

KAMAL SANDESH



NEW INDIA HAS TO PREPARE US TO DEAL WITH EVERY SITUATION OF WATER CRISIS

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₹20



'NATION STANDS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF CAA'



BJP National President & Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing a massive 'Jan Jagran' Rally in Jodhpur, Rajasthan



BJP National President & Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah meets people during door to door campaign as a part of Jan Jagran Abhiyan in support of CAA, New Delhi



BJP National President & Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah lays the Foundation Stone of the 'Delhi Cyclewalk' in New Delhi



BJP Working President Shri J.P. Nadda leads door to door campaign as a part of Jan Jagran Abhiyan to create awareness on CAA in Ghaziabad (UP)



BJP National Working President Shri JP Nadda addressing a huge Booth Sammelan in Guwahati (Assam)



Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh distributing Literature during door to door campaign as a part of Jan Jagran Abhiyan to create awareness on CAA in Lucknow (UP)

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Governance in the last five years has been characterised by: Reform with Intent, Perform with Integrity, Transform with Intensity, Process Driven and Professional Governance.

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There are many forces in the country who are trying to defame the NDA Government on the economic issues but the govt is not only aware of the issues facing the traders but also actively working towards its resolution. The NDA government is committed to protect the interests of traders and to promote ease of doing business. India has done a remarkable job by improving her Ease of Doing Business ranking.

@nsitharamanfan



New projects worth Rs 3.1 trillion were seen in December 2018. This has risen by 37.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis to Rs 4.26 trillion, showed data from project-tracker Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

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It has become the habit of the Congress party to oppose the decisions of the Govt. only for its vote bank politics. Congress opposed the abrogation of Article 370, opposed the air strike on Pakistan, Opposed to the surgical strike and Opposed the removal of Triple Talak, which the Modi government has taken for the better future of the country.



— Amit Shah

“Since 1947, Muslims have progressed in India. Eminent people from the community have become Presidents and vice presidents, chief ministers and chief justices. This is the beauty of our country. They increased in numbers while in Pakistan, minorities, who comprised 23 % population during Partition were reduced to 3%. How can Pakistan explain that?”



— Jagat Prakash Nadda

PM Narendra Modi pressed a button on a gadget, and the country witnessed the transfer of ₹12,660,62,28,000 #KisanSamman money to 6,33,03,114 farmer beneficiaries instantly.



— B L Santhosh



26th January
Happy Republic Day

KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
REPUBLIC DAY (26 JANUARY)
to all of its readers

NANKANA SAHEB INCIDENT SYMBOLISES THE PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES IN PAKISTAN

The kind of hooliganism, rioting, arson and mayhem on the streets were witnessed in the name of protest against Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) is not only condemnable but poses a threat to the democratic system of the country. The nation has witnessed a string of vandalism, massive damages to the public property, mob violence and disturbing scenes across the country challenging the parliament and the democratic institutions of the country. It is highly unfortunate to note that Congress and its allies are continuously indulging themselves in rumour mongering, disinformation campaign and concocting false stories while instigating the protesters to resort to violent means. Such kind of politics has been the hallmark of Congress which is in the habit of taking recourse to divisive tactics while creating divisions in the society. But the time of such politics is over, people can see through the divisive designs of Congress and its allies as it gets further exposed by its acts of omissions and commissions.

The Modi government is getting massive support across the country on CAA. A large number of people are coming out to support the government on the issue of rehabilitation of persecuted minorities from neighbouring

countries. Many of these people who were religiously persecuted in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and were forced to flee are still living in extremely miserable conditions even hiding their identities. They were facing inhuman conditions having no avenues for restarting their lives as legal citizens of India. The CAA has come to them as huge relief and as a hope for a new dawn in their lives. The Congress and its allies should have welcomed this immensely humanitarian step act of the Modi –government but they preferred vote-bank politics above the plight of these persecuted refugees. Congress and its allies have committed a grave mistake for which the nation will definitely make them answerable in the times to come.

The unfortunate incident of Nankana Saheb incident symbolises the persecution of minorities in Pakistan. It is highly deplorable that the Congress and its allies have not gone beyond the ritual lip service in condemning the incident and continued with their protest against CAA. The day the Nankana Saheb incident took place, all the anti-CAA protesters should have hanged their heads in shame and announced withdrawal of the violent protests and the Congress and its allies should have apologised to the nation. But alas, such incidents of dastardly persecution are not on the agenda of Congress and its allies and they even shy away from condemning the Pakistan for such inhuman acts of betrayal.

The fact that minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are subjected to inhuman conditions, insecurity of life and property and forcible conversions has been continuously reported in national and international media. The decline in the numbers of minorities in these countries are also testimonies to the fact that either they were

continuously and systematically eliminated, forcibly converted or made to flee from these countries. As the partition was accepted by the Congress on the ground of religion and Jinnah's two-nation theory, the guarantee of the life, property and dignities of the minorities left in Pakistan was sought to be ensured through Nehru-Liaquat pact. As the Nehru-Liaquat pact has failed miserably in the addressing the minority question in Pakistan and today's Bangladesh, India owes a moral responsibility towards the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians left behind in Pakistan. The CAA addresses that moral responsibility for which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is being praised across the country. The Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and BJP National Working President Shri JP Nadda has also started a nationwide contact programme to present facts about CAA. The nation today stands united in support of CAA and congratulates Modi government for resolving a longstanding issue and bringing light of hope in the lives of persecuted minorities of the neighbouring countries. ■

THE MODI GOVERNMENT IS GETTING MASSIVE SUPPORT ACROSS THE COUNTRY ON CAA. A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE COMING OUT TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE OF REHABILITATION OF PERSECUTED MINORITIES FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. MANY OF THESE PEOPLE WHO WERE RELIGIOUSLY PERSECUTED IN PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH AND AFGHANISTAN AND WERE FORCED TO FLEE ARE STILL LIVING IN EXTREMELY MISERABLE CONDITIONS EVEN HIDING THEIR IDENTITIES.

shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org



Congress leaders instigating riots by misleading people on Citizenship Amendment Act: Amit Shah

BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 05 January, 2020 at the Booth Karyakarta Sammelan in New Delhi, accused Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra of instigating riots by misleading people on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and sought to reassure Muslims, saying the law has no provision about taking away citizenship of minorities.

'OPPOSITION SPREADING LIES'

During the meeting, Shri Amit Shah referring to a recent attack on Gurdwara Nankana Sahib by a violent mob in Pakistan, accused the neighbouring country of terrorizing Sikhs and asked Opposition leaders to open their eyes to atrocities against minorities across the border.

"This is an answer to all those opposing the CAA. Tell me if these Sikhs who were attacked the other day in Gurdwara Nankana Sahib will not come to

India, then where they will go?" he asked.

Opposition leaders are spreading a pack of lies over the CAA, he said asking BJP Karyakartas to carry out an intensive campaign to inform the masses about its features.

The CAA's beneficiaries are largely Dalits and poor and those opposing the law are against these people, Shri Amit Shah alleged, calling Kejriwal and the Rahul Gandhi anti-Dalit for questioning it. "Arvind Kejriwal has misled people. The Congress, especially Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, has instigated riots by misleading people. Do you want a government in Delhi which incites riots for politics," he asked.

The Opposition was inciting minorities against the CAA by alleging that they will lose their citizenship, he said.

"I want to tell brothers and sisters from the minority community that none of them can lose their



citizenship because the CAA has no provision about taking it away," Shri Shah said.

The Union Home Minister also said that Priyanka Vadra, the Congress general secretary, extended her support to rioters by saying that she will visit houses of those who carried out riots.

'KEJRIWAL FAVOURS ANTI-NATIONALS'

Launching a strong attack on Delhi CM Kejriwal, Shri Amit Shah alleged that he came to power in Delhi five years ago by misleading people with a host of promises.

Speaking to party workers, he said that Kejriwal was wasting public money on advertisements and said somebody can mislead people once but not all the time. He exuded confidence that the BJP will come to power in Delhi under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Asking whether the AAP government has completed any work during its tenure, the BJP President listed the works done by the Centre for Delhi in the past five years.

He also accused Kejriwal of "favouring the Tukde Tukde gang" by not giving sanction to prosecute Kanhaiya Kumar, the former president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU), in the JNU sedition case.

Urging BJP workers to undertake door-to-door

campaign to take the BJP's message to the people, BJP National President said he will himself take part in 'mohalla sabha' campaign in the National Capital. Delhi will go to polls in the coming weeks.

BJP WORKS ON 'IDEOLOGY, NOT NEPOTISM': JP NADDA

Addressing the Booth Karyakarta Sammelan in New Delhi Party National Working President Shri JP Nadda said BJP works on the basis of 'Ideology and not Nepotism'.

