

# KAMAL SANDESH



ATTEMPTS TO POLITICISE DEFENCE MATTERS SHOW ONE DYNASTY'S DESPERATION TO WEAKEN...

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**PM'S ADDRESS TO UN-ECOSOC**

# INDIA WILL PLAY ITS ROLE IN FULL SUPPORT OF UN AGENDA



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing a virtual rally while inaugurating BJP district committee office 'Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Mandiram', in Kasargod (Kerala) on 13 July, 2020.



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda Interacting with National Gen Secy (Org), MPs, State Presidents, State Gen Secy (Org), State Prabharies of J&K, Ladakh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, D.D, Bihar, J'khand, Delhi, Haryana & Himachal Via VC on 13 July, 2020.

Newly Elected Haryana State President Shri OP Dhankar called on BJP National President Shri JP Nadda at party headquarters in New Delhi.



Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh paying tributes to fallen soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces who exhibited exemplary valour and made supreme sacrifice during Kargil War on 26 July, 2020.

To increase the production capacity of Pottery, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah distributing electric wheels under the "KUMHAAR SASHAKTIKARAN YOJANA" in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat on 24 July, 2020.

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**PM MODI ADDRESSES UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SESSION**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at this year's High-Level Segment...



**VAICHARIKI**

**Integral Humanism Revisited** 16

**SHRADHANJALI**

**Madhya Pradesh Governor Lajji Tandon passes away at 85** 18

**ARTICLES**

**Bold decisions, strong political will: Economic reforms are sustained, deep and pronounced...** 26

**Triple Talaq-Big Reform, Better Result** 30

**OTHERS**

**BJP President appoints new party state presidents of Haryana, Gujarat, Ladakh, Himachal and Andhra Pradesh...** 12

**41,000 Ayushman Bharat Health Centres Provide Health Care To 8.8 Crore People** 15

**Home Minister distributes 100 electric pottery wheels to artisans in Gujarat under 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana'** 20

**Northeast has potential to become India's growth engine...** 21

**PM launches High Throughput COVID testing facilities at Kolkata, Mumbai and Noida** 24

**Google sets up India fund, plans to invest \$10 bn over 5-7 yrs** 28

**Mann Ki Baat...** 32



**08 INDIA IS EMERGING AS A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES...**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the India Ideas Summit on 22 July, 2020. The Summit is being hosted by the US-India Business Council (USIBC). The theme for this year's...

**10 WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEE 'LOTUS' IN ENTIRE KERALA...**

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda inaugurating the newly constructed BJP district...



**13 INDIAN ECONOMY SET FOR POST-COVID-19 REBOUND: IHS MARKIT REPORT**

The Indian economy is set to rebound in the second half of 2020 as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic recedes, and is projected to grow by 6.7% in the...

**22 PM DEDICATES ASIA'S LARGEST ULTRA MEGA SOLAR POWER PROJECT AT REWA...**

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the Nation Asia's largest ultra mega Solar Power...



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**@narendramodi**



The world needs skilled hands and we in India have the talent-force to cater to these global needs. #5YearsofSkillIndia

**@rajnathsingh**

The powers for progressing urgent Capital Acquisition cases upto Rs 300 crores have now been delegated to the Armed Forces to meet their emergent operational requirements. This will shrink procurement timelines, ensure speedy placement of orders and start deliveries within 1 year.



**@amitshah**



Big Day in India's Nuclear history as indigenously designed 700 MWe Kakrapar Atomic Power Plant-3 in Gujarat achieved criticality.

Nation salutes our scientists on this stellar achievement. New India is marching ahead to realise PM @NarendraModi's vision of #AatmaNirbharBharat.

**facebook**

All the parties were almost in the situation of lockdown, but the Bharatiya Janata Party was the only party that engaged itself in work.



Today I can say with pride that the Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party which served the people during epidemic. And we did not lag behind in serving.

— **Jagat Prakash Nadda**

Inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various infrastructure projects in Haryana along with Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri @mlkhattar Ji via video conferencing.



In the 'new economic corridor' more than Rs 20,000 crores will be invested to ensure smooth connectivity within Haryana and with other states including Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.

— **Nitin Gadkari**

Sri Debendranath Ray, BJP MLA from Hemtabad (Reserved) was found dead & hanging near his house. He had joined Party during 2019 elections. People in the neighbourhood tell he was killed & hanged.



One more brutal killing in @MamataOfficial goonda Raj. @BJP4Bengal

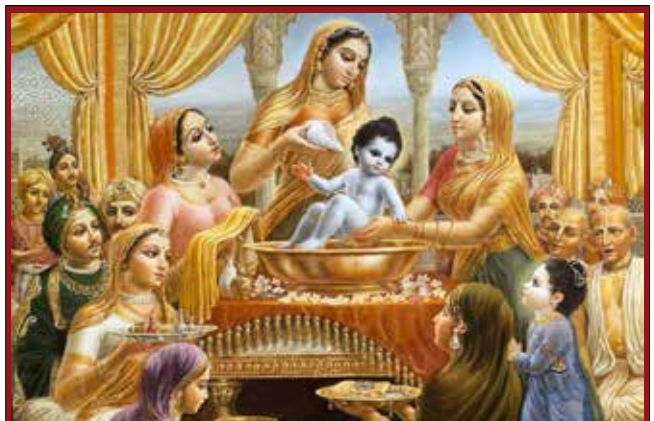
— **B L Santhosh**

**AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN**

**GIVING MAJOR BOOST TO AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES**

111.98 lakh Kisan Credit Cards sanctioned with credit limit of **Rs 89,810 crore**

The initiative aims to benefit **2.5 crore** farmers with concessional credit boost worth **Rs 2 lakh crore**



**Kamal Sandesh Parivar**  
*wishes a very happy*  
**SHRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI (12 APRIL)**  
*to all of its readers*

# MULTILATERALISM NEEDS TO REPRESENT THE REALITY OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

**A**ddressing virtually the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC yesterday the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has highlighted the valuable role of India in furthering the UN agenda in the world and specifically in the region. He said that India, while itself working towards achieving the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG), is also helping other developing countries in meeting their SDGs. The motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' is in line with the principles of SDG. While elaborating the massive efforts made by India through a large number of innovative programmes for socio-economic development of the people, he also underlined that India being aware of its responsibility towards planet Earth, is taking huge steps in reducing carbon footprints. Similarly, India is always ready to take a lead in the times of any disaster or presently during Covid-19 pandemic in the region along with neighbouring countries. In the post Covid world, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given a call for 'reformed multilateralism' while emphasising, "Multilateralism needs to represent the reality of the contemporary world".

## LOTUS WILL BLOOM IN KERALA

THE MOTTO OF 'SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAAAS, SABKA VISHWAS' IS IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF SDG. WHILE ELABORATING THE MASSIVE EFFORTS MADE BY INDIA THROUGH A LARGE NUMBER OF INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE, HE ALSO UNDERLINED THAT INDIA BEING AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS PLANET EARTH, IS TAKING HUGE STEPS IN REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINTS.

While virtually inaugurating BJP District Office 'Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Mandiram', in Kasargod, Kerala, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has rightly pointed out the abject failure of LDF government in the state. While the Pinarayi government is tainted with scams, the crisis has deepened with the unravelling of high profile gold smuggling case. Apart from the scams, the Pinarayi government in Kerala has also been alleged for suppressing Covid-19 data and mishandling of the pandemic in the state. The government is also in the dock for its inefficiency, corruption and nepotism in appointments and targeting Sabarimala devotees and its political opponents with violence. It is to be noted that 270 BJP karyakartas have lost their lives so far in red violence of CPM in Kerala. As the support for BJP is increasing among the people of Kerala, LDF and UDF are finding common grounds to fight the BJP. The days are not far when lotus will bloom in Kerala.

## RAHUL GANDHI'S SELF GOALS AGAINST THE CONGRESS ITSELF

It is highly unfortunate to note that the Congress dynast Shri Rahul Gandhi is continuing with his reckless diatribe on sensitive issues of foreign policy for political gains. In an image makeover exercise, he has been posting videos trying to impress the country with his newly acquired knowledge on various issues. Even when these videos are proving to be self goals against the Congress itself, he has chosen to speak on Indo-China relations in a very irresponsible manner. It is an irony that he has so far neither taken into account the monumental failures of Congress from Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to Dr. Manmohan Singh in his so-called analysis, nor cared to apologise for those historical blunders. In place of attacking China he has preferred to criticise the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who is credited for teaching the enemies of the nation tough lessons. As Shri Rahul Gandhi videos are once again making him a laughing stock, the Congress as the main opposition party should introspect, act responsibly and unconditionally withdraw these videos from the public domain.

 [shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org](mailto:shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org)



# PM MODI ADDRESSES UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SESSION

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address virtually at this year's High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session on 17th July, 2020 at the United Nations in New York.

This was the first address by PM to the broader UN membership since India's overwhelming election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council on 17th June, for the term of 2021-22.

The theme of the High-Level Segment of the ECOSOC this year is "Multilateralism after COVID19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary".

Coinciding with the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the UN, this theme also resonates with India's priority for its forthcoming membership of the UN Security Council. Prime Minister reiterated India's call for a 'reformed multilateralism' in a post-COVID-19 world, which reflects the realities of the contemporary world.

In his address, the PM said India was among the 50 founding members of the United Nations immediately after the Second World War. A lot has changed since then. Today the UN brings together 193 member countries. Along with its membership, the expectations from the organisation have also grown. At the same time multilateralism is facing many challenges today.

