

KAMAL SANDESH



NATIONAL INTEREST WAS OF
UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR BJP

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₹20



COMBATING COVID-19

'JAAN HAI TOH JAHAN HAI'



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda flanked by Karnataka CM Shri B.S. Yediyurappa paying floral tributes before the commencement of Intellectuals meet in Bengaluru, Karnataka



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressing a massive Pragati Rally in Sirsa, Haryana



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi at BJP Head Quarters in New Delhi for Central Election Committee Meeting



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda attended the meeting of all Doctor MPs on COVID-19 in New Delhi



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah meeting with a delegation from J&K's newly formed Apni Party led by Shri Altaf Bukhari in New Delhi



Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing the Transporters Meet 2020 in New Delhi

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'JAAN HAI TOH JAHAN HAI'...

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called for a complete lockdown of the entire nation for the next 21 days beginning at midnight on 24 March, 2020 in an effort...



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twitter

@narendramodi



Say No to Panic, Say Yes to Precautions. No Minister of the Central Government will travel abroad in the upcoming days. I urge our countrymen to also avoid non-essential travel. We can break the chain of spread and ensure safety of all by avoiding large gatherings. The Government is fully vigilant about the situation due to COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus.

@amitshah

As Prime Minister of 1.25Bn people, PM @narendramodi has done a commendable job in getting together SAARC countries to combat COVID-19. India has risen to the occasion and it was heartening to see regional cooperation to overcome the menace of Corona, which is impacting everyone.



@nitingadkari



We have won the case to convert the house where Pujya Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar stayed in London to a museum. This is possible because of the relentless efforts of our Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji.

facebook

When we talk about article 370, as far as our ideology is concerned which started its activities in 1952, at that point of time we were very clear with the slogan that - "एक देश में दो विधान, दो संविधान, दो प्रधान, दो निशान नहीं चलेंगे". Now people from all spheres of the society are praising the steps of inclusive development which reflects 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the motto of Modi Government.



— Jagat Prakash Nadda

Not the #Congress, but the Narendra Modi government has given a true meaning to the concept of secularism in the country.



— Bhupender Yadav

India was the first country to take precautions like travel ban, VISA cancellation, enhancing medical preparations, coordination among states. This is what you call Good Governance ... Visionary leadership . #CoronaVirusUpdate



— B L Santhosh

Advertisement for MYGOV CORONA HELPDESK. It features the WhatsApp logo and the text: "MYGOV CORONA HELPDESK WHATSAPP NUMBER +91 90131 51515". Below this, it says "PREPARE, DON'T PANIC #IndiaFightsCorona". At the bottom, there is an illustration of hands holding a smartphone and a cluster of green virus particles. Logos for the Government of India and myGov are also present.

Greeting for Ram Navami. It features a colorful illustration of Lord Rama on the left. On the right, the text reads: "Kamal Sandesh Parivar wishes a very happy RAM NAVAMI (02 APRIL) to all of its readers".

INDIA UNITED SHALL WIN ITS BATTLE AGAINST COVID 19

Covid 19 pandemic has emerged as a new challenge to the humankind across the world. The pandemic that started from Wuhan in China has now engulfed most of Europe, US and gulf countries creating one of the severest crises in the recent human history. As many countries are trying to check its spread with lockdowns and by creating awareness about social distancing and other preventive measures, the humankind still struggles to find its cure. In such trying times when the numbers of affected people are rising with every passing day and death counts are piling up, the pandemic appears to be sweeping across the entire globe. It has created major health crises in even the most developed nations of the world whose health infrastructure are crashing down while being unable to take the load of ever increasing Covid 19 cases in their countries. Many of these countries are facing shortage of test kits, masks, sanitizer and protective gears for the health workers, nurses and doctors, ventilators and other equipments including medicines. As the major economies of the world are forced to shut down the coming months are going to be extremely tough creating very hard time for the global economy. The world is staring at a very difficult phase affecting every aspect of human life.

India is fighting the battle against Covid 19 under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The people are united in their fight against the pandemic can be understood from the fact that a high level of awareness about the Covid 19 and the threat it poses to humanity is already present in India. It is the result of the efforts made by the Indian government and various agencies that people showed their solidarity in the fight

against this pandemic and observed 'Janata Curfew' on the appeal of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Not only this, the manner in which people responded to the PM's appeal to clap or clang thalis in a show of gratitude and thankfulness to all those health workers, nurses, doctors, cleanliness staff and police and other staffs who are actively involved in fighting Covid 19 by risking their lives, speaks volumes of India resolve to fight this pandemic. The unprecedented scale of observance of 'Janata Curfew' and the expression of solidarity across the entire country, from north to south and from west to east touching even the remote villages gives the hope that India will emerge victorious against the pandemic. As the Covid 19 cases were set to emerge according to various experts who predicted that India was crossing over to the third stage wherein the threat of community spread was high, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has rightly announced the lockdown of the entire country for 21 days starting from March 24th night.

The country is under lockdown and it is heartening to see that except few cases of non-observance, entire country is united in the fight against the pandemic and appears to be in control of the situation.

The WHO has especially lauded the efforts to the government in containing the pandemic in the country. India, as a huge country having a population of more than 130 million people with diversity as massive as its vastness, the record so far appears amazing for any international observer. The doomsayers, who predicted a Covid 19 nightmare for India, have luckily been so far proven wrong. But the danger of the spread of the pandemic is still haunting the nation so it is the time of high caution. As the government has already taken all necessary steps to contain it, it is now responsibility of all the individuals, social groups, community leaders and various agencies to ensure that the spread of pandemic is stopped at all cost. BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has given a call to all the karyakartas, office bearers and sympathizers to stand by the poor people so that no one is hungry in the time of lock down and also made appeal for donation of at least Rs. 100 in PM Care fund. It is heartening to see that BJP karyakartas are involving themselves actively and keeping the moral of the people high in the fight against this pandemic. As everyone contribute their bit unitedly, there is no doubt that India will win in its battle against Covid 19 pandemic.

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

THE WHO HAS ESPECIALLY LAUDED THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN CONTAINING THE PANDEMIC IN THE COUNTRY. INDIA, AS A HUGE COUNTRY HAVING A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 130 MILLION PEOPLE WITH DIVERSITY AS MASSIVE AS ITS VASTNESS, THE RECORD SO FAR APPEARS AMAZING FOR ANY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER. THE DOOMSAYERS, WHO PREDICTED A COVID 19 NIGHTMARE FOR INDIA, HAVE SO FAR HAVE BEEN PROVEN WRONG.



PM'S SPECIAL TELEVISED ADDRESS TO THE NATION

'JAAN HAI TOH JAHAAN HAI': PM MODI

TO CONTAIN CARONA PANDEMIC PM CALLS FOR 21 DAYS LOCKDOWN

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called for a complete lockdown of the entire nation for the next 21 days beginning at midnight on 24 March, 2020 in an effort to contain the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In a special televised address to the Nation the Prime Minister said that even those nations with the best of the medical facilities could not contain the virus and that the social distancing is the only option to mitigate it. "All of you are also witnessing how the most advanced countries of the world have been rendered absolutely helpless by this pandemic. It is not that these countries are not putting in adequate efforts or they lack resources. The Coronavirus is spreading at such a rapid pace that despite all the preparations and efforts, these countries are finding it hard to manage the crisis.

The analysis of happenings in all these countries since the last two months, and the opinion of experts has proved that there is only one way to effectively deal with Coronavirus - Social Distancing" he said.

