NOMINATED MEMBERS

- The temple trust will select two persons by majority resolution to be part of the trust
- One representative to be nominated by the central government, which will be a serving member IAS, at least of joint secretary level
- One representative to be nominated by state government and would be a serving member of IAS under the state government
- DM, Ayodhya will be the ex-officio trustee. If serving DM is not a Hindu than additional magistrate will sit on the board.

The chairman for development of Temple complex will also be selected by the trust board and will be an ex-officio.

RALLY IN KOKRAJHAR AFTER BODO PEACE ACCORD



BODO ACCORD A HISTORIC AGREEMENT, NO ONE WANTED TO TOUCH IT BUT WE DID: PM MODI

Addressing a huge rally Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 07 February, 2020 said signing of the Bodo Peace Accord was a historic agreement that will bring peace to the region. Prime Minister was addressing a rally in Kokrajhar, Assam to celebrate the signing of the Bodo Peace Accord.

PM Shri Modi said insurgency in the region had been raging on for decades and had claimed thousands of lives, but past governments were reluctant in addressing the problems. He said the Northeastern states were the worst sufferers of this reluctance.

Speaking about the Bodo Accord, Shri Narendra Modi said, "Today is the day to acknowledge the support of all young people belonging to the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), BTC Chief Hagrama Mohilary and the Assam government, who played a very positive role for this agreement."

The PM said the Bodo Accord brings to an end a problem that had been persisting for decades and marks the beginning of a new era of peace and progress.

"Under the accord, a commission will also be given to fix the boundary of the area falling within BTAD. This region will get a special development package of Rs 1500 crore, which will largely benefit districts like Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri," Shri Modi said.

The Bodo Accord was signed on January 27 by the Modi government with four factions of the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB), All Bodo Students' Union and a civil society group for bringing a lasting peace in Bodo-dominated areas in Assam.

Over 1,615 cadres of different factions of the NDFB surrendered their arms and joined the mainstream within two days of the signing of the agreement.

"The agreement's signed in 1993 and 2003 could not bring permanent peace in BTAD.

Speaking to the public, PM Shri Narendra Modi NDA government has changed the perception towards the Northeast. "Earlier, the Northeastern states were considered to be recipient states. But today they are being seen as engines of growth."

"We have to work together for peace and development of Northeast and we will not allow violence to return," he said. Last week, 1615 cadres of all the factions of NDFB laid down arms in front of Assam Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal at an event in Guwahati. ■

KOKRAJHAR DECORATED WITH 70,000 LAMPS TO WELCOME PM



Kokrajhar was decorated with 70,000 earthen lamps to welcome Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to celebrate the signing of Bodo Peace Accord.

Assam finance minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, who monitored the entire

preparations, while sharing a video on his Twitter handle, said: "What a Spectacular View! Kokrajhar is all decked up with 70,000 earthen lamps to welcome Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi to Assam on February 07." ■

UNION HOME MINISTER SIGNS HISTORIC BODO PEACE ACCORD

Another success of PM's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas': Amit Shah

Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah presided over the signing of a historic agreement between Government of India, Government of Assam and Bodo representatives, in New Delhi on January 27, to end the over 50-year old Bodo crisis. Further, a permanent solution has been found out for the problem that has cost the region over 4000 lives.

Present on the occasion were Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Convenor, NEDA and Assam Minister, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Executive Member of BTC, Shri Hagrama Mohilary, representatives of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), All Bodo Students Union (ABSU), United Boro People Organization (UBPO), National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) factions – Gobinda Basumatary, Dharendra Boro, Ranjan Daimary, B. Saoraigwra, along with senior officers from Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Assam.



With this agreement, over 1500 armed cadres will abjure violence and join the mainstream. A Special Development Package Rs. 1500 crores over three years will be given by the Union Government to undertake specific projects for the development of Bodo areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shah called this momentous occasion as the harbinger of a golden future for Assam, and that it was a direct consequence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's policy of focusing on North-East region's development. The fruition of this vision can also be seen in the Bru-Reang agreement signed on January 16, 2020 to end the humanitarian crisis in Meghalaya and Tripura, recent surrender of 644 armed cadres in Assam and surrender of 88 armed NLFT cadres in Tripura to bring them to mainstream, in addition to today's agreement.

