

KAMAL SANDESH

Vol. 17, No. 07

01-15 April, 2022 (Fortnightly)

₹20



**DYNASTY DANGEROUS FOR DEMOCRACY,
WE HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST IT**



BJP GOVERNMENTS TAKE OATH IN UTTARAKHAND & MANIPUR



**KASHMIR FILES:
HISTORIC TURNING POINT**

**BJP STRONGLY CONDEMNS
THE BIRBHUM VIOLENCE**

**OPERATION GANGA: ONE OF INDIA'S
LONGEST EVACUATION DRIVES**



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda at the swearing ceremony of Manipur Chief Minister Shri N. Biren Singh



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda celebrating Holi with Karyakartas at his residence in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the swearing ceremony of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda meets UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at New Delhi



Union Minister Shri Amit Shah handing over job appointment letters to the families of brave soldiers of Jammu & Kashmir Police martyred in terrorist incidents in Jammu



Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Patel and other senior leaders welcoming Union Minister Shri Amit Shah in Surat, Gujarat

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@narendramodi

Over the last few years, it is heartening to see water conservation become a mass movement, with innovative efforts taking place in all parts of the nation. I would like to appreciate all those individuals and organisations who are working towards saving water.



@JPNadda

Congratulations to all the Padma awardees. We deeply value your contribution to the society and take great pride in your achievements. Keep inspiring.



@AmitShah

India is the only country in the world which is a Geo-Cultural country. And land routes have great importance in this journey of thousands of years, because through these land routes the flag of our Indian culture was hoisted all over Asia and India became the hub of trade.



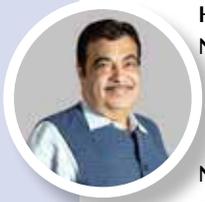
@rajnathsingh

Even after independence, when there was talk of voting rights in the country, it was decided on the very first day that there would be Universal Adult Suffrage in the country and the right to vote would be given to men as well as women. Whereas in western countries also women had to wait a long time for the right to vote.



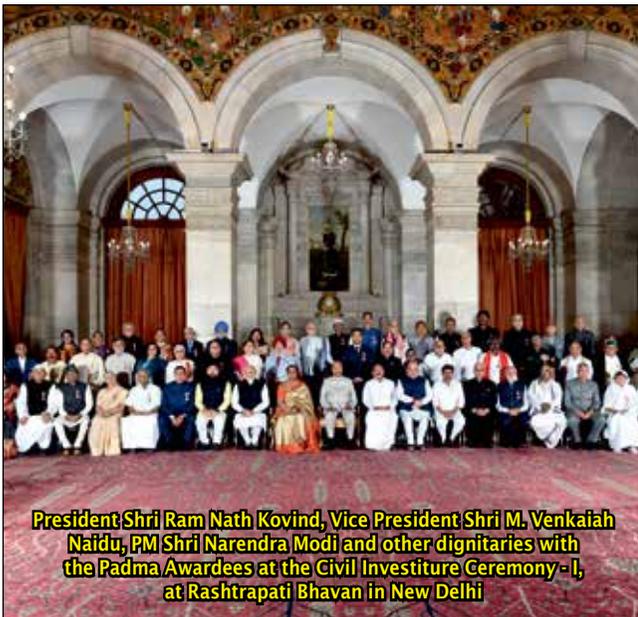
@Nitin Gadkari

Heartiest congratulations to Shri @NBirenSingh ji on being elected as the Chief minister of Manipur for the second time. Under the guidance of PM Shri @narendramodi ji and leadership of Shri N Biren Singh ji, I am sure that Manipur will progress and prosper.

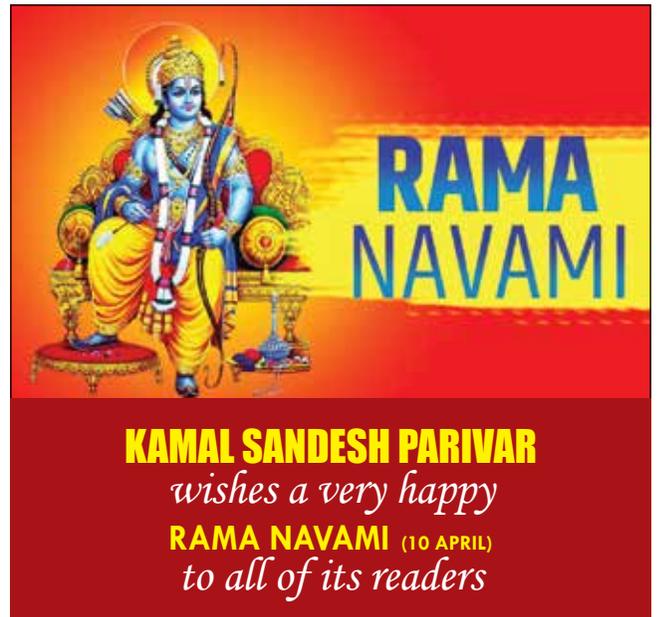


@B L Santhosh

Good to see that significant proportion of #KashmirFiles viewers are young generation of post or sub 20s . It's they who needs to be well informed & truth.



President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, PM Shri Narendra Modi and other dignitaries with the Padma Awardees at the Civil Investiture Ceremony - I, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi



INDIA RISES WITH THE RESOLVE OF AN 'AATMNIKBHAR BHARAT'

As indicated by the results of the recently held assembly elections, the people of India are increasingly voting in favour of politics of good governance, development and performance. The results in the four states where BJP has returned with a huge mandate also show that the politics in these states has now stabilised with BJP emerging as the people's favourite choice on the strength of its commitment to fulfil the aspirations of the people. It is happening after decades of political instability when a single party rarely got a full majority in the elections and seldom returned to form the government again. A huge churning has taken place with the BJP not only getting a full majority in parliamentary elections in 2014 and becoming the only political party to get a full majority on its own in last three decades, but repeating its performance even more emphatically in 2019. The same process is now being replicated in many other states, with people supporting the BJP more and more in almost every election. It is the victory of the politics of commitment, service, and performance. It is the victory of the selfless work of millions of BJP karyakartas across the country, dedicated leadership having the vision of 'Nation First' and the mantra of building an 'Aatmnikbhar Bharat'.

While the political scene in the country is witnessing a transformation, the impact can be seen in almost every sector, including the economy, academics, media, and cinema. The recently released

Kashmir Files has become a new phenomenon in Indian cinema, proving that a true story, if told fearlessly, can sell without marketing, branding, or PR exercise. The manner in which the plight of Kashmiri Hindus has been portrayed and the genocide through which they had to undergo, resulting in their forced migration from the Kashmir valley, has once again shook the conscience of the entire nation. In fact, it's the first time that a movie has been made about the untold miseries of Kashmiri Hindus, bringing the people face-to-face with the real situation that existed in the valley. The movie has also exposed a large section of Bollywood that has been making fictitious films on the Kashmir issue, rationalising terrorism in the valley and pushing the separatist agenda through their misleading narratives. These Bollywood filmmakers should now realise that such an approach has created a deep

wedge among people in the valley, creating a sense of alienation while fuelling violence and separatism. At the same time, the makers of Kashmir Files should be saluted for their courage to tell the truth and stand by their conviction to rescue Bollywood from the dungeon of false narrative and fictitious themes. The people of India deserve to be congratulated for backing this movie wholeheartedly and for turning it into an all-time blockbuster.

As a confident India rises on the strength of its own and with the resolve to realise the dream of an 'Aatmnikbhar Bharat', a change with a rare kind of dynamism can be seen everywhere. An India that can face the COVID-19 pandemic for two long years without faltering even once while extending a helping hand to other countries is certainly a new phenomenon. An India that can manufacture vaccines, an India that can turn all challenges into opportunities by launching various reforms during a crisis, an India that can provide free rations to 800 million people, care for vulnerable sections of society during a pandemic, and provide free vaccines to all seems unfathomable to those who witnessed the UPA's misrule just seven years ago. It has been possible under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who has inspired millions of committed BJP karyakartas and selfless people across the country through his tireless efforts. The result is that a new India has emerged, which no longer languishes behind but completes the target before the appointed time. As India realises its inner strength, the goals of 'Aatmnikbhar Bharat' are now not difficult to achieve. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org

As a confident India rises on the strength of its own and with the resolve to realise the dream of an 'Aatmnikbhar Bharat', a change with a rare kind of dynamism can be seen everywhere



OATH TAKING CEREMONY, UTTARAKHAND

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI TAKES OATH AS CHIEF MINISTER OF UTTARAKHAND FOR STRAIGHT SECOND TIME

In the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP legislature party leader Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami on 23 March, 2022 took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for the second time at Dehradun's Parade Ground. Eight Cabinet ministers were sworn in along with Shri Dhami. The names includes - Shri Satpal Maharaj, Shri Subodh Uniyal, Shri Dhan Singh Rawat, Smt Rekha Arya, Shri Ganesh Joshi, Shri Chandan Ram Das, Shri Saurabh Bahuguna and Shri Premchand Aggarwal.

Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh administered the oath of office to Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami and eight cabinet ministers.

Along with PM Shri Modi, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, CMs of BJP ruled states and other dignitaries were also present at the grand event.

Earlier, The central observers Shri Rajnath Singh and Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi announced the name of Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami as the new legislative party leader after a meeting held with elected BJP MLA's in Uttarakhand.

Before his swearing-in ceremony, Shri Dhami offered prayers at the Tapkeshwar Mahadev temple as well as a Hanuman Mandir at Chakrata Road, Dehradun.

The BJP won 47 seats in the 70-member Assembly in the recently concluded state elections. With this, the BJP has become the first party ever

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami on taking oath as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.



In a tweet, the Prime Minister said; "Many congratulations to Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. In the last 5 years, Devbhoomi has made rapid progress in every field. I am sure that you and all your ministers will give further impetus to it, setting a new paradigm of development according to the aspirations of the people."

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda in a tweet said, Attended the swearing-in ceremony of Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami ji in Dehradun today. I am sure that under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, Dhami ji will set a new paradigm in the development of Devbhoomi.



Hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the members of the new cabinet.

in Uttarakhand's 21-year-old history to return to government in consecutive elections. ■



OATH TAKING CEREMONY, IMPHAL

BJP FORMS GOVERNMENT IN MANIPUR

N. BIREN SINGH TAKES OATH AS CM FOR 2ND TIME

The BJP legislature party leader Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh was sworn in as Manipur's Chief Minister for a straight second term on 21 March, 2022 in Imphal. Five MLAs — Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh, Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Shri Govindas Konthoujam and Shri Nemcha Kipgen of the BJP and Manipur NPF President Shri Awangbow Newmai were also sworn in with the Chief Minister.

Governor Shri La Ganesan administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri N. Biren Singh and five others in succession at a majestic function held on the lawns of Manipur Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda, Assam CM Shri Himanta Biswas Sarma, Tripura CM Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, other leaders of different parties, newly elected legislators and senior officials attended the ceremony.