The Prime Minister announced that from midnight tonight onwards, the entire country shall go under complete lockdown, a total ban is being imposed on people, from stepping out of their homes for a period of 21 days. He said this decision was taken from the

experiences of health sector experts and experiences of other countries and that 21 days is essential to break the chain of infection.

He added that this will be a few levels more than Janata-Curfew, and also stricter. He said this decision is vital in order to protect the country, and each of its citizens against Corona Pandemic.

Discussing the economic impact owing to the Pandemic, the Prime Minister said, "The nation will have to certainly pay an economic cost because of this lockdown. However, to save the life of each and every Indian is our top most priority. Hence, It is my plea to you to continue staying wherever you are right now in the country."

Shri Modi explained that if the situation is not brought under control in the next 3 weeks, the country could go back 21 years and that several families would be devastated forever. Hence, he urged the people to do just one thing in the next 21 days - to stay inside their homes.

The Prime Minister said the experiences of those countries that have been able to contain Corona offer some ray of hope. He said that those countries that observed lockdown and where people adhered to the rules are able to surmount the pandemic.

The Prime Minister said, "India is at a stage where

our current actions will determine how much we are able to minimize the impact of this disaster. It's time to consistently keep strengthening our resolve. It's time to exercise caution at every step. You have to remember that Jaan hai toh Jahaan hai. This is the time for patience and discipline. Until the lockdown situation remains, we must keep our resolve, we must keep our promise."

The Prime Minister said the Central and State Governments countrywide are working swiftly to ensure that citizens do not face much inconvenience in their daily life. He said that provisions have been made to ensure supplies of all essential items continue smoothly. He added that along with the Central and State Governments, individuals from civil societies

and institutions are constantly striving to reduce the problems of the poor during this period of crisis.

Shri Modi announced that the Government has provided Rupees Fifteen Thousand Crore (Rs 15,000,00,00,000) for strengthening the medical infrastructure and treatment of the Corona infected patients.

He appealed to the people to beware of any kind of rumors or superstitions circulating during such times. He requested the people not to take any medication without consulting doctors if you are showing any symptoms of this infection. He expressed confidence of every Indian abiding by the instructions of the Government and local authorities during this crucial hour.

CENTRE PROVIDES 1.7L CR PACKAGE TO MIGRANT WORKERS, LABOURERS, POOR & FARMERS TO DEAL WITH LOCKDOWN

The Centre on March, 27 2020 unveiled Rs 1.7 lakh crore relief package for the weaker section of the society to deal with the impact of the three-week nationwide lockdown due to the Coronavirus outbreak. The economic package to help migrant workers, labourers, poor and agricultural workers, and others will come into effect immediately. "It has been made to reach out to the most vulnerable sections of the society who are in need of immediate help because of the economic disruption," said Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

Smt. Sitharaman also announced direct cash transfers for a large number of affected people, including senior citizens, widows, farmers and daily-wage labourers. As per the package, health and sanitation workers will be insured for Rs 50 lakh per person. This will cover nearly 20 lakh persons. "Safai karamcharis, ward boys, nurses, paramedics, technicians, doctors and specialists, and others' health would be covered by a special insurance scheme. Any health professional who while treating Covid-19 patients meets with some accident, then he/she would be compensated with an amount of Rs 50 lakh under the scheme," stated the Government Press release.

The package says that under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana 80 crore poor people will get 5 kg per person rice/wheat each month for the next 3 months in addition to 5kg of rice/wheat that

they already get. Besides, 1kg of pulse according to regional preference for each household.

In a big relief to the rural women, the package says that 8.3 crore BPL Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries will be given free cylinders for the next three months. During this period, a maximum of three gas cylinders will be provided.

The move comes two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ordered a 21-day nationwide lockdown. Most of the financial benefits will be routed through the DBT scheme into the Jan Dhan account of the beneficiaries. In case, they don't have such accounts, the Government will make alternative arrangement to provide them financial relief.

Smt. Sitharaman announced that daily wages under the MNREGA have been increased to Rs 202 a day from Rs 182. This will benefit nearly 5 crore families, Sitharaman said.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, farmers will get Rs 2,000 in April. This is expected to cover 8.7 crore families. The total amount distributed is estimated to be Rs 16,000 crore.

In addition, a total of 20.40 crore PM JAN Dhan Yojana women account-holders will be given gratia of Rs 500 per month for next three months. "This will help them run their household during this difficult period. For this purpose, the Government of India will spend Rs 31,000 crore," Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said. ■



PATIENCE AND RESOLVE OF ALL INDIANS VITAL IN FIGHTING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC: PM

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation on combating the challenge of COVID-19 on 19 March, 2020. On the occasion of 'Navratra', Prime Minister made nine requests to the people.

Prime Minister Shri Modi said that patience and resolve of all Indians is vital in fighting the global pandemic which has wreaked havoc all over the world. He requested citizens to follow certain measures to ensure the containment of the fast spreading virus. He emphasized on the importance of not taking the pandemic lightly and the need to be aware and proactive towards prevention of COVID-19.

Shri Modi urged citizens to follow the mantra of "when we are healthy, the world is healthy". He stressed

on the importance of following self imposed norms like 'social distancing'. Requesting citizens to patiently abide by the norm, he urged the need to isolate oneself and come out of the house only if imperative, while trying to work from home and avoid unnecessary travel. He also urged that senior citizens above the age of 60 should not come out of their homes for the coming few weeks. Highlighting the stress on the hospitals, he urged everyone to avoid routine check ups during this time and to extend the date of surgeries scheduled, wherever feasible.

'JANTA CURFEW'

Prime Minister urged citizens to follow the concept of 'Janta Curfew' on 22 March, 2020 from 7 AM to

9 PM, wherein no one apart from those involved with essential services is supposed to venture out of home. He said that the success of such a people's movement and the experiences gained from it will prepare us for the challenges ahead. He added that our efforts on March 22 would be a symbol of our self restraint and determination to perform duty in the national interest.

Urging the state governments to take the lead, Prime Minister asked all youth organizations including NCC and NSS, civil societies to generate awareness among people about the 'Janta Curfew'. He urged everyone to try to inform at least ten other people over phone about this self imposed curfew.

THANKING THE SELFLESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

Prime Minister Shri Modi said that there are many brave people who are in the forefront of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic like medical staff, police, government servants, airline staff, media persons, bus/train/auto operators and those involved in providing home delivery.

To pay respects to their huge service to the nation during such trying times, Prime Minister suggested that on March 22 at 5 PM, all citizens should acknowledge and salute their efforts by standing in the balconies and at the doors of their houses and clap or ring bells for five minutes as a show of appreciation .

He urged the local government across the country to indicate the timing through blaring out a siren at 5 PM.

MEETING THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

To deal with the economic challenges caused by the pandemic, Prime Minister announced the creation of 'COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force' under the Union Finance Minister. The Task Force will consult stakeholders, take feedback, on the basis of which decisions will be taken to meet the challenges. The Task Force will also ensure implementation of the decisions taken to meet these challenges.

Prime Minister also urged the business community and higher income groups to look after the economic needs of those from lower income groups, from whom they take various services, urging them not to cut their salary on the days they are unable to render the services due to inability to come to the workplace. He stressed on the importance of humanity during such

times.

He also assured the countrymen that there would not be any shortage of essential items like food, milk, medicines etc. He urged people to not resort to panic buying.