He said from the very beginning, India has actively supported the UN's development work and the ECOSOC. The first president of ECOSOC was an

Indian. India also contributed to shaping the ECOSOC agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Today, through our domestic efforts, we are again playing a salient role in achieving Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We are also supporting other developing countries in meeting their Sustainable Development Goals.

The PM said India is home to one-sixth of humanity. We are mindful of our weight and responsibility. We know that if India succeeds in achieving its development objectives, it will go a long way in achievement of global goals. And so we have taken "whole-of-society" approach- by engaging our States, our local governments, our civil society, communities and our people.

Our motto is 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas' - meaning 'Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust'. This resonates with the core SDG principle of leaving no one behind. Be it access to nutrition , health education, electricity or housing - we are making great progress through our inclusive programmes.

The PM said last year, we celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, by achieving full sanitation coverage in our six hundred thousand villages. In five years, we built over 110 million household toilets, which improved our rural sanitation cover from 38 % to 100 %. Our massive

awareness generation programmes are empowering our women. We have achieved gender parity in elementary and secondary education. Nearly 70 million women in rural India are part of self-help groups under our Livelihood Mission. They are transforming lives and livelihoods on a big scale. Over a million women are elected representatives of our local governments, leading the process of participatory development. In the last six years, we opened 400 million bank accounts for the unbanked, out of which 220 million are owned by women. We have leveraged the power of technology for financial inclusion. This is based on the trinity of a unique identity number, a bank account, and a mobile connection for everyone. It has allowed us to make Direct Benefit Transfers of 150 billion dollars to over 700 million persons. Our food security programmes reach 813 million citizens.

Shri Modi said our 'Housing for All' programme will ensure that every Indian will have a safe and secure roof over her head by 2022, when India completes 75 years as an independent nation. By then, 40 million new homes would have been made under this programme - more than the total number of households in many countries. Today, our 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme is the world's largest health protection programme, covering 500 million individuals. In the fight against COVID, our grass-roots health system is helping India ensure one of the best recovery rates in the world. We are also on track to remove TB by 2025. Other developing countries can learn from the scale and success of India's development programmes. And from the technologies and innovations we have deployed. It is this realisation that under-pins India's own development partnership with the global South.

While marching forward on the path to development, we are not forgetting our responsibility towards our planet. Over the past few years, we have reduced 38 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. This was achieved by electrifying our villages, providing clean cooking fuel to 80 million poor households, and introduction of energy efficient measures. We have set a target to install 450 Gigawatt of renewable energy and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. We have an age-old tradition of living in harmony with nature. We launched one of the largest campaigns for cleanliness and discouraged usage of single-use plastic. Internationally, our Initiative to

set up the International Solar Alliance was a practical manifestation of climate action. Similarly, the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure brings together all relevant stake-holders for a comprehensive approach. We have always prided ourselves as the first responder in our region - a friend in need. Be it earthquakes, cyclones or any other natural or man-made crisis, India has responded with speed and solidarity. In our joint fight against COVID, we have extended medical and other assistance to over 150 countries. We also helped create a SAARC COVID emergency fund in our neighborhood, he said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely tested the resilience of all nations. In India, we have tried to make the fight against the pandemic a people's movement, by combining the efforts of Government and society. We have given the highest priority to deliver benefits to poor households. We have announced a package of more than 300 billion dollars. It will bring the economy back on track, build modern infrastructure and put in place a technology-driven system. We have put forward a vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' a self-reliant and Resilient India, integrated with the global economy, he added.

India firmly believes that the path to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity is through multilateralism. As children of planet Earth, we must join hands to address our common challenges and achieve our common goals. However, multilateralism needs to represent the reality of the contemporary world. Only reformed multilateralism with a reformed United Nations at its center can meet the aspirations of humanity. Today, while celebrating 75 years of the United Nations, let us pledge to reform the global multilateral system. To enhance its relevance, to improve its effectiveness, and to make it the basis of a new type of human-centric globalisation. The United Nations was originally born from the furies of the Second World War. Today, the fury of the pandemic provides the context for its rebirth and reform. Let us not lose this chance, he said.

Prime Minister Shri Modi said India has been elected to the United Nations Security Council at this very important time. With our deep commitment to maintaining global harmony, to improving socio-economic equity, and to preserving nature's balance, India will play its role in full support of the UN agenda. ■



# INDIA IS EMERGING AS A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES: PM

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the India Ideas Summit on 22 July, 2020. The Summit is being hosted by the US-India Business Council (USIBC). The theme for this year's Summit is 'Building a Better Future'.

Prime Minister congratulated USIBC on its 45th anniversary this year. He thanked the USIBC leadership for their commitment to advancing India-US economic partnership.

## **GLOBAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE THROUGH STRONGER DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CAPACITIES**

Prime Minister talked about the need to place the poor and the vulnerable at the core of growth agenda. He underlined that 'Ease of Living' is as important as 'Ease of Business'. He said that the pandemic has reminded us of the importance of resilience of the global economy against external shocks, which can be achieved by stronger domestic economic capacities. He emphasized that India is contributing towards a prosperous and resilient world through the clarion call of an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

## **INDIA OFFERS A PERFECT COMBINATION OF OPENNESS, OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS**

Prime Minister Shri Modi said that there is global optimism towards India because it offers a perfect combination of openness, opportunities and options. He noted that in the last six years, efforts have been undertaken to make our economy more open and reform oriented, adding that reforms have ensured competitiveness, enhanced transparency, expanded digitization, greater innovation and more policy stability.

Citing a recent report, Prime Minister said that there are more rural internet users than urban internet users. Hailing India as a land of opportunities, he said there are about half a billion active internet users in the country now, while there are over half a billion more people who are being connected. He also mentioned opportunities in the frontier technologies of 5G, Big Data analytics, Quantum Computing, Block-chain and Internet of Things.

## **EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST ACROSS SECTORS**

Prime Minister underlined that there are extensive



opportunities to invest in a variety of sectors in India. He talked about the historic reforms recently undertaken in the agriculture sector and said that there are opportunities to invest in areas including agriculture inputs and machinery, agriculture supply chain, food processing sector, fisheries and organic produce. Noting that the healthcare sector in India is growing faster than 22% every year and the progress of Indian companies in production of medical-technology, tele-medicine and diagnostics, he said that now is the best time to expand investment in Indian healthcare sector.

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**SEVERAL OTHER SECTORS WHICH OFFER TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST, VIZ. THE ENERGY SECTOR; INFRASTRUCTURE CREATION INCLUDING BUILDING HOUSES, ROADS, HIGHWAYS AND PORTS; CIVIL AVIATION, WHEREIN TOP PRIVATE INDIAN AIRLINES PLAN TO INCLUDE OVER A THOUSAND NEW AIRCRAFTS OVER THE COMING DECADE, THUS OPENING UP OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY INVESTOR WHO CHOOSES TO SET...**

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Shri Modi listed several other sectors which offer tremendous opportunities to invest, viz. the energy sector; infrastructure creation including building houses, roads, highways and ports; civil aviation, wherein top private Indian airlines plan to include over a thousand new aircrafts over the coming decade, thus opening up opportunity for any investor who chooses to set up manufacturing facilities in India, and also through setting up of Maintenance Repair and Operations facilities. He mentioned that India is raising the FDI cap for investment in defence sector to 74%, two defence corridors have been established to encourage production of defense equipment and platforms, and added that special incentives are offered for private and foreign investors. He also mentioned path-breaking reforms being undertaken in the space sector.

Inviting investment in finance and insurance, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that India

@narendramodi

The rise of India means: a rise in trade opportunities with a nation that you can trust, a rise in global integration with increasing openness, a rise in your competitiveness with access to a market which offers scale.



India invites you to invest in infrastructure. Our nation is witnessing the largest infrastructure creation drive in our history. Come, be a partner in building housing for millions, or building roads, highways and ports in our nation.

has raised the FDI cap for investment in insurance to 49% and 100% FDI is permitted for investment in insurance intermediaries. He noted that there are large untapped opportunities for increasing insurance cover in health, agriculture, business and life insurance.

### **RISING INVESTMENTS IN INDIA**

Shri Modi talked about India's rise in Ease of Doing Business rankings of the World Bank. He underlined that each year, India is reaching record highs in FDI, adding that FDI inflows in India in 2019-20 were 74 billion dollars, which is an increase of 20% over the previous year. He highlighted that even during the pandemic, India has attracted foreign investment of more than 20 billion dollars between April and July this year.

### **BEST TIME TO INVEST IN INDIA**

Prime Minister Shri Modi said that India has what is needed to power the global economic recovery. He noted that India's rise means a rise in trade opportunities with a nation that can be trusted, a rise in global integration with increasing openness, a rise in competitiveness with access to a market which offers scale, and a rise in returns on investment with the availability of skilled human resources. Calling USA and India as natural partners, he said this partnership can play an important role in helping the world bounce back faster after the pandemic. Reaching out to the American investors, he said that there has never been a better time to invest in India. ■



## WE ARE DETERMINED TO SEE 'LOTUS' IN ENTIRE KERALA: JP NADDA

**B** JP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda inaugurating the newly constructed BJP district committee office 'Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Mandiram' in Kasargod, Kerala on 12 July, 2020 said we are determined to see that in times to come, there will be 'Lotus' in entire Kerala.

Addressing the gathering via video conference Shri Nadda said, "We all know how LDF and Congress joined hands to fight the ideals of BJP in Kerala. In the last decade, BJP has grown in Kerala swiftly. Our vote percentage has grown from 6 to 16 and we are determined to see that in times to come, there will be Lotus in not just Kasargod but in entire Kerala".