Earlier, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Law and Justice Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju arrived at Imphal on 20 March, 2022 and attended the meeting with the newly elected BJP MLAs in the state. Smt. Sitharaman was appointed as the central observer and Shri Rijiju as co-observer for the election of the BJP legislature party leader in Manipur. Union Minister & State Election-Incharge Shri Bhupendra Yadav, BJP National Spokesperson & State In-Charge Shri Sambit Patra and Manipur's titular king & BJP Rajya Sabha MP Shri Leishemba Sanajaoba also arrived with them.

Once a football player, a BSF Jawan deployed at Manipur borders and a journalist, Shri N. Biren Singh

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri N. Biren Singh on taking oath as Chief Minister of Manipur.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said; "Congratulations to Shri @NBirenSingh Ji on being sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Manipur. I am confident his team and he would take Manipur to newer heights of progress and continue the good work done in the last five years."



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda in a tweet said, "Heartiest congratulations to @NBirenSingh Ji on being sworn-in as the CM of Manipur and to all the members of the newly elected cabinet. Under the leadership and guidance of PM @narendramodi, Manipur will soar to new heights & prosperity, giving rise to a new dawn of development."



was elected in the meeting as the BJP legislature party leader by the elected MLAs.

Talking to media persons after taking oath, Shri Biren Singh said the new government's first priority is to make Manipur a corruption-free state. He said the



N BIREN SINGH: LIFE SKETCH

Shri N Biren Singh was born on January 1, 1961 in Imphal, Manipur. He has a BA degree from Manipur University.

Shri Singh started his career as a footballer and he was recruited in the Border Security Force (BSF), where he played for its team in domestic competitions. He then turned to journalism in 1992.

Shri N Biren Singh started the vernacular daily Naharolgi Thoudang from Imphal Manipur. He worked as the editor of the newspaper till 2001.

Shri N. Biren Singh joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in on 17 October 2016 and later became the Spokesperson and Co-convener of the Election Management Committee of BJP Manipur.

He won the 2017 Manipur Legislative Assembly Election from Heingang Assembly Constituency and became the Chief Minister of Manipur on 15 March, 2017.



PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI: LIFE SKETCH

- Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama was born in 1975 and is the son of an ex-serviceman. He was born in Kanalichhina village in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- Graduated from the University of Lucknow with degrees in human resource management and industrial relations, he also holds a law degree.
- He joined Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in 1990
- He served as Officer on Special Duty to the then CM Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari from 2001-2002
- He served as the President of BJP's Uttarakhand Yuva Morcha from 2002-2008
- He was elected MLA from Khatima constituency in 2012; re-elected in 2017
- He was appointed state BJP vice president in 2016
- He took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on July 4, 2021

government's second priority is to fight against drugs and its menace, and third is to bring a permanent solution to insurgency in the state by holding dialogues across the table.

Noteworthy, in the recently declared election results, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has scripted a

history in Manipur by becoming the first non-Congress party to be re-elected to form the Government in the state for a consecutive second term. The BJP secured a clear majority in Manipur and retained power by winning 32 seats with 38 per cent vote share in the election to the 60-member assembly. ■

DYNASTY DANGEROUS FOR DEMOCRACY, WE HAVE TO FIGHT AGAINST IT: PM MODI

Addressing the party MPs at the BJP's Parliamentary Party meeting at Ambedkar Bhawan in New Delhi on March 15, 2022, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi sought to send a strong message to MPs that family politics won't be allowed in the party. The Prime Minister said that he takes responsibility if anyone's candidature was rejected by the party in the just concluded elections.

Earlier, both PM Shri Narendra Modi and party's National President Shri JP Nadda were given a rousing welcome by senior party leaders at the beginning of the meeting for BJP's election victory in four states. Union Ministers Shri Amit Shah, Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Pralhad Joshi, and others also attended the meeting.

A two-minute silence was also observed by the leaders ahead of the meeting to pay their respects to veteran singer Lata Mangeshkar who recently passed away, Indian students who passed away in Ukraine and the RSS activist who was killed in Karnataka.

A day before the meeting, the party had asked all the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs to be present at the meeting. This was the first meeting after the BJP got landslide victories by retaining power in all four of the five states that went to the polls. These four states are Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa. PM Shri Narendra Modi played a



PM Shri Narendra Modi and party's National President Shri JP Nadda were given a rousing welcome by senior party leaders at the beginning of the meeting for BJP's election victory in four states

very vital role in BJP's mega victory in the politically crucial states of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa.

Speaking at the BJP parliamentary party meeting, PM Shri Modi asked the MPs to fight against dynasty politics as it is dangerous. "It's because of me that children of MPs didn't get tickets in assembly polls as we are against dynasty politics," the PM said.

"Dynasty is dangerous for democracy, we have to fight against it," he added.

The Prime Minister also briefed the MPs on the evacuation of Indian nationals from Ukraine.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS MANDATE IS AGAINST 'PARIVARVAD'

Criticizing the Congress and

Samajwadi Party, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the result of Assembly elections held in five states is a mandate against 'parivarvad'.

Parliamentary Board of the Bharatiya Janata Party on 14 March appointed central observers and co-observers to elect the leader of the legislative party in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa Assembly. BJP is comfortably forming government in the four states thanks to the thumping majority.

The meeting was held after the commencement of the second phase of the Budget session of the Parliament which began on March 14. The Budget session will conclude on 08 April, 2022. ■

BJP STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE BIRBHUM VIOLENCE

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda expressed grief over the death of 10 innocent people in the violence at Rampurhat in Birbhum district of West Bengal. In a tweet he said, shocked by the death of 10 innocent people in the violence that took place at Rampurhat in Birbhum district of West Bengal. This incident proves that Mamta government has no control over law and order. I condemn this incident in the strongest possible terms. I also demand strict action against the culprits.

On this issue, Bharatiya Janata Party's National Spokesperson Shri Gaurav Bhatia and MP and West Bengal State General Secretary Smt Lockett Chatterjee, while addressing a press conference in Delhi on March 22, 2022, strongly attacked Mamata Banerjee over the incident in Birbhum district of West Bengal and demanded a CBI inquiry for a fair probe into the incident.

Significantly, violence erupted in West Bengal's Birbhum district after the murder of a TMC leader, in which anti-social elements locked 10-12 houses in the area from outside on the night of March 21 so that when those houses were set on fire, innocent people living in those houses could not run away. According to the reports so far, 10 people have died in this incident, including women and small children. Seven dead bodies have been removed from one house of the area. After this incident the chaos was such that when the fire brigade team reached the spot to get the fire under control, they were also stopped by some local goons.

Regarding this incident, BJP put West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in the dock and asked her that the way people's houses are being burnt in the state, innocent people are being brutally murdered, in such a situation Mamta ji should tell that who will take the responsibility of law and order? Is human life worth nothing in West Bengal? The saddest thing is that those anti-social elements who carry out such incidents are not punished, and the message is given to the general public that these people belong to TMC, be afraid of them. If one dares to protest, his house will be burnt and he is even brutally murdered. It is now clear that TMC goons are weighing heavily on the

@Narendra Modi

"I express my condolences over Birbhum violence in West Bengal. Whatever help is needed to book culprits, I assure all possible help from Centre to State. I hope state government takes strict action against culprits and those who encourage such criminals should not be forgiven too."



scales of justice.

This is not the first time such an incident has happened in West Bengal. Mamta ji may have won the election but she has completely lost the trust of the people of West Bengal. The BJP wants to raise some questions and it is expected that Mamta ji will answer them. Mamta ji, when prima facie, you are not able to maintain law and order in the state and criminal elements there have your protection, then the question is natural that how will there be a fair investigation? The BJP demands that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should resign from her post immediately. We also demand that there should be a fair investigation by the CBI into the Birbhum incident, so that the truth of the incident can come out. The most shameful thing is that after the loss of 10 lives, when the investigation was not even started, the TMC district president says that three-four houses caught fire due to a TV short circuit, in which 10 people died. It is deplorable and also extremely disturbing.

FIVE-MEMBER COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has constituted a five-member committee regarding the inhuman violent incidents happening in Rampurhat, District Birbhum, West Bengal. The delegation will go to the site of the incident and collect the facts and report it to the National President soon.

The members of this committee includes Rajya Sabha MP & former DGP of Uttar Pradesh Shri Brijlal, Lok Sabha MP & Former Mumbai Police Commissioner Shri Satyapal Singh, Rajya Sabha MP & Former IPS Shri K.C. Ramamurthy, Lok Sabha MP & West Bengal BJP State President Shri Sukanto Majumdar and National Spokesperson and former IPS Ms. Bharati Ghosh. ■

VACCINATION FOR 12-14 AGE GROUPS COMMENCES

PM URGES KIDS IN 12-14 AGE GROUPS TO GET JABBED

As India started vaccination of children against Covid-19 in 12-14 years age group from March 16, 2022 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lauded the efforts of scientists and innovators for manufacturing the vaccine and urged people in these age groups to get vaccinated.

As per the guidelines by Government of India, COVID-19 vaccination of children between 12-14 years begun from March 16 and only Corbevax vaccine will be used for the beneficiaries of age group 12-13 and 13-14 years, it said. Beneficiaries between 14-15 years have already been covered during the vaccination for 15-18 years' age group.

According to the guidelines, as of March 1, 2021 there are as many as 4.7 crore children aged 12 and 13 years in the country. Also, precaution dose can now be provided to all persons aged 60 years and above and the prioritization and sequencing of this dose would be based on completion of nine months -- 39 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose.

The guidelines said all citizens irrespective of their income status are entitled to free COVID-19 vaccination at government Covid centers.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said today is an important day in India's efforts to vaccinate our citizens and urged youngsters in the 12-14 age group and all those above 60 to get vaccinated.

In a series of tweets, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said; "Today is an important day in India's efforts to vaccinate our citizens. Now onwards, youngsters in the 12-14 age group are eligible for vaccines and all those above 60 are eligible for precaution doses. I urge people in these age groups to get vaccinated."

"In line with India's ethos of caring for the entire planet, we sent vaccines to several nations under the Vaccine Maitri programme. I am glad that India's vaccination efforts have made the global fight against COVID-19 stronger."

"Today, India has many 'Made in India' vaccines. We have also granted approval to other vaccines after a



due process of evaluation. We are in a much better position to fight this deadly pandemic. At the same time, we have to keep following all COVID related precautions."

Two doses of Biological E's vaccine Corbevax would be administered to the beneficiaries in the 12-14 years age group at an interval of 28 days. Biological

MAKE SURE TO GET 'TIKA JEET KA' FOR A CORONA FREE INDIA: JP NADDA

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on March 16, 2022 in a tweet said, "On the occasion of National Immunization Day, free vaccination is being given to 12-14 year old children across the country from today to protect the future generation of the country from Corona. Along with this, all citizens above 60 years of age will also be given a precautionary dose. Make sure to get 'Tika Jeet Ka' for a Corona free India".