Prime Minister exhorted everyone to work together and contribute fully to overcome the crisis of COVID-19. He urged the citizens not to fall prey to misinformation. Prime Minister said that during the time of such a global pandemic, it is important to ensure that 'humanity wins and India wins'.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ADDRESS

- ❖ 'Janta Curfew' To Be Observed On 22 March, 2020 From 7 Am To 9 Pm
- ❖ Citizens to thank the selfless service providers of the nation at 5 PM on 22 March
- ❖ 'COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force' set-up to meet economic challenges of the pandemic
- ❖ PM advises citizens to avoid 'panic buying'; assures availability of essentials
- ❖ Everyone to work together and contribute fully to overcome the crisis of COVID-19
- ❖ PM urged the citizens not to fall prey to misinformation ■

NO DEMONSTRATION BY BJP FOR ONE MONTH DUE TO CORONA VIRUS: JP NADDA



Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri JP Nadda said that PM Shri Narendra Modi had expressed his wish in the parliamentary party meeting on March 18 2020 that we should avoid any agitation, picketing, demonstration due to Corona. Keeping this in mind, the BJP has decided that for the next 1 month the party will not participate in any agitation, demonstration.

4-5 party officials will give a memorandum to the concerned officials or political leaders but will avoid any kind of group of people. All the state units have been informed about this and a circular has been issued on this issue.

‘COME TOGETHER’: PM NARENDRA MODI TELLS SAARC COUNTRIES INDIA OFFERS USD 10MN FOR EMERGENCY CORONA-VIRUS FUND

In a Video Conference with the leaders and representatives of SAARC countries, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proposed to create a ‘COVID-19 Emergency Fund’ that would be funded by voluntary contributions from the SAARC member nations, and offered \$10 million as an initial offering from India’s side to this fund. Through video conference, PM Shri Modi was addressing the meeting that was called to chalk out a strategy to fight the corona-virus outbreak that has affected hundreds in South-East Asia and led to two deaths in India.

In his opening address to a panel that included Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Bhutanese premier Lotay Tshering, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, and Special Assistant to Pakistani Prime Minister on Health Zafar Mirza, PM Shri Narendra Modi said the region has reported less than 150 corona-virus cases, but there is a need to remain vigilant.

To the SAARC leaders, PM Shri Narendra Modi said that ‘prepare, but don’t panic’ has been India’s guiding mantra in dealing with the corona-virus outbreak. He informed the august gathering that India had begun screening people entering its borders from mid-January itself, and gradually, restrictions were put on travel.

During the video conference held to discuss the COVID-19 outbreak, the Prime Minister also averred that the step-by-step approach taken by India helped avoid panic, and special efforts were made by the government to reach out to vulnerable groups.

India also responded to call of its people abroad, said PM Shri Modi, adding that nearly 1,400 Indians from different countries were evacuated. PM Shri Modi also mentioned to the representatives of the neighbouring nations that India helped some citizens of neighbouring countries by evacuating them from corona-virus-hit nations.

The PM said that it was clear that the best way that the 7 neighbouring nations could tackle corona-



virus was by coming together and not by growing apart. The key, he said, was collaboration, and not confusion, and preparation, not panic.

Shri Modi told the gathering that an Integrated Disease Surveillance Portal had been set up to effectively track the people who are possible virus carriers and the people they come in contact with. To tackle corona-virus effectively, PM also offered to share Disease Surveillance software and the training mechanism with its SAARC partners.

The Prime Minister proposed to create a ‘COVID-19 Emergency Fund’ that would be funded by voluntary contributions from the SAARC member nations, and offered \$10 million as an initial offering from India’s side to this fund.

For the future, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proposed setting up of a common Research Platform for coordinated research on tackling epidemics in the South Asian region, and added that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) can assist and coordinate this exercise.

In a major announcement, PM Shri Modi said that in India – a Rapid Response Team of doctors and specialists, along with testing kits and equipment was being assembled. He offered the assistance of this team of highly-specialised doctors and experts to the SAARC nations. ■

SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT THANKS PM MODI FOR SAARC CONFERENCE

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on 16 March thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for conducting the "fruitful and constructive" video conference with



leaders of the SAARC nations and promised his country's "fullest support" to combat the corona virus pandemic.

"I thank PM @narendramodi for his initiative to combat #COVID19 with cooperation among #SAARCNations. The discussion was fruitful and constructive with many great ideas being shared and initiated. #LKA will extend the fullest support and thank the member nations for their solidarity," Rajapaksa tweeted. ■

PM NARENDRA MODI'S ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT COVID-19 WITH SAARC LEADERS LAUDED: USAIC

USAIC has lauded Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's action plan to combat the novel corona-virus with SAARC leaders, saying that his strategy to take proactive steps with graded response is a smart approach to tackle this unprecedented situation.

In a video-conference of SAARC members on March 15, Prime Minister Modi proposed setting up a COVID-19 emergency fund with India committing \$10 million initially for it, and asserted that the best way to deal with the pandemic was by coming together and not growing apart.

"Prime Minister Modi's views and action plan to combat the novel corona-virus with SAARC leaders is laudable. His strategy to take proactive steps with graded response is a smart approach to tackle this complex and unprecedented situation," said President of USA India Chamber of Commerce (USAIC). ■

'WHO HAILS EFFORTS OF MODI GOVERNMENT IN COMBATING CORONA PANDEMIC'

The World Health Organisation (WHO) hailed the efforts taken by Narendra Modi-led government in combating the novel corona virus pandemic which began in the Chinese city of Wuhan, killing more than 7,177 people worldwide so far.

Speaking to reporters after holding a meeting on 17 March, 2020 with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Henk Bekedam, the WHO Representative to India, said that the commitment of the Indian government has been very impressive. He also appreciated the Indian



Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for managing to isolate the strains of Sars-Cov-2.

"I think the commitment of the Indian government from the top level -- the Prime Minister's office himself -- has been enormous, very impressive. This is one of the reasons why India is doing very well. I am very impressed that everyone has been mobilized," he said.

"We have very good research capacity in India and especially at the ICMR and the Department of Health Research. They have been able to isolate the virus, (and) now India will continue to be part of the research community," he added.

Earlier, India's top virology laboratory, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) in Pune, had been successful in isolating the new strain of corona virus. This is the first step towards speeding up the process of the development of drugs and vaccines for COVID-19. ■

INDIA'S EVACUATION OPERATIONS FROM CORONA EFFECTED COUNTRIES: A REPORT

By Vipul Sharma

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak Modi Government undertook evacuation operations from several countries. As the coronavirus epidemic spreads globally and more cases come to the fore, the Indian government is leaving no stone unturned to help its nationals stranded in different countries hit by the virus. So far, the government of India has evacuated 1444 persons, including 48 nationals from countries such as Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, US, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa and Peru.

S. No.	Country	Number of people rescued
1.	China	766
2.	Japan	124
3.	Iran	336
4.	Italy	481

CHINA

The Wuhan city in Hubei province of China had become the epicenter of the COVID-19 and there were hundreds of Indians stuck in the city. India engaged with China to safely evacuate its citizens and citizens of other friendly nations on a priority basis.

Air India operated two special flights for the evacuation efforts which brought back 654 passengers that included 647 Indian citizens.

The first batch consisting of 324 Indians were evacuated from Wuhan, China on 1st February. 104 of these were quarantined for monitoring at ITBP Chhawla camp and the rest 220 were housed in the army facility at Manesar.

The second batch of 330 passengers (including 7 Maldivian citizens and two Indian Embassy officials who were on the ground to coordinate the evacuation efforts) arrived in India on 3rd February. 300 of these (including 7 Maldivians) were housed at ITBP Chhawla Camp and 30 were shifted to Manesar facility for monitoring.

On 26th February, Indian Air Force evacuated 112 passengers from Hubei province in China. Among

these 76 were Indian citizens. The other nationals evacuated by Indian Air Force included citizens of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, China, USA, Madagascar and South Africa. The passengers reached India on 27th February and subsequently are housed at ITBP camp for a period of 14 days as per protocol. They have tested negative for COVID-19 in the first test. The IAF flight had also carried medical supplies which were given as good-will gesture to China.