Shri Shah said that Assam's territorial integrity is assured with this agreement, as every single Bodo group has come on board. He noted that while earlier the states of North East used to feel neglected, Modi government ensured that a Union Minister visited the region every week in order to ensure effective implementation of Government schemes and timely completion of infrastructure projects.

Talking on the salient features of the agreement, Shri Shah said that the objective of the MoS is to increase the scope and powers of the BTC and to streamline its functioning; resolve issues related to Bodo people residing outside Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD); promote and protect Bodo's social, cultural, linguistic and ethnic identities; providing legislative protection for the land rights of tribals; ensure quick development of tribal areas and rehabilitate members of NDFB factions. ■

PM HAILS THE HISTORIC BODO ACCORD

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hailed the historic Bodo Accord and said the Accord will lead to transformative results for the Bodo people.



In a tweet Prime Minister said, "Ushering in a new dawn of peace, harmony and togetherness! Today is a very special day for India. The Accord with Bodo groups, which has been inked today will lead to transformative results for the Bodo people.

The Accord with Bodo groups will further protect and popularise the unique culture of the Bodo people. They will get access to a wide range of development oriented initiatives. We are committed to doing everything possible to help the Bodo people realise their aspirations".

BUDGET 2020 – SABKA SAATH, SABKA VISHWAS AND SABKA VIKAS FOCUSES ON WEALTH CREATION, PRO BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR



**GOPAL KRISHNA
AGARWAL**

This is an Epoch making budget 2020. Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman has kept in mind all the segments of the economy. It enforces Prime Ministers Shri Narendra Modi's vision of achieving 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024, with Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

The Government has not bogged down by the resource constraints and has continued with its push of spending on infrastructure and asset creation. It has taken care that the social welfare schemes of the government have sufficient funds allocation and can continue on its path of benefit to the last person (Antyodaya). Though the fiscal deficit targets have been relaxed but the government gives a fiscal consolidation path and has also, for the first time, annexed a list of off budget borrowing in the budget document and settled a very significant debate about transparency in government borrowing. All previous governments had been resorting to off budget borrowing like oil bonds etc. but were not disclosing it. FM has estimated a nominal GDP growth rate of 10 percent for

the coming year, keeping inflation below 4 percent our real GDP growth will be above 6 percent.

The budget focuses on wealth creation, pro business policy and minimal government intervention under the Economic Development Theme of the Budget. For resource generation it has desisted from increasing direct or indirect taxes. The government has reiterated its commitment of recognizing

MINISTER SMT NIRMALA SITHARAMAN HAS KEPT IN MIND ALL THE SEGMENTS OF THE ECONOMY. IT ENFORCES PRIME MINISTERS SHRI NARENDRA MODI'S VISION OF ACHIEVING 5 TRILLION DOLLAR ECONOMY BY 2024, WITH SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS.

and honoring honest taxpayer and is taking care of unwarranted harassment by tax authority by bringing accountability in the tax administration. Announcement of Taxpayer's Rights Charter within the statute is an important step in this direction. Provision for statutory taxpayer's right exists only in three other countries worldwide.

Direct personal tax slabs have been changed to benefit middle-income segment and taxpayers up to income level of Rs 15 lakh will be benefited if they opt for

new regime of personal tax. FM has also promised that many tax concessions enjoyed currently by individual tax payers will be incorporated in the new regime, depending upon the nature. The taxpayers, who do not have business income, can revise the option on yearly basis. Income accruing to NRI in zero tax countries like UAE will be taxed on income generated in India only, a logical step to fill the gap in taxation.

Deposit insurance for the scheduled banks has been increased to Rs 5 lakh from the current level of Rs 1 lakh only per depositor, about which there was very little awareness amongst the general public. This will help in building more confidence in the banking industries, bringing transparency. The government has also announced to bring law for resolution in the financial sector similar to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Cooperative sector gets the benefit of lowering of tax structure as in the case of reduced taxes for corporate sector, helping farmers producer organisations (FPO), milk cooperatives and other charitable institutions operating under cooperative structure. Even registration for charitable organisations under 80G and 12A has been made online provisionally, so that they face less

harassment and can start their activities early.