He further stated that BJP is the only party that has leadership and has intentions to work for the development. "Other parties if they have a leader, don't have a strategy. Some do not have intentions to work. If they organize a program, they do not have workers. But BJP has leadership of Modi ji and also has support at the international level. The party has leadership at booth level also," he added.



At the programme, Delhi BJP President Shri Manoj Tiwari also addressed the huge gathering and targeted Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for doing little to develop the city. "I would like to tell Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal that the registry has begun for the unauthorized colonies of Delhi. Stop this if you have strength," Shri Tiwari said. Among others senior leaders of BJP and Delhi party office bearers were present on this occasion. ■

BJP LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGN ON CAA



Amit Shah leads campaign on CAA awareness in Delhi

PARTY SENIOR LEADERS LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

It was not a normal day for Lajpat Nagar residents in Delhi on 05 January, 2020. The BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah was there on foot leading party's nationwide door-to-door campaign on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act to dispel negative perceptions created by the Opposition and anti-national groups.

Getting down from his vehicle at Lajpat Nagar, he got into a shop and sat down with the owner, explaining the details of the Act and invited questions. Ten minutes later, he left after requesting the owner to share the message with his neighbors.

Lajpat Nagar in Delhi has had a mixed population for decades, among them Afghanis and refugees from Pakistan. They were out in huge numbers,

waving and joining the groups showering rose petals on him.

Shri Amit Shah carried a pile of literature and distributed it among the residents. While visiting houses of refugees, he urged them to give a missed call on their mobiles to the toll-free number '88662-88662', the BJP has launched to register people's support for the law. "Your support has now reached Modiji," he told a family after they dialed the number.

Shri Shah visited other homes in Lajpat Nagar and talked to people about the benefits of the amended citizenship law. He also distributed literature on the subject and urged them to go through it.

While Shri Amit Shah led the party's door-to-door 10-day campaign to spread awareness about the



Citizenship (Amendment) Act in the national capital Delhi other senior leaders of the party like BJP National Working President Shri JP Nadda led the campaign in Ghaziabad, Union Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh in Lucknow, Shri Nitin Gadkari in Nagpur and Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in Jaipur reached out to people and told them the reality of CAA.

The BJP has launched a 'Jan Jagran' campaign to contact more than three crore families to counter the opposition's campaign against the CAA and

inform the masses about its features. The 'Jan Jagran' campaign will end on 15 January, 2020.

BJP National General Secretary Dr. Anil Jain interacting with media persons said people will be asked during the door-to door campaign to place the missed call and later the call volume will be displayed to showcase support for the citizenship law. Shri Jain said that as part of the drive, eminent people, including columnists and film and sports personalities, would be tapped.

FIVE-PHASE BJP CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF CAA

The Bharatiya Janata Party announced a five-phase mass campaign in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that begins on 05th January, 2020 with house-to-house contact by party workers to dispel the "misinformation" spread by opposition parties.

BJP National General Secretary Dr. Anil Jain, who heads a 6-member central committee for coordinating the house-to-house campaign, told a Press conference that four other parts of the campaign are Samvad Samiti, Vishesh Samajik Sampark Abhiyan (conferences and special mass contact), Social Media and Media.

Dr. Jain said the party workers will also distribute literature explaining the citizenship act to the public during this house-to-house campaign. In the second phase of "Samvad", the party would hold rallies and intellectuals' conferences in every district and at least one lakh street corner meetings in the country. This campaign will be coordinated by National General Secretary and MP Shri Arun Singh.

Dr. Anil Jain said the Special Social contact programme monitored by National General Secretary Shri Bhupender Yadav will be to personally contact the prominent people in arts, culture, sports, etc. to explain them about the CAA, while the social media team headed by IT cell head Shri Amit Malviya will organise press conferences at 250 places in the country and contact journalists and columnists to provide them clarity about the Act.

JP NADDA LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN IN VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD



'CONGRESS SPREADING LIES ABOUT CAA'

While launching the campaign in Vaishali, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) BJP National Working President Shri JP Nadda mounted a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi who has opposed the CAA.

Shri Nadda challenged Rahul Gandhi to “speak 10 lines about CAA and say two lines on what he opposes in amended Citizenship Act”.

The BJP Working President said the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is about giving citizenship to people and not vice-versa, and that BJP had fulfilled the promises made by Congress leaders since independence.

Shri Nadda, who was in the city to launch BJP's door-to-door campaign in support of the CAA, said Mahatma Gandhi in 1947 had also said it was the responsibility of the Indian government to provide shelter and jobs to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians facing atrocities in Pakistan.

“The country was divided on the lines of religion by Congress in 1947. Lakhs of people were displaced and came to India. It was the biggest transfer of population,” said Shri Nadda.

He added that Jawaharlal Nehru had said in 1950 that the central relief fund should be utilised for people facing atrocities in Pakistan. In 2003, when

Shri LK Advani was Home Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh too had raised concerns over the issue, he said.

Rejecting criticism of the CAA, Shri Nadda said the Liaquat-Nehru pact had stated that East Pakistan (Bangladesh) and West Pakistan will protect their minorities, and India would also follow the same rule.

“We protected Muslims. Many of them became President, Vice-President, Chief Justice, Governor and Chief Minister in our country. Their population here rose. But in Pakistan, which became an Islamic state, the minorities' population decreased,” he said.

Shri JP Nadda, who was addressing BJP Karyakartas at Hindi Bhawan, said Dalit leaders are playing into the hands of the opposition and aren't aware of the Act. “Do they know many people who come from Pakistan and Bangladesh are Dalits? We are bringing you into the mainstream and you are harming your own interest,” he said.

He also accused Congress of ‘spreading misinformation’ and challenged its leader Rahul Gandhi to speak 10 lines on the CAA. He asserted that the BJP is only party “free of dynastic politics and based on ideology”.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a support campaign for the Citizenship Amendment Act. The party aims to reach out to 3 crore people in the 10-day campaign. BJP leaders are going from door-to-door to talk about the law. The party is also conducting rallies in different parts of the country to inform people “how the Congress and other Opposition parties are spreading lies about the CAA and inciting rebellion and anarchy in the country for their politics of appeasement.

LUCKNOW (UP)

BJP NEVER DISCRIMINATES ON THE BASIS OF CASTE AND RELIGION: RAJNATH SINGH

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh led the door-to-door campaign in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh to talk about CAA. Interacting with common people he said that the Opposition parties are trying to mislead people.



“Our party has decided that we will launch a door-to-door campaign to inform people about CAA. BJP never discriminates on the basis of caste and religion. People belonging to the minority community, who are being persecuted in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, will be given citizenship through this Act,” Shri Rajnath Singh said.

JAIPUR (RAJASTHAN)

CAA IS NOT FOR TAKING AWAY ANYONE'S CITIZENSHIP: NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman who launched the door to door campaign in Jaipur, Rajasthan said to a Muslim family, “The CAA is not



for taking away anyone's citizenship. The Opposition has no other issue and therefore they are deliberately creating misconception. They are wrong. Confusion is being created by linking CAA with NRC and we have to clear the confusion.”

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA)

CONGRESS CREATING CONFUSION AMONG MUSLIM COMMUNITY: YEDIYURAPPA

Karnataka Chief Minister Shri BS Yediyurappa met people in Bengaluru, Karnataka and said, “The Congress is creating confusion among the Muslim community. I am telling you that not even a single Muslim will be affected because of the CAA.”

He distributed pamphlets to inform people about CAA in Bengaluru.

GORAKHPUR (UP)

CAA MEANT TO GIVE CITIZENSHIP TO PERSECUTED PEOPLE: YOGI ADITYANATH

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handed over a booklet on the citizenship law to Haji Chaudhari Kaifulwara at his shop in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and said the Act is meant



to give citizenship to persecuted people. “It is the tradition of India to give shelter to persecuted people and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi brought CAA to give citizenship to such people,” Shri Adityanath said. ■



Government is firm like a rock on CAA: Amit Shah

BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah addressed a huge rally in support of CAA in Jodhpur, Rajasthan on 3 January, 2020 and said the Union government was firm like a rock on the CAA.

Shri Amit Shah said “ek inch bhi wapas nahi jaayenge (we won’t backtrack even an inch)” on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, showing his firmness on the legislation as he also launched a door-to-door campaign to exhibit support for the law in a counter-offensive effort.

“The Congress, Mamata, SP-BSP, Kejriwal, Communists, sab iska virodh kar rahe hai (all are opposing the CAA),” Shri Shah said, and then threw a challenge. “Rahul baba, if you have read the law, come and debate with me and if not then I am willing to translate it (the CAA) in Italian and give you,” the BJP National President said, accusing the Opposition of spreading the falsehood that the amended law would take away citizenship.