JAPAN

The Japanese Cruise Ship, Diamond Princess, carrying 3700 passengers faced a COVID-19 outbreak when 705 passengers were tested positive. Among the 705 affected passengers, 16 were Indian nationals. On 27th February, Air India flight carried an evacuation operation bringing back 124 passengers including 5 foreign nationals from Sri Lanka, Nepal, South Africa and Peru, from Port of Yokohama in Japan. 16 Indian nationals who were tested positive for COVID-19 are undergoing treatment.

The evacuees are housed at army facility in Manesar. They have tested negative in the first test.

IRAN

As it became clear that Iran was also facing a COVID-19 outbreak, Government of India started to undertake measures to ensure safety and security of its citizens in the country. Indian nationals in Iran include pilgrims, students and fishermen. On 7th March, 108 samples were received from Iran. These samples are being tested at the laboratory of AIIMS. Also, six scientists from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have been stationed in Iran. Equipment and reagents have also been dispatched to enable them to setup a lab.

During the operation over 590 Indians, including students, stranded in coronavirus-hit Iran were brought till now and were quarantined at separate facilities, according to officials.

US PRAISES IAF FOR EVACUATING INDIAN NATIONALS

The United States (US) on Tuesday praised the Indian Air Force (IAF) for bringing back home 58 Indian citizens from coronavirus-hit Iran. The US Department of State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, in a tweet, said, "The safety & security of citizens is of the utmost importance, especially in challenging times. Pleased to see @IAF_MCC deploying @Boeing C-17s to evacuate Indian citizens back home. This unique aircraft has greatly enhanced #India's disaster response capabilities."

IAF brought back 58 Indians from Iran in a Boeing's C-17 Globemaster aircraft on Tuesday, March 10. The IAF aircraft was sent to Tehran on March 9.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has appreciated the high level commitment to duty showcased by the officials of Air India and

Ministry of Health who conducted evacuation operation of the stranded Indians in Wuhan. In a letter he said "Air India had conducted an emergency evacuation operations from the Wuhan city, which is the epicenter of the widely spreading Novel Corona Virus Flu. Despite being aware of the aforementioned severe situation in the region, the Air India sent two B-747 aircraft with teams of Air India as well as teams from Ministry of Health for two consecutive days, i.e. 31st January 2020 and on 1st February 2020, returning the next day."

@DrSJaishankar

India works because countless Indians do. Night or day, rain or shine. Went tonight to meet our immigration, health, security and airport officials @DelhiAirport who are responding to #COVID challenge.

ITALY

A special flight of Air India carrying 211 Indian students and eight other passengers, who were stranded in coronavirus-hit Italy after flights were cancelled, landed in Delhi on 15th March 2020.

Government said the flight, which had taken off from Milan, carried 218 Indians, including 211 students. They will be shifted to Indo-Tibetan Border Police's camp in Chhawla area of the Capital.

A batch of 263 Indians evacuated from Italy in view of the COVID-19 outbreak there were brought back to the country on 22nd March 2020 and sent to a ITBP quarantine facility, officials said.

"The special flight had 263 passengers. It landed at Delhi airport from Rome," an Air India official said.

All the 263 people are being taken to our quarantine centre in Chhawla area of south-west Delhi after thermal screening and immigration at the tarmac.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) told the Lok Sabha that 276 Indians have been infected by the novel coronavirus overseas, with the maximum number being reported from Iran at 255 cases. Of the 276 infected Indians overseas, 255 are in Iran, 12 in UAE, five in Italy, and one each in Hong Kong, Kuwait, Rwanda and Sri Lanka, the ministry said.

The Indian government not only evacuating its nationals from coronavirus hit countries but also emerged as the first responder to the needs of its neighbours in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, deploying quick-response medical teams and providing essential medical supplies, even as China has yet to despatch any assistance to the supplies ranging from testing kits to ventilators and medicines are being despatched to neighbouring countries, as they battle to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda handing over homemade hygienic food for ten persons of Delhi Police during nationwide lock-down for combating COVID-19 in New Delhi





NATIONAL INTEREST WAS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE FOR BJP: JP NADDA

Accusing the Congress and its alliance partners of only indulging in vote bank and appeasement politics, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda said for BJP national interest was of utmost importance.

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda was speaking at an Intellectuals meet in Bengaluru, Karnataka on 13 March, 2020. Karnataka Chief Minister Shri BS Yediyurappa, BJP State President Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel among others also attended the meet.

Noting that for some people in India, secularism means appeasement of minority for votes, he said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the BJP believes in appeasement of none, but mainstreaming of everyone. For the Congress and all other political

parties with them, he said it is vote bank first, country last.

“It is the BJP that believes country first and party last. National interest cannot be compromised for political interests,” Shri Nadda said. “But, the Congress and allies believe in vote bank politics. The Congress is playing vote bank politics nothing else,” he added.

Pointing out that it was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s political will that decided several long standing issues of the country like the Triple Talaq, among others. He said “We have that moral courage and political will.”

The BJP National President lauded the restraint shown by the country when the Ayodhya verdict came out, by respecting the sentiment of the other

community. "See the maturity of our political party that believed and went through the legal system, while a lawyer from the Congress party with political colour appealed to Supreme Court not to pass judgment before 2019 Lok Sabha polls, as BJP will benefit from it.

Settling issues is not important for the Congress. For them political gain or loss is important," he said. Strongly defending abrogation of Article 370, Shri Nadda said, "It fulfilled the dream of one nation, one pradhan (Prime Minister), one nishan (symbol). It was done in letter and spirit."

He said after abrogation of Article 370 people of Jammu and Kashmir were in the mainstream of society, he said they were very much in the mainstream and much happier.

Stating that he knows Jammu and Kashmir well as he was party in-charge there in the past, Shri Nadda said the situation on the ground was different from what the

media presents. "I'm saying this with full authority in command. It is few family driven political parties who are not happy," he said.

Listing developmental facilities and programmes that were available to the people of the rest of India but not to people of Jammu and Kashmir due to article 370, he said its abrogation has brought in a change by providing this.

Highlighting religious persecution of minorities in neighbouring countries, the BJP President strongly defended the Centre's decision to bring in the Citizenship Amendment Act.

CAA is bringing refugees, who had come to India because of religious persecution, to the mainstream, he said, as he accused Congress of practicing politics of hypocrisy. The congress is not thinking about the nation but vote bank politics, he claimed, adding, "that is why they are opposing CAA, not allowing Parliament to function."

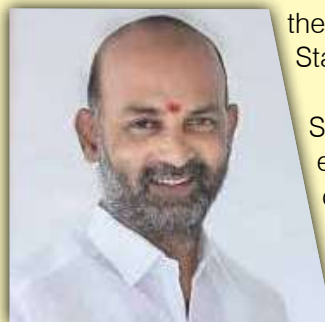
The BJP National President said apart from Congress and other anti national parties People from all spheres of the society are praising the steps of inclusive development taken by Modi Government which reflects 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas', the motto of the central government from its inception. ■

L MURUGAN AND BANDHI SANJAY APPOINTED BJP STATE PRESIDENTS IN TAMIL NADU & TELANGANA

Vice-chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) **Shri L Murugan** has been appointed by BJP National President Shri JP Nadda as BJP State President in Tamil Nadu on 11 March, 2020.



Likewise, the Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri JP Nadda also appointed **Shri Bandhi Sanjay Kumar**, MP from Karimnagar as



the President of Telangana State on 11 March, 2020.