Agriculture sector have been sufficiently provided for with the 16 new initiatives announced under Aspirational India theme for rural and agriculture sector. Budget also provides for gap funding for new hospitals in the aspirational districts for servicing Ayushman health care scheme and provision for drinking water. State government's concerns about two months pending transfer under GST has been duly met through the consolidated fund and its commitment to compensate the states for increased 14 percent revenue every year in future has been provided through compensation cess. This settles one of the contentious issues under GST. For devolution of funds to the States, the FM has accepted the interim report of the 15th finance commission, which incorporates provisions of increased efficiency in State Finances for revenue transfer from the Centre.

Stressed assets under MSME has been given an extended one year time period for resolution and limit to go to resolution mechanism under SARFASI Act has been reduced to 100 crore from earlier 500 crore. The requirement for Tax Audit has been increased to a turnover of Rs 5 crore from Rs 1 crore earlier. MSME also meets its demand for invoice financing under TReDS. Startup ecosystem gets several hand holding supports like payment of taxes for ESOPs only at the point of sale. GIG economy, involving

technological development, gets a big push from the government. Education sector has several reforms for connecting academics to industries, providing them with industrial internship and skilling etc. setting of online educational facilities and new Police and Cybercrime University are important development. Employment through National

AGRICULTURE SECTOR HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENTLY PROVIDED FOR WITH THE 16 NEW INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED UNDER ASPIRATIONAL INDIA THEME FOR RURAL AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

Recruitment Agency for non-gazetted posts will smoothen employment process and make it completely transparent.

Under the theme of Economic Development, government provides for all the important sectors like Technological Textile Centres, power, renewable energy, connectivity like airports, seaports and railways. Finance minister works out a mechanism for the ambitious plan of investment of Rs 103 lakh crore under National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) identifying 6500 projects through Center, State and foreign direct investments (FDI). Budget has announced 100% tax exemption to interest, dividend and capital gains income in respect of investment made in infrastructure and other

notified priority sectors before 31st march 2024 with a lock in period of three years. Government has also opened up its bond markets, in rupee denomination, for investment from foreign sovereign debt funds, securing against exchange fluctuations, a concern shown earlier for sovereign debt funds. Financial market's long pending demand for abolition of dividend distribution tax (DDT) has been accepted.

Government has also taken care of inverted duty structure that has seeped in the domestic industry under Free Trade Agreement (FTA) from ASEAN countries. It also protects domestic industries from dumping from countries like China, securing domestic industries through clauses like country of origin and safeguard duties.

Discrimination of civil acts under Company Law and removal fear in the corporate sector has been hailed across every section. Faceless appeal provision and Vivad se Vishwas scheme will help resolving long pending tax disputes in tax administration and will also release funds for the government. Disinvestment road map will help reduce government dependence of tax revenue and improvement of primary and secondary bond market and increasing foreign debt investment limit commercial papers from 9 to 15 percent will help reduce dependence of corporate sector on bank finance alone. ■

(The writer is National spokesperson on BJP on economic affairs)

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ADDRESS BY HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO THE JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT



Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on 31 January, 2020. He said in 2022; when India will host the G-20 Summit and Host the summit in the year marking the 75th anniversary celebration of our independence, India's global influence will further enhance. Highlights of the address;

HEALTH AND SANITATION

- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**
 - Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, more than 9 crore toilets have been constructed.
 - Coverage of rural sanitation that was less than 40 percent in 2014, has increased to 98 percent.

UJJWALYOJANA

- Government has provided more than 6 crore cooking gas connections to such sisters and daughters under the UjjwalaYojana.

PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA ABHIYAN

- Under the world's biggest health care scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Jan AarogyaAbhiyan',
- 50 crore poor are eligible for availing treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per year per family in case of a serious illness.
- In a short period of four months, more than 10 lakh poor have already availed free treatment from hospitals under this scheme.
- **New AIIMS**
- From Madurai in Tamil Nadu to Pulwama in Jammu-Kashmir; and from Rajkot in Gujarat to Kamrup in Assam, new 'AIIMS' are being established.

HOUSING

- **Rural housing**

In the last four-and-a-half years, 1 crore and 30 lakh homes have been constructed under the rural housing schemes of the Government, whereas in the five years preceding 2014, only 25 lakh houses had been constructed.
- **Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana**

Under 'Pradhan Mantri AwasYojana', the Government

is also giving interest subsidy of 6 and a half per cent to the persons belonging to low income group.

- Today every village has been electrified. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana', 2 crore and 47 lakh homes have been provided electricity connection.

FOR THE ASPIRATIONS AND DREAMS OF YOUNG INDIANS OF 21ST CENTURY

• **Kaushal Vikas Abhiyan**

Keeping in mind the desire of the youth to be self-reliant, the Kaushal Vikas Abhiyan was launched. Under this Abhiyan, in the last four years, on an average one crore youth have been trained every year in different skills.

• **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**

Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana', which facilitates credit for professional and business requirements, loans worth more than Rs. 7 lakh crore have been disbursed to the youth without any guarantee. More than 15 crore people have benefitted and over 4 crore 26 lakh first time borrowers have started their business under this scheme.

• **Start Up India**

Under 'Start Up India' and 'Stand Up India', Government has provided financial assistance to make the youth self-reliant. As a result, in the world of start ups, India now figures as a frontline country.

• **New Institutions**

- 7 IITs, 7 IIMs, 14 IIITs, 1 NIT and 4 NIDs are being established. It has been decided to enhance the amount of scholarship and fellowship by more than 25 percent to encourage research activities in the country.
- Opening up of 103 Kendriya Vidyalayas and setting up of , Eklavya Model Awasiya Vidyalayas in all



talukas having a majority tribal population and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalyayas.

- The Government is setting up more than 5,000 'Atal Tinkering Labs' for taking ideas to innovation.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana', the maximum benefit has been availed by women. Out of the 15 crore Mudra loans provided so far throughout the country, 73 percent have been disbursed to women entrepreneurs.
- Under the 'Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana', about 6 crore women have become members of Self Help Groups.
- Enhanced maternity leave from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

FARMER WELFARE

- Providing the farmers with fair price for their crops, access to new markets and helping them with additional sources of income.
- Government has taken the historic decision of fixing the Minimum Support Price - MSP of 22 crops at one and a half times higher than the production cost of the crop.
- The number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras is being increased across the country to assist the farmers with scientific methods of farming.
- More than 17 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to inform the farmers about the health of the soil.

ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION AND BLACK MONEY

- Approved constitution of a Special Investigation Team- SIT on black money.
- New agreements were signed with several countries known as tax havens, and several others were signed with many other countries to rectify deficiencies in existing agreements.
- New laws were enacted for sectors thriving on black money, and those were brought under the ambit of taxation.
- Government also provided an opportunity to voluntarily disclose unaccounted income and wealth.
- Demonetisation was a defining moment in the Government's war on corruption and black money.
- The registration of 3 lakh 38 thousand dubious shell companies responsible for flow of black money have

been annulled by the Government.

- Assets worth more than Rs 50 thousand crore are being confiscated under the Benami Property Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the law against fugitive economic offenders.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH EAST

- Under the Udan Yojana, 19 new airports are being built in Eastern India and of these 5 are coming up in the North East.
- The work of reconstruction of fertilizers plants at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Barauni in Bihar and Sindri in Jharkhand, which were closed for several years, is progressing rapidly.
- The 'Urja Ganga Pariyojana' started with an approximate outlay of Rs.13 thousand crores will help expand the industries based on gas pipeline in several cities of Eastern India.
- Out of the 18 thousand villages electrified by the Government, about 13 thousand villages are in Eastern India and out of these 5 thousand villages are in the remote areas of the North-East.
- Almost all the railway lines of the North-East have been converted to broad-gauge.

STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL SECURITY

- Through the surgical strike on cross border terror posts, India has shown its new policy and strategy.
- Last year India joined the handful of countries that possess the Nuclear Triad capability.
- Not only has Government fulfilled the demand for One Rank One Pension that had been pending for 4 decades, but it has also disbursed arrears amounting to more than Rs 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen.
- After a gap of many decades, the Indian Air Force is preparing to welcome, in the coming months, its new generation ultra-modern fighter aircraft Rafale and strengthen its strike capability.
- In the last few years, a record number of youngsters in the Maoist areas have come forward to join the mainstream.

INDIA AT GLOBAL PLATFORM:

It is a measure of Government's diplomatic success that today India's voice is heard with respect at international fora. ■

PEOPLE WANT SPEED AND SCALE: PM

Replying to the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in Lok Sabha, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 06 February, 2020 said that President Shri Ram Nath Kovind's address instills a spirit of hope and it presents a roadmap for taking the nation ahead in the times to come.

"His address comes at a time when we enter the third decade of the century. Rashtrapati Ji's address instills a spirit of hope and it presents a roadmap for taking the nation ahead in the times to come", PM said.

Prime Minister said that now people of the country are not ready to wait. They want Speed and Scale, Determination and Decisiveness, Sensitivity and Solution. Our Government has worked at a fast pace and the result is that in five years 37 million people have bank account, 11 million people have toilets in their home, 13 million people have cooking gas in their homes. Today dream of 2 crore people to have a home of their own is realised. Long wait to own a home has ended for 40 lakh people in over 1700 illegal colonies of Delhi.



AGRICULTURE BUDGET RISEN FIVE TIMES

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that increasing the farmer's income is our priority. The issues of higher MSP, crop insurance and irrigation related schemes were pending for decades. We raised the MSP to one and half times and spent one lakh crore rupees spent to complete the stalled irrigation projects.

"More than five and a half crores of farmers joined the Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme; farmers were paid a premium of thirteen and a half crore rupees, insurance claims of more than 56 thousand crores are settled", PM added. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the agriculture budget has risen five times during the government's tenure. "PM-KISAN Samman Yojana is transforming the lives of many farmers. A sum of Rs 45,000 Crores have been transferred and several farmers have benefitted due

to this. In this scheme there are no middlemen and no extra file-work," he said.

OUR VISION IS FOR GREATER INVESTMENT, BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAXIMUM JOB CREATION

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha said that his government has kept the fiscal deficit in check. "Price rise is also under check and there is macro-economic stability," he added.

Shri Modi dwelt on the many steps taken by the Government to increase the confidence of investors and strengthen the economy of the country.

"We have taken many initiatives in: Industry Irrigation Social infra Rural infra Ports Water ways", he said.

"Stand up India and Mudra are adding prosperity in the lives of many. Substantial number of the Mudra beneficiaries are women. Under Mudra Yojana loans more than 22 crore rupees have been approved benefitting crores of youth."

"Government is working on labour reforms and that too after consulting the labour unions", Prime Minister added.

Prime Minister said, "For us infrastructure is a combination of aspirations and achievements, about connecting people to their dreams, people's creativity to consumers. Infrastructure is connecting a child to her school, a farmer to the market, a businessman to his customers. It is about connecting people to people."

Dwelling further on the subject the Prime Minister said that among the things that will drive India's progress is next-generation infrastructure.

"In the earlier days, infrastructure creation brought "economic opportunities" for a select few. Not any more. We have made this sector transparent and are working to boost connectivity", he said

In the coming days we are going to invest over Rs 100 Lakh Crore in the Infrastructure Sector and this would boost growth, economy and employment", he said. ■

'IN LAST FIVE YEARS GOVT. BROUGHT NEW THOUGHTS AND NEW APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE'

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his reply in Rajya Sabha on February 6, to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address said that in the last five years Government has brought new thoughts and new approach to the governance. Referring to Digital India as one of the examples of this new thinking and new approach to governance, Prime Minister said that only 59 Gram Panchayats had Broadband connectivity before 2014 but in the last 5 years over 1.25 lakh panchayats have been provided with Broadband connectivity.