AMIT SHAH CONGRATULATES PM FOR LAUNCHING COVID VACCINATION FOR 12-14 AGE GROUPS

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said in a country of 130 crore people, it was impossible to run the COVID-19 vaccination campaign with such speed without the strong will and leadership shown by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

He also congratulated the Prime Minister for commencing vaccination against the viral disease for children aged 12 to 14 years and the administration of the precaution dose for those above 60 years of age.

E Ltd has supplied 5 crore doses of Corbevax to the Centre and the vaccine has been distributed to states, sources had said.

Corbevax has become the third vaccine against Covid-19 in India and will be available at all centers where free vaccination is available. ■

INDIA ACHIEVES \$400 BILLION MERCHANDISE EXPORTS WELL BEFORE TARGET

The Merchandise exports from India have crossed \$400 billion in the current financial year, 9 days ahead of schedule. The achievement of USD 400 billion exports was the result of a concerted, collective effort by every sector, every stakeholder in the nation. This is far higher than the previous record of USD 330 billion achieved in 2018-19.

The achievement of the lucrative export target showed the world that inspite of facing numerous challenges, with sheer grit, determination, capability and talent, India would surmount all obstacles and the exporters, farmers, weavers, MSMEs, manufacturers and all other stakeholders were the real heroes behind this achievement.

On this occasion Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal thanked the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for leading from the front and for his relentless focus on exports. It was the clarion call given by the Prime Minister that inspired the industry to make a quantum jump in exports, he said.

The Minister said that there was a detailed strategy in place, including specific targets set - country-wise, product-wise & EPC-wise, monitoring and course correction, behind the achievement of the export target.

Shri Goyal said that the 'whole of govt approach' had been taken to the next level to 'whole of country approach' to achieve this remarkable target.

He also said that the achievement was not just about meeting targets but about building confidence and about exploring new markets.

Underscoring the direct linkage that exports have with employment generation, especially in labour intensive sectors, the Minister said that when products of a brass trader from Moradabad and farmers from Varanasi get appreciated in the global market, it is a testimony to the fact that employment and prosperity is increasing from exports.

On achieving this milestone PM Shri Narendra Modi said, "India set an ambitious target of \$400 Billion of goods exports & achieves this target for the first time ever. I congratulate our farmers, weavers, MSMEs, manufacturers, exporters for this success. This is a key milestone in our Aatmanirbhar Bharat journey."



The Minister also appreciated Indian exporters for maintaining the momentum throughout the year despite challenges caused by successive COVID-19 waves.

Keeping in view the critical role of exports in catalyzing economic activities which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Commerce embarked upon the inspiration provided by Hon'ble PM Shri Modi during his Address and interaction with exporting community, Ambassadors / HCs / Commercial Missions, Line Ministries/ Departments, State/UTs, EPCs, Commodity Boards/ Authorities, Industry/Trade Associations, etc on 6th August 2021 on the theme of "Local Goes Global - Make in India for the World".

During the Address, Hon'ble Prime Minister set an ambitious target of US\$ 400 billion of merchandise exports for 2021-22 for the nation to achieve. He exhorted the exporting community to search for new products in the export basket, look for newer destinations and ensure deeper penetration of the existing product and markets.

Thus, in order to achieve the target and approach set by the Hon'ble PM, the Department of Commerce disaggregated the \$400 Billion target in terms of regions and countries as well as product/commodity groups. The government prepared a detailed strategy for achieving the targets and an elaborate monitoring system. ■



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCREASES IN MSMEs

As per the information received from Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, share of MSME Gross Value Added (GVA) in All India GDP at current prices for the year 2019-20 was 30.0%. State wise break up of persons employed in MSMEs which are registered on Udyam Portal of the Ministry and incorporated during last 5 years.

COVID-19 epidemic has temporarily affected various sectors including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the country including their employment. The Ministry of MSMEs implements various schemes to increase employment opportunities of MSME sector in the country. These includes Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Micro and Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) and A Scheme for Promoting

Government has taken a number of initiatives under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to support the MSME Sector. Some of them are:

- Rs 20,000 crore Subordinate Debt for MSMEs.
- Rs 3 lakh crores Collateral free Automatic Loans for business, including MSMEs (existing overall guarantee limit under ECGLS has been enhanced from Rs. 4.5 lakh crore to Rs. 5 lakh crore).
- Rs. 50,000 crore equity infusion through MSME Fund of Funds.
- New revised criteria for classification of MSMEs.
- New Registration of MSMEs through 'Udyam Registration' for Ease of Doing Business.
- No global tenders for procurement up to Rs. 200 crores, this will help MSME.

Innovation, Rural Industry & Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE). ■

2.28 CRORE HOUSES SANCTIONED UNDER PMAY-G TO BENEFICIARIES

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in the financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22, total 2.28 crore houses have been sanctioned to the beneficiaries, out of which 1.75 crore houses have been completed as on 09 March, 2022.

The PMAY-G guidelines provides for construction of house within 12 months from the date of sanctioning the same to the beneficiary. The assistance is released to the beneficiary in a minimum of 3 instalments linked to various stages of completion like at the time of sanction, foundation, plinth, windowsill, lintel, roof etc. Since the figures of house sanction and completion are dynamic and there is a gap of 12 months between sanction of house till its completion, therefore, there would always be some gap between the figures of houses sanctioned and houses built during the implementation of the scheme.

The information was given by the Union Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on March 16. ■

5,257 CRORES RELEASED TO ALL STATES UNDER POSHAN ABHIYAAN

Under POSHAN Abhiyaan, approx. Rs. 5,257 crores have been released to all States/UTs under various components as on 1.1.2022 including on ICT application, Capacity Building etc. Approximately 17% has been spent on procurement of smartphones. Around 11.03 lakh smartphones have been procured by States/UTs. Poshan Abhiyaan is built on a convergent platform and is essentially a Jan Andolan for community mobilisation and behavioural change.

ICDS -CAS posed operational challenges and was replaced with the Poshan Tracker which is a robust ICT platform designed to enable real-time monitoring and tracking of all AWCs, AWWs and beneficiaries on defined indicators. ICDS CAS was mainly a data entry interface with minimal features for generating few reports whereas Poshan Tracker is based upon modern API based micro service architecture.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on 16 March. ■

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA INCREASING ENROLMENT OF GIRLS IN SCHOOL

Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education is implementing the scheme of Samagra Shiksha, effective from 2018-19 to support States and UTs in implementation of the RTE Act, 2009. Ensuring equity and inclusion at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of Samagra Shiksha.



As per the data available on Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) / UDISE+, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls for 2018-19 and 2019-20 shows an increase in the enrolment of girls at all levels of school education, details of which are as under:

Year	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary
2018-19	101.78	88.54	76.93	50.84
2019-20	103.69	90.46	77.83	52.40

(Source: UDISE/UDISE+)

Bridging gender and social category gaps at all levels of school education is one of the major objectives of the Samagra Shiksha. Under Samagra Shiksha, to ensure greater participation of girls in education, including in the state of Uttar Pradesh, various interventions have been targeted which include opening of schools in the neighbourhood to make access easier for girls, free uniform and textbooks to girls up to Class VIII, additional teachers and residential quarters for teachers in remote/hilly areas, appointment of additional teachers including women teachers, Stipend to CWSN girls from class I to class XII, separate toilets for girls, teachers' sensitization programmes to promote girls participation, gender-sensitive teaching-learning materials including text books etc. The information was given by the Minister

of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on March 16.

6.12 lakhs girls with special needs get stipend in 2021-22

The National Education Policy 2020 envisages an inclusive and structural change in the educational system. It focuses on 'Equitable and Inclusive Education' which reverberates the idea that no child should be left behind in terms of educational opportunity because of their background and socio-cultural identities. It has taken into account the concerns of the Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) which includes female and transgender individuals, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, minorities and other categories. This policy aims at bridging the social category gaps in access, participation, and learning outcomes in school education.

Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs). KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups. The KGBVs are set up in Educationally Backward Blocks. Currently there are 5627 sanctioned KGBVs across the country in which 6,65,130 girl students belonging to various disadvantaged groups are enrolled.

Under Student Oriented Component assistance is provided to States/Union Territories at Rs. 3500/- per Child with Special Needs for both school going and children who cannot attend school (home based education) pertaining to the severity of the disability.

Girls with disabilities receive special focus and efforts under the scheme to help them gain access to schools, as also to provide motivation and guidance for developing their potential. An amount of Rs. 200 per month for 10 months (Rs.2000/- PA), through Direct Benefit Transfer, is given to girls as stipend to encourage them to come to school.

In the year 2021-22, girls' stipend is provided to 6.12 lakhs girls with special needs. The total outlay approved was Rs.122.57 Crores. The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 16 March, 2022. ■

WITH A GROWTH OF OVER 48.4% NET DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS FOR FY 2021-22 IS 13,63,038 CR

The figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2021-22, as on 16.03.2022 show that net collections are at Rs. 13,63,038.3 crore compared to Rs. 9,18,430.5 crore over the corresponding period of the preceding financial year i.e FY 2020-21, representing an increase of 48.41%. The net collection (as on 16.03.2022) in FY 2021-22 has registered a growth of 42.50% over the corresponding period of FY 2019-20 when the net collection was Rs. 9,56,550.3 crore, and a growth of 34.96% over the corresponding period of FY 2018-19 when the net collection was Rs. 10,09,982.9 crore.

The Net Direct Tax collection of Rs. 13,63,038.3 crore (as on 16.03.2022) include Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 7,19,035.0 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Security Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 6,40,588.3 crore (net of refund). Collection of Rs. 13,63,038.3 crore as on 16.03.2022 is as against a target of Rs. 11.08 lakh crore (BE) as revised to Rs. 12.50 lakh crore (RE).

The gross collection of Rs. 15,50,364.2 crore includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 8,36,838.2 crore

and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Security Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 7,10,056.8 crore. Minor head wise collection (as on 16.03.2022), comprises Advance Tax of Rs. 6,62,896.3 crore, Tax Deducted at Source of Rs. 6,86,798.7 crore, Self-Assessment Tax of Rs. 1,34,391.1 crore; Regular Assessment Tax of Rs. 55,249.5 crore; Dividend Distribution Tax of Rs. 7,486.6 crore and Tax under other minor heads of Rs. 3,542.1 crore.