In 2019, Shri Bundi Sanjay won the Lok Sabha election from Karimnagar constituency as MP. He has been active in RSS and ABVP and also won the Karimnagar Municipal Election in 2005.

The BJP Press release has made it clear that the appointments will take effect immediately. ■



SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN SWORN IN AS MADHYA PRADESH CM FOR FOURTH TIME

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan was sworn in as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh by Governor Shri Lalji Tandon at a ceremony at the Raj Bhawan in Bhopal on 23 March, 2020. This is the fourth time Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has been administered the oath of office as CM.

The ceremony was held amid a Coronavirus-induced lockdown in the state resulting in no invitations for party leaders or the press.

Earlier, Shri Chouhan was elected the leader of the BJP legislature party at a meeting of MLAs held at the state BJP headquarters on 23 March evening. Shri Chouhan's name was proposed by outgoing leader of opposition Shri Gopal Bhargava and supported by former minister Shri Narottam Mishra, Smt. Meena Singh, and Shri Gopilal Jatav. The entire proceedings were relayed via video conferencing to the BJP headquarters in New Delhi from where Vice-President and State-In-Charge Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe and General Secretary Shri Arun Singh who had been appointed as observer for the process, joined in.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the 32nd Chief Minister of the state. He represents Budhni constituency in Sehore district.

Outgoing CM Shri Kamal Nath was present at the ceremony too. Shri Kamal Nath resigned on March 20 after 22 Congress MLAs resigned and joined the

BJP, pushing his government into a minority.

Soon after being administered the oath, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that normally he would have sought the blessings of his seniors by going to them but these are exceptional circumstances under which he has taken oath as the state has been hit by the Coronavirus too, and as a result would seek their blessings by folding his hands from the dais.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took to the Twitter to congratulate BJP leader Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh after the collapse of the Congress government in the state.

"Congratulations to Shri @ChouhanShivraj Ji on taking oath as CM of Madhya Pradesh. He is an able and experienced administrator who is extremely passionate about MP's development. Best wishes to him for taking the state to new heights of progress," the Prime Minister said.

Congratulating MP CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP National President Shri J P Nadda said BJP has once again received the opportunity to serve the people of Madhya Pradesh. Our resolve is development of all people of the country under the leadership of PM Shri Modi. We'll make up for all the shortfalls which took place, towards serving people, during the last 15 months in MP. ■

AYUSHMAN BHARAT YOJNA

Govt issues 12.58 cr e-cards; authorizes 90,49,900 hospitalizations

THE government has issued over 12.58 cr E-Cards under its flagship health scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (AB-PMJAY), a government release said quoting Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey. Shri Chaubey has revealed the numbers in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on 18 March, 2020.

The numbers correspond to a period till 12 March, 2020, the release said. Moreover, the government also authorized 90,49,900 hospital admissions under the scheme during this period, the release said.

The AB-PMJAY is an entitlement-based scheme and no registration or enrolment of beneficiaries is required for availing the benefits under the scheme. In order to create awareness and facilitate easy availing of benefits, e-cards have been issued to the beneficiaries after verifying their identity under the scheme, the release said.

Out of these, 4.88 Cr cards have been made by

states using their own IT systems which include beneficiaries supported under AB PM-JAY in alliance with state schemes.



The state of Tamil Nadu has been issued the highest number of E-Cards (2,47,27,269) followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,41,37,791) and Assam (1,22,79,183), the release said. The number of hospitalizations under the AB-PMJAY scheme done in the three states stands at 1094075, 313484 and 120214 respectively, the release further says.

Under the AB-PMJAY in alliance with the state scheme, 1,18,49,008 beneficiaries in Karnataka have been verified with 635772 hospital admissions authorized as on 12 March 2020, the release said. ■

MATERNITY BENEFIT DISBURSED TO 1.36 CRORE BENEFICIARIES UNDER PMMVY

PRADHAN Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit scheme. As on 9th March 2020, 1.36 crore of eligible beneficiaries have received maternity benefit of one or more than one installment amounting to Rs.5657.10 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) directly in their bank accounts.

As on 9.3.2020, 85,56,731 beneficiaries have received full financial assistance of Rs.5,000 under the scheme.

The number of children born during last three years is as follows:

Financial Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (Till January 2020)
Number of children born	2,07,84,374	2,08,89,154	1,75,45,264

The number of births for which third installment



under PMMVY has been claimed by the eligible beneficiaries is as under:

Financial Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (As on 6.03.2020)
Number of births for which third Installment under PMMVY was claimed	31,37,523	43,33,362	16,95,687

LEFT WING EXTREMISM RELATED INCIDENTS REDUCE BY OVER 38%

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, in a written replies to questions regarding measures taken by government to tackle Naxal Violence, in Rajya Sabha on March 18 said that steadfast implementation of the National

YEAR	INCIDENTS
2015	1089
2016	1048
2017	908
2018	833
2019	670
2020 (upto 29.02.2020)	123

Policy and Action Plan - 2015 has resulted in consistent decline in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) related violence in the country during last five years.

In 2019, the number of LWE related incidents have reduced by over 38% in comparison to 2014.

The Minister informed the House that large, mini and micro Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have been deployed in support of anti Left Wing Extremist operations. Further, the number of Security Force (SF) personnel killed in the violence has reduced from 317 in 2009 to 52 in 2019. Number of Security Force (SF) personnel and Left Wing Extremists killed in LWE related incidents during last five years are as under:-

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (upto Feb)
SF Killed	56	65	75	67	52	05
LWEs Killed	89	222	136	225	145	05

SMART PHONES FOR ANGANWADI WORKERS

Anganwadi Workers are provided with Smart Phone through States for ICDS-Common Application Software developed under POSHAN



Abhiyaan to enable efficient service delivery and efficient monitoring.

The target under POSHAN Abhiyaan is to provide Smart Phone based mobile Application to all Anganwadi Centres across 36 States/UTs. As on 29.02.2020, more than 6.25 lakh Anganwadi Workers across 28 States/UTs are using the application for service delivery. Due to delay in procurement of smart phones by the States, some States have not yet provided the smart phones to the Anganwadi Workers.

This information was given by the Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on March 12. ■

4% DEARNESS ALLOWANCE ANNOUNCED

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2020. There will be an increase of 4 percent over the existing rate of 17 percent of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs.12,510.04 crore per annum and Rs.14,595.04 crore in Financial Year 2020-21 (for a period of 14 months from January, 2020 to February, 2021). It will benefit about 48.34 lakh Central Government employees and 65.26 lakh pensioners.

The increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. ■

CUMULATIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY OF 132.15 GW INSTALLED IN THE COUNTRY

As part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions as per the Paris Accord on Climate Change, India has undertaken to install at least forty percent of its total electricity generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. As on 29th February 2020, a cumulative renewable energy capacity of 132.15 GW had been installed in the country, with an additional capacity of 46.69 GW under various stages of implementation and 34.07 GW under various stages of bidding. As on same date, the country had cumulative installed capacity of 138.93 GW from non-fossil fuels sources. The cumulative renewable energy capacity and cumulative capacity from non-fossil fuel sources constituted 35.80% and 37.63% of total electricity generation capacity of 369.12 GW installed in the country as on 29th February, 2020, respectively. (c): The source-wise and state-wise details of renewable energy projects implemented.



This information was given by Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (I/C) for New & Renewable Energy, Power and MoS for Skill Development And Entrepreneurship in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on March 17, 2020. ■

UNDER STAND-UP INDIA 20,000 CR LOANS SANCTIONED

Rs 20,466.94 crores of loans have been sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme to over 91,000 accounts upto 10.03.2020 since inception of the Scheme. This was stated by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on March 17.