“Yeh sab parties ekattha ho jaayen lekin ek inch bhi wapas nahi jaayenge (Let all these parties unite but we will not backtrack even an inch),” Shri Shah told the gathering.

The rally was organised by the BJP as part of the ‘Janjagran’ campaign launched by the party over the CAA. Many refugees who stand to benefit from the CAA were present at the rally and Shri Amit Shah

assured them that the Narendra Modi government would ensure they got Indian citizenship.

In his speech Shri Shah justified the campaign, saying that in a democracy the rulers too have the right to go to the people and present its version. “Why are the Congress and the other parties opposing?” he asked. “The Congress is habituated to vote-bank politics. They are spreading falsehood and misleading the youths. So we have decided that we’ll also go to the people and give our version,” he added.

The BJP President exhorted the crowd to give a missed call on the number to show their support to the CAA, claiming it would directly reach PM Modi.

At the Jodhpur rally, Shri Shah repeated all the historic decisions of the Modi government, underlining how the Congress and Rahul Gandhi had opposed them.

He named abrogation of Article 370, the construction of a grand Ram temple, the Balakot Airstrikes, the Surgical Strike and Triple Talaq, and each time asked the crowd whether it was the right decision and added that “the Congress and Rahul baba” had opposed them.

Shri Amit Shah said, “In JNU slogans of ‘BHARAT MATA TERE TUKDE HONGE...’ were raised and the Congress party supported them”. He asked is it wrong to call Congress as anti-India organisation. ■

‘I challenge Rahul Gandhi to speak 10 lines on CAA and spell out his opposition in 2 lines’: JP Nadda

BJP National Working President Shri J P Nadda addressed a huge pro Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) rally in support of the Amended Citizenship Act, in Panaji, Goa on 03 January, 2020.

Thousands of BJP workers from several constituencies of Goa and common people who came spontaneously have arrived in the state capital to participate in a road show, which began at Patto business district, to the city's central square, Azad maidan.

Shri Nadda put the CAA in context and exposed the Congress mis-propaganda against it.

Speaking to the massive gathering Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to speak ten lines on the CAA. “I challenge Rahul Gandhi to speak ten lines on the CAA and spell out his opposition in two lines,” Shri Nadda told the pro CAA rally in the state capital, Panaji. BJP National Working President said it was a shame that parties with long histories did not know the legislation well. “I feel pity for the Congress party today. I pity their thought and knowledge. Congress, NCP, which have such a long history, this is what their leaders have been reduced to that they do not know what CAA is!” Shri Nadda said.

Christians and Muslims in Goa are in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and have demonstrated that they have not fallen prey to the opposition's misleading campaigns, Goa Chief Minister Shri Pramod Sawant said. Addressing the rally to support for the Citizenship Amendment Act, the chief minister said the gathering of people from across the socio-cultural spectrum was enough indication of

the support the newly amended law had in the state.

“Minorities and Christians are being misled that the Citizenship Amendment Act is targeting them. But you have shown with this rally that Hindus, Muslims and Christians support the CAA,” Shri Sawant said. He said the Goa residents had nothing to fear from the act which was being used by the opposition to spread fear. “They are frightening people by claiming the Portuguese passport holders will be evicted.

4 PRO-CAA CONGRESS LEADERS QUIT PARTY IN GOA: 3 OF THEM JOIN BJP

Four Goa Congress leaders resigned from the party on 2 January, 2020 to protest against its stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and three of them joined the BJP, ahead of the party's rally in Panaji.

Former Panaji Congress block committee president Prasad Amonkar, North Goa minority cell chief Javed Sheikh, former block committee secretary Dinesh Kubal and former youth leader Shivraj Tarkar quit the party, saying they were in favour of the amended citizenship law. Amonkar, Kubal and Tarkar later joined the BJP, ahead of the party National Working President Shri J P Nadda's public awareness rally on the Citizenship Amendment Act in Panaji.

“We resigned from the Congress because we oppose the wrong stand taken by it on the CAA and the National Register of Citizens. We found that Congress party was misguiding people, especially the minorities,” Amonkar said. Congress should stop “misleading people and creating fear in the minds of minorities for political mileage,” he said. ■

‘CAA WILL NEVER HARM INTERESTS OF NORTH-EAST’

BJP National Working President Shri J P Nadda on 04 January, 2020 said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has no knowledge about the Citizenship Amendment Act. Shri Nadda said it at a mammoth rally of booth-level presidents of BJP in Guwahati, Assam.

“There is fault in Rahul Gandhi’s thinking as you are inspired only by politics. You don’t see the nation, but see only vote-bank politics which you put above the nation. For BJP, the country is above vote as we are inspired by love for the nation,” he asserted.

Keeping up his attack on the Congress, the BJP Working President said, “The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 and you slept till 2017 despite ruling the country for 70 year. You even had a chief minister here. But BJP came and woke you. You are in pain because the chair was taken away from you”, Shri Nadda said.

He also challenged the Congress leaders to go to the camps where non-Muslims who fled Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh due to religious persecution in those countries are staying to see for themselves their condition.

The BJP Working President referred to Mahatma Gandhi saying shelter should be given to such persecuted people in India, followed by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wanting to give relief funds to them and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh saying arrangements be made for them in India.

“Where will these people who fled to India go? Shri Narendra Modi and Shri Amit Shah brought the amendment in the Act to allow them to live with dignity and honor”, Shri Nadda said.

He sought to allay the fears of the people of Assam that CAA will threaten their language, identity and culture. He said when the amended act is implemented, clause 6 of Assam Accord granting them constitutional safeguard will be implemented in letter and spirit as it will be “the responsibility of BJP to do so”.

He assured the people that CAA will never harm their interests but safeguard them. ■

‘HUGE TURNOUT SIGNALS CHANGE IN STATE’

The Bharatiya Janata Party National Working President Shri JP Nadda reached Kolkata on 23 December, 2019 to lead a march in support of Citizenship (Amendment) Act. He was received by BJP National General Secretary in-charge of West Bengal Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya and other senior leaders of West Bengal BJP.



Shri Nadda addressed a public gathering at Shyambazar where he talked about the benefits that the people will reap from the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The march commenced from Hind Cinema-CR Avenue and later culminated at Shyambaza. “The huge turnout signals a change. As chief minister, Mamata Banerjee always kept her political agenda ahead of welfare of the state and the people,” said Shri Nadda, addressing the huge gathering.

“Since 1947, Muslims have progressed in India. Eminent people from the community have become presidents and vice presidents, chief ministers and chief justices. This is the beauty of our country. They increased in numbers while in Pakistan, minorities, who comprised 23 % population during Partition were reduced to 3%. How can Pakistan explain that?” Shri Nadda asked.

“People of Bengal are true nationalists. They always upheld values and culture of the nation. But there came a time when some regimes in the state did not give recognition to the national spirit. Today, Banerjee and her men are misguiding people on CAA,” said Shri Nadda. He added, “All CM Banerjee knows is appeasement nothing else”.

“CAA is meant to protect them and give them their right as citizens,” he said. ■

INDIAN RAILWAY ANNOUNCES INTEGRATED HELPLINE NUMBER "139" FOR ANY HELP

To overcome the inconvenience over multiple helpline numbers for grievances and enquiry during railway travel, Indian Railway has integrated railway helplines into single number 139 for the passengers for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during their journey. As the new helpline number 139 will take over all the existing helpline numbers (except 182), it will be easy for the passengers to remember this number and connect with Railways for all their needs during the travel.

The Helpline 139 will be available in twelve languages. It will be based on IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System). There is no need of a



smart phone to call on 139, thus, providing easy access to all mobile users. ■

NOW 125 CRORE RESIDENTS OF INDIA HAVE AADHAAR

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) announced a new milestone achieved by the Aadhaar project – crossing of the 125 crore mark. This means that over 1.25 billion residents of India have the 12-digit unique identity.

The achievement comes along with the rapidly increasing use of Aadhaar as the primary identity document by the Aadhaar holders. This is evident from the fact that Aadhaar-based authentication services have been used close to 37,000 crore times since inception. At present UIDAI receives about 3 crore authentication requests every day.

Also, residents are more inclined on keeping their details in Aadhaar updated. UIDAI recorded close to 331 crore successful Aadhaar updates (biometric and demographic) till date. At present UIDAI receives about 3-4 lakh Aadhaar updates request every day. ■



Rabi Crops Sowing area increases by 35.9 Lakh Hectare

As per preliminary reports received from the States, the total area sown under Rabi crops as on 27th December, 2019 stands at 571.84 lakh hectares as compared to 536.35 lakh hectare for corresponding period last year. The progress in Rabi sowing has picked up significantly with the improvement of soil moisture in almost all Rabi growing states.