The cumulative Advance Tax collections for the F.Y. 2021-22 stand at Rs. 6,62,896.3 crore as on 16.03.22, against Advance Tax collections of Rs. 4,70,984.4 crore for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding Financial Year i.e 2020-21, showing a growth of 40.75% (approx). Further, the

cumulative Advance tax collection of Rs. 6,62,896.3 crore as on 16.03.2022 (FY 2021-22) shows a growth of 50.56% over the corresponding period in FY 2019-20 when the advance tax collection (cumulative) was Rs 4,40,281.4 crore and a growth of 30.82 % over the corresponding period in FY 2018-19 when the advance tax collection (cumulative) was Rs 5,06,714.2 crore. ■

MORE THAN 6.63 CR INCOME TAX RETURNS FILED ON THE NEW E-FILING PORTAL

More than 6.63 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) were filed for AY 2021-22 on the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department as on 15th March, 2022, which was the due date for filing of ITRs by Companies and other taxpayers who were required to file Tax Audit Report. As on 15th March, 2022 more than 5.43 lakh ITRs were filed (compared to 4.77 lakh last year on the due date) and over 13.84 lakh ITRs were filed in the last 5 days (compared to 11.87 lakh last year on the due date).

Out of the 6.63 crore ITRs filed for AY 2021-22, 46% are ITR-1 (3.03 crore), 9% are ITR-2 (57.6 lakh), 15% are ITR-3 (1.02 crore), 26% are ITR-4 (1.75 crore), 2% are ITR-5 (15.1 lakh), ITR-6 (9.3

lakh) and ITR-7 (2.18 lakh). This reflects an increase of over 16.7 lakh ITRs over total filing of ITRs for AY 2020-21 till 15.03.2021.

Over 43% of these ITRs have been filed using the online ITR form on the portal and the balance have been uploaded using the ITR created from the offline ITR preparation software utilities, including Departmental software.

Further, out of the 6.63 crore ITRs filed for AY 2021-22, more than 6.01 crore ITRs have been verified (75% using Aadhaar OTP). Out of the verified ITRs, more than 5.17 crore ITRs have been processed and 1.83 crore refunds for AY 2021-22 have been issued till 15.03.2022. ■

SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA VISHWAS, SABKA PARAYAS



LAL SINGH ARYA

Many great men from ancient to modern world had dedicated their lives for the welfare of the society through their actions, reforms, movements and service. One such multi-splendid personality in modern world is Babasaheb Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, who rose from the margins and achieved great accomplishments through his intellectual knowledge in creating a better world. He relentlessly fought to assert the human rights of the marginalised, and endeavoured to build a social order based on justice and equal dignity of every individual. As chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, Dr. Ambedkar had a meticulous approach towards making India a just society and strengthening national integrity and sovereignty. He, unfortunately for a variety of reasons, has been portrayed only as the 'messiah of Dalits'. Successive governments both at Central and State level have failed either inadvertently or knowingly to educate people about his real contribution to the country. One needs to acknowledge that he was the first political leader in modern India with deep knowledge in economics. He had a PhD degree from two

foreign universities, knew 12 languages, a jurist, prolific writer, administrator etc. which made him the most qualified Indian during his times.

The dissension of congress over various issues raised by Dr. Ambedkar never let them allow him get his actual place in the history of India. Though



Babasaheb represented a combination of Samata (equality) and Mamata (motherly love), which brought about Samrasta (social harmony)

Dr. Ambedkar was made the first law minister, the then PM Pt. Nehru never considered him to be an important player in the contemporary politics. Before independence also in his book, The Discovery of India,

Pt. Nehru has not mentioned about Dr. Ambedkar for even once. Besides, the differences between Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar are quite open now but we hardly get to read about the dialogues and disagreements between Pt. Nehru and Dr. Ambedkar. Babasaheb was reluctant to accept Nehru's advocacy for special status to J&K. He opposed Art 370 and said he can't compromise with security of India at any cost by incorporating Art 370. While people like Sardar Patel and Dr Ambedkar fought for social integration of the country, PM Modi is striving for both economic and social integration of the country. In the words of PM Shri Narendra Modi, 'Babasaheb represented a combination of Samata (equality) and Mamata (motherly love), which brought about Samrasta (social harmony).' Dr. Ambedkar's thinking and legacy are reflected in the pro-people, pro-poor welfare policies and programmes of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led government. The central government is leaving no stone unturned to improve the lives of citizens through their social, economic and political empowerment. The development of Panchteerth — Janam Bhumi (Mhow), Shiksha Bhumi (London), Chaitya Bhumi (Mumbai), Diksha Bhumi (Nagpur), Mahaparinirvan Bhumi (Delhi) — are steps

towards ensuring an appropriate legacy for Dr. Ambedkar, the nationalist reformer. In August 2019, the Modi government took the bold decision to correct the historical wrong by scraping Article 370, fulfilling the vision of Dr Ambedkar. Now the people of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir are experiencing a new dawn of vision-oriented development. It has paved the way for the implementation of nine constitutional amendments and 106 other laws in J&K. Inspired by Dr. Ambedkar, the current government has taken steps to improve the quality of life of workers. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojna was launched in February 2019 to ensure protection of unorganised workers in their old age. Through technological interventions like Shram Suvidha Portal, transparency and accountability are ensured in the enforcement of labour law. The government is working to simplify, amalgamate and rationalise the provisions of the existing central labour laws into four labour codes — Labour Code on Wages, on Industrial Relations, on Social Security & Welfare and on Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led NDA government, the philosophy of uplifting of the poorest of the poor or 'Antyodaya' has found a new ground and is aimed at

making a billion strong country, our human capital the biggest asset. A well articulated and targeted approach has been conceptualized by the present government for alleviation of the vulnerable and poor section of the society.

On the one hand, the government is empowering the poor by providing the primary needs such as food via Public Distribution System, affordable housing, health care facilities and insurance, while on the other, is giving more power through education, information, coaching and counselling, and amplify their possibility to get or

Inspired by Dr. Ambedkar, the current government has taken steps to improve the quality of life of workers. For example, the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojna was launched in February 2019 to ensure protection of unorganised workers in their old age

create a job or business through micro credit or Mudra loans. A significant progress was made in the last seven years to reinstate transparency and remove discriminatory practices so that facilities reach everywhere person.

Launched on August 28, 2014, PM Jan Dhan Yojna revolves around the provision of accessible and flexible financial services to the poor. This initiative has been a game-changer, serving as the

foundation for many poverty alleviation initiatives, benefitting crores of people. Till today, 44.88 crores bank accounts have been opened with almost Rs. 162,718.42 crore balance in beneficiary accounts.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in 2016 to protect our mothers and sisters from the hazardous smoke they had to encounter while cooking food. Till now 10,00,00,000 LPG connections have been released under this Yojana. The PM-KISAN Scheme was introduced to provide financial support to farmers. Under this scheme, the government offers Rs 6,000 every year in three instalments of Rs 2,000 each to over 14.5 crore farmers across India. The funds are transferred directly to the bank accounts of the farmers. To date, the Central government has transferred over Rs 20,000 crore directly into the bank accounts of more than 9.5 crore eligible farmers in the country.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is an initiative of the visionary BJP government to establish housing facilities for slum dwellers. As on 20 March 2020, a total of 1.15 crore houses have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, of which 94.79 lakhs houses have been grounded and around 56.2 lakhs have been completed.

Prime Minister Street Vendors Aathma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANIDHI) yojna is to empower Street vendors by not only extending loans to them but also for their holistic development and economic upliftment. The

scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to Rs.10,000 of one year tenure to help resume their businesses in the urban areas including surrounding perry-urban /rural areas. A total of 2 million applications have been received under this scheme of which 752191 have been sanctioned and 218751 loans have already been disbursed. Ayushman Bharat is the largest government funded healthcare programme in the world with over 50 crore beneficiaries. So far 1,36,4880 free treatments have been done under the scheme. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is the flagship scheme of the government of India for agricultural insurance in line with the one nation one scheme theme it aims at providing insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of crops of the notified crops a result of natural calamity, pests and diseases. Over 10 crore farmers have registered under this yojna .

For their economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes, ASILM (Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission) was set up to promote innovation among SC students studying in higher educational institutions. Under this mission, 1000 SC youths were allotted INR 30 Lakhs and a period of three years to translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures. Similarly, a Venture Capital Fund aimed at providing concessional finance to SC entrepreneurs was established. It has already made

disbursement to 89 companies amounting to INR 278.77 crores. For supporting their education, Post Matric Scholarship for SC students was brought in that already has INR 59000 crores sanctioned till 2025-26.

The recent efforts of the government are in line with the two mantras of the Constitution espoused by Babasaheb Ambedkar – ‘Dignity for Indians’ and ‘unity for India’. While Congress ruled the country for almost six decades, the development of basic services (like electricity, water, bank accounts, toilets, home, etc.) was far from what was required,

This government in the last few years has been empowering the poor by providing the primary needs such as food via Public Distribution System, affordable housing, health care facilities, and insurance

and what was in fact achievable. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin scheme, 9.16 crore toilets have been constructed till February 5, 2019. It has increased the sanitation coverage in the rural areas of the country to 98%, which was hardly 38.7% on October 2, 2014. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has also shown what can be possible and achieved milestones after milestones in recent years. They constructed 12,205.25 km of National Highways in

2020-21, with a construction of 34 kilometres per day. It was almost three times the rate of construction of highways of about 12 km per day in 2014-15.

This government in the last few years has been empowering the poor by providing the primary needs such as food via Public Distribution System, affordable housing, health care facilities, and insurance. Under the DBT system, this government has disbursed a whopping INR 8.22 lakh crore (since 2014), which is nearly 60% of the welfare and subsidies budget of the Union government, directly to the bank accounts of beneficiaries. It was extremely helpful during the lockdown due to COVID-19 and provided for the basic needs of millions.

These overview of all the schemes provides an insight into Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s historic mission to transform India into a global power- Vishwa Guru- in the 21st-century. All developmental initiatives are transformative, they are comprehensive and integral and aim at laying a new foundation for a ‘New India’. We always believed that India is destined to rise once more as a global power , our efforts in governance in the last eight years has been to realise that vision. It is faith in the vision of ‘Sabka Saath , Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas’ which has led us to ensure that the fruits of growth of opportunity, of possibilities and of development reach all equally.” ■

(The writer is National President, BJP SC Morcha)

SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI

(2 APRIL, 1921 – 22 JUNE, 2005)

Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari was born on April 12, 1921 in a Jain family of Udaipur (Rajsthan). Originally his family belonged to Mandalgarh in Bhilwara but his grand father had shifted to Udaipur from there. Shri Bhandari's father Dr. Sujan Singh Bhandari had used to work in medical field. That had always kept him moving. Shri Bhandari got his education at several places. He had passed his High School from 'Sirohi', Intermediate from Udaipur and BA and MA from DAV College Kanpur. He passed his MA in Economics and later studied Law.