Giving the details of the Scheme, the Minister said that Stand Up India Scheme was launched by the Government on 5th April, 2016. The Scheme facilitates bank loans between Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore to at least one Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe borrower and at least one woman borrower, per bank branch of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), for setting up greenfield enterprises in the manufacturing, services or the trading sectors.

State-wise details of loans extended under the Scheme, as on 10th March, 2020, is placed at the Annexure.

TOURISTS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED AFTER OPENING OF STATUE OF UNITY



As per the information received from Gujarat State Government, there has been increase in tourists substantially in

the area after the Statue of Unity has been opened for visitors.

As per the information received from Gujarat State Government, total income generated at Statue of Unity from selling tickets including parking fees from November, 2018 to February, 2020 is Rs. 1,16.31 crore.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India under various schemes provided fund for development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities in states.

Why Jansangh?

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in his presidential address at the first Convention of All India Bharatiya Jana Sangh held in Delhi on 21st October, 1951 elaborated on main reasons behind the formation of Bharatiya Janasangh. We are publishing the full text of his speech for our esteemed readers :



DR. SYAMA PRASAD
MOOKERJEE

I rise to welcome you all to this historic Convention which meets at a momentous period in the history of India. I am well aware of the fact that the task ahead of us is a difficult one. We have many obstacles to struggle against and have to face powerful opposition. What, however, must hold us together is an unflinching faith in the great cause that our Party claims to serve and a clear appreciation of the objectives we have set before us. I am confident that if we all proceed unitedly with undaunted courage and vigour, not deviating from the right path, keeping to service of the people and the advancement of the honour and dignity of our beloved motherland as the principal aim before us, we are bound ultimately to attain success. Let me make it clear at the outset that Bharatiya Jana Sangh is not coming into existence merely to fight the forthcoming general elections. The elections have no doubt an importance of their own and wherever circumstances allow, we will put up our candidates.

The elections will mainly help us in carrying to the masses our ideology and in laying a firmer foundation for developing our Party on an All India basis. Whatever may be the result of the elections, our Party must however continue to function thereafter carrying a message of hope and goodwill to all classes of people and trying to draw out from them their best efforts in re-building a happier and more prosperous Free India. Four years have passed since the attainment of political independence and it is admitted on all hands that the country today is in a much worse condition, the distress and sufferings of the people are much deeper, than in the pre-independence days. If we take a detached view of the present situation, we will realize that while certain world events may be partially responsible for economic depression in India, the main reason for the present state of affairs is the failure of Government in dealing with the essential problems facing the country in a manner which would have advanced the welfare of the masses. Today the country is in the grip of deep-rooted discontent and frustration and the faith of the people in the capacity of Government to run the administration smoothly,

impartially and efficiently has been rudely shaken. Blackmarketing, profiteering and corruption have demoralized our society.

Instead of attempting genuinely to appreciate the basic causes of this nationwide discontent and to remove them with the cooperation of the people. Government have been singularly intolerant of criticisms and have often tried to suppress the legitimate expression of free public opinion.

NEED OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

It is indeed strange that the Congress which started with an enormous fund of goodwill four years ago has today lost the willing support of large sections of the public and has to keep itself in power by dubious means. One of the chief reasons for the manifestation of dictatorship in Congress rule is the absence of well-organised opposition parties which alone can act as a healthy check on the majority party and can hold out before the country the prospect of an alternative Government.

The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, therefore, emerges today as an All India Political Party which will function as the principal party in opposition. It does not mean that it will hesitate to take upon itself the reins of administration should it

succeed in winning the confidence of the majority of the electorate, but where this is not possible, it will remain in opposition. whether inside or outside the legislature. Opposition does not mean senseless or destructive approach to all problems that confront a responsible Govt. While, therefore, we may have to attack or criticize official measures or acts, our aim will be to approach all problems in a constructive spirit so that we may keep the public vigilant and make our humble contribution in developing a real democratic structure for the sound administration of our country. The programme of the Party will be settled in detail after consultation with the representatives who have assembled at this Convention. Our Party, however, has been functioning in the provincial sphere in different parts of India for the last few months and the main trends of its programme are already known.

BHARATIYA NATIONHOOD

We have thrown open our Party to all citizens of Bharat irrespective of caste, creed or community. While we recognise that in matters of custom, habits, religion and language, Bharat presents a unique diversity, the people must be united by a bond of fellowship and understanding inspired by deep devotion and loyalty to the spirit of a common motherland. Bharat today is divided by many conflicting slogans based on caste, or class or provincial ideology. Our party will strive to

work for that unity in diversity which has been the key-note of Bharat's culture and civilization. This task of making the foundation of Bharatiya nationhood deeper and stronger is not an easy one. While it will be dangerous to encourage the growth of political minorities based on caste and religion, it is obviously the duty of the vast majority of Bharat's population to assure all classes of people who are truly loyal to their motherland that they will be entitled to full protection under the law and to complete equality of treatment in all matters— social, economic and political. Our party gives this assurance unreservedly. We do recognize that there are large sections of Bharatiya people who are today backward and down-trodden. Full opportunity must be given to them so that their social and economic status may become higher and they may function as worthy participants with their more fortunate brethren in building up a new Bharat. The Congress in its anxiety to maintain the secular character of Bharat has continued a suicidal policy of appeasement of Muslims and some of its leaders, specially the Prime Minister takes special delight in outraging Parity to all citizens of Bharat irrespective of caste, creed or community. While we recognise that in matters of custom, habits, religion and language, Bharat presents a unique diversity, the people must be united by a bond of fellowship and understanding inspired by deep devotion and loyalty to the

spirit of a common motherland.

One may remain a good Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian or even a Muslim and yet be a staunch Indian devoted to the highest national cause. Our Party firmly believes that the future of Bharat lies in the proper appreciation and application of Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada. Naturally, the growth of Bharatiya Culture and Civilization has been due to many factors arising out of clashes and conflicts, harmony and synthesis between different ideologies, both native and foreign. In this great drama extending over thousands of years, empires and dynasties rode and fell and many a personality worthily played their part. Let all true sons and daughters of India—Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Muslim and Buddhist—pride themselves in the thought that the heritage that has come to us from ancient days is something noble and enduring, that it must not be allowed to stagnate and degenerate and that free India's future must be closely linked up with Bharatiya ideals, which must if necessary undergo changes from time to time so as to make them respond to the needs of modern and scientific age. This must be suitably reflected in our system of national education. While we, therefore, aim at establishing a Dharma Rajya, or a Rule of Law, we only abide by the highest tradition of Bharatiya Sanskriti that bind all people together in ties of real amity and fraternity. ■

To continue...

SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI

(12 APRIL, 1921 – 22 JUNE, 2005)

Sunder Singh Bhandari was a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh pracharak and politician belonging to the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Bharatiya Janata Party.

He was born to Dr. Sujan Singhji Bhandari and Fulkanvarbaiji in Udaipur in 1921. He had his school education at Sirohi and Udaipur and college education at Kanpur. He passed his Graduation degree in Law from S.D. College, Kanpur in the year 1941 and Post Graduation in Arts with Psychology from Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College, Kanpur in the year 1942.

He practised law at then Mewar High Court for some time before joining Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He held numerous responsibilities in



RSS. He was a founding member of Jan Sangh, a political party founded in 1951.

He served in various organisational posts in Jan Sangha and later in the BJP. He was the Vice President of BJP before he became the Governor. He was elected to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan during 1966-1972 and from Uttar Pradesh in 1976 and also in 1992.