The BJP National President further said we're not in power in Kerala, but the intention of Bharatiya Janata Party has been to see how best we can work and contribute together for the development of Kerala.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has left no stone unturned for achieving the same and I am not saying this only in words, it is a reality, he added.

He said misappropriation of funds; relief funds, political patronage, women and Dalit atrocities, nepotism in political appointments are prevalent in this Kerala govt. Not only that they destroyed the faith of the Sabrimala temple. It was the protest by the BJP workers that stopped.

He said like Kerala, the political scenario in West Bengal is also deplorable. The suspected heinous killing of Debendra Nath Ray, BJP MLA from Hemtabad in West Bengal in the recent past is extremely shocking

and it shows the law & order condition in the state. This speaks of the rule of Gunda Raj and failure of law and order in the Mamta government. People will not forgive such governments in the future.

### 'KERALA GOVT'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE MESSED UP COVID-19 CRISIS'

The BJP National President also launched a scathing attack on the Kerala government over the COVID-19 pandemic, alleging that the state government's attitude was always negative and it messed up the health crisis.

Speaking to the Karyakartas, Shri Nadda said, "The state government messed up the COVID-19 crisis. Pinarayi Vijayan's government tried to suppress the real figures and always had a negative attitude even when the Indian Medical Association suggested increased testing."

He said the Pinarayi government said that they have enough quarantine facilities, but it wasn't the case. People suffered and migrant workers in Wayanad had to stage a protest against the state government due to that.

Shri Nadda said the state government has been giving political patronage to private companies in Kerala and compromising the medical data in the process.

The BJP President said the Kerala House was given to anti-CAA protesters but wasn't given to Malayali nurses who needed it.

## 'RAHUL GANDHI MEETS CHINESE AMBASSADOR OVER A "SECRET MEETING" DURING DOKLAM STAND-OFF'

Shri Nadda also severely criticized Congress leader and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi over his "secret meeting" with the Chinese Ambassador during the Doklam stand-off (in 2017).

He said, "The people of India know that Rahul Gandhi was meeting the Chinese Ambassador secretly during the Doklam stand-off and you misled the nation and did not even inform the country".

"You've missed all 11 defence committee meetings. This is how you run a country? India got to know only when the Chinese Ambassador put your picture with him online. This 'love for your nation' is fake," Shri Nadda said targeting Rahul Gandhi.

The BJP President said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had an emotional connect with the

people of Kerala. "PM Modi has emotional bonding with Kerala. When the Puttingal temple (fire) incident happened (in April 2016), the Prime Minister reached the spot in less than 8 hours with a team of best doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences for the treatment of the injured persons."

He added that it is not only the emotional connect; the PM has taken care of giving Kerala proper political representation. Before addressing the people in Abu Dhabi, Shri Modi met with the Kerala diaspora, talked to them, had lunch with them, and understood their problems in detail and then tried to solve them. He did the same when he went to Dubai," said Shri Nadda.

Expressing satisfaction on the newly constructed BJP District Committee office 'Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Mandiram' in Kasargod, Kerala Shri Nadda said this office is digitally equipped and has all modern facilities. ■

## ATTEMPTS TO POLITICISE DEFENCE MATTERS SHOW ONE DYNASTY'S DESPERATION TO WEAKEN INDIA: JP NADDA

**T**he BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda in a press release on 20 July, 2020 condemned Rahul Gandhi of tarnishing the image of Indian armed forces and added that the Congress leader's latest attempt to attack Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi government is nothing but a "failed edition of "project RG Relaunch".

In the release Shri Nadda said, "We saw yet another failed edition of 'Project RG Relaunch'. Rahul Gandhi Ji was, as usual, weak on facts and strong on mudslinging. Attempts to politicize defence and foreign policy matters show one dynasty's desperation to wash their past sins of 1962 and weaken India".

Shri Nadda said, "Since the 1950's, China has made strategic investments in one dynasty that has given them rich dividends. Remember 1962, giving away of a UNSC seat, losing a lot of land to China in the UPA years, MoU Signed with much fanfare in 2008, funds to RGF and more".

Shri Nadda further said, "In recent years, be it Doklam or the present, Rahul Gandhi Ji prefers briefings from the Chinese instead of believing India's



armed forces. Why does one dynasty want a weak India and a strong China? Many leaders in Congress also disapprove of one dynasty's shenanigans!"

The BJP National President said, "For years, one dynasty has been trying to destroy PM Shri Narendra Modi. Sadly for them, PM Shri Modi's connection with 130 crore Indians is deep-rooted. He lives and works for them. Those who want to destroy him will end up only further destroying their own party". ■

## BJP President appoints new party state presidents of Haryana, Gujarat, Ladakh, Himachal and Andhra Pradesh

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has appointed former Haryana Cabinet Minister **Shri Om Prakash Dhankhar** as the President of Haryana State BJP on 19 July, 2020. This appointment has come into force with immediate effect. Shri Dhankhar has been appointed in place of former State President Shri Subhash Barala. After the BJP victory in the 2014 Haryana Assembly elections, Shri Dhankhar became a cabinet minister in the BJP government. A two-time National President of BJP Kisan Morcha, Shri Dhankhar has also been the National Coordinator of the 'Statue of Unity' project.



BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on July 20 appointed **Shri CR Patil** as new state president of Gujarat. Shri Patil, a third-term MP from Navsari in Gujarat, replaces Shri Jitendrabhai Vaghani. The 65-year-old leader won from Navsari in Gujarat seat by more than five lakh votes, one of the biggest margins in Gujarat in previous Lok Sabha Election in 2019.

On July 20, 2020 BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda appointed **Shri Jamyang Tsering Namgyal** as state president of Ladakh. Shri Namgyal, 35, is a first-term MP from Ladakh and had hit the headlines for his energetic speeches in Parliament. The post of BJP president in the Union Territory was vacant after Namgyal's predecessor resigned.



The BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on July 22, 2020 appointed **Shri Suresh Kumar Kashyap**, MP from Shimla Lok Sabha Constituency, as its Himachal Pradesh unit president. Shri Kashyap is an ex-serviceman and was elected as MLA on party's ticket earlier.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on July 27, 2020 appointed **Shri Somu Veerraju** as new President of Andhra Pradesh BJP. Shri Somu Veerraju is Member Legislative Council of Andhra Pradesh.



# INDIAN ECONOMY SET FOR POST-COVID-19 REBOUND: IHS MARKIT REPORT

**T**he Indian economy is set to rebound in the second half of 2020 as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic recedes, and is projected to grow by 6.7% in the next financial year, IHS Markit said in its outlook on the Indian economy on 23 July, 2020.

The pandemic resulted in severe disruptions in industrial production and consumption spending in India during April and May. The severe negative impact is expected to result in a significant contraction in GDP in the April-June quarter of 2020. However, as lockdown conditions have been progressively eased, early signs of recovery were evident in the most recent economic data.

The IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' surveys for India showed that economic momentum improved in June, reflecting the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions during May and June.

"IHS Markit forecast that the Indian economy will rebound as the impact of the pandemic recedes, with improving economic growth momentum in the second half of 2020 and positive GDP growth of 6.7% in the 2021-22 financial year," said Asia Pacific Chief Economist at IHS Markit.

Despite the negative short-term shocks from the pandemic, total foreign direct investment into India has remained buoyant. Foreign direct investment by technology firms in the first seven months of 2020 has already reached around \$17 billion, boosted by the \$10 billion new investment announced by Google in mid-July.

Facebook, Amazon, and Foxconn are among the other global technology firms that have committed large new investments into India this year, IHS said.



A major boost to investor confidence in the Indian medium-term economic outlook has come from new foreign direct investment into India announced during 2020 by US technology companies like Google, Facebook, and Amazon, the report said.

IHS said the medium-term economic outlook for India remains favorable, supported by a number of key growth drivers.

An important positive factor for India is its large and fast-growing middle class, which is helping to drive consumer spending. Total Indian consumer spending is forecast to grow by 42% between 2020 and 2025, measured in USD terms at constant prices, it said.

The digital transformation of India that is currently underway is expected to accelerate the growth of e-commerce, changing the retail consumer market landscape over the next decade. This is attracting leading global multinationals in technology and e-commerce to the Indian market, the report added. ■

# EPFO DATA SHOWS 3.18 LAKH NEW JOBS CREATED IN MAY

**N**et employment generation in the formal sector stood at 3.18 lakh in May, according to the latest Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) payroll data. The official employment data for April was reported at 1 lakh.

To curb the novel coronavirus, the Centre implemented a nationwide lockdown in the last week of March. From June, the central government gradually opened offices and factories to restart the economic activities.

The net employment creation with the EPFO had dropped to 5.72 lakh in March from 10.21 lakh in February, according to the payroll data in May. The EPFO revised the employment data for April to 1,00,825. The provisional employment data released by the EPFO last month showed the net new enrolments at around 1.33 lakh in April.



The Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE) had earlier said that India's unemployment rate, which peaked at 29.2% in May, fell subsequently to 7.4% for the week ended July 12. During 2019-20, the total number of new subscribers zoomed to 78.58 lakh compared to 61.12 lakh in the last fiscal, according to EPFO data. ■

## ABOUT 82 PER CENT DECLINE IN TRIPLE TALAQ CASES SINCE LAW ENACTED BY MODI GOVERNMENT

**T**here has been about 82 per cent decline in Triple Talaq cases since the law against the social evil was put in place, Minority Affairs Minister Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on July 22, 2020 terming August 1, when the legislation came into being as, "Muslim Women's Rights Day".

He also asserted the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, has taken its course whenever such a matter has been reported.