Wheat has been sown/transplanted in 297.02 lakh hectares, rice in 13.90 lakh hectares, pulses in 140.13 lakh hectares, coarse cereals in 46.66 lakh hectares and area sown under oilseeds is 74.12 lakh hectares. ■

Gross GST revenue collected in the month of December, 2019 is ₹ 1,03,184 Cr.

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of December, 2019 is 1,03,184 crore of which CGST is 19,962 crore, SGST is 26,792 crore, IGST is 48,099 crore (including 21,295 crore collected on imports) and Cess is 8,331 crore (including 847 crore collected on imports). The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of November up to 31st December, 2019 is 81.21 lakh.

The GST revenues during the month of December, 2019 from domestic transactions has shown an impressive growth of 16% over the revenue during the month of December, 2018. If we consider IGST collected from imports, the total revenue during December, 2019 has increased by 9% in comparison to the revenue during December, 2018. During this month, the IGST on import of goods has seen a negative growth of (-) 10%, but is an improvement over (-) 13% last month and (-) 20% in the month of October.



The government has settled 21,814 crore to CGST and 15,366 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue earned by Central Government and the State Governments after regular settlement in the month of December, 2019 is 41,776 crore for CGST and 42,158 crore for the SGST. ■

PM dedicates 5 DRDO Young Scientists Laboratories to the Nation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation 5 Young Scientists Laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in Bengaluru on January 2.

DRDO Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) are located in five cities viz, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Each lab will work on a key advanced technology of importance to the development of futuristic defence systems viz, Artificial intelligence, Quantum technologies, Cognitive technologies, Asymmetric technologies and Smart materials.

The inspiration to start such laboratories came from the Prime Minister on the occasion of DRDO award function held on August 24, 2014. Shri Narendra Modi had then asked DRDO to empower the youth, by giving them decision making powers and challenging research opportunities.



Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said these labs would help in shaping the pattern of research and development in the field of emerging technologies in the country.

Prime Minister asked the scientists to prepare a definite roadmap for the new decade where DRDO should be able to set the direction and pace of scientific research in various fields in India.

Addressing the scientists, Prime Minister said India's Missile programme is one of the outstanding programmes in the world. He also appreciated the Indian Space Programme and air defence systems.

Prime Minister said India cannot be left behind in the field of scientific research. He said the Government is willing to walk the extra mile with the scientific community so that it can invest time in emerging technologies and innovations for national security. ■

GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT APPOINTED AS FIRST CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

Government has decided to appoint General Bipin Rawat, as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) with effect from December 31, 2019 and until further orders and extension in service of General Bipin Rawat with December 31, 2019 and till such period he holds the office of CDS.

General Bipin Rawat was commissioned into the Indian Army in December 1978 and is currently serving as Chief of the Army Staff since January 01, 2017.

The Defence Ministry amended the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force rules, to provide for the CDS or tri-service chiefs being able to serve till 65. As per existing government rules, the three service chiefs can serve up to the age of 62 or for three years, whichever is earlier.

In his Independence Day speech this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that India will have the CDS. The Union Cabinet had, on December 24, approved the post of the CDS and its charter and duties. The CDS will be a 4-star general rank officer. "He will be drawing a salary equivalent to service chiefs, and will head the Department of Military Affairs to be created under the Ministry of Defence. He will function as its Secretary," Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar said during the Cabinet briefing. The CDS will have all the powers like other secretaries, including financial.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had hailed the Union Cabinet's approval for the CDS and its charter and duties, calling it an "historic and major" decision towards bringing about jointmanship between the armed forces.

The CDS will act as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on tri-services matters. The three service chiefs will continue to advise the Defence Minister on matters exclusively concerning their respective forces. ■

IAF inducted Flight Inspection System Aircraft (Dornier-228)

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria formally inducted the Flight Information system (FIS) Dornier aircraft into No 41 Squadron, the 'Otters', at a ceremony at Air Force Station Palam on December 31, 2019.

The modified Dornier 228 aircraft have been

acquired to undertake in-house calibration of Navigational aids available after implementation of Modernised Airfield Infrastructure (MAFI) at IAF bases. While the first aircraft was delivered in Nov 19, the second is expected to be delivered in early 2020. ■

DEENDAYAL JI AN ASCETIC POLITICIAN



KAILASHPATI
MISHRA

INDIA has witnessed the advent of many eras in her very long and ancient history. One such era lay between October 1951 and 1967 and that was the era of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. In earlier ages India had to undergo the ravages of foreign invasions and for centuries together had to remain chained to dominance by foreign intruders. Throughout that period the struggle for independence continued to be waged in one form or the other. From the 19th century till the first half of the 20th century many revolutions seeking independence continued to take shape and the situation of win-and-lose continued to persist. In all the revolutions, the desire for independence continued to be the central objective. In the month of August 1947, proclamation of Independence was made which, however was accompanied by several complications. The moments of happiness and celebrations were also tinged with curses as well. The absence of an eternal solid ideology continued to loom large. First, a unified India was divided into two political entities and later fragmented into three. An orgy of violence and bloodshed commenced in the newly - separated country called

Pakistan. Persons displaced from that region made a beeline for India as refugees. The newly - created borders became unsafe and the number of refugees swelled into crores. Conspiracy of intrusion also continued. About 550 princely States recognised and left behind by the British also started raising their heads. Among the rulers who had taken over from the British only the great Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India, could visualize the extent of threat to the country.



Because of his untiring efforts and farsightedness, merger of these States into the sovereign Indian union commenced at a fast pace. The entire world knows what the great Sardar had to do to make Hyderabad and Junagarh princely entities merge into the Indian mainstream. Sardar Patel was about to succeed in Kashmir too when brakes were applied to his advancing steps by the then Prime Minister. The country had to witness another black day of misfortune when Sardar Patel died.

Since then Kashmir problem has been complicated so much that the country has not been able to come out of it.

The British exploited the country economically to such an extent that it left India a financial wreck. A great chunk of India's population went below the poverty line. The English had contrived to sap the economic sources of the country. In these circumstances and the course of events that unfolded, the Bhartiya Jana Sangh came into being on October 21, 1951. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee became its first President and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya its General Secretary. The era of Pandit Upadhyayaji commenced mainly from this date. It will be no exaggeration if we consider this great man as an "avatar". He understood the Indian way of life very correctly and presented an ideology best suited to Indian's reconstruction. He came out with his philosophy of "integral humanism". He presented a treatise on "Purusharthchatushtya". Along with other elements of established life, he laid stress on Antyodaya. Enunciating his principles for national administrative system he laid stress on attending to the needs of the persons standing on the lowest rung of the ladder of development and to apply the healing touch by putting balm on the cracks of his feet. That is the cardinal principle of Antyodaya which the country has obtained from him.

The nature of India is based

on this philosophy and as long as it will continue to be the guiding principle of our thinking, behaviour and conduct, welfare and upliftment for our people is assured. When this basic principles gets ignored, degradation is bound to set in. Upadhyayaji had laid stress on this thought and he dedicated all his life for the achievement of this objective. When we try to analyse the definition of integral humanism in conjunction with "Purusharthchatushtya", we will be able to appreciate the efficacy of the Antyodaya era in right perspective. Several incidents of his life inspire us to work in this direction.

He had no special interest for foreign travel, yet at times he did succumb to the persistent pressure of his friends. Those who kept company with him were not only acquainted with his nature and conduct, but were also impressed by it. Simple living and high thinking were integral part of his life. Once on the prodding of his friends he consented to visit the USA. He went there but did not forsake Indian dress. He met the President of USA who got highly impressed. He visited many places there. Once the US President continued to ask Upadhyayaji again and again, how could he serve India. For some time he continued to avoid a direct reply. But the President continued to persist with his question. Ultimately, in very sweet words he smilingly said: "If you really want to help India then I request you stop financially helping our country even by a penny". The President must have been taken aback because at that time Indian rulers had been visiting every corner of the world

with a begging bowl and if they succeeded in getting even a loan, they boasted of a victory. On the other hand, India had a great man who for the welfare of the country was urging the US not to give even a penny to India. I cannot say how the thinkers of today will take it, but it is this same principle that the revered Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Deendayalji had shared.