He was arrested at Delhi Railway station in 1976 when Indira Gandhi declared an internal emergency in India.

He was appointed Governor of Bihar on 27 April 1998 and served till 15 March 1999. He served as the governor of Gujarat from 18 March 1999 to 6 May 2003. He died on 22 June 2005. ■

JYOTIBA GOVINDRAO PHULE-A GREAT SOCIAL REFORMER

(11 APRIL, 1827 – 28 NOVEMBER, 1890)

Jyotirao 'Jyotiba' Govindrao Phule was a great social reformer and thinker of the nineteenth century India. He led the movement against the prevailing caste-rigidity in India. Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was also a pioneer for women education in India and fought for education of girls throughout his life. He is believed to be the first Hindu to start an orphanage for the unfortunate children.

Jyotirao Govindrao Phule was born in Satara district of Maharashtra on 11 April, 1827. His father, Govindrao was a vegetable-vendor at Poona. Jyotirao's family belonged to 'mali' caste.

Jyotirao was an intelligent boy but due to the poor financial condition at home, he had to stop his studies at an early age. He started helping his father by working on



the family's farm. Recognising the talent of the child prodigy, a neighbour persuaded his father to send him to school. In 1841, Jyotirao got admission in the Scottish Mission's High School, Poona, and completed his education in 1847. There, he met Sadashiv Ballal Govande, who remained his close friend throughout his life. At the age of just thirteen years, Jyotirao was married to Savitribai.

Jyotiba's quest for providing women and girls with right to education was supported by his wife Savitribai Phule. One of the few literate women of the time, Savitribai was taught to read and write by her husband Jyotirao.

Jyotiba suffered a stroke in 1888 and was rendered paralyzed. On 28 November, 1890, the great social reformer, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, passed away. ■

AGREEMENT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN INDIA AND BRUNEI FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the exchange of information and assistance in collection with respect of taxes (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement), was signed in New Delhi, India on 28th of February, 2019. The Agreement has been notified in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 9th of March 2020.

The Agreement enables exchange of information, including banking and ownership information, between the two countries for tax purposes. It is based on international standards of tax transparency and exchange of information and enables sharing of information on request as well as automatic exchange of information. The Agreement also provides for representatives of one country to undertake tax examinations in the other country. Moreover, it provides for assistance in collection of tax claims.



The Agreement will enhance mutual co-operation between India and Brunei Darussalam by providing an effective framework for exchange of information in tax matters which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance. ■

TRAIN ACCIDENTS REDUCES SIGNIFICANTLY

Several steps have been taken by Indian Railways to prevent railway accidents. Indian Railways has registered a decline in train accidents from last year. In a written reply to a query in Lok Sabha, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal has stated that safety is accorded the highest priority by the national transporter and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuous basis to prevent rail accidents and to enhance the safety of railway passengers. According to the Railway Minister, 59 train accidents took place during the year 2018-19. While this year (from 1 April, 2019 to 31 October, 2019), 41 train accidents were recorded by Indian Railways.

According to Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, Track renewal works are planned every year and their execution is prioritized according to the condition of track. Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track

Year	Number of consequential Train Accidents	Casualties			
		Deceased		Injured	
		Railway Passengers	Others than Railway Passengers	Railway Passengers	Others than Railway Passengers
2016-17	104	195	43	348	23
2017-18	73	28	30	182	17
2018-19	59	16	21	90	22
2019-20# (upto 13 th March, 2020)	55	00	05	73	08

renewal works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis viz. traffic carried in terms of gross million tones, incidence of rail fracture/failure, wear of rails, corrosion of rails, maintainability of track as per standards etc. ■



NARI SHAKTI AWARD WINNERS MADE GREAT CONTRIBUTION IN BUILDING SOCIETY AND INSPIRING NATION: PM

P rime Minister interacted with Nari Shakti Puraskar winners in the capital on March 8. 15 Women achievers from various parts of the country including Leh, Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh shared their trials, struggles and how they achieved their goals with the Prime Minister.

The achievers includes 103 Year old **Ms Mann Kaur**, who started athletics at the age of 93 and went on to win 4 Gold Medals in Field and Track events at World Masters Athletic Championship, Poland.

Arifa Jan from Jammu & Kashmir who is the founder of Numdha Handicrafts is responsible for reviving the lost art of Numdha handicrafts. She shared her experience in training more than 100 women in Kashmir and reviving the dying handicraft.

Indian Air Force's first women fighter pilots Mohana Singh, Bhawana Kanth & Avani Chaturvedi also shared their experiences. The trio was inducted into IAF fighter squadron after Government of India decided to open fighter stream in IAF for women on experimental basis. They became the first Indian women pilots to take a solo flight in a MIG- 21 in 2018.

Padala Bhudevi a tribal woman farmer and rural entrepreneur from Andhra Pradesh, Bina Devi from Munger Bihar who is fondly known as 'Mushroom Mahila' for popularizing mushroom cultivation also

shared their experiences in farming and marketing with the Prime Minister.

Kalavati Devi a lady mason from Kanpur district in Uttar Pradesh is a driving force towards reducing open defecation in the district. She is responsible for building 4000 + toilets in villages in and around Kanpur. She shared her experience with the Prime Minister on how she has gone door to door to create awareness about the ills of open defecation and how she travelled for multiple hours to villages across Kanpur in her effort towards reducing Open defecation.

Chami Murmu from Jharkhand, a passionate environmentalist who formed more than 2800 groups with over 30,000 women has shared her experience in planting over 25 lakh trees in barren land.

98 year old **Kathyayani Amma** from Kerala shared her experience how she passed the IV standard equivalent exam under Kerala Literacy Mission's Akasharalaxsham Scheme in August 2018. She bagged the first rank and scored 98% marks.

Addressing the gathering the Prime Minister said that the Nari Shakti Award winners have made great contribution in building the society and inspiring the nation.

He said the country could not have achieved



the open defecation free status without significant contribution from women. Similarly he said malnutrition issue can also be resolved with greater women participation.

Prime minister also touched upon the issue of water conservation and highlighted that the Jal Jeevan Mission needs a greater participation of women.

He congratulated the achievers and said that they are a source of inspiration to the whole country.

7 WOMEN ACHIEVERS SHARE THEIR STORIES THROUGH PM'S SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

In a unique social media initiative, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi handed over his accounts on various platforms to seven woman achievers from different fields to share their life journeys and messages on the International Women's Day.

From a farmer to activists working in the fields of sanitation, disability rights, water conservation and fighting hunger to somebody dedicated to reviving Kashmir handicraft industry, women used Modi's accounts — which enjoy a huge following, to share their stories and spread their messages.

Known for his imaginative communication initiatives, the Prime Minister handed over his accounts on platforms like Twitter and Facebook to these women, saying they have done great work in a wide range of sectors and their struggles and aspirations motivate millions.

"As I'd said a few days ago, I'm signing off. Through the day, seven women achievers will share their life journeys and perhaps interact with you through my social media accounts. Let us keep celebrating the achievements of such women and learning from

MODI GOVERNMENT EMPOWERED THE WOMEN: JP NADDA

The Prime Minister's outreach to women with the innovative exercise drew praise from the BJP with its National President Shri JP Nadda saying that the Modi government has not only empowered women but has also brought to fore their glorious works.



The prime minister is one of the most-followed world leaders on social media with 53.3 million followers on Twitter, 44 million on Facebook and 35.2 million on Instagram. The Twitter handle of Prime Minister's Office has 32 million followers. By sharing their stories the glorious works of our women came to the fore. Shri Nadda said the world will take inspiration from these seven women.

them," he said in his tweets.