Shri Bhandari was the embodiment of "Simple living and high thinking". A calm and cool, Shri Bhandari had remained bachelor throughout his life and dedicated his life to the service of the nation. He after completing his education in 1942 had started legal practice in Mewar High Court. In 1937 he took admission in Intermediate in S.D. College Kanpur where Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay was his companion. In December 1937 Shri Balu Mahashabde of Indore took him to a RSS Shakha in Nawabganj near Kanpur. Since then he had remained committed to R.S.S. ideology till his last breath.

In 1951 when Bhartiya Jansangh was founded, the prominent names which were assigned by the RSS for Jansangh had also included the name of



Shri Bhandari was the embodiment of "Simple living and high thinking". A calm and cool, Shri Bhandari had remained bachelor throughout his life and dedicated his life to the service of the nation.

Shri Bhandari. From 1951 to 1965 Shri Bhandari had looked after the duties of Mahamantri in Rajasthan Jansangh. Moreover he was made All India Mantri of Jansangh in 1963 itself. After the death of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Shri Bhandari ji was made All India Mahamantri (Sanghathan) in 1968.

He had worked as Jansangh Mahamantri till 1977. He has also been the member of the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan during

1966- 1972 and he was once elected to Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in 1976 while he was in custody under MISA. In 1998 when his Rajya Sabha term came to an end he was appointed governor of Bihar. In 1999 he was appointed Governor of Gujrat. Bhandari Ji presented before the Karyakartas an example of simplicity, forbearance and austerity. The people might have found his way of working as hard but by nature he was very soft, so as to maintain the image of a disciplined party.

He used to ask the workers maintain decorum in the life style, he was a sculptor and efficient craftsman who had made the Karyakartas of man, society and the organization. He never desired to become KALASH. That is why he was frank by nature. Due to his hard nature and hard attitude towards work, Karyakartas used to call him as Head Master.

On June 22, 2005 he left for his heavenly abode. At 5 in the morning Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari, who had dedicated his whole life in the service of motherland and who had remained a RSS Pracharak throughout his life, breathed his last in his Kalka Ji residence in New Delhi. In his death the country has lost an outstanding nationalist and the motherland has lost her distinguished son. The BJP has also lost its friend, philosopher and guide. ■

KASHMIR FILES: HISTORIC TURNING POINT



BAIJAYANT
JAY PANDA

Kashmir Files, the movie has been witnessing phenomenal success with packed halls across the country and creating new records with each passing day. However, the success of a movie like Kashmir Files should not be judged only based on the box office numbers. The unprecedented embracement of the movie by the general public, in spite of the absence of any big stars and sparse endorsement by the Bollywood fraternity, is a testimony to the fact that content is still king in India's mainstream movie industry. This movie has also been different on many other counts. For example, unlike previous movies on Kashmir, this is the only one which has dared to face the blunt truth of the Kashmiri Pandits' plight of genocide and ethnic cleansing and not sugar coat it in the form of love stories. Secondly, the movie is a welcome departure from the twisted narrative that is often peddled through Bollywood movies as a part of the deep conspiracy to infuse a certain type of propaganda into the Indian masses' consciousness. There has been a concerted effort by media, Bollywood and the like for a long time to suppress the events like the massacre of Kashmiri

Pandits, Marichjhapi massacre etc from the public, and previous governments have been a party to this cover up. Kashmir Files for a change has tried to tell the story of Kashmiri Pandits who have been devastated by insurgency and terrorism in the valley, based on hard facts and presents the tragic exodus as genocide, that was purposely kept distant from the rest of India by media and previous governments due to vested interests. It talks about the endless cycles of violence, waves of separatism, infiltration

The immense love and support received by the movie also says a lot about the paradigm shift that India is witnessing. Indian society and specially the youth is indeed at the cusp of a transformational shift where a film which depicts the story of the plight of Hindus with a sense of nationalism has been appreciated and loved across all sections of society

of Pakistan-funded terror outfits, and growing discontent amongst people, and journalistic propagandas. It depicts agony, torture and several years of waiting for justice of 5 lakh Kashmiri Pandits.

The immense love and support received by the movie also says a

lot about the paradigm shift that India is witnessing. Indian society and specially the youth is indeed at the cusp of a transformational shift where a film which depicts the story of the plight of Hindus with a sense of nationalism has been appreciated and loved across all sections of society. This is an inflection point for us as a society where we are seeing more and more Indians opening up and acknowledging the threat we face today. Kashmiri Pandits having to leave everything behind in the 1990's when Kashmir echoed with the announcements of "Raliv, Galiv, Chaliv" (convert, leave or die) is a possibility today in many parts of India. For example, Assam, which has seen dramatic demographic changes, has recognized the threat. The Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, after watching Kashmir Files has urged awareness to ensure that the fate of the Kashmiri Pandits is not replicated in Assam by its older communities that are being rapidly outgrown by newcomers.

The film is also important because it exposes the double standards of the idea of "Kashmiriyat" (also spelled as Kashmiriat) which is the centuries-old indigenous tradition of communal harmony and religious syncretism in the Kashmir Valley in the present day context. The film now provides for an absolutely authentic and brilliantly crafted alternate material for the west to see and understand the dynamics of Kashmir. All these years the

west has been intentionally and categorically feeded with material that presented a certain picture of India's role in Kashmir. The film could be and is already being used as a means to strengthen our standing as a "soft power" to present India's side of the Kashmir story. So much so that State of Rhode Island in US has officially recognized Kashmiri Hindu "genocide" with validation from the Speaker of House, and the Majority & Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives.

Last but not the least, Kashmir Files has opened up a plethora of opportunities for budding film-makers who want to make films based on facts and has

also main-streamed an authentic nationalistic way of storytelling in India's Bollywood. Bollywood has for several decades been known to steer clear of sensitive and political issues that have had Hindus at the receiving end of suffering due to many reasons, ranging from the influence of underworld funding and to left-liberal cabal resistance to it. However, with the immense love that Kashmir Files has received and as we see big names in Bollywood also slowly coming in support of the film, there are hopes that an eco-system will develop in Bollywood that could also present the other side of the story too.

The belated but aggressive reaction by those who have spun negative narratives about India, and conspired to suppress gory truths like the fate of the Pandits, indicates that they know the country has changed. It is no longer willing to be lulled into complacency by their propaganda, and has developed both a conscience as well as the stomach to face up to our history as it was and not as leftist ideologues have shaped it.

This heralds a turning point, for both Bollywood and the nation as a whole. There is now much anticipation of more suppressed truths to be brought out.

■
**(The writer is
National Vice President, BJP)**

WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED GREEN HYDROGEN FUEL VEHICLE LAUNCHED

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai along with Union Minister Shri Hardeep Puri, Union Minister Shri RK Singh, Union Minister Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey, MD Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd. Shri Masakazu Yoshimura, VC TKM Ltd. Shri Vikram Kirloskar and officials at New Delhi on March 16.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) are conducting a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) Toyota Mirai

which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions. This is a first of its kind project in India which aims to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country by creating awareness about the unique utility of Green Hydrogen and FCEV technology.

It is an important initiative which will promote clean energy and environmental protection by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and thereby make India 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047,

Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV), powered by Hydrogen is one of the best Zero Emission solutions. It is completely environment friendly with no



tailpipe emissions other than water.

Green Hydrogen can be generated from renewable energy and abundantly available biomass. Introduction and adoption of technology to tap into the Green hydrogen's potential will play a key role in securing a clean and affordable energy future for India. ■

JAPAN ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT TARGET OF 5 TRILLION JAPANESE YEN IN NEXT 5 YEARS

Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Kishida Fumio made an official visit to India, as his first bilateral visit, from 19 to 20 March, 2022 for the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit with Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. Both the Prime Ministers recognized that the Summit was taking place at a significant time as the two countries were celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and India was celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence. They reviewed the developments since the last Annual Summit and discussed wide ranging areas of cooperation.



DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL & GLOBAL ISSUES

During this visit, the two leaders had substantive discussions and outcomes that were commensurate with the breadth and depth of India's engagement with Japan. On the bilateral front, the two Prime Ministers discussed a wide range of issues, including economic cooperation, cooperation for the development of India's North-Eastern region, digital cooperation, and skills development, which is a particular focus. The Prime Ministers also had detailed discussions on regional and global issues as two major powers in the Indo Pacific region. Both leaders agreed that our defence and security ties have grown stronger in recent years, and we are more comfortable engaging with each other and other like-minded partners in various regional and multilateral fora to achieve our common goals.

BOTH COUNTRIES ALSO REACHED THREE AGREEMENTS

- The first of which is a Cybersecurity Cooperation Memorandum. This is an umbrella agreement for cybersecurity information sharing, capacity building programmes, and collaboration.
- The second was a Memorandum of Understanding on Sustainable Urban

Development. This agreement, the Memorandum of Understanding, was signed in 2007 and includes new areas of cooperation. Smart Cities development, affordable housing, urban flood management, sewerage management, and intelligent transportation management systems are among the new areas.

- The third document was a Memorandum of Cooperation on Waste Water Management. And this is a new technology that the Japanese have introduced, known as the Johkasou technology, which is primarily used in areas where sewage, or sewage infrastructure, has been installed. Seven loan agreements for Official Development Assistance were concluded. These are in areas of connectivity, healthcare, water supply and sewerage. And the total worth of this overseas development assistance is around Rupees 20,400 crores for the period 2021-22. So they are quite significant from the areas they cover, and also the quantum involved.

INVESTMENT TARGET OF 5 TRILLION JAPANESE YEN

Both Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Mr. Kishida Fumio set an enhanced investment target of 5 trillion Japanese Yen as public and private investment in India, from Japan over the next five years. It was in 2014, when Prime Minister Shri Modi visited Japan that the two Prime Ministers then had set a target of three and a half trillion Yen and that

target has been surpassed and the two leaders have decided to go in for that this enhanced target is really a measure of the performance in terms of the incoming investments by Japan in India, and is also a sign of the level of cooperation in the economic domain that the two countries enjoy.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES PLANT AND BATTERY MANUFACTURING PLANT

An agreement was also signed for the setting up of an electric vehicles plant and battery manufacturing plant in Gujarat by Maruti Suzuki. Another agreement was signed on vehicle scrapping between Gujarat government and Maruti Suzuki Toyotsu. The total quantum of investment involved is around 10,400 crores. The auto sector is one of the vibrant areas of economic cooperation between India and Japan. Skill development is an important focus of the two countries. Japanese companies have established some Japan-India Institutes of management for skilling of Indian workers. We have established so far 19 of such Institutes, but the 20th Japan-India Institute of Management will also be

PM's REMARKS AT JOINT PRESS MEET JAPAN IS ONE OF THE LARGEST INVESTORS IN INDIA: PM MODI

Addressing the joint press meet with PM Mr. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted the progress in economic partnership between India and Japan.