He said, there were 80 thousand Common Service Centers in the country in 2014, but today their number has increased to more than 3 lakh 65 thousand. More than 12 lakh rural youth are ensuring online delivery of all the services of the government in these centres.

Prime Minister said BHIM App is being recognized globally as a secure digital transaction platform. He said a record transaction of over Rs 2 lakh 16 thousand crores took place on BHIM App in the month of January. He said RuPay Card is also gaining acceptance in many countries.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION

Prime Minister said, another example of this government's approach is the Jal Jeevan Mission. He said this mission, which aims at connecting every household with piped water supply, is also an excellent example of the model of local governance.

He said that even though the Central Government has started this mission, but its management will be at the village level. The village committees will implement it, manage the funds and take decisions related to the setting up of pipeline, building of tanks etc.

BEST EXAMPLE OF COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM: ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that Central Government, State Government and District

Administration are working with synergy for the development of more than 100 aspirational districts of the country. He said that Aspirational District program with district as its implementing agency has emerged as one of the best example of cooperative federalism.

He said Government is taking all the efforts for the development of poor, tribals in these Aspirational Districts.

WORKING SENSITIVELY FOR EVERY SECTION OF THE SOCIETY

Prime Minister said that in the last 5 years work has been done to honour all the tribal fighters of the country. Museums are being built all over the country, research institutes are being set up and tribal art and literature is being digitized. Ekklavya Model Residential Schools are set up to ensure quality education of talented children of tribal areas.

GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Prime Minister stated that this government has taken several steps for women empowerment. "For the first time in the history of the country, the admission of daughters in military schools has been approved. The work of appointment of women in the Military Police is also going on", Prime Minister said.

More than 600 one-stop centers have been built for the safety of women in the country. Self defence training is being imparted to girls from class VI to XII in every school of the country. A national database has been created to identify and track sex offender. In addition, there are plans to set up anti-human trafficking units in every district of the country. To deal with serious cases of sexual violence on children, the POCSO Act has been amended to widen the scope of the offenses under it. More than one thousand fast track courts will be built across the country for timely justice. ■



'MAKE IN INDIA, FOR INDIA AND FOR THE WORLD': PM MODI

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the transformation of Indian defence in line with the changing technology is paramount and that the country was trying to become a major defence export power which was also tied up with its \$5 billion economy ambition.

In his inaugural speech at the DefExpo in Lucknow on 05 February, 2020 he coined a new mantra, "Make in India, for India and for the world," and said this policy is being adhered to by his government to prepare robust defence infrastructure in the country.

"Digital transformation of defence, this subject is very important for the future of the Indian military," PM said and added, "Our aim is to develop 25 products based on artificial intelligence in the next 5 years."

He said all the forces in the world are evolving in the light of new technological challenges and India was trying to keep pace.

"In the last five years India has made remarkable progress in indigenising the production of military equipment under the Make in India initiative," he said.

The Prime Minister listed his government's initiatives in this regard and said that while only 270 defence licences were issued till 2014, his government had taken it to 460 in the last five years.

"Be it artillery guns, aircraft carrier, frigates, submarines, light combat aircrafts, combat helicopters many such equipments are being manufactured in India," Shri Narendra Modi said.

The Prime Minister said there was special emphasis on cutting down defence import and increase export.

"India's defence export is growing; it stood at Rs 17,000 crore in the last two years. The defence export target for the next five years is Rs 35,000 crore," he added.

PM Shri Modi said even Indian Industry can benefit free of cost from the relevant transfer of technology by the DRDO (Defence Research Development Organisation), made possible by his government.

He said the licensing regime has been made liberal so that Indian manufacturers, especially SMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) can



participate in the sector.

"Our target is to take the number of MSMEs in defence production to 15,000 in the next five years," he said.

"The target is to have 200 defence start-ups that can help in creating at least 50 new indigenous technologies," Modi said and added that the government plans to identify the most essential technological advancements and work towards it.