Shri Naqvi said Triple Talaq or Talaq-E-Biddat was neither Islamic nor legal, but the social evil was still given "political patronage" by "merchants of votes".

"August 1, 2019, is a historic day in Indian parliamentary history when the bill against Triple Talaq was made a law despite the obstacle by so-called 'champions of secularism', including the Congress, Communist Party, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj

Party and Trinamool Congress," Shri Naqvi said.

August 1 became the day which ensured gender equality and strengthened constitutional, fundamental and democratic rights of the Muslim women, he said, terming it the 'Muslim Women's Rights Day'.

That day will remain a "golden moment" in Indian democracy and parliamentary history, the minister said. "One year has passed since the law against triple talaq was passed and there is a decline of about 82 per cent in Triple Talaq cases thereafter," Shri Naqvi said.

By enacting the Triple Talaq law, the Modi government has strengthened socio-economic, fundamental and constitutional rights of the Muslim women. The government is committed to social reforms and empowerment of all sections, the Union Minister said. ■

# 41,000 AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH CENTRES PROVIDE HEALTH CARE TO 8.8 CRORE PEOPLE

**T**he Health and Wellness Centers (HWCs) form the primary pillar of Ayushman Bharat envisaging the provisioning of universal and comprehensive primary health care through transformation of 1,50,000 Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres into HWCs by 2022.

In Jharkhand, HWC teams screened people for Influenza like Illness and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness symptoms and facilitated testing for COVID-19.

The HWC team at Subalaya in Odisha conducted health check-ups and created awareness among people about preventive measures for COVID-19 .

The HWC team of Grandhi in Rajasthan supported the local district administration in screening all travelers for COVID-19 at the Bikaner-Jodhpur border check post.

8.8 crore footfalls have been recorded at the



HWCs in the five months since February 1st of this year. Apart from this, in the last five months, 1.41 crore individuals were screened at the HWCs for hypertension, 1.13 crore for diabetes and 1.34 crore for oral, breast or cervical cancer. ■

## OVER 10 CR FREE LPG CYLINDERS DELIVERED AS COVID-19 RELIEF

**O**ver 10 crore free cooking gas (LPG) cylinders were supplied to poor households under the government's Covid-19 relief package between April and June, Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) said on July 24, 2020.

To overcome the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government had announced a relief package under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) comprising free ration, cooking gas, and cash to certain vulnerable sections.

One of the initiatives under PMGKY was to supply three free LPG refills to the 8 crore Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries during April-June. "An estimated over 10 crore free LPG refills were supplied under PMGKY by HPCL and other oil marketing companies. "HPCL supplied more than 2.85 crore free LPG refills at doorsteps of its



PMUY beneficiaries during April-June, 2020, helping the PMUY beneficiaries during this unprecedented crisis," the statement said.

# INTEGRAL HUMANISM REVISITED

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



P. PARAMESWARAN

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

It is also accepted that the

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

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**THE REALLY SERIOUS QUESTION THAT INDIA HAS TO FACE IS WHAT MODEL OF CIVILIZATION AND WHAT FUNDAMENTAL VALUES WILL INDIA PRESENT BEFORE THE WORLD WHICH IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE PRESENT CRISIS. IT IS NOT ONLY A MATTER OF THEORETICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL PARADIGM BUT A PRACTICAL AND WORKABLE SOLUTION WITH A...**

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

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

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

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

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

To continue...

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

# MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNOR LALJI TANDON PASSES AWAY AT 85

**M**adhya Pradesh Governor Shri Lalji Tandon passed away on July 21, 2020 morning after suffering from multiple organ failures. He was 85. The last rights of Shri Tandon were performed at 4:30 pm at Gullala Ghat in Lucknow on the same day. Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, UP Governor Smt. Anandiben Patel, MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, MP BJP State President Shri V.D Sharma and UP Deputy CM Dr. Dinesh Sharma paid their last respects to Shri Lalji Tandon in Lucknow and took part in his funeral.

Uttar Pradesh government has announced three-day state mourning as a mark of respect to Shri Tandon who died in office as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Likewise, MP Chief Minister

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said Madhya Pradesh would observe five-day mourning from July 21, during which no entertainment programmes would be held.

Born on April 12, 1935, Shri Tandon was a member of the UP Legislature Council for two terms and a member of the Legislative Assembly thrice. He has served as a Minister in the State government. A close confidant of former PM Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Lalji Tandon was chosen by the Party to represent Lucknow in the Lok Sabha after Vajpayee Ji. He was elected to the 15th Lok Sabha from Lucknow in 2009, and later

appointed the Governor of Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

Leaders cutting across party lines have condoled Shri Tandon's death. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, other central ministers, and chief ministers also expressed shock and paid tributes to Shri Tandon.

Extending his condolences, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tweeted, "Shri Lalji Tandon will be remembered for his untiring efforts to serve society. He played a key role in strengthening the BJP in Uttar Pradesh. He made a mark as an effective administrator, always giving importance to public welfare. Anguished by his passing away".

The PM said, "Shri Lalji Tandon was well-versed with constitutional matters. He enjoyed a long and close association with beloved Atal Ji. In this hour of grief, my condolences to the family and well-wishers of Shri Tandon. Om Shanti."

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda in his condolence message said, "I am shocked at the demise of Madhya Pradesh Governor and senior BJP leader Shri Lalji Tandon. He devoted his entire life to the service of the nation. This is an irreparable loss for the BJP. May God bless the saintly soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss. Om Shanti".

Paying tributes to the veteran BJP leader Union





a deep impression on Indian politics. His death is an irreparable loss for the country and the BJP. I pray to God for the peace of the departed soul and express my condolences to his family. Om shanti shanti shanti"

MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "Shri Tandon was a symbol of uprightness in public life. As a Governor, he always gave direction and inspiration in public interest".

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the demise of Madhya

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, 'I got the opportunity to work with Shri Lalji Tandon for a long period'.

He said, "The news of the demise of Madhya Pradesh Governor and one of the tallest personalities of Uttar Pradesh Shri Lalji Tandon is very painful. With Tandanji I had the opportunity to work for a long time. His long public life has been devoted to the service of the public and he has left a distinct mark in his work".

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah condoling the demise of Shri Lalji Tandon said, "I am deeply saddened by the demise of Shri Lalji Tandon, the senior BJP leader and the Governor of Madhya Pradesh. Shri Tandon's entire life was devoted to public service and he played a very important role in the expansion of the organization in Uttar Pradesh."

"As a public servant, Shri Lalji Tandon ji has left



Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon. The state government has announced a three-day state mourning as a mark of respect to the departed leader. In a statement, the Chief Minister said that Lucknow has lost its life and the country has lost a popular leader. ■



# HOME MINISTER DISTRIBUTES 100 ELECTRIC POTTERY WHEELS TO ARTISANS IN GUJARAT UNDER 'KUMHAR SASHAKTIKARAN YOJANA'

**U**nion Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on July 24, 2020 distributed 100 electric pottery wheels among as many trained artisans in Gujarat under the 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Shri Shah distributed the electric pottery wheels in his Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency in Gujarat at a programme conducted through video conferencing from New Delhi, an official statement said.

Seeking to empower and associate the marginalised potters community with India's quest to become 'Aatmanirbhar', the Union Home Minister distributed 100 electric pottery wheels to 100 trained artisans under the 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana', the statement said.

Lauding the scheme, Shri Shah said the initiative would go a long way in strengthening the marginalised potters community by incorporating technology to improve productivity while also reviving the traditional art of pottery.

He also interacted with five potters who have been trained by the KVIC and provided with electric pottery wheels and other equipment for their future



endeavours.

"I am glad to see the change that has been ushered in the lives of our potters. The Modi government at the Centre is always concerned for better livelihood of the Prajapati community," Shri Shah said.

"The distribution of electric chaak is a gift from the Prime Minister to the people of Gujarat. This will make their lives easier and also increase their production capacity," he said.

The Home Minister assured the potters that arrangements will be provided for selling their products, including a tie-up with the Railways.

Shri Shah appreciated the efforts of the KVIC in providing sustainable employment opportunities to the weaker sections through its schemes.

The 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' is one such step towards making the potters community 'Aatmanirbhar' and "I am hopeful that KVIC will continue to work for the benefit of marginalised sections", he added. ■





## NORTHEAST HAS POTENTIAL TO BECOME INDIA'S GROWTH ENGINE: NARENDRA MODI

**T**he northeast has the potential to become India's growth engine, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said on 23 July, 2020 noting that peace is now being established in the entire region. He made these remarks at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Manipur water supply project via video link.

An externally funded project, the Manipur water supply project was designed to provide freshwater household tap connections (FHTCs) to remaining households in Greater Imphal planning area, and for 1,731 rural habitations covering 2,80,756 households in all 16 districts of Manipur.

The project outlay is Rs 3054.58 crore, with a loan component funded by the New Development Bank.

While blockades have become a part of history in Manipur, the era of decades of violence in Assam has ceased. In Tripura and Mizoram too, youth have abandoned the path of violence and the Bru-Reang refugees are now moving towards a better life, he said in his address.

The Prime Minister noted that the government is

making constant efforts to improve connectivity in the northeast region, be it highways, laying of rail tracks or upgradation of airports.

In the foundation stone laying programme, the Prime Minister said, it is an example of the fact that even during the crisis triggered by the novel Coronavirus, the country has not stopped working. Till the time a vaccine is developed, we have to vigorously fight against Coronavirus and the development works should also be carried forward with full force, he said. ■

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Northeast has potential to become India's growth engine
- Manipur Water Supply project will give clean drinking water to Greater Imphal and 1,700 villages in the state.
- Connectivity in the northeast is important, not for only east of living, but also for achieving the goal for a safe and self-reliant India.