I had some unforgettable personal experiences travelling with Pandit Deendayalji. It was in 1963. We arrived at Farbesganj in Bihar in the afternoon. Panditji addressed a meeting in the evening. He had stayed there for one night. Next day, while returning by the train, about half a dozen people were sitting opposite Panditji in the compartment. Perhaps one of them had heard Panditji the previous evening. He enquired, "Are you Pt. Deendayal"? When smilingly he said yes, the man shot back saying Jan Sangh had no economic policy. In a very clam, sweet tone Panditji replied, "A party which has no economic policy cannot sustain itself." The gentleman then asked, "Are you rightist or leftist"? Panditji smiled again and in his own style replied, "Brother, God has gifted me two eyes. Why do you wish to make me a one-eyed person"? The gentleman then realized he had met a very serious person. Then Panditji explained, "Rightists are those who have have lost their left eye and leftists, their right one. If you want enunciation of Jan Sangh's economic policy, then I would sum it up in two words: "pragmatic and realistic." This small discussion became his treatise on economic policy, in brief. His words still echo

in my mind. The gentlemen sitting opposite became speechless. They got their convincing answers.

Another incident. By that time Panditji's acquaintance with the intelligentsia has started spreading fast. There was a public meeting at Gandhi Maidan in Patna. After sitting at the rostrum for some time I got down to mix with the crowd which included established well-known professors, well-known public figures. Those were the days of shortages and the word "hoarding" was very much common in speeches. In his address Panditji asked people what was the price of tomatoes these days. Someone from the audience said Rs. 15 per ser. Hearing this Panditji said, this means hoarding is also being extended to tomatoes. Somebody from the crowd shouted, "How could there be hoarding of tomatoes? It is a raw, perishable commodity". Panditji asked, "If there is no hoarding, why is it so dear?" Somebody said, "Because of corruption". Then Panditji explained corruption through a mathematic equation, "Corruption is equal to shortage of commodity multiplied by Government Regulations". Hearing this, some scholars could not help saying, "Panditji is great".

I am satisfied that the spirit of Antyodaya which was unleashed by Panditji is still alive. In spite of difficult economic conditions, India continues to march fast forward steadfastly. The speed with which the country will adopt the philosophy of Antyodaya and will take steps to translate it into practice, I am certain, India will come out more confident, more self-reliant. ■

A MEMBER OF FIRST LOK SABHA, KAMAL SINGH PASSES AWAY

Senior BJP leader and a member of the country's first Lok Sabha Shri Kamal Singh passed away at the age of 94 years after a prolonged illness. He was last Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumraon Estate.

Shri Singh passed away on January 5, 2020 at his residence at Dumraon town in Bihar's Buxar district. Shri Singh was elected to the first and the second Lok Sabha in 1952 and 1957 as an independent candidate from Buxar constituency. Later, he joined Jana Sangh and contested Lok Sabha election again unsuccessfully in 1989 and 1991 as the BJP candidate from Buxar seat.

Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar and several other politicians expressed their grief over demise of Shri Singh. Government of Bihar announced state funeral for Kamal Singh. He was cremated with full state honour on the bank of Ganga river in Buxar on January 6.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Modi and present Buxar MP and Union Health



State Minister Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey also expressed their profound grief over death of Singh. Deputy CM Shri Sushil Modi said "Former MP Kamal Bahadur Singh will always be remembered for his distinguished contribution in various areas of society, especially in the fields of education and health. His death is irreparable loss in political and social field. We pray to God for the peace of the departed soul and give his family and well-wishers strength to bear this sorrow." ■

FORMER UNION MINISTER MUNILAL NO MORE

Former Union Minister Shri Munilal passed away at the age of 82 in Patna on December 23, 2019. He was ill for long time. He joined BJP in 1996 after retirement from Indian Administrative Services. Shri Munilal was elected three times member of Lok Sabha from Sasaram Constituency. He became Labour Minister in NDA government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar BJP State President Shri Sanjay Jaiswal and several BJP leaders expressed profound grief over demise of the leader. ■





WE SHOULD FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, ACHIEVE OUR GOALS: PM

PM UNVEILS STATUE OF ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE IN LOK BHAVAN, LUCKNOW

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University in Lucknow on December 25, 2019. Governor of Uttar Pradesh Smt. Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion he said, It is also a coincidence that on the Good Governance Day, the statue of Atal ji has been unveiled in the building from which the UP government runs. This magnificent statue of him will inspire people working in Lok Bhavan for good governance and public service, he added.

The Prime Minister said that it is a privilege for him to lay the foundation stone of the institute related to health education dedicated to Atal ji since Lucknow has been the parliamentary seat of Atal ji for years. The Prime Minister reminded that Atal ji used to say that life cannot be seen in pieces, it has to be seen in totality. The same is true for the government, the same is true for good governance. Good governance is also not possible until we think of the problems in totality, he added.

PM listed out his government's road map for the health sector, working on Preventive healthcare, Expanding Affordable Healthcare, Supply Side Interventions, i.e. ensuring supply in view of every demand of this sector and Mission Mode intervention.

He also said that from Swachh Bharat to Yoga, from Ujjwala to Fit India Movement and to promote Ayurveda - every such initiative is making its important contribution in prevention of diseases. He said that construction of more than 1.25 lakh wellness centers in rural areas of the country is the key to Preventive Health Care. These centers, by catching the early symptoms of the disease, will prove to be helpful in their treatment in the beginning. Due to Ayushman Bharat, about 70 lakh poor patients of the country have been given free treatment, of which about 11 lakh are here only in UP, he added.

The PM said that the campaign launched by the government to make sanitation and health facilities accessible from village to village, is a big step towards making life easier for the people of UP. He added that Good governance for his government means- Hearing everyone, Services reaching every citizen, Every Indian getting opportunity, Every citizen feeling safe and accessibility should be ensured in every system of government. He elaborated that Good education, accessible education is our right, but the safety of institutions of education, respect for teachers, we have an obligation. He concluded that we should fulfill our responsibilities, achieve our goals, this should be our resolve on Good Governance Day, this is the expectation of the people, this was also the spirit of Atal ji. ■

'New India has to prepare us to deal with every situation of water crisis'

PM LAUNCHES ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

On the Birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) and named the Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass after Vajpayee, in an event held in New Delhi on December 25, 2019.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister said that today the name of a big project which is very important for the country, Rohtang Tunnel, connecting Manali, Himachal Pradesh with Leh, Ladakh and Jammu Kashmir, will now be known as Atal Tunnel. He also said that this strategic tunnel will change the fortunes of this region. It will help in promoting tourism in the region.

On Atal Jal Yojana, PM highlighted that the subject of water was very important to Atal ji and very close to his heart. Our Government is striving to implement his vision. Atal Jal Yojana or the guidelines related to the Jal Jeevan Mission, are big steps in proving the resolve to deliver water to every household in the country by 2024, the PM added. He said that this water crisis is worrying for us as a family, as a citizen and as a country also it affects development. New India has to prepare us to deal with every situation of water crisis. For this, we are working together on five levels.

Prime Minister emphasized that Jal Shakti Ministry freed the water out of Compartmentalized Approach and laid stress on a Comprehensive and Holistic Approach. In this monsoon, we have seen how extensive efforts have been made for water conservation on behalf of the society, from the Jal Shakti Ministry. He said that on one hand, Jal Jeevan Mission, will work towards delivering piped water supply to every house, and on the other hand Atal Jal Yojana, will pay special attention to those areas where groundwater is very low.

To incentivise gram panchayats to perform better in water management, Prime Minister said that a provision has been made in the Atal Jal Yojana, in which better performing gram panchayats, will be



given more allocation. He said that in 70 years, only 3 crore out of 18 crore rural households have access to piped water supply. Now our Government has set the target to deliver clean drinking water to 15 crore homes in the next five years through pipes.

Prime Minister emphasized that water-related schemes should be made according to the situation at every village level. This has been taken care while making the guidelines of the Jal Jeevan Mission, he added. He also said that both Union and State Governments will spend Rs 3.5 lakh crore on water related schemes in the next 5 yrs. He requested the people of every village to make a water action plan and create a water fund. Farmers should make a water budget where groundwater is very low.

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA (ATAL JAL)

ATAL JAL has been designed with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioral changes at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource

management in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 Gram Panchayats in 78 districts in these States. ATAL JAL will promote panchayat led ground water management and behavioural change with primary focus on demand side management

Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crore to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25), 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan, and be repaid by the Central Government. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support. The entire World Bank's loan component and Central Assistance shall be passed on to the States as Grants.

TUNNEL UNDER ROHTANG PASS NAMED AFTER ATAL JI

The historic decision to construct a strategic tunnel below the Rohtang Pass was taken by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The 8.8-kilometre long tunnel is the world's longest tunnel above an altitude of 3,000 metres. It will reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 kilometres and save crores of rupees in transport costs. It is a 10.5-metre wide single tube bi-lane tunnel with a fire proof emergency tunnel built into the main tunnel itself. The breakthrough from both ends was achieved on October 15, 2017. The tunnel is now nearing completion and is a step in the direction of providing all weather connectivity to remote border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh which otherwise remained cut off from the rest of the country for about six months during winters. ■

Total Forest Cover rises to 24.56 percent in last four years

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar released the biennial "India State of Forest Report (ISFR)", in New Delhi on December 30. The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country including wall-to-wall forest cover mapping in a biennial cycle. Starting 1987, 16 assessment have been completed so far. ISFR 2019 is the 16th report in the series.