Japan is one of the largest investors in India. India and Japan are working as 'One team- One project' on Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor and Japan will invest 5 trillion Yen or Rs. 3.2 lakh crores in the next five years in India, PM Shri Modi remarked.

opened in Gujarat by Maruti Suzuki. It augurs well for capacity development of our skilled workers and our cooperation in the manufacturing sector. ■

INDIA-AUSTRALIA 2ND VIRTUAL SUMMIT HELD

PM MODI THANKS AUSTRALIA FOR TAKING CARE OF INDIAN COMMUNITY DURING PANDEMIC

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Hon. Scott Morrison held the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit on 21 March 2022 during which they reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.

At the outset, Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed his condolences on the destruction caused by severe flooding in New South Wales and Queensland, and the resultant loss of lives.

Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established during the 1st Virtual Summit in June 2020. Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed his satisfaction at the enhanced scope of the relationship which now covers diverse areas such as trade and investments, defence and security, education and innovation, science and technology, critical minerals, water management,



new and renewable energy technology, Covid-19 related research, etc.

Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Morrison for taking care of the Indian community, including the Indian students, in Australia during Covid-19 pandemic.

Both the leaders also appreciated the increasing strategic convergence between the two countries as fellow democracies with shared values and common interests, which include a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. ■

THE MANDATES, VOTER MESSAGES, POLITICAL TAKEAWAYS



DR. VINAY
SAHASRABUDDHE

Mandates always have a message and it depends upon how the recipients read the same. This is true with the recent round of Assembly elections. In India, electoral verdicts have always underscored the fact that continuity and change always go together, and this round of elections is no exception. Voters have continued with the change-makers and sought to change those who wanted to continue with the status quo.

VOTERS SPEAK

There are four lucid aspects from the clear and loud message from the voters. First, the Uttar Pradesh results in particular have shown that voters have graduated and risen above caste and community considerations and voted resoundingly in favour of a welfare-plus-development combination. From the V.P. Singh era onwards, the political discourse has been dominated by political engineering effected through smart social coalitions or social engineering. Now, democratic polity has been taken to a different level and the effective management of aspirations has

replaced social engineering. People prefer a party that delivers on the ground than parties that ask for votes in the name of caste and community. Also remarkable is the fact that the decimation of the Bahujan Samaj Party in the State is indicative of the fact that Scheduled Castes have refused to be bracketed with a single community-based party.

Uttar Pradesh results in particular have shown that voters have graduated and risen above caste and community considerations and voted resoundingly in favour of a welfare-plus-development combination

NO THUMBS UP FOR DYNASTIES

The second important message is that the days of dynastic demigods are over. Voters have rejected dynasties one after the other, from the Badals to the Yadavs to the Banerjees, and, above all, the Gandhis. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, had all along on the campaign trail cautioned voters about Parivarvadi parties, and they seem to have paid heed to his appeal. In an aspirational democracy, people have realised that supporting the leaders of dynastic parties is like endorsing

birth-based discrimination, something that our Constitution-makers had rejected lock, stock and barrel. Parties where the leadership is reserved for families have no glorious future any more, and the sooner dynasts listen to this message, the better it is for their survival. Let us hope that parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the Shiv Sena, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) pay heed to this message seriously. Make no mistake, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is not, per se, a dynastic party although it is being run on the same lines almost single-handedly. Nonetheless, the victory in Punjab is also a clear rejection of a traditional alternative that has been a dynastic party.

FOCUS ON PERFORMANCE

The third message is about the politics of performance. Parties that ensure that their government delivers in governance, ably convert anti-incumbency into pro-incumbency. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has proved this several times in Gujarat, in 2019 in Maharashtra, in 2020 in Bihar, in 2021 in Assam, and now in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa. The BJP's victory in all these rounds of elections was not simply thanks to a weak Opposition. In fact, the Opposition in U.P., Goa, Uttarakhand, or earlier

in Gujarat or Maharashtra cannot be described to be weak at all. And yet, if people have unequivocally shown their preference for the BJP in these elections, it is a clear indication of pro-incumbency. Curiously, anti-incumbency had become the rule, a kind of status quo; now, this rule clearly stands changed. The fact that the BJP has increased its vote share in most States also underscores what the Prime Minister has described as 'an endorsement of the BJP's pro-poor, pro-active governance'.

THE LEADER DOES MATTER

Lastly, the verdicts in 2022 also underscore that national leadership always matters no matter how small or big a State is. There have been many times in the past where political pundits have said that verdicts in national elections mirror aggregation of State politics. Today, the verdicts in 2022 remind us that State

verdicts too reflect national aspirations. These elections happened under the shadow of COVID-19. Also, when voting rounds had actually begun, the shadow of the Ukraine crisis was looming large as thousands of Indian students were stranded there. Whether it was the novel coronavirus pandemic or Ukraine, the way the Government faced these challenges seems to have gone down well with the people across the country. This also is indicative of the fact that people all over India believe that the nation needs Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for many more years. The State verdicts reflect this feeling.

These election results are also important for democracy. As mentioned in the latest Pew Research Center survey report on satisfaction with democracy, 'the global pandemic has, if anything, intensified perceived political

and social divisions. Across the 17 advanced economies we surveyed in 2021, a median of 61% say that their country is more divided than before the outbreak'. And in India, in the first major elections held after three waves of COVID-19, people from diverse regions and far-off States seem to be speaking in one voice. Clearly, the Prime Minister has emerged as a unifier par excellence, across States, castes and communities. Having mastered the art of implementation, he has established that liberal democracy can go hand in hand with efficient state craft, making democracy deliver. All said and done, the 2022 verdicts are as much about credit going to the Prime Minister as they are about the BJP's periodically galvanised organisation and its ideology-driven cadres. ■

(The Writer is President of ICCR and Member, Rajya Sabha)

Cumulative growth of mineral production goes up by 14.2 per cent

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of January, 2022 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 124.7, was 2.8% higher as compared to the level during the same period 2021. As per the latest statistics of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth for the period April- January, 2021-22 over the corresponding period of the previous year has increased by 14.2 per cent.

Production level of important minerals in January, 2022 were: Coal 796 lakh tonnes, Lignite 46 lakh tonnes, Natural gas (utilized) 2767 million cu. m., Petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes, Bauxite

2157 thousand tonnes, Chromite 398 thousand tonnes, Copper conc. 10 thousand tonnes, Gold 107 kg, Iron ore 215 lakh tonnes, Lead conc. 29 thousand tonnes, Manganese ore 264 thousand tonnes, Zinc conc. 145 thousand tonnes, Limestone 341 lakh tonnes, Phosphorite 118 thousand tonnes, Magnesite 10 thousand tonnes and Diamond 1 carat.

The production of important minerals showing positive growth during January, 2022 over January, 2021 include: Magnesite (36.6%), Lignite (25.2%), Bauxite (13.4%), Gold (13.3%), Natural Gas (U) (11.7%) and Coal (8.2%). ■

'Media plays a critical role in highlighting govt policies, changing people's lives'

Media plays a critical and positive role in highlighting government policies to the people and in changing their lives, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said on 19 March 2022 and remembered its contributions in popularizing initiatives like 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme which were beyond the political domain.

Hailing the role played by the media in popularizing government initiatives as well as fitness activities like Yoga, the Prime Minister suggested that lesser known events of freedom struggle and unsung freedom fighters could also be highlighted or amplified by the fourth estate.

"For any nation to develop, making good policies is one aspect. But, to enable the policies to succeed and to ensure that large scale transformation takes place, active participation from all walks of society is needed. For that the media plays a critical role. In these years gone by, I have seen the positive impact the media can play," Shri Modi said while inaugurating online the centenary celebrations of leading Malayalam daily Mathrubhumi.

In the same way, every town or village has places associated with the freedom movement. Not much is known about them. We could highlight those places and encourage people to visit them.

Among other suggestions he made included encouraging up and coming writers from non-



media backgrounds. "Can we encourage the up and coming writers from non-media backgrounds and give them a platform to showcase their writing skills? One of India's biggest strengths is our diversity. Can we think about making key words of other languages popular through your media properties?"

The Prime Minister, in his speech also recalled the contributions of Mathrubhumi in the Indian freedom struggle and also some of its "leading lights" like K P Kesava Menon, K A Damodar Menon, Kerala Gandhi K Kelappan and Kurur Neelakantan Namboodiripad.

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideals, Mathrubhumi was born to strengthen India's freedom struggle. Mathrubhumi is a key part of the glorious tradition of newspapers and journals founded all across India to unify the people of our nation against colonial rule, he said.

We will never forget his efforts to uphold India's democratic ethos during the Emergency. He was a great orator, scholar and was passionate about the environment, Shri Modi added. ■

CABINET APPROVES "DEEP OCEAN MISSION" TO PROVIDE PROJECTIONS OF SEA LEVEL RISE

Recently the Cabinet has approved a mission mode programme "Deep Ocean Mission" to be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India. One of the objectives of this Mission, among other things, is to provide projections of sea level rise along the coast of India under the various climate change scenarios. As an outcome of this project, a suite of interactive GIS maps identifying vulnerable areas and possible inundation scenarios will be prepared.

INCOIS, an autonomous institute of MoES has acquired the baseline Airborne Lidar Terrain Mapping

(ALTM) elevation data from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), under ISRO for the Tsunami Inundation modelling and vulnerability mapping. This data is available for the main land Indian coast up to two kilometres from the coast and would be used for predicting the sea-level rise.

As part of Indian Tsunami Early Warning System, INCOIS has established a real-time network of 36 tide gauges at different locations along the Indian coast to monitor the tsunami waves and provide timely advisories. ■

PM'S DREAM OF A PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY INDIA WILL COME TRUE: AMIT SHAH

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various schemes of Sumul Dairy in Surat, Gujarat on 13 March, 2022. Many dignitaries including Union Minister Smt. Darshana Jardosh and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel were present on the occasion.

In his address on the occasion, Shri Shah said today a historic day for cooperation conference organized in Tapi District of South Gujarat. The presence and enthusiasm of a large number of people in this conference is a testament to how strong the cooperative structure is in Gujarat.

Shri Amit Shah said that this is the year of Amrit Mahotsav of the country's Independence. 75 years have passed since India's Independence and the 75th year of Independence is very important for any country. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has tried to view everything from a new perspective. There is an attempt to celebrate the year of the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence as the year of making a resolve for the nation. He said that it is the year to make a resolve in every region of the country on where the country will be after 100 years of Independence. The Prime Minister has called upon 130 crore people to celebrate the year of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence as the year of making a resolution.

MIRACLE OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The Union Cooperation Minister said that the



journey of Sumul, which started 71 years ago, began with 200 litres to 20 lakh litres today, in which milk producing tribal men and women have greatly contributed. Today, due to the hard work and dedication of tribal women, milk worth Rs. 7 crore is sold daily and arrangements have been made to transfer Rs. 7 crore directly to the bank accounts of 2.5 lakh members. Who can imagine that every day money is deposited in the bank account of a tribal women who cultivates one to two acres of land. This is the miracle of the cooperative principle, the miracle of the cooperative movement. It is a miracle of a cooperative system that has been created in Gujarat and under the aegis of Amul, by the effort and might of Shri Tribhuvan Patel.