PM DEDICATES ASIA'S LARGEST ULTRA  
MEGA SOLAR POWER PROJECT AT REWA

# 'SOLAR ENERGY IS SURE, PURE AND SECURE'



**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the Nation Asia's largest ultra mega Solar Power project at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh on 10 July, 2020.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Modi said the Rewa project will make the entire region a major hub for pure and clean energy. It will also supply power to the Delhi Metro, along with the entire region surrounding Rewa.

PM Shri Modi said today Rewa has really made history. Rewa has been identified with mother Narmada and white tigers. Now Rewa will also be associated with Asia's largest solar power project. If you watch the aerial video, it seems as if thousands of solar panels are swaying in the fields like crops. It also seems like we are passing over a sea with deep blue water. For this, I congratulate the people of Rewa in particular and the people of Madhya Pradesh in general.

He said this solar plant of Rewa will help in turning this entire area into a major energy hub in this decade. With this solar plant, not only the people and the industries in Madhya Pradesh will get electricity, but even the metro rail in Delhi will get benefited. Besides, Rewa, similar work on big solar power plants in Shajapur, Neemuch and Chhatarpur are also underway. There is a plan to install a floating solar plant on the Omkareshwar Dam. When all these projects are completed, Madhya Pradesh will definitely become a hub of cheap and clean electricity. The poor and middle class families, farmers and tribal population of Madhya Pradesh will benefit the most.

The PM said Sun worship has a special place in our tradition, culture and our everyday lives. पुनातु मां तत्स वतिर् वरेण्यम् i.e. Let the Sun God, purify us. The

same spirit of purity can be felt here today in Rewa everywhere. Today the whole nation can feel this energy of God Sun. It is due to his blessings that we are among the top 5 countries in the world in terms of solar power.

Shri Modi said solar energy is going to be a major source of energy needs not only today but in the 21st century, because solar energy is Sure, Pure and Secure. Sure, because other sources of energy and electricity may exhaust, but the sun will shine forever around the world. It is Pure because it helps to protect rather than pollute the environment. Secure, because it is a great symbol of self-reliance and an inspiration. It also secures our energy needs. As India is moving towards the new peak of development, our hopes and aspirations are increasing. At the same time, our energy and electricity needs are also growing. In such a scenario, self-sufficiency in electricity is very important for a self-reliant India. Solar energy is going to play a very big role in this and we are trying to expand this strength of India.

The PM said today you will see that in all the government schemes and programmes, priority is given to environmental protection and Ease of Living.



For us, the protection of the environment is not limited to just a few projects, but it is the way of life. When we are launching major projects of renewable energy, we are also making sure that our determination towards clean energy is taken care of in every aspect of life. We are trying to ensure that its benefits reach every corner of the country, every section of society and to every citizen. Let me give you an example.

The PM said in the last 6 years, about 36 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in the country. More than 1 crore LED street lights have been installed across the country. It seems very small because when we get a facility, we generally do not talk much about its impact. This type of discussion takes place only when we do not have that thing.

The PM said in view of this expectation of the world from India, we are engaged in connecting the whole world. ISA i.e. International Solar Alliance is the result of this thinking. This is the spirit behind One World, One Sun and One Grid. It is an attempt to bring together the whole world for better production and use of solar energy so that this huge crisis in front of our earth can be tackled and the electricity needs of the small and poor countries can also be met.

He said today farmers are being helped to set up such solar plants on surplus land through the KUSUM scheme. Our farmers will not only be able to fulfil their personal needs of electricity through the power generated in the fields but will also be able to sell the surplus power. I am confident that Madhya Pradesh's farmer friends will also make this massive campaign of adopting this means of additional income and making India a power exporter successful.

The PM said self-reliance is truly possible only when there is confidence in us. Confidence comes only when the whole country, the whole system supports every countryman. This is what India is doing in the midst of the conditions created by the Corona crisis. This is the government that is trying to build confidence. Today, both the resources and the sensibilities of the government are reaching the sections of the society that governments often could not reach. Let us consider the example of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana now. The first step taken immediately after the lockdown, was to deliver free food to more than 80 crore poor Indians and to put some money into their pockets. And when the

### **BENEFIT OF REWA SOLAR PLANT WILL REACH THE POOR, MIDDLE CLASS, FARMERS & TRIBALS: JP NADDA**



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for dedicating Asia's largest solar power plant with a capacity of 750 MW in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh on 10 July, 2020.

The BJP National President also congratulated the people of Madhya Pradesh and said its benefits will reach the poor, middle class, farmers and tribal sblings.

The project will help in curbing 15.7 lakh tonnes of carbon emissions every year which is equivalent to planting 26 million trees.

He said in the field of solar energy, India is emerging as clean energy, we are moving fast towards achieving the goal of 'One World, One Sun, One Grid'. This is very important for the self-sufficiency of our electricity, which will promote ease of living along with environmental protection, Shri Nadda added.

lockdown was lifted, the government felt that the monsoons are going to arrive. Moreover, the season of festivals is also about to start. We have festivals going on till Diwali and Chhat Puja. And there will be festivals of all sects and religions.

Smt Anandiben Patel, Governor of Madhya Pradesh; Shri Shivraj Singh ji, the popular Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh; my Cabinet colleagues, Shri RK Singh ji, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot ji, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar ji, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan ji and Shri Prahlad Singh Patel ji; members of the Madhya Pradesh cabinet, MPs and MLAs! ■

# PM LAUNCHES HIGH THROUGHPUT COVID TESTING FACILITIES AT KOLKATA, MUMBAI AND NOIDA

**P** rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched three high throughput COVID-19 testing facilities via video conferencing on 27 July, 2020. These facilities are located at the National Institutes of Indian Council of Medical Research, at Kolkata, Mumbai and Noida.

Prime Minister said that these hi-tech state-of-the-art testing facilities will boost the testing capacity by almost 10,000 daily tests in each of the three cities. More number of tests will assist early detection and treatment, thereby helping fight the spread of the virus. He added that these labs will not be limited to testing for COVID, but in future, will also be able to test for Hepatitis B and C, HIV, Dengue and several other diseases.



He noted that the country has become the second largest PPE kit manufacturer. The country has progressed from not having even a single PPE kit manufacturer as recently as six months ago, to having more than 1200 manufacturers now, who are producing more than 5 lakh such kits daily. He also highlighted that from being dependent on imports, now more than 3 lakh N-95 masks are being produced in the country daily, annual production capacity of ventilators has become 3 lakh and there has also been a significant increase in the production of medical oxygen cylinders. This has not only helped save lives but has also converted India from an importer to an exporter.

Talking about efforts to contain the spread in rural areas, Prime Minister mentioned the need to develop new health infrastructure as well as boost the already existing health infrastructure facilities in the villages.

## TIMELY DECISIONS

Prime Minister underlined that due to timely decisions taken by the government, India is better placed vis-a-vis other countries in terms of deaths due to COVID. The recovery rate is also higher than other countries and is improving on a daily basis. The total number of people who have recovered from the virus is about to reach 10 lakh.

## CORONA SPECIFIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Prime Minister said that it was imperative for the country to develop corona specific health infrastructure at a fast pace. He noted that the Centre had announced a package of Rs 15,000 crore at the beginning of this battle. The country now has more than 11,000 COVID facilities and more than 11 lakh isolation beds.

While the country had only one COVID testing centre in January, there are almost 1300 such labs now. He said that at present, more than 5 lakh tests are being conducted in the country daily, and efforts are underway to increase this capacity to 10 lakh in the coming weeks.

## RAMPING UP HUMAN RESOURCE

The Prime Minister said that apart from developing the physical infrastructure, the country has also managed to swiftly ramp up human resources including paramedics, ASHA workers, Anganwadis etc, who have played a significant part in controlling the spread of the pandemic. He also spoke about the need to work on continuously attaching new and retired health professionals with the health system in order to prevent fatigue from setting in our corona warriors.



# COVID-19 RECOVERY RATE INCREASES TO 64%

**I**ndia's Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is progressively falling and currently, till 28 July, 2020 it is 2.25%. India continues its march as a country with one of the lowest fatality rates in the world.

Under the guidance of the Central government, State/UT governments have focused on reducing the fatalities by effectively managing the severe cases and prioritizing care of the high-risk population using field health care workers leading to a decrease in the CFR across the country. The CFR has reduced from around 3.33% in mid-June to 2.25% till 28 July, 2020.

The ramped up three-tier hospital infrastructure along with prompt and seamless patient management has helped consistent increase in the recoveries. For the fifth day in a row, India has seen more than 30,000 recoveries per day.

The Recovery Rate has seen a sharp increase from around 53% in mid-June to more than 64% as on 28 July. With 35,176 patients discharged in the last 24 hours, the total recoveries stand at 9,52,743.

With improving daily recovery number, the gap between the recovered cases & the active cases is also persistently increasing. Presently, it is 4,55,755. This means the actual active case load is presently 4,96,988 and all are under medical supervision.

Pursuant to "Test, Track, Treat" strategy, India has

created and maintained a new high of testing more than 5 lakh COVID-19 in a single day over two consecutive days. This is the outcome of the combined and focused efforts of Union and State/UT Governments on aggressive testing

as the first important step in the early detection and isolation of COVID-19 positive cases. On 26 July, India tested a total of 5,15,000 samples and on 27th July, a total of 5,28,000 samples were tested.