Announcing the results the Union Minister said that India is among few countries in the world where forest cover is consistently increasing. Shri Javadekar told that in the present assessment, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 80.73 million hectare which is 24.56 percent of the geographical area of the country.

The Environment Minister further said that as compared to the assessment of 2017, there is an increase of 5,188 sq. km in the total forest and tree cover of the country. "Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 3,976 sq km and that in tree cover is 1,212 sq. km; Range increase in forest cover has been observed in open forest



followed by very dense forest and moderately dense forest and the top three states showing increase in forest cover are Karnataka (1,025 sq. km) followed by Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km) and Kerala (823 sq km).", said the Minister.

SOME MAJOR FINDINGS

Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%). ■

'MONEY IS REACHING DIRECTLY TO THE POOR'

PM RELEASES 3RD INSTALLMENT OF RS 2000 TO 6 CRORE BENEFICIARIES UNDER PM KISAN

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi distributed Agriculture Minister's Krishi Karman Awards for Progressive Farmers and Commendation Awards to the states at a public meeting in Tumkur, Karnataka on January 2. He also released the 3rd installment of PM Kisan (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) of Rs 2000 for the period December 2019 - March 2020. This will benefit approximately 6 crore beneficiaries and distributed Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to select farmers of Karnataka. Prime Minister has

also handover Certificates to beneficiaries under PM Kisan from 8 States / UTs. Prime Minister also handed over the keys of Deep Sea fishing Vessels and Fishing Vessel Transponders to select farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that it is a great privilege for him to see Annadata - our peasant brothers and sisters, in the new year, the beginning of a new decade. On behalf of 130 crore countrymen, the Prime Minister thanked country's farmers for their toil.

The Prime Minister said that the land of Karnataka also witnessed a historic moment when money under the PM-Kisan scheme has been distributed directly into the personal accounts of nearly 6 Crore Farmers in the country. Prime Minister said a total of Rs 12 Thousand Crores has been deposited under the 3rd tranche of the scheme.

He hoped that the States that haven't implemented the 'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana', will do it and political parties will rise over politics to help the farmers in their States.

PM recalled that there was also a period in the country, when one rupee was sent for the poor in the country and only 15 paise out of it reached the beneficiaries. And now he said that the money is reaching the poor directly without the intervention of the middlemen.

Shri Modi said that the irrigation projects that have been stalled for several decades are now being implemented. He also said that the centre has always given priority to the interests of our farmers with the schemes like crop insurance, soil health cards and 100% neem coated urea.





Prime Minister said that due to the efforts of the government, both the production and export of spices from India has increased considerably. "Spice production in India has increased by more than 2.5 million tons, so the export has also increased from about Rs 15 thousand crore to about Rs 19 thousand crore."

He said that apart from horticulture, South India also has a large share in the production of pulses, oil and coarse grains.

Shri Modi said, "Seed hubs have been built to promote pulses production in India, of which more than 30 centers are located in Karnataka, Andhra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana itself."

Referring to the Government's efforts on Fisheries sector, Prime Minister said the government is working at three levels to strengthen the sector.

First - Encouraging fisheries in villages through financial assistance to fishermen.

Second- Modernizing the fishing boats under the Blue Revolution Scheme.

And third - Constructing modern infrastructure related to fish trade and business.

Prime Minister said, "fishermen have been linked to the Kisan Credit Card facility. New fishing harbors are being built in large rivers and in the sea

for the convenience of fish farmers. A special fund of Rs 7.50 thousand crore has also been created for modern infrastructure. Fishermen's boats are being modernized for deep sea fishing and navigation devices are being installed in boats for the protection of fishermen with the help of ISRO."

Keeping in view the nutritional security of the country, PM requested to create a new category in the Krishi Karman Award, for Nutri Cereals, Horticulture and Organic Agriculture. This will give impetus to people and states doing better work in these areas, he added.

On the occasion, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar informed that a toll-free number for the beneficiaries of PM-Kisan Yojana, 155261 has been started at which the farmers will be able to know their payment status. He added that it shows the Government's commitment to social security for small and marginal farmers, that two important welfare schemes – PM-Kisan which provides income support and PM-Kisan Maandhan-Yojana (PM-KMY) for pension assistance are being implemented. The Minister added that a mobile application is also being developed for ease of access of PM Kisan Portal facilities for farmers. ■

AMIT SHAH LAYS STONE FOR EAST DELHI HUB



‘A NEW PARADIGM OF DEVELOPMENT FOR URBAN AREAS LIKE DELHI ESTABLISHED BY MODI GOVT’

Union Minister of Home Affairs Shri Amit Shah on December 26, 2019 announced a slew of developmental projects for the overall development of Delhi and welfare of its people. Speaking on the occasion of foundation Stone laying ceremony of Integrated Development of East Delhi Hub as Chief Guest in New Delhi, he said, creation of riverfronts on both banks of Yamuna and its beautification, a dedicated cycle track in Delhi to promote green transportation and reduce road accidents, development of JJ clusters are some of the works would be taken on Priority basis.

Shri Shah said that 116 kilometers of new Metro lines out of which work on 70 kilometers route already started. Moreover, 18 projects worth 802 crore rupees had been completed under the AMRUT scheme in the city. He also added that Rapid Transport Rail between Delhi and Meerut, Panipat and Alwar was being developed by the Union Government on a fast track basis.

Speaking about the Integrated Development of

East Delhi Hub, Shri Shah said that 1400 crore rupees and 30 hectares of land have been dedicated for this scheme, and assured that the scheme would be completed well in time. He noted that this would be a mixed use scheme, with 70% land earmarked for residential purposes, 20% for commercial purposes and 10% land for public facilities. He said that the scheme would include housing for poor as well as stations for pink and violet Metro lines. He added that the housing would include 4526 units for middle class and 288 for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Shri Shah also promised that 30% area would be marked as green open public space, which would help mitigate pollution. He further noted that public facilities in the hub would include a Harit Bhawan, a cultural centre, a skywalk and basement parking facilities, among other things. Shri Shah remarked that a new paradigm of Development for urban areas like Delhi has been established by Shri Puri under the leadership of Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The BJP National President said that the Union Government's decision to regularize 1731 unauthorized colonies and conferring ownership rights at a nominal cost has ensured a dignified life for 40 lakh poor people living in these colonies. He informed that 13 laws that were a hindrance to this decision were bypassed with a single cabinet decision by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Shri Shah said that the Union Government had ensured justice for the victims of anti Sikh riots by forming an SIT and punishing the culprits. He also said that the opening up of Kartarpur corridor was a major step by the Union Government for Sikh Pilgrims on the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji.

Shri Shah also congratulated Shri Puri for successfully executing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for Delhi's development. Shri Shah added that a new work culture of speed and efficiency is now the norm in the Modi Government. He also said that in a departure from earlier practice, this Government

is more efficient and tends to complete projects within time limited, and thus the Government that lays down the foundation stone of a project is the same one that inaugurates it.

The BJP National President alleged that 80 percent of welfare schemes announced by Delhi Government remain unfulfilled and major among them are like providing jobs to 8 lakh youths and clean drinking water to every household. He also mentioned that Delhi has the worst quality of drinking water in the country. He added that Delhi Government believes in taking credit of developmental works of the Central Government through advertisements and asked as to why Central schemes for the poor like Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana were not implemented and always acted like a speed breaker in execution of projects.

Also present on the occasion were the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Shri Anil Bajaj and Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation and Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. ■

BJP NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY ARUN SINGH ELECTED AS MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA

BJP National General Secretary and the newly elected Member of parliament to Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Singh was born on 4 April, 1965 in the remote village of Baidha in the district of Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh). He is a renowned Chartered Accountant and academician.

Currently Shri Singh is the BJP National General Secretary, In-Charge of the BJP National Headquarters and in-charge of Odisha state BJP from the year 2014. Before assuming the post of National General Secretary, Shri Singh was the National Secretary of the party and Co-Head of BJP's National Membership Programme whereafter Bhartiya Janta Party has become the world's largest party.

He has been associated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh from his early student life and started his political career as a leader of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. He also assumed the office of Vice President and National Treasurer of the youth wing of BJP (BJYM) from 1999 to 2004.



Shri Arun Singh who was elected to the upper house unopposed from Uttar Pradesh took oath on 9 Dec, 2019.

Kamal Sandesh Parivar congratulates him for the new assignment and wishes him best of luck in all walks of life. ■

THE CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT- IS IT MORAL? IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL? NO, IT'S BOTH!