He said that the government was also working to attract foreign investment in the sector. "FDI rules have been made easy and liberal by this government. The path to 100% direct investment has been cleared and 49% of this can be done through the indirect route. This has the potential of inviting Rs 17,000 crore in FDI in the near future," said Shri Modi.

DefExpo is India's biennial military exhibition that showcases the country's potential to become a global defence manufacturing hub.

Delegates from 70 countries and 172 foreign military manufacturers are attending the five-day exhibition. 856 Indian defence firms are also showcasing their wares at the event.

The main theme of the 11 DefExpo is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and the focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.

The fifth India-Russia Military Industry Conference is also being held on the sidelines of the DefExpo, over 100 Russian and over 200 Indian industry leaders are expected to participate in the conference. ■

YOUTH OF THE COUNTRY IS BRIMMING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE: PM



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the country through his 8th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat 2.0' on January 26, 2020. We are publishing the highlights of the address:

- My dear countrymen, we touched upon the Mann Ki Baat Charter. The ethos of public participation, besides in the area of sanitation, is rising rapidly on another front... and that is water conservation. Quite a few extensive & innovative efforts are under way, in every corner of the country, for the sake of conserving water. It gives me joy to let you know that the Jal-Shakti Campaign that commenced last monsoon is taking rapid, successful strides with the aid of public participation. A large number of lakes & ponds have been built. And the best part is that in this campaign, people from all strata of society contributed wholeheartedly. Take for instance Jalore district in Rajasthan. There, two historical step wells had turned into storehouses of garbage & dirty water. But one fine day, hundreds of people from Bhadraayun & Thanawala Panchayats took a resolve to rejuvenate them, under the Jal Shakti Campaign. Much before the rains, people immersed themselves in the task of cleaning out the accumulated filthy water, garbage and morass. For this campaign, some donated money; others their labour & sweat. As a result, these step wells have turned into their lifelines now. A similar story comes across from Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh.
- Whereas, a very innovative idea of harnessing a borewell for rainwater harvesting sprung up from Tamilnadu. The country is replete with innumerable such stories, of water conservation, lending more strength to the resolves of New India. Today the entire country is eager to hear similar accomplishments of our Jal Shakti champions. I urge you to share without fail, stories, photos & videos of such endeavours of water conservation and water harvesting undertaken by you or those around you using #Jalshakti4India.
- Friends, next month, the first edition of 'Khelo India University Games' is being organized in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 22nd February to 1st March. And more than 3000 players have qualified for participating in these games.
- My dear countrymen, the exam season has arrived, and obviously all the students will be busy giving final shape to their preparations. After my experience with millions of students of the country through the platform of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', I can say with confidence that the youth of the country is brimming with self-confidence and is ready to face every challenge.
- My dear countrymen, in March last year, a video had become the centre of attention in the media and the social media. The buzz was about how a 107 year old elderly motherly figure broke the protocol to bless the President. This lady was Saalumurada Timmakka, who is famous in Karnataka as 'Vriksha Maataa' (Tree Mother). And the ceremony was the Padma Awards distribution. The country recognised and honoured the extraordinary contribution of Timmakka who comes from an ordinary background. She was being decorated with the Padma Shri award ceremony. ■
- Village Suniyakot along the Almora-Haldwani highway in Uttarakhand has also emerged as a similar example of public participation. To tide over an acute water crisis, villagers took it upon themselves to ensure that water reached their village. There was no stopping to their resolve. People raised money among themselves. The plan was followed by collective donation of labour and from almost a kilometre away, a pipe was laid upto the village. A pumping station was set up. By and by, a two decade old agonizing problem came to an end.

INDIA CELEBRATES 71st REPUBLIC DAY

India celebrated the 71st Republic Day on January 26, 2020. Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind hoisted the tricolor on the Rajpath. For the first time Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi honoured the martyrs at the National War Memorial instead of the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. In the morning of republic day PM paid homage at the National War Memorial. He tweeted "India will always be grateful to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in service of the nation. Their exemplary service motivates crores of Indians." On the occasion of republic day 2020 celebration, India made President of Brazil Jair Messias Bolsonaro as the Chief Guest.