PM DID A LOT TO MAKE AGRICULTURE SELF-RELIANT

Shri Amit Shah said that in the 75th year of independence of the country, Shri Narendra Modi has established the Ministry of Cooperation. The Prime Minister had said in 2014 that 2022 would be the 75th anniversary of Independence and we have to move forward with the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022. Today, I am proud to say that the Prime Minister has done a lot in that direction. To make agriculture self-reliant, the government led by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi sends Rs. 6,000 directly to the



bank accounts of 13 crore farmers every year from Delhi and is trying to make farmers self-reliant.

The Ministry of Cooperation has set up several primary agricultural societies, milk producers unions, APMCs, fishermen's brothers' unions, trade unions, small industrial unions working in the cooperative sector. Shri Narendra Modi has worked to strengthen the cooperative movement by establishing the Ministry of Cooperation. To the men and women associated with the cooperative movement and to all the people sitting here, I want to say that Shri Modi has decided to form the Ministry of Cooperation, so let us thank him with thunderous applause.

WORKING TO PROVIDE SOFTWARE TO ALL PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The Narendra Modi government is working to provide software to all primary agricultural societies in the coming days. With a budget of more than Rs. 900 crore, the Narendra Modi government has set up the Cooperation Department for basic facilities. If

Sumul is prosperous then 2.5 lakh people will benefit and if a private dairy is strong then only five people will benefit. If the cooperative sector is strong, then the poor man will be strong, the farmer will be strong, the country's pastoralist women will be strong.

PM LAID GREAT EMPHASIS ON NATURAL FARMING

The cooperative movement, self-reliant farming, self-reliant villages and self-reliant states and self-reliant India - are moving forward with this mantra. He said Shri Modi has laid great emphasis on natural farming, because the fertility of the soil is decreasing due to the use of chemical fertilizers. Natural farming will not only improve land fertility, people's health will also improve and will not be affected by diseases like cancer, blood pressure, diabetes.

He said we will be fully successful in providing chemical free food grains, chemical free food, chemical free fruits, chemical free vegetables to the people. I am sure that PM Shri Modi's dream of a prosperous and healthy India will come true. ■

PRODUCTION OF IRON ORE IN INDIA INCREASED BY 27% DURING 2021-22 (APRIL-JANUARY)

The total production of iron ore in India increased by 27% during 2021-22 (April-January), as compared to the same period of the previous year. The Government has taken various steps to increase production and availability of iron ore, which inter-alia include Mining and Mineral Policy reforms to ensure enhanced production, early auction & operationalization of expired mines, ease of doing business, seamless transfer of all valid rights & approvals, incentivizing for starting of mining operation & dispatch, transfer of mining leases, allowing captive mines to sell upto 50% of the minerals produced, enhancing exploration activities, etc. ■



RECORD MADE FOR HIGHEST QUANTITY OF BITUMINOUS MIX LAID FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN 100 HRS

Adding one more jewel to the crown of records, 'India Book of Records' have awarded certificates in respect of creation of record for Highest Quantity of Bituminous Mix laid for road construction in 100 Hrs. In a series of tweets Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari informed that longest Length of Flexible Pavement (DBM Course) road construction in 100 Hrs was awarded to PNC Infratech Ltd.

The Minister on 13 March, 2022 said this incredible feat was achieved by PNC Infratech Ltd at the Construction of 8-Lane access-controlled expressway starting from junction with NH-47 near Bhamiya village and ending at junction with SH-175 in Baletiya village in Panchmahal district (Ch-780+920 to Ch-803+420. Design Ch-328+500 to Ch-351+000) section of Delhi-Vadodara Greenfield Alignment (NH-148N) on under Bharatmala Pariyojna in the state of Gujarat. ■

'INDIA ALWAYS ACTED WITH ALACRITY TO ASSIST ITS CITIZENS DURING ANY INTERNATIONAL CRISIS'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 15, 2022 interacted with stakeholders involved in Operation Ganga. Operation Ganga successfully evacuated about 23000 Indian citizens, as well as 147 foreign nationals belonging to 18 countries, from Ukraine.

During the interaction, representatives of the Indian Community and private sector in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary narrated their experiences of being part of Operation Ganga, the challenges they faced, and expressed their sense of satisfaction and honour at having contributed to such a complex humanitarian operation.

Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed his warm appreciation for Indian community leaders, volunteer groups, companies, private individuals and government officials who worked tirelessly for the success of the operation. He praised the patriotic fervour, the sense of community service, and the

team-spirit displayed by all stakeholders involved in Operation Ganga.

Shri Modi especially praised the various community organisations, pointing out that their selfless service exemplifies the Indian civilizational values that they continue to embody even in foreign shores.

Speaking about the efforts made by Government to ensure the safety of Indian nationals during the crisis, Prime Minister Shri Modi recalled his personal interactions with leaders of Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, and expressed gratitude for the support received from all the foreign governments.

Reiterating the high priority that government attaches to the safety of Indians abroad, he recalled that India has always acted with alacrity to assist its citizens during any international crisis. Guided by India's age-old philosophy of "Vasidhaiva Kutumbakam", India has also extended humanitarian support to nationals of other countries during emergencies. ■

Flight control system integration complex inaugurated in Bengaluru

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a seven-storeyed Flight Control System (FCS) Integration facility at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Bengaluru, Karnataka on March 17, 2022. The state-of-the-art complex has been constructed in record 45 days, with in-house hybrid technology consisting of conventional, pre-engineered and precast methodology. The technology has been developed by DRDO with the help of M/s Larsen & Toubro (L&T). Design check and technical support has been provided by the teams of IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee.

This FCS facility will support Research & Development (R&D) activities for developing Avionics for Fighter Aircraft and FCS for Advanced Medium

Combat Aircraft being undertaken by ADE, Bengaluru. The Raksha Mantri said it is a unique project not just in the country but in the entire world and is an embodiment of the new energy of New India. "This energy is of technology, commitment, institutional collaboration among public sector, private sector & academia and above all of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi," he said, exuding confidence that the facility will go a long way in bolstering national security. The complex will also provide simulator training to the pilots of combat aircraft. Shri Rajnath Singh described it as one of the most important components of the complex. The simulators provide an opportunity to learn by making mistakes without the possibility of any kinds of losses, he stated. ■

BENGAL WAS MARRED BY VIOLENCE, BOOTH-CAPTURING AND INTIMIDATION



DR. ANIRBAN GANGULY

The just concluded local bodies poll across West Bengal was marred by violence, booth-capturing and intimidation of ordinary voters as well the workers of the opposition parties. The BJP's workers and supporters were most affected by having to bear the brunt of the TMC's attacks and tactics of disruption. The BJPs' pleas to the Courts that municipal polls be held under the watch of the CAPF, were turned down by them.

The Courts had expressed their faith in the State Election Commission (SEC) saying that conducting of local polls in a free, fair and just manner was the SEC's responsibility conferred on it by the Constitution and therefore it had to carry its duty. The SEC's assurance to the Courts was mere lip service, the State Election Commissioner's past record in conducting elections has been extremely poor. He has come across as incompetent and unwilling to impose the SEC's constitutional powers for ensuring that the polls were held peacefully. His performance, this time round, was no different. He came across as completely incompetent and

was seen to be working under the political thumb of West Bengal's ruling party. Repeated complaints to the SEC that BJP candidates were being harassed, were being prevented from campaigning, their posters and party flags being torn and cast aside by the TMC's violent brigade, were ignored. The SEC, under strict control of the ruling party, did not act and allowed the situation to

In the case of veteran BJP leader from Konnagar, Hooghly, Krishna Bhattacharya, who was badly beaten up and mauled as she was returning home on the last day of campaign, these armed goon squads carried out near lethal attacks especially on BJP candidates, who were active, popular and had withstood threats

further deteriorate. In a number of cases, goons attached to the TMC and the TMC's local leaders pressurised and coerced BJP candidates into withdrawing their candidatures. Thus, in a number of local bodies the TMC formed the board without any opposition.

On the eve of polling, reports poured in from across the state of TMC, through its machinery,

importing armed squads into areas that would go for polling the next day. These squads were housed in the locality, the police on being informed, looked the other way, and were reluctant to initiate any action. At times, like it happened in the case of veteran BJP leader from Konnagar, Hooghly, Krishna Bhattacharya, who was badly beaten up and mauled as she was returning home on the last day of campaign, these armed goon squads carried out near lethal attacks especially on BJP candidates, who were active, popular and had withstood threats. In such a surcharged and violent political climate, the polls were given a go-ahead and were held.

On the day of polling many realised on reaching the polling booth that their votes had been cast, some were turned away, others left the booth without voting once armed goons entered and started assaulting the booth agents of other parties and drove the polling officials out. BJP booth agents were driven out, unruly elements owing allegiance to and patronised by the TMC, who were brought into the areas from outside the locality, were let loose on the booths, the booth agents and the voters. These goon-squads then went out, at times pointing revolvers, at other times firing in the air. There were no

queues before polling booths and yet the SEC claimed that voting was over eighty per cent and that “by and large” polling was peaceful and orderly.

Giving a short-shrift to the democratic process, completely throwing to the winds any semblance of being democratic, Mamata Banerjee and her party carried out one of the most violence driven local bodies election in West Bengal. The West Bengal municipal polls stood in sharp contrast to the local body polls held in Assam and in Tripura, two neighbouring states, which were completely peaceful. It is evident that it is only a BJP led government and dispensation which can protect the democratic process, preserve its spirit and safeguard its Constitutional framework. West Bengal under the Left Front and West Bengal now under the TMC has repeatedly worked to desecrate the fabric of democracy. Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly suppressed the actual democratic voice of the people, she has repeatedly prevented the people from exercising their democratic choice and this latest round of local polls also was an exception. The results reflected her intolerance.

Far from expressing any regret over these unabashedly violent incidents, Mamata Banerjee insisted that the polls were peaceful, that they reflected the “peoples’ will.” On result day, it was clear that the mandate was not given by the people, but was the result of coercion and violence indulged in by the TMC. None of the secular liberals who

have been extremely vocal in denouncing the “deterioration” democratic values in India under Narendra Modi, protested against Mamata Banerjee’s manhandling of democracy. Hardly any newspaper editorials were dedicated to this shameful phenomenon, very few columnists even wrote of it, the mainstream media in West Bengal completely ignored this vote by force method and falsely wrote on how Mamata Banerjee “won” the peoples’ confidence.