**DHARMENDRA
PRADHAN**

Little “Nagriкта” was born in a decrepit refugee camp at Majnu ka Tila—a colony in north Delhi on the banks of river Yamuna. Her parents reached the shores of the city escaping persecution in Pakistan. They named their baby Nagrikta after the enactment of the Citizenship Bill representing, for them, the possibilities of leading a life of dignity. As for this couple, the Citizenship Bill rekindles hopes of gaining statehood — a right long denied to them in their parent country.

In the rumor-mongering and frenzy that has ensued since the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), a number of pertinent questions have been relegated to the background: one, whether persecution, especially in the name of religion in certain countries, is a reality or not? Second, should a country with the rich civilizational ethos as India mitigate the pain of people facing such discrimination? Finally, is the action, which has been initiated in form of the CAA, vires of constitutional provisions? If the answers are in the affirmative,

then the din that has been created is only politically motivated.

When the Indian Parliament was debating the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), the US State Department in a report re-designated Pakistan as one of the countries committing “egregious violations of religious freedom”. Moving testimonies form part of the depositions before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Citizenship, which submitted its report to both the Houses in January 2019. Additionally, a report on the religious minorities in Pakistan released by the European Parliament recently bemoaned the plight of minorities and women. Many of them, particularly Hindus, have fled to seek asylum in India. The fact that should not be lost is that all three countries covered in the CAA are theocratic states.

Coming to the second question, what are the options before India if people suffering religious persecution land in India? The CAA seeks to ameliorate what Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in 1950 said using the Hobbesian analogy: “life for minorities in Pakistan has become nasty, brutish and short”. India has been the birthplace of some of the great religions like Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism. Indian ethos has assimilated various streams of religion, sects, and traditions.

Finally, the business of laying down permanent law of citizenship has been left to the Parliament. Now the question arises whether the CAA meets the provisions of the Right to Equality as enshrined in Article 14 of the Constitution. To recapitulate, Article 14 states that “the State shall not deny to any person equality before law and equal protection of the laws within the territory of India” and any derogation to Article 14 by way of special classification needs to meet the twin objectives of “rational and intelligible differentia” and nexus to the “objective sought to be achieved”. A catena of judicial pronouncements has upheld that simply meting out differential treatment does not per force violate the spirit of the constitution.

The objects and reasons for CAA were clearly laid by Home Minister Amit Shah. The Constitutions of only three out of seven countries with whom India shares land boundaries provide for a state religion. Thus, no discrimination has been done based on our bilateral relations. Historically, there has been trans-border migration between India and Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Communities facing persecution on grounds of religion have fled to India seeking shelter even after their travel documents have expired or with incomplete

The CAA seeks to ameliorate what Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in 1950 said using the Hobbesian analogy: “life for minorities in Pakistan has become nasty, brutish and short”

or no documents. The Modi Government had already, in its first tenure, exempted these migrants from adverse penal consequences of the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 and in 2016 also made them eligible for long-term visa. The CAA simply seeks to empower these persecuted minorities to apply for citizenship.

Debates are also ongoing on whether the CAA is violative of Article 25 of the Constitution. Article 25 gives the right to all persons equally to freely

profess, practise and propagate any religion. The CAA has not violated these provisions-- a fact, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly reiterated while assuring that neither the rights of minorities are violated, nor India's secular ethos and traditions have been called to question through enactment of the CAB.

The Citizenship Amendment Act corrects a historic injustice, and provides closure to thousands of families who continue to suffer the trauma of partition, long after most of the

sub-continent has moved on. In doing so, it fulfils the vision of our freedom fighters, who struggled to achieve a homeland where each and every person could aspire and work towards a brighter future. It secures justice and dignity for those who have suffered religious persecution on the sub-continent. It reinforces the essential Indian ethos of inclusivity.

It is a historic move to empower the dispossessed who have suffered for generations. As an appeal of sanity to the silver spoon leaders who have been fomenting violence and unrest on the streets, it is worth remembering what Swami Vivekananda said in 1883 in his famous Parliament of Religions speech: “I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth”. The CAA in many ways fulfils these aspirations.

(The writer is Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, GoI)

BPCL LPG BOTTLING PLANT AT BALANGIR DEDICATED TO THE NATION

The BPCL LPG Bottling plant at Balangir, Odisha was dedicated to the nation on December 27 by Prof Ganeshi Lal, Governor, Odisha in the presence of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel. Shri. Arun Kumar Sahoo, Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Govt. Of Odisha, Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Member of Parliament, Balangir & Shri Narasingha Mishra, Member of Legislative Assembly, Balangir and dignitaries from the state and officials of BPCL were also present.

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment,



Govt. of India and Mr. K. V. Singh Deo, MLA, Patnagarh. This plant has been completed in a record 19 months period, at a total project cost of Rs. 103 Crores. ■



CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT (CAA)-2019: KEY POINTS

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 would not have been required if the country had not been partitioned on religious grounds. Due to the policies of the Congress, the country was divided on the basis of religion.

In the year 1950 Nehru-Liaquat Agreement was signed, in which both the sovereign nations (India and Pakistan) promised that they would protect the minorities of their respective countries. The increased population of minorities in India after independence is a clear indicator that India has lived up to its promise, but the declining population of minorities in the Islamic states like Pakistan and Bangladesh apparently shows that these nations failed in keeping their promise.

The issue of violation of this agreement by Pakistan was repeatedly raised in the Indian Parliament. In 1966, Jana Sangh MP Niranjan Verma asked for information on the status of the agreement, on this, then Foreign Minister Swaran Singh responded that Pakistan was constantly torturing minorities. In 1970, the then Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh also informed that the government is helpless on this agreement and said that even after 20 years, refugees are still coming to India from Pakistan, because Pakistan is not fulfilling their promise to provide security to these people.

This is the situation in Pakistan even today. The need for a Citizenship Amendment Act becomes clear only from these points.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. What is the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)?

The Citizenship Amendment Act will provide citizenship of India to the people of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian community who are displaced and facing religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Now those people of Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian communities of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who have entered India by the decisive date of 31 December 2014 will be eligible for citizenship of India.

2. Why Muslims are excluded from this?

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh are Muslim majority countries as stated in their constitution. So, Muslims are not oppressed in the name of religion in these countries, hence they are not included in this Act. Remember that the Act benefits specific sections of oppressed communities, there is no discrimination against anyone.

3. Will this Act apply in the North Eastern states?



The provisions of the Citizenship Amendment Act shall not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram included in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution. Areas regulated under the Inner Line Permit are also exempted from this. Manipur has also been brought under the ambit of ILP.

4. Who are the illegal migrants according to the Citizenship Act, 1955?

People entering India without valid passports or travel documents, intruders or those entering with valid documents, but have not returned even after the sanctioned period are all illegal migrants, intruders.

5. Why is there a protest against it?

The opposition is only spreading this confusion to do to vote bank politics. It is being propagated among Muslims that this law will take away the citizenship of the country from the Muslims. The lie is being propagated that the Muslims of India will be declared as intruders by this law. It is also a misleading



propaganda that NRC will be drafted according to this law. The desperate opposition is doing slanderous politics by spreading fear among the Muslims.

CONGRESS BETRAYED THE COUNTRY

In this historic moment, the Congress once again failed to make atonement on its historical mistakes of Partition of India. By opposing this law, Congress once again proved that it has no relation with Gandhiji's words, spirit and philosophy. The sentiment contained under the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement is respected in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019. This is a simulation of the well established policy of the Government of India to provide protection to the displaced victims due to religious reasons. But it is the unfortunate politics of the Congress which is devastating human rights by opposing the policy established by Gandhi-Nehru. This is an act of self destruction.

THE INTERESTS OF NORTHEASTERN STATES ARE SECURED

In order to protect the rights, language, culture, social identity of those who are residing in the northeastern states, the Act has adequate provisions to protect them. This bill will not apply to tribal areas. The security provided in all the states of the Northeast, taking the same forward Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and now Manipur have also been notified in the sixth schedule.

OPPOSITION INDULGE IN POLITICS OF PETTY INTERESTS

The opposition is doing politics of petty interests by spreading confusion in the society. It says that the government does not have the constitutional right to enact this act. The issue of citizenship relied on Article 11 in Part II of the Constitution, which gives Parliament the privilege to draw up a detailed framework for Indian citizenship. Due to this the Citizenship Act, 1955 came into existence. Therefore, it is wrong to say that Parliament has no right to change the norms of citizenship, this argument is contrary to the intentions of the constitution makers. The truth is that the Constituent Assembly never finalized the citizenship norms, rather the constitution empowered Parliament to set and finalize the Indian citizenship norms. ■

SOME STATEMENTS

There is no doubt that those who are displaced and come to India, will certainly get citizenship. If the law is insufficient in this regard then the law should be changed.