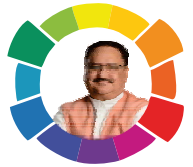


On the eve of Republic Day, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind urged all Indians to remember Mahatma Gandhi's teachings of non-violence. "It should be part of our daily routine to introspect on Gandhiji's message of truth and non-violence, which

has become all the more necessary in our times," he said in his speech. ■



**BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT
BECOME PROUD MEMBER OF 'KAMAL SANDESH'**



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Cheque/Draft No. : Date : Bank :

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

(Subscriber's Signature)



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Dr. Mookerji Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramania Bharati Marg, New Delhi-110003
Ph.: 011-23381428 **Fax:** 011-23387887 **E-mail:** kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in



PM Shri Narendra Modi paying homage to the martyrs at National War Memorial, on the occasion of 71st Republic Day in New Delhi



Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, PM Shri Narendra Modi with the Chief Guest of the Republic Day, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. Jair Messias Bolsonaro, at 71st Republic Day Celebrations, at Rajpath, New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chairing the All Party Meeting ahead of the Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi paying homage at the Gandhi Smriti, on the occasion of the Martyrs' Day (January 30), New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participating in the celebrations marking the historic Bodo Agreement, in Kokrajhar. Assam CM Shri Sarbananda Sonowal is also seen in the picture.



PM Shri Narendra Modi and PM of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa at the Joint Press Statements, at Hyderabad House, New Delhi



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SIGNIFICANT RELIEF TO MIDDLE CLASS TAXPAYERS IN THE NEW SIMPLIFIED IT TAX REGIME

NEW TAX SLABS (70 EXEMPTIONS TO BE REMOVED)

Taxable Income Slab (Rs.)	Existing tax rates	New tax rates
0-2.5 Lakh	Exempt	Exempt
2.5-5 Lakh	5%	5%
5-7.5 Lakh	20%	10%
7.5-10 Lakh	20%	15%
10-12.5 Lakh	30%	20%
12.5-15 Lakh	30%	25%
Above 15 Lakh	30%	30%

Fact Check

- About 5.3 crore taxpayers (91.7%) claimed deductions of less than Rs 2 lakh
- Only 3.77 lakh taxpayers, less than 1%, claimed deductions of over Rs 4 lakh

*Data for 2018-19 | www.bjs.org | Source: Govt of India

BANKING SECTOR REFORMS

#JanJanKaBudget

- DIGGC has been permitted to increase Deposit Insurance Coverage for a depositor, from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per depositor
- Amendments to the Banking Regulation Act to strengthen the Cooperative Banks, for increasing professionalism, enabling access to capital, and improving governance and oversight
- It is proposed to sell the balance holding of Government of India IDBI Bank to private investors to meet the need for greater private capital

Budget at a glance

Revenue Expenditure (in ₹ crore)

Year	Revenue Expenditure (₹ crore)
2018-19 (Actuals)	~20,000
2019-20 (BE)	~24,000
2020-21 (BE)	~24,000
2020-21 (BE)	~26,000

Capital Expenditure (in ₹ crore)

Year	Capital Expenditure (₹ crore)
2018-19 (Actuals)	~3,000
2019-20 (BE)	~3,500
2020-21 (BE)	~3,500
2020-21 (BE)	~4,200

Revenue Receipts (in ₹ crore)

Year	Revenue Receipts (₹ crore)
2018-19 (Actuals)	~14,000
2019-20 (BE)	~18,000
2020-21 (BE)	~18,000
2020-21 (BE)	~20,000

Capital Receipts (in Rs. crore)

Year	Capital Receipts (₹ crore)
2018-19 (Actuals)	~8,000
2020-21 (BE)	~8,000
2020-21 (BE)	~8,000
2020-21 (BE)	~10,000

NEW ECONOMY

- Knowledge Translation Clusters for Emerging Technology Sectors**
- Small Scale Manufacturing Facilities for designing, fabrication and validation of proof of concept**
- National Mission on Quantum Technologies and Applications with an outlay of Rs.8000 Cr proposed**
- Digital Platform for seamless application of IPRs**