The recent Rampurhat mass killing in the district of Birbhum in which two factions of the TMC wreaked vengeance on each other, bombing, burning and killing women and children, having locked them up in their houses, has shaken the conscience of the nation. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressing extreme concern over the gruesome episode has asked people not to spare those who perpetrate such heinous crimes, he has called for the the fact that in a little over one-week West Bengal has seen 26 political murders, with elected representatives being shot and bombed, indicates that the TMC, having won a third time, is being driven with arrogance that comes after the administration and law enforcing agencies have been neutralised. Mamata Banerjee has done little to rein in her partymen leaders and their armed and violent factions. It serves her politics to keep West Bengal in the grip of fear and hostage to violence so that she can continue to rule by suppressing the

people’s democratic aspirations and will. The Rampurhat massacre surpasses any such political mass-killing in recent history.

Increasingly it is becoming clear that India’s democratic present and her democratic future lies safe with the BJP. Each state ruled by the BJP has introduced a new governance paradigm and framework. Good governance, strengthening the democratic process, encouraging greater democratic participation at the grassroots has become the hallmark of BJP under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. There is an increasing global acceptance that India is transforming at all levels and is emerging as a pre-eminent democratic power on the world stage under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi. The BJP’s political adversaries and its intellectual denouncers have no model, no plan, no narrative to counter it. Their only act is to berate PM Modi and to drive a violent political agenda which aims at coercing the electorate to vote their way. The results in the just concluded Assembly elections and BJP’s historic win in the four states have also severely challenged that anti-democratic and violent mindset. The TMC’s politics and its lip-service to India’s democratic essence is increasingly getting exposed. In the course of time, people of West Bengal will be able to exercise their actual democratic choice and preference for the BJP and for Prime Minister Modi’s vision of a new India. ■

(The Writer is Member, BJP NEC & Director of SPMRF, New Delhi)

OPERATION GANGA: ONE OF INDIA'S LONGEST EVACUATION DRIVES



**DR VIJAY
CHAUTHAIWALE**

Operation Ganga has been one of India's largest evacuation drives of bringing back Indians who are stranded in foreign nation after operation 'Devi Shakti' which was launched by the Narendra Modi government when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in 2020. India evacuated around 22,500 Indian nationals from the war hit Ukraine safely which is a commendable task. India not only was successful in evacuating Indian citizens through Operation Ganga but also helped citizens of neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh reach their countries safely. India successfully evacuated its nationals from Romania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova where the Indians had reached through road and rail transit in Ukraine. The evacuation process started in Feb 2022 and by 10th March, the stranded Indians were evacuated using 80 flights. Initially civil airlines were used for the evacuation process but as the situation aggravated Indian Air Force was brought into action. Civil airlines could not lift big number of people and therefore to ease the process IAF was involved. The

C-17 Globemaster with a capacity of carrying 400 passengers not only brought back the people from Ukraine to India but also transported humanitarian aid like food, fuel, medical supplies, and other essentials to Ukraine.

India on many instances earlier has proved to be a country which stands with its citizens living in other countries. Earlier in 1990, India's first evacuation process in which over 1,70,000 Indians were airlifted and repatriated to India from Kuwait. Operation Sukoon in 2006 evacuated 2,280 people including Sri Lankan and Nepalese nationals during the Lebanon and Israel conflict.

“To ensure necessary communication between the Indian citizens and the government of India, Ministry of External Affairs formed 24x7 control centres. Every enquiry received was verified in the database and the necessary relief plan was communicated,”

Operation safe homecoming in 2011 ensured safe evacuation of around 15,400 Indian nationals from conflict torn Libya. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi such operations have been applauded at international level. In 2015 India undertook Operation Raahat to evacuate thousands of Indians from other countries during the conflict between the Yemen and Houthi rebels. In 2016, 242 Indians including 28 crew members were

successfully airlifted from Brussels during terrorist strikes. Operation Samudra Setu was launched during Covid breakout in 2020 to bring 3992 citizens back to India through sea route. Vande Bharat mission was launched in 2020 to evacuate Indians from Covid hit countries and succeeded in evacuating more than 60 lakh Indians in multiple phases. In the case of Operation Ganga in Ukraine, around 80 flights were used to bring the Indians back home and about 46 of these were private airlines. Out of these airlines 29 were involved in rescue operations in Bucharest Romania, 10 in Budapest Hungary, six in Rzeszow Poland, and one in Kocise Slovakia. All the citizens were evacuated free of cost from the neighbouring countries of Ukraine which is expected to cost Rs 66-70 crore per flight for a two-way operation to Indian government.

To ensure necessary communication between the Indian citizens and the government of India, Ministry of External Affairs formed 24x7 control centres. Every enquiry received was verified in the database and the necessary relief plan was communicated. India's foreign diplomacy played a key role as the neighbouring countries in eastern Europe provided the required help to Indian nationals, For example, Poland waived documentation requirements necessary to enter

Poland.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took the evacuation of Indians as top priority as soon as the tensions between the two neighbour countries intensified. He monitored the entire situation through series of high-level meetings conducted involving the ministers, bureaucrats, Indian embassies and governments of several neighbouring countries. To fasten the process and to provide the required support to the Indian nationals four Indian cabinet ministers also reached to the countries surrounding Ukraine. Notably, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was sent to Romania, Union Minister of Law and Justice, Kiren Rijju to the Slovak Republic, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri to Hungary and Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (Retd) VK Singh to Poland as special envoys under Operation Ganga.

As the conflict intensified the real challenge was evacuating those Indians who are stuck in eastern Ukraine. India in its discussions with Ukraine and Russia had suggested for creation of humanitarian passages in order to facilitate people move away from the war zones. Things became complicated as the airspace of Ukraine was closed and hence the evacuation directly from the cities like Kiev and Kharkiv became impossible. Therefore, advisories were issued suggesting the people to move to the nearest borders from where they could connect with the Indian

officials. There were many instances when Prime minister Shri Narendra Modi himself spoke to the Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for ceasefire to evacuate Indians from the war hit region safely. For example, 694 students who were stranded in Sumi were able to move to Poltava through humanitarian corridors created for the safe passage of Indians after Shri Narendra Modi's discussions with his counterparts.

A major role was also played by the NGOs who volunteered to provide necessary support in the evacuation process. Organisations

“India’s strategic neutrality during the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been appreciated globally. India condemned the violence and provided the necessary humanitarian aid to Ukraine. By not taking any side and negotiating with both the countries for the safe movement of the common people speak volumes about the global diplomacy that India has achieved in recent years.”

like Sewa international, International society of Krishna consciousness (ISKCON), Art Of Living, BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, several Gurudwaras, Hindu temples in neighbouring countries like Poland and Hungary provided shelter and food to the people who were effected by the conflict. Prayers were offered in many temples throughout the world for the people who lost their lives and also prayers were offered for an early closure of the war.

India’s strategic neutrality during

the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been appreciated globally. India condemned the violence and provided the necessary humanitarian aid to Ukraine. By not taking any side and negotiating with both the countries for the safe movement of the common people speak volumes about the global diplomacy that India has achieved in recent years. Whether it be the evacuation during the Nepal earthquake in 2015 or the Ukraine crisis of 2022, India through several operations has not just successfully evacuated its citizens but has also helped people of other nationalities in reaching safer regions. India being the country with highest diaspora spread across the world will continue to face such situations in future as well and the success of Operation Ganga builds confidence among the Indians that no matter where they are their safety remains the prime priority for the Indian government. India under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has developed an image as a friendly nation which will

always stand by its diaspora and also help the people of other nations during a crisis situation. Stake holders involved in this operation the Government of India, Officials involved, Airline companies and staff, Indian air force and the people and their families who supported and followed the procedures patiently, all of them should be credited for a smooth accomplishment of such a crucial operation. ■

**(The Writer is In-Charge,
Department of Foreign Affairs, BJP)**

FIRST TIME INDIA'S AUTO INDUSTRY RECORDS A TRADE SURPLUS OF \$ 600 MILLION

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal said that India's merchandise exports have reached almost USD 390 billion as of March 14th and will certainly cross USD 400 billion in the current fiscal.

He was addressing the Atmanirbhar Excellence Awards and 7th Technology Summit 2022, on March 17 organized by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) in New Delhi. He added that India's auto components industry had, for the first time, recorded a trade surplus of USD 600 million.

It may be noted that India's Automotive Industry is worth more than USD 100 billion and contributes 8% of country's total export and accounts for 2.3% of India's GDP and is set to become the 3rd largest in the world by 2025.

The Minister appreciated the resilient auto industry players who adapted and evolved to keep

the industry going despite the five Cs, - challenges of COVID-19, container shortages, chip shortages, commodity prices and conflict.

Shri Goyal said the government was sensitive to auto sector's concerns related to chips shortage. The recently approved Semicon India Programme with a budget of 76,000 Crores would help reduce import dependence and eventually help us become Atmanirbhar in the arena of chips, he said. He added that the nimble Government and agile Industry working together collectively could capture markets across the world.

Highlighting India's capabilities in the field of auto components manufacturing, the Minister asked automakers to make greater use of Indian made components. Stating that the Government held back stringent norms regarding import substitution due to Covid-19 and industry assurances on securing equal market access, the Minister urged automakers to buy local and substitute imports. ■



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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with stakeholders involved in Ukraine evacuation, through video conferencing, in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the valedictory function of the 96th Common Foundation Course at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), through video conferencing



PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Kishida Fumio, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi and the PM of Japan, Mr. Kishida Fumio at the delegation level talks in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi inspects the antiquities repatriated from Australia in New Delhi



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RESTORING INDIA'S GLORY

Modi government bringing back Indian antiques from foreign shores

Ancient Antiquities brought back

Period	Number of Antiquities
1976-2014	13
2014-2022	229

Recently 29 Antiquities have been repatriated to India by Australia

Source: Media Reports
 *Till 21st March 2022

THE WORLD'S LARGEST & SWIFTEST VACCINATION PROGRAMME

India's vaccination drive faster than developed countries

Country	Total Doses Administered (in Billion)
Spain	0.10
Italy	0.14
UK	0.14
France	0.15
USA	0.56
India	1.8

Source: Govt of India
 *Date as on 21st march 2022

MODI GOVT SAFEGUARDING PREGNANT WOMEN & DIVYANGS FROM COVID

- Pregnant women & Divyang employees exempted from attending office due to rising COVID cases
- All officials, staff living in containment zones also exempted till containment zone is denotified
- However, they will be required to remain available and work from home

Source: Govt of India

ENSURING SOCIAL SECURITY UNDER ATAL PENSION YOJANA

Atal Pension Yojana

Registered members

Over **3.68 crore**

Over 65 lakh people have enrolled so far in FY 2021-22, highest since the scheme launch

Male to female ratio has improved to **56:44**

Assets under management: Around Rs 20,000 crore

Read full at: bitly.ws/rpNb