The graded and evolving response resulted in a testing strategy that steadily widened the testing network in the country, and the cumulative testing as on date has crossed 1.73 crore. The Tests Per Million has further improved to 12,562.

The testing capacity of India has received another boost with the induction of three high throughput testing facilities in Noida, Mumbai and Kolkata that were inaugurated virtually by the Prime Minister. The testing lab network in the country is continuously strengthened with 1310 labs in the country; 905 labs in the government sector and 405 private labs. ■



## BEING SAFE DURING FESTIVITIES

He forewarned people to be cautious during the celebrations of the festivals to come, in order to keep the virus contained. He underlined that the benefits of PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna should reach the poor timely. He added that till the time a vaccine is not developed, do gaz doori, wearing masks and hand sanitization are the tools at the disposal of the people to keep them safe.

Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that labs to test for COVID are now available all across the country. He also spoke about the Union Home Minister working along with Delhi Chief Minister in order to control the spread of the virus in the national capital.

## CHIEF MINISTERS SPEAK

The Chief Ministers thanked the Prime Minister for the launch of the testing facilities. Maharashtra Chief

Minister Shri Uddhav Thackeray praised the leadership of the Prime Minister in the tough circumstances. He spoke about the 'chase the virus' initiative in Mumbai and also discussed establishing permanent infection hospitals.

West Bengal Chief Minister Ms. Mamata Banerjee appreciated the cooperative attitude of the Prime Minister towards the States, spoke about efforts to track cases, use of tele-medicine and also about the need to ramp up facilities in some of the existing labs in the State.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath expressed his gratitude towards the Prime Minister for his untiring efforts in this fight against the virus. He said that these labs launched today will dramatically reduce testing time. He mentioned about ramping up testing ability in the State and the plan to increase the number of daily antigen tests. ■

# BOLD DECISIONS, STRONG POLITICAL WILL: ECONOMIC REFORMS ARE SUSTAINED, DEEP AND PRONOUNCED UNDER PM MODI



NIRMALA  
SITHARAMAN

**E**conomic reforms are a matter of continuing interest in India. Only recently, marking the birth anniversary of former PM Narasimha Rao, decisions taken during his time to open the Indian economy were recalled. They were bold decisions taken under compelling circumstances. Even from 1989, the brewing balance of payments crisis was getting noticed. India had to undertake higher levels of borrowing, and correspondence with the IMF and World Bank had commenced by late 1990. Without the borrowing, India would have had to default on its external payment obligations.

The IMF pegged the release of the credit tranches to our quarterly performances based on specified criteria. The World Bank provided the structural adjustment loans linked to specified benchmarks. Their conditions were to work in tandem. India was to open its economy to be market driven and out of the licence quota raj. To dismantle the four-decade-

old command and control model required immense political will, which despite running a minority government Rao had shown. After all, India had to be pulled out of a near bankruptcy.

However, several of the agreed conditions remained unfulfilled. A leadership and its vision for India adds strength to the required political will to undertake reforms which, post-Narasimha Rao, the Congress lacks. The finance minister of 1991 was the prime minister for a decade, but the

India had made commitments in 1991 on fiscal consolidation, as a part of those quarterly benchmarks to be fulfilled. However, it was PM Vajpayee who enacted the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management law. Another promise left unfulfilled was the rationalisation of state excise rates. In 1999, PM Vajpayee cleared the idea of a single goods and services tax. However, it was in 2017 under PM Narendra Modi that the Goods and Services Act came into force.

Within a year after forming the government in 2014, PM Modi held a two-day Gyan Sangam with PSBs. He spoke about addressing the NPAs, changes to recovery laws and mergers of PSU banks. Importantly, he spoke about giving operational freedom to PSBs. Keeping in mind India's aspirational needs, there were benefits to be drawn from expanding the size and scope of

our banks. A set of mergers took place in 2017. And a leap forward happened in August 2019. Old India's 21 PSBs, after consolidation, today stand at 12. In addition we have a payments bank in the India Post Payments Bank.

In one of the volumes on RBI history, we find an interesting

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## THE FIRST NDA GOVERNMENT (1999-2004) UNDER ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE TOOK THE REFORMS FORWARD. INDIA HAD MADE COMMITMENTS IN 1991 ON FISCAL CONSOLIDATION, AS A PART OF THOSE QUARTERLY BENCHMARKS TO BE FULFILLED.

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Congress used its political will for itself rather than for India. Several observers called 2004-14 as India's lost decade. It doesn't take a crisis to reform, nor should a crisis be allowed to overwhelm India.

The first NDA government (1999-2004) under Atal Bihari Vajpayee took the reforms forward.

observation on the 1969 nationalisation of banks: “single most important economic decision taken by any government since 1947. Not even the reforms of 1991 are comparable in their consequences – political, social and of course economic.” Post-nationalisation, several new branches of PSBs were opened in areas that were till then uncovered. Gross domestic savings doubled as a percentage of national income in the 1970s. However, political interference in banks was rampant in the 70s. It continued unabated through ‘phone-banking’ in 2008-14.

As a result, that ‘single most important economic decision’ couldn’t achieve either financial inclusion or steady acceleration of growth even after four decades. The PM Jan Dhan Yojana launched in 2014 has provided over 39 crore poor people access to banks and their services. Together they have over Rs 1.32 lakh crore in these accounts. Over 10 crore farmers are beneficiaries of PM Kisan Yojana, which directly transfers monies into their accounts.

Equally, market access was critical to multiplying farmers’ income. A major step of giving interstate market access to all farmers was taken recently. Farmers shall no longer be compelled to sell only to licensees within their areas. Using the electronic National Agriculture Market he can seek the place and price for his product to be sold. The recent steps to energise agriculture have resulted in amending the Essential Commodities Act. Together with changes in land



leasing and terms of farming, agriculture is seeing major reforms. Incidentally, removal of administrative export controls on agricultural commodities remains an unfulfilled commitment of 1991.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and setting up of the National Company Law Tribunal in 2016 provide a major relief for companies looking for an exit policy. Long pending resolutions are happening now. The Code may be on insolvency but now resolutions most often are for going concerns. Speedy disposal also ensures reasonable value realisation.

Within one year of being re-elected in 2019, NDA brought in major reforms in taxation. Corporate tax was reduced to 15% for new manufacturing companies and for the old to 22%. Options were provided for those who wished to continue benefiting

from accumulated exemptions to remain in the old scheme. So was personal income tax simplified and made exemption free. Here too, option to continue in existing/ old scheme was provided. To remove any perception of harassment, tax assessment and scrutiny were made faceless. Using technology, every correspondence with the assessee has a centralised Document Identification Number.

Modi invited private players to be co-travellers in the Indian space sector. Also, to strengthen existing indigenous capacities in defence production he has invited greater investment in the sector. Reforms have continued even as the necessary stimulus is being provided for restarting the Covid-hit economy. Reforms are sustained, deep and pronounced under PM Modi.

**(The Writer is Union Minister of Finance, GoI)**  
**Courtesy: TOI**

# GOOGLE SETS UP INDIA FUND, PLANS TO INVEST \$10 BN OVER 5-7 YRS

**U**S TECH giant Google said on July 14, 2020 that it has set up a 'Google India Digitisation Fund', through which it will invest \$10 billion in the country over the next five to seven years through a mix of equity investments, partnerships, operations, infrastructure and ecosystem investments.

Google's investment plan includes a renewed "focus on bringing more high-quality low-cost smartphones to enable Internet access".

Ahead of the announcement, Prime Minister

and agriculture; empowering businesses especially small and medium businesses to transform digitally; leveraging technology and artificial intelligence for digital literacy, outbreak predictions, and support for rural economies.

In addition, Google's Vice-President, Payments, and Next Billion Users, Caesar Sengupta, said the company will focus on bringing more high-quality low-cost smartphones to enable Internet access.

"We partnered with many India hardware manufacturers to create high-quality phones running Android within prices to reach every Indian. We will focus on enabling more high-quality low-cost smartphones so more people can access the internet to learn, grow and succeed," he said.

The company had earlier rolled out the Android One programme, under which it partnered with Indian OEMs like Lava, Micromax,



Shri Narendra Modi held a video conference with Google's CEO Mr. Sundar Pichai and other senior executives of the company.

PM Shri Modi tweeted, "This morning, had an extremely fruitful interaction with Sundar Pichai. We spoke on a wide range of subjects, particularly leveraging the power of technology to transform the lives of India's farmers, youngsters and entrepreneurs. During our interaction, Sundar Pichai and I spoke about the new work culture that is emerging in the times of Covid-19. We discussed the challenges the global pandemic has brought to areas such as sports. We also talked about the importance of data security and cyber safety".

Google said its \$10-billion fund will focus on areas such as enabling affordable access to the internet and to information for every Indian in their own language; building new products and services in segments like consumer tech, education, health

Karbons, etc, but it did not take off, particularly on account of cheaper Chinese devices and a large second-hand market of higher-end devices.

The \$10-billion investment by Google is pegged to fill the space that could be left vacant by Chinese investors after the Indian government's clampdown on Chinese companies. Earlier this year, India revised its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy to prevent "opportunistic takeovers" of firms hit by the lock down. The move had upset China, which termed it a violation of international trade principles.