Jawaharlal Nehru, First Prime Minister of India
- *(Statement made by Nehru in Parliament on 5 November 1950)*

The circumstances that led to my resignation are basically related to the treatment of minorities in Pakistan. The Bengal problem is not territorial. It is an all India level issue and peace and prosperity rests on its proper solution. The economic and political peace and prosperity of the entire country rests on this.

Shyama Prasad Mookerjee as former Minister in India's first Interim Cabinet
- *(Address on resignation from the post of Minister of Industry and Supplies, April 19, 1950)*

As far as the treatment towards refugees after the partition of our country is concerned, minorities in countries like Bangladesh have endured persecution and it is our moral obligation that if these unfortunate people seek shelter in our country, our attitude in giving them citizenship should be liberal.

- Dr. Manmohan Singh in Rajya Sabha,
December 18, 2003

Prakash Karat wrote a letter to Dr. Manmohan Singh on 22 May 2012 on the issue of citizenship of Bengali refugees and said..... minorities have been victims of persecution in countries like Bangladesh. These refugees are obliged to take shelter in our country. It is our moral obligation that we should be generous in giving citizenship to these unfortunate people.

Tarun Gogoi: On 20 April 2012, as the Chief Minister of Assam, submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh requesting that minority refugees from the neighboring country come to India at the time of partition due to discrimination and religious persecution; they should not be treated like foreigners.

Mamta Banerjee came to the well of Parliament in 2005 and protested that Bangladeshi infiltration in Bengal has been disastrous. ■

YOUTH OF INDIA WILL TAKE THE COUNTRY TO NEW HEIGHTS:PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the people of the country in the 7th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat 2.0' on December 29,2019. While addressing the people he said that youth of India would take the country to new heights in the next decade. Here, We are publishing highlights of the 'Mann Ki Baat' for our esteemed reders:

All of us experience that this generation is extremely talented. It thrives on the dream to do something new, something different. It has its own set of opinions. And the best part is; especially in the case of India; according to me, they appreciate the system. Not just that, they prefer to follow the system. And in the event of the system not responding properly, they get restless and even courageously question the system itself! I consider this attribute as a virtue. One can even say with certitude here, that the country's youth detests anarchy of any sort. They despise any element of lack of governance and instability; abhorring any shades of nepotism, casteism, favouritism or gender discrimination. There are times when we see them at an airport or a cinema theatre; if someone tries to break a queue, the first to react vociferously are these young people.

- Swami Vivekanand ji had observed, "My faith is in the younger generation, the modern generation; out of them will come my workers". Referring to the youth, he had remarked, "The value of youth can neither be ascertained, nor described!" Youth is the most valuable phase, of one's life. Your life & future entirely depends on the way your utilized your youth. According to Vivekanand ji, young people are the one's full of energy and dynamism, possessing the power to usher in change. I am of the firm belief that for India, this decade will be, not only about development & progress of the youth; it will also prove to be about the country's progress, harnessing their collective might. This generation will play a major role in modernizing India; I feel it beyond any doubt. On the birth anniversary of Vivekanand on the 12th of January, on the occasion of National Youth Day, every young person should give a thought to this responsibility, taking on resolve or the other for this decade.

- My dear countrymen, all of us study in myriad colleges, universities & schools. But after completing studies, Alumni Meets are joyous occasions. At any Alumni Meet, members come together, sharing youthful memories, going back 10, 20 or even 25 years. At times, such meets turn out to be a special attraction that gets noticed. And it is also important for it to catch the attention of our countrymen. Actually, an alumni meet is an occasion for old friends to come together, refresh memories; these are happy moments indeed. Alongside, if this union comprises a shared purpose, a resolve, an emotional connect, it lends additional hues to the event. You must have seen alumni groups at times, contributing something or the other to their schools. Some arrange for systems for computerization, some organize a better library, others go for revamping drinking water facilities or new rooms. Some have gone to the extent of facilitating sports complexes.
- Friends, Mahatma Gandhi viewed this spirit of Swadeshi as a lamp illuminating the lives of millions as well as bringing prosperity in the lives of the poorest of the poor. A hundred years ago, Gandhiji started a huge public movement to promote Indian products as one of its objectives. This was the path shown by Gandhi ji towards self reliance. The India that we breathe freely in was liberated by millions of worthy sons and daughters who underwent numerous tortures and hardships; many even sacrificing their lives. We attained freedom owing to sacrifice and penance of innumerable people; a freedom that we are fully enjoying. We hardly know the names of those countless beings who made the supreme sacrifice for the country, who went through untold hardships for Her. Of some we know; others will always stay anonymous. They all made sacrifices, firmly carrying that dream in their hearts....that of a

free India...for the sake of a prosperous, flourishing and free India.

- It is very important for all of us, that the citizens of our country become self-reliant and live their lives with dignity. I would like to discuss one such initiative that has caught my attention and that is the 'Himayat Programme' of Jammu- Kashmir and Ladakh. The 'Himayat Programme' is actually associated with skill development and employment. In this programme, teenagers and youth from 15 to 35 years of age, those denizens of Jammu and Kashmir whose studies, for some reason, could not be completed, who had to leave school and college midstream are associated.
- On the 26th of this month, we witnessed the last solar eclipse of this decade. Possibly, this solar eclipse prompted Ripun to write a very interesting comment on the MyGov portal. He writes, "Hello sir. My name is Ripun...I belong to the North-East, and am currently working in south India. I would like to share something with you. I remember that due to the clear skies in our region, we used to gaze at the stars in the sky for hours together. I used to enjoy star-gazing. Now I am a professional, and because of my daily routine, I am unable to find time for such activities...can you discuss this topic in your show. Particularly, on how to popularise astronomy among the youth.
- On that day, I had the opportunity to talk to some experts in this field...and they told me, that this is caused due to the fact that the moon is located far away from the earth and hence, it is unable to completely cover the sun. Hence, a ring-like shape is formed. This solar eclipse is an annular solar eclipse, also referred to as 'Valay Grahan' or 'Kundal Grahan'. The eclipse reminds us that that we are travelling in space while residing on the earth. Sun, moon and other planets and celestial bodies are orbiting in space. Due to the shadow of the moon, we get to see the various forms of solar eclipse. Friends, India has an ancient and glorious history of astronomy. Our connection with the twinkling stars in



the sky is as old as our civilisation. Many of you might be aware that at various places in India, there are magnificent observatories (Jantar Mantars) – which are worth seeing. And these observatories have a deep bond with astronomy. Who doesn't know about the prodigious talent of the great Aryabhata. During his career, he has expounded in great detail about the solar eclipse, as well as the lunar eclipse. And he has explained it both from a philosophical as well as a mathematical standpoint.

- India is quite advanced in the field of astronomy, and we have taken path-breaking initiatives in this field. We have a giant meter-wave telescope near Pune. Not just that, in Kodaikkaanal, Udagamandala, Guru Shikhar and Hanle Ladakh as well, powerful telescopes are located. In 2016, the then Prime Minister of Belgium and I, had inaugurated the 3.6 metre Devasthal optical telescope in Nainital. This is known as Asia's largest telescope. ISRO has an astronomical satellite called ASTROSAT. ISRO is planning to launch a satellite called Aditya, to study the sun. Whether it be our ancient knowledge in astronomy, or modern achievements in this field, we should strive to understand them and feel proud of them.
- We consider our Parliament as the temple of our democracy. Today, I wish to proudly mention, that the parliamentarians that you have elected have broken all the records of the last 60 years. In the last 6 months, both the sessions of the 17th Lok Sabha have been very productive. Lok Sabha's productivity stands at 114%, while that of Rajya Sabha is 94%. And prior to that in the budget session, it had a productivity of 135%. Often, Parliament functioned till late at night. I am mentioning this because all Parliamentarians deserve to be congratulated and complimented for this. The Parliamentarians that you elected, have broken all the records of the last 60 years. So much accomplishment, in itself shows the strength of Indian democracy and the faith in democracy. I wish to congratulate all the Presiding officers, all political parties and all members of parliament for their active role in this regard. ■

To show your support to Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019



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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi launching I-STEM Portal at the inauguration of the 107th session of Indian Science Congress in Bengaluru



PM Shri Narendra Modi flanked by union minister Shri Rajnath Singh, UP CM Yogi Adityanath and others unveiling the statue of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in Lok Bhavan, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



PM Shri Narendra Modi paying floral tributes to the former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth anniversary, at Sadaiv Atal, in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with union ministers Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launching the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) on his birth anniversary in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi flanked by BJP national president & Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and others meet economists on growth, jobs, \$5 trillion economy ahead of Budget in New Delhi



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