The Menlo Park-based company had earlier made investments in a handful of Indian ventures through its venture capital arm, in addition to public projects such as Google Station for WiFi at railway stations, Internet Saathi for spreading internet awareness in villages, and an artificial intelligence-based flood forecasting system, among others. ■

# INDIA REGISTERS A STEEP DECLINE IN MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

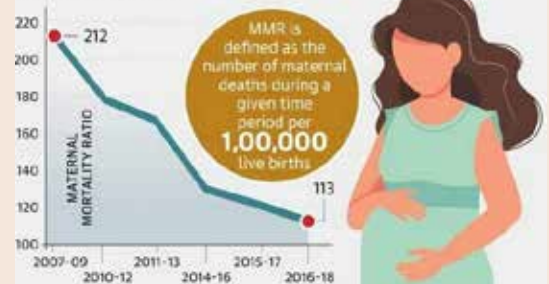
**T**he Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India has declined to 113 in 2016-18 from 122 in 2015-17 and 130 in 2014-2016, according to the special bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2016-18, released by the Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS) on July 16, 2020.

One of the key indicators of maternal mortality is the MMR, defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. The target 3.1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations aims to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,00,000 live births.

The MMR of various States according to the bulletin includes Assam (215), Bihar (149), Madhya Pradesh (173), Chhattisgarh (159), Odisha (150), Rajasthan (164), Uttar Pradesh (197) and Uttarakhand (99). The southern States registered a lower MMR — Andhra Pradesh (65), Telangana (63), Karnataka (92), Kerala (43) and Tamil Nadu (60). "Maternal mortality in a region is a measure of reproductive health of women in the area. As per the World Health Organization, maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management," noted the bulletin. ■

## Healthy trend

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) between 2016 and 2018 dropped to 113 in India, almost 100 deaths lesser than in the 2007-2009 period



# 1.10 CRORE HOUSES COMPLETED UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI AWAAS YOJANA-GRAMIN

**I**n order to deliver on the promise of "Housing for all by the year 2022", Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched restructured rural housing scheme, namely Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) on 20th November, 2016 with the target of construction of 2.95 crore houses with all basic amenities by the year 2022.

According to a statement released by the Ministry of Rural Development, the selection of beneficiaries through a three-stage validation has ensured selection of the poorest of the poor under PMAY-G. The ministry claimed that department took various measures including IT/DBT to ensure smooth flow of fund to the beneficiaries account, use of new housing designs after studying local region-specific typologies, evidence-based monitoring through geo-tagged photos taken at all pre-determined stages of construction, transaction-based MIS, adequate provision of fund, training of rural masons etc., for timely completion of houses.

These changes and new measures ensured increased pace for construction of houses resulting in completion of 1.10 crore houses, according to the statement. This also includes houses to 1.46 lakh landless beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

The statement claims the increased pace of work has been reflected in the NIPFP study which indicated 114 days as average completion time for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) as compared to 314 days earlier. The Ministry of Rural Development has also completed construction of around 72 lakh houses under Indira Awas Yojana totalling construction of 182 lakh houses since 2014.

The Ministry of Rural Development claimed that it is confident that with a large number of houses under different stages of completion and increased pace of completion of houses, it would be able to achieve the target of construction of 2.95 crore houses under PMAY-G by March, 2022. ■

# TRIPLE TALAQ-BIG REFORM, BETTER RESULT



MUKHTAR ABBAS  
NAQVI

**T**he month of August is recognised as a “Month of Revolution, Rights & Reforms” in the Indian history; 08th August Quit India Movement, 15th August Independence Day, 19th August “World Humanitarian Day”, 20th August “Sadbhavana Diwas”, 370 was abolished on 5th August, these days have been written in golden pages of the Indian History. 1st August is a day which made Muslim women free from social evil of Triple Talaq; 1st August has been recorded in the country’s history as “Muslim Women Rights Day”.

Triple Talaq or Talaq-a-Biddat was neither Islamic nor legal. Despite of the fact, the social evil of Triple Talaq was given “political patronage” by “Merchants of Votes”.

1st August 2019 is a historic day in Indian Parliamentary history when The Bill against Triple Talaq was made a Law despite of obstacle put by so-called “Champions of Secularism” including Congress, Communist Party, SP, BSP and Trinamool Congress. 1st August became the day which ensured gender equality and strengthened constitutional,

fundamental and democratic rights of the Muslim women and it also gave confidence to the women, which constitute almost half of the population in India. 1st August will remain as a golden moment of Indian democracy and Parliamentary history.

The law against social evil of Triple Talaq could have been passed in 1986 when the Hon’ble Supreme Court had given historic judgement in the Shahbano Case. The Congress had absolute majority in Parliament with more than 400 out of 545 Lok Sabha Members and more than 159 out of 245 Members in the Rajya Sabha. But the then Rajiv Gandhi Government used its strength in the Parliament to make the Supreme Court judgement ineffective and deprive the Muslim women of their constitutional and fundamental rights.

The then Congress Government had bowed down before illogic of some “narrow minded fanatics” and committed a criminal sin to deprive the Muslim women of their constitutional rights. The Congress’ “Mistake of the Moment” became “Punishment of the Decades” for the Muslim women. The Congress was worried for “Vote Ka Udhaar” while our government was worried for “Samajik Sudhaar” (social reform).

India runs on a Constitution, not on Shariat or any other religious textbook. Earlier, various

legislations had been brought in the country to abolish social evils such as Sati Pratha and Child Marriage. Triple Talaq law has nothing to do with religion, the law has been made purely to ensure gender equality by ending a social evil, inhuman, cruel and unconstitutional practice. Instant divorce by verbally saying Talaq thrice is illegal. There were several incidents coming where women had been given Talaq through letter, phone or even through message and whatsapp. Such incidents are unacceptable to a sensitive country and to a government committed to inclusive development.

Several Muslim-majority nations of the world had declared Triple Talaq as illegal and un-Islamic much earlier. Egypt was the first Muslim nation which abolished this social evil in 1929. Sudan in 1929, Pakistan in 1956, Bangladesh in 1972, Iraq in 1959, Syria in 1953, Malaysia in 1969 had abolished the practice of Triple Talaq. Besides, countries such as Cyprus, Jordan, Algeria, Iran, Brunei, Morocco, Qatar, UAE also ended this social evil many years ago. But it took 70 years for India to get rid of this inhuman and cruel practice.

The Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made the law against Triple Talaq to make effective the Supreme Court’s judgement. The Supreme Court,

on 18th May, 2017, had declared Triple Talaq as unconstitutional. By abolishing the Triple Talaq, the Modi Government has strengthened socio-economic, fundamental and constitutional rights of the Muslim women.

One year has passed since the law against Triple Talaq was passed and there is a decline of about 82 per cent in Triple Talaq cases thereafter. If any such case was reported, the law has taken action.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Government is committed to empowerment of all sections and social reforms. Some political parties give illogic that why the Modi Government is worried about Talaq in Muslim women? Why the Government don't do anything for their socio-economic-educational empowerment? I want to make it clear to those people who ask such questions that during the last about 6 years, the Modi Government has worked with inclusive empowerment for every sections including Muslim women.

The Modi Government's efforts aimed at development of all sections have ensured welfare of Muslim women equally. During the last about 6 years, 3 crore 87 lakh Minority students have been given various scholarships which include about 60 per cent girl students. A large number of Muslim women have been provided employment and employment opportunities

through "Hunar Haat". More than 10 lakh Minority youths have been provided employment and employment opportunities through skill development schemes such as "Seekho aur Kamao", "Garib Nawaz Swarojgar Yojna", "Ustad", "Nai Manzil", "Nai Roushni" etc and more than 50 per cent beneficiaries are women. A total of 3040 women have performed Haj after the Modi Government ensured Muslim women can

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perform Haj without "Mehram" (male companion) in 2018. This year too, more than 2300 women had applied to perform Haj without Mehram. These women will be allowed to go to Haj 2021 on the basis of their application for Haj 2020 only. Besides, women who file new application, will also be allowed to go to Haj next year.

The Modi Government's efforts have benefitted equally to the Muslim women. Even the Opposition and "traditional

Modi bashers" cannot raise question that there has been any discrimination with any community in welfare schemes. Our efforts for inclusive empowerment have shown results on the ground. When our Government provided 2 crore houses to poor, 31 per cent beneficiaries are from Minority community. Our Government has provided electricity to a large number of villages of the country which were deprived of electricity for decades, these villages include large number of Minority community dominated villages who were in darkness and now have been provided electricity. Our Government provided benefits to 22 crore farmers under "Kisan Samman Nidhi" which include more than 33 per cent farmers belonging to Minority communities. About 37 per cent of more than 8 crore beneficiaries of "Ujjwala Yojna" providing free gas connection belong to Minority communities.

Our Government provided easy loans to about 24 crore people under "Mudra Yojna" for small and medium business and other employment oriented economic activities and more than 36 per cent beneficiaries are from Minority communities. Muslim women have significantly been benefitted from these welfare schemes, they have become an equal partner of mainstream development. ■

**(The Writer is Union Minister of  
Minority Affairs, GoI)**

# DURING KARGIL WAR, INDIAN ARMY SHOWED ITS MIGHT TO THE WORLD: PM MODI

**M**y dear countrymen, Today, is the 26th of July, a very special day...It is Kargil Vijay Diwas. It was on this very day 21 years ago, our Army unfurled the flag of victory in the battle of Kargil. Friends, India can never forget the circumstances under which the battle of Kargil took place. Pakistan had embarked upon this misadventure, nursing delusions of encroaching upon Indian soil, to distract attention from the internal strife prevailing there. India was then in the process of making efforts to foster good relations with Pakistan. But as it is said, “बय्रू अकारन सब काहू सौ। जो कर हति अनहति ताहू सौ।।” Which means, to the wicked, enmity with one and all for no reason comes naturally. People with

such a disposition keep thinking of harming even their well-wishers... that is why when India extended a hand of friendship, Pakistan tried to respond, stabbing in the back. But after that, when our gallant Army displayed deeds of valour, when India demonstrated her might the whole world watched it. You can imagine....the enemy

lodged in soaring mountainous heights and our armed forces, our brave soldiers fighting from down below! But it was not about victoriously conquering the heights...The PM said it was the victory of high morale and bravery of our armed forces in the truest sense of the term.



**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Addressed the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on 26th July, 2020. He said During Kargil War, Indian Army showed its might to the world. Excerpts...**

Friends, at that point of time, I too was blessed with the opportunity to go to Kargil and witness the gallantry of our Jawans. That day is one of the most precious moments of my life. I am noticing, today, people are reminiscing the Kargil Victory, throughout the country. On social media, they are saluting their

brave heart heroes and paying tributes to those martyred with the #Courage in Kargil. Today, I, on behalf of all countrymen salute the brave soldiers....and along with them I also salute the brave mothers who gave rise to the real heroes, sons of Mother India. I urge the youth of the country to share stories of the heroic deeds of our brave hearts and sacrifices on part of the brave mothers, throughout the day. Friends, today I call upon you to visit, the website [www.gallantryawards.gov.in](http://www.gallantryawards.gov.in) positively.

Friends, what Atal ji had said from Red Fort during the Kargil war is relevant to all of us even today. Atal ji, had then reminded the nation of a mantra of Gandhi ji. Mahatma Gandhi's mantra was...in the face of any dilemma, in order to decide what to do or what not to do, one must think of the poorest and the most helpless person of India. One must assess whether one's deed will result in benefitting that particular person or not. Going beyond Gnadhi Ji's thought, Atal ji had said that the Kargil war has given us another



Mantra- And the Mantra was – before taking any important decision, we should think whether our step, our endeavor is befitting to the honour of the soldier who laid down his life in those remote mountains. Come, let us listen to the sentiment in the very voice of Atal ji- Let us understand it...the time too has come to accept it.

Friends, in times of war, whatever we say or do has immense bearing on the morale of the soldier, ever vigilant at the border, as well as the morale of his family. We should never forget this... and that is why our conduct, our demeanor, our speech, our statements, our limits, our aims... whatever we do and say, must distinctly be conducive to enhancing the morale & honour of our soldiers. Countrymen bound by a thread of unity, with the Mantra that the Nation is above everything else bolster the strength of our soldiers much more than thousand fold. We are aware of the dictum 'Sanghe Shakti, Kalau Yuge'; the essence of which tells us that there is strength in unity in the present era.

The PM said the correct approach; a positive approach always goes a long way in transforming distressing times into opportunities, adversities into triggers of development & progress. In the present times of Corona, we have witnessed how the youth & women of our country have come up with new experiments on the basis of their talent & skills. In Bihar, many women self help groups have begun making masks

## HIGHLIGHTS

- India can never forget the circumstances under which the Kargil War took place. Pakistan had embarked upon a misadventure of encroaching upon Indian soil, to distract attention from its internal strife.
- I'm fortunate to have visited Kargil and witnessed the valour of our Jawans. That day will be etched in my memory forever.
- With the mantra of Nation First, the countrymen, tied in the thread of unity, increase the strength of our soldiers by several thousand times.
- The threat of Coronavirus is not over yet, we need to be very vigilant, and we have to take full care.
- On one hand we have to fight against Coronavirus, on the other hand, with hard work, we have to take our businesses, jobs, the duties we perform, to new heights.
- In many states like Bihar and Assam, floods have created a lot of difficulties, the whole country stands with all the people affected by this disaster.
- I request all the countrymen that on Independence Day, we pledge for freedom from the pandemic, pledge for a self-reliant India.

with Madhubani motifs... by and by, they turned out to be very popular. These Madhubani masks, in a way, propagate a regional tradition; besides protecting health, they also create opportunities for livelihood. You surely know of Bamboo which grows abundantly in the North East. Now, using the same Bamboo, artisans of Tripura, Manipur and Assam have started crafting high quality water bottles and Tiffin-boxes. If you glance at the craftsmanship of these bottles, you will not believe that Bamboo can be used to create such fine products. Moreover, these bottles are eco friendly. An example from Jharkhand shows us how small local products can be hugely successful. The farmers of Kutch have resolved that the country should not import Dragon Fruit and this is what self reliance is all about.

Friends, before we meet in the next Mann Ki Baat, 15th August would have already arrived. This time, our 15th August celebrations too will be in very different circumstances - in the midst of the Corona Virus pandemic. I urge the youth, the people of my country to take a pledge of freedom from the pandemic this Independence Day. Take a resolve for a Self reliant India, a resolve to learn and teach something new and a resolve to earnestly carry out our duties. The glorious height attained by our country is only due to the Tapasya, the perseverance of many an illustrious soul who dedicated an entire life towards nation building. ■

# OVER 7.88 LAKH INDIANS RETURN UNDER VANDE BHARAT MISSION

**O**ver 7.88 lakh Indians have returned from abroad after the government launched the "Vande Bharat" evacuation mission on May 7 in view of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on 23 July, 2020.

Under the Phase 4 of the Vande Bharat mission, a total of 1,197 flights have been scheduled so far, including 945 international flights and 252 feeder flights, MEA Spokesperson said at a media briefing.

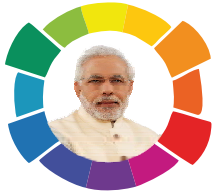
These flights are operated by the Air India group, IndiGo, SpiceJet and GoAir. They cover 29 countries. They will be reaching 34 airports in India," he said. Of these, 694 flights have

reached India as on July 22, repatriating nearly one lakh people so far, he said.

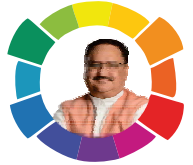
Phase 4 is expected to continue until August 2, by which time around 80,000 more people are expected to return. As on 22nd July, 7,88,217 Indian nationals have returned. 1,03,976 Indians have returned from Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh by land borders," he said.

Noting that the Ministry of Civil Aviation had announced establishment of bilateral bubbles with some countries, the MEA spokesperson said that between July 22 and August 31, Air India will be operating 30 flights a week to the US (New York, Chicago, Washington, New Jersey and San Francisco), four flights a week to Germany (Frankfurt) and three flights a week to France (Paris).

The ministry continues to be in touch with missions on specific demands for repatriation from students completing their courses abroad, workers and other stranded Indians with compelling reasons, he said. ■



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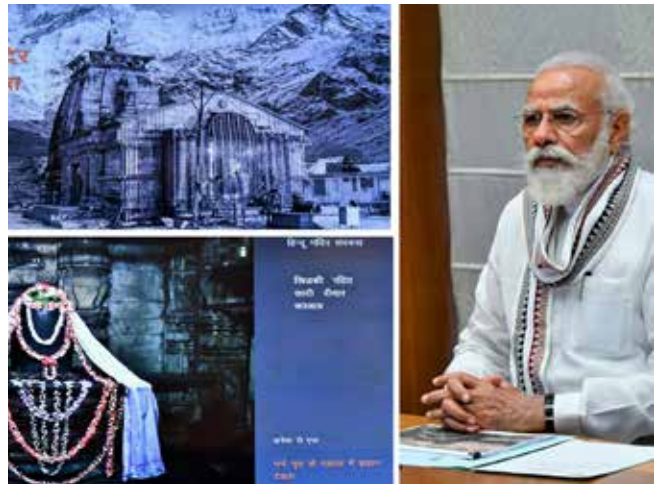
**PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI ADDRESSING THE INDIA-EU VIRTUAL SUMMIT 2020, IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 15.**



**PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI CHAIRING A MEETING TO REVIEW THE PREPARATIONS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 11.**



**PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE FOR WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN MANIPUR, THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE, IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 23.**



**THROUGH VIDEO CONFERCING PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI REVIEWS THE DEVELOPMENT WORK AT KEDARNATH DHAM ON JULY 15.**



**VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI, PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI INTERACTS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM VARANASI BASED NGOS ON JULY 09.**



**PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI INTERACTING WITH THE IBM CEO SHRI ARVIND KRISHNA VIA VIDEO CONFERCING, IN NEW DELHI ON JULY 20.**



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AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package Progress So Far

**₹50,000 Crore Liquidity Through TDS/TCS Rate Reduction**



- Reduction in TDS rates announced on 13th May 2020
- Applicable for specified payments to residents and specified TCS rates by 25% for transactions made from 14th May, 2020 to 31st March, 2021



**App Innovation Challenge** 6940 entries received

The Category wise breakup of the Apps submitted include:

1142 under Business	662 under Office & Work from Home
901 under Health & Wellness	237 under News
1062 under E Learning	320 under Entertainment
1155 under Social Networking	Around 1135 Apps have been submitted under the others category
326 under Games	

**Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) develops World-Class Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet) Portal**



- KRCNet establish a Total Quality Management (TQM) system for documenting MoES knowledge resources, maintenance, easy retrieval and dissemination
- Collects, collates, analyzes, indexes, stores and disseminates intellectual resources, products and project outputs available with MoES
- Develops and maintains an up-to-date meta-data of the print & digital resources available at MoES headquarter and institutes
- Provides 24x7 access to the subscribed knowledge contents through the KRCNet portal
- Conducts training workshops periodically to popularize the usage of electronic journals, databases, digital products, data analytics etc.

**EDUCATION POLICY 2020, BUDGET INCREASED TO 6%**



- The 10+2 system will be divided into 5+3+3+4 format
- Budget for education increased from 4.43% to 6%
- All courses to be available in regional languages
- Single common entrance exam for all colleges
- Coding lessons available from class 6
- No hard divide in streams