The seven women were drawn from different parts of the country and came from varied backgrounds.

The women chosen to use PM Shri Narendra Modi's accounts included Sneha Mohandoss, who works to eradicate hunger, Malvika Iyer, who survived a gruesome bomb blast that blew off her hands and damaged her legs when she was 13 and is now a motivational speaker, disability activist and model, and Arifa Jaan from Kashmir who promotes traditional crafts of Kashmir.

Others were Kalpana Ramesh, a water conservator, Vijaya Pawar, who promotes handicrafts from the Banjara community of rural Maharashtra, Kalavati Devi of Kanpur, who collects money to build toilets, and Veena Devi, who is from Munger in Bihar and made her name by growing mushrooms under her bed due to lack of space.

While sharing their stories and messages from Shri Modi's personal handle, these women also responded to some of the message they received. ■

MORE POWER TO HER: 'STREE SHAKTI' IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR 'RASHTRA SHAKTI'

"Stree Shakti" is an integral part of our "Rashtra Shakti" and without strengthening our "Shakti" we cannot aspire to be "Shaktishali Bharat"



RAJNATH SINGH

International Women's Day is celebrated across the globe on March 8 every year to recognise the achievements of women, across divides, national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made, to call for change and celebrate acts of courage and determination by those women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and with regard to communities. The theme of International Women's Day 2020 is, "I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights".

We are a nation in which women's empowerment has been imbibed in our culture for centuries. In the modern day context, it demands strengthening women's positions in the social, economic, political and security architectures. The targeted outcome of such empowerment is the creation of an atmosphere where women feel safe and secure to pursue a profession or vocation of their choice. Women should play decisive roles in the family and society equally, so that any question of discrimination or

deprivation does not arise.

When it comes to women, security is typically conceived of in terms of physical safety and security — and not beyond. However, our government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has added many new dimensions. For our government, women's empowerment is a comprehensive programme that deals with five components of security: Health security of mother and child, social security, financial security, security of the future through educational and financial programmes in growing-up years, and last but not least, the physical safety of women.

Security and defence have been considered as male bastions but our government is committed to changing this perception.

During my tenure as Union home minister, I made special efforts to increase the number of women in our police and paramilitary forces. The MHA had issued an advisory to all state governments to reserve 33 per cent posts in their respective police forces. The ministry of defence has taken initiatives to increase women's participation in various departments and field operations.

Many people may wonder what role the "weaker" section can play in the armed forces. A resounding response was given by thousands

of women officers by their unique contribution in various services and arms of our forces. Empowerment of women in the armed forces has been a major focus area of our government over the past five years and many interventions are first-time initiatives. In 2019, 3.89 per cent of the Army personnel comprised women, while 6.7 per cent of the Navy and 13.28 per cent of the Air Force personnel respectively were women. Before 2016, women made up just 2.5 per cent of India's armed forces.

The proposal for induction of women in the corps of military police in the Indian Army as soldiers was approved last year to recruit a total of 1,700 women military personnel. Steps like increasing the tenure of women officers in SSC from 10 to 14 years and improving their promotional prospects in the Army have been taken.

International Women's Day gives us an opportunity to celebrate the shining examples of individual officers who have proved that women officers are second to none.

Squadron Leader Minty Agarwal was the eyes behind the Balakot airstrikes as fighter controller. She was conferred with the Yudh Seva Medal for her stellar performance during the operation that taught an unforgettable

lesson to the enemy. In May 2019, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to qualify to undertake combat missions on a fighter jet. She completed her operational syllabus for carrying out combat missions on Mig-21 Bison aircraft during day time. She is from the first batch of women fighter pilots of the IAF. This year, Army Officer Tania Shergill led an all-male contingent of the Corps of Signals in the 71st Republic Day Parade. She also led all-men contingents during the Army Day function for the first time, creating history.

Our government has thrown open the doors of Sainik Schools for girls. Admission of girl students started in Sainik School, Chhingchhip (Mizoram) in academic year 2018-19 as a pilot project. The admission process for another five Sainik Schools — Kalikiri (Andhra Pradesh), Kodagu and Bijapur (Karnataka), Ghorakhal (Uttarakhand), Chandrapur (Maharashtra) — has already started. All the Sainik schools will extend admission to girl students from the academic session 2021-22 onwards.

There has been a substantial increase in enrolment and representation of girl cadets in NCC to 33.72 per cent in 2019 from 25.4 per cent in 2014. The total enrolment of girl cadets in the NCC is around 4.54 lakh (2019). An additional 33,000 girl cadets are to be enrolled in the senior wing under self-financing schemes from 2020. Nearly 650 additional

posts for Girl Cadet Instructors (GCI) have been sanctioned for recruitment over the next five years against the present strength of 255 GCIs. For the first time ever, around 10,000 girl cadets will be sent for attachment with the three services from 2020 onwards.

A large number of women officers were commissioned in the AFMS over the last four years. The percentage of women medical and dental officers is around 23 per cent. And there is 100 per cent representation of women in the military nursing services (MNS). Never before in the history of independent India have women

WE NEED TO KEEP REMINDING OURSELVES ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN, ABOUT THEIR STRENGTHS. INDIA HAS COME A LONG WAY IN EMPOWERING WOMEN BUT MANY MILESTONES ARE YET TO BE CROSSED.

officers been given the opportunity to serve as defence attaches. Now two women officers, Wg Cdr Anjali Singh, (IAF) and Lt Cdr Karabi Gogoi (Indian Navy) have been posted as Asst Attache in the Defence Wing of Embassy of India in Moscow, Russia.

The DRDO has been according equal opportunities for enhancement of women's skills and fulfilment of their potential. Some of the leading missile scientists today are women. The year 2018 saw the first-ever Indian

circumnavigation of the globe, Navika Sagar Parikrama, by an all-women crew. The INSV Tarini success was the completion of the first Indian all-women circumnavigation of the globe, depicting "nari shakti" on the world platform.

Women in our armed forces are marching ahead to conquer new frontiers and my best wishes to them. The economic and social empowerment of women is another significant step which our government has taken in the past 70 months.

The Mudra Yojana is one of schemes which has laid the foundation of economic empowerment of Indian women. Women entrepreneurs have cornered about 75 per cent of the total disbursements under the Yojana.

The government is moving in the right direction, but I do believe what's really required is far more awareness and creation of new opportunities. Programmes like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" have not only helped improve the sex ratio but also created awareness among the people. We need to keep reminding ourselves about the contributions of women, about their strengths. India has come a long way in empowering women but many milestones are yet to be crossed.

"Stree Shakti" is an integral part of our "Rashtra Shakti" and without strengthening our "Shakti" we cannot aspire to be "Shaktishali Bharat". ■

(The writer is the Union Defence Minister, Government of India)

EDUCATE AND EMPOWER: BECAUSE WHEN YOU EDUCATE A GIRL, YOU EDUCATE A NATION

"Daughters are not a burden but the pride of the whole family. We realise the power of our daughters when we see a woman fighter pilot. The country feels proud whenever our daughters bag gold medals, or for that matter any medal, in the Olympics."



RAMESH POKHRIYAL
NISHANK

Since times immemorial, women in India have been regarded with the utmost respect and accorded prestige. For a nation to progress, it is essential to empower women. I am glad that India has been blessed with women pioneers who have broken the shackles of gender stereotypes in every field.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on the launch of the expanded Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (March 8, 2018): "Daughters are not a burden but the pride of the whole family. We realise the power of our daughters when we see a woman fighter pilot. The country feels proud whenever our daughters bag gold medals, or for that matter any medal, in the Olympics."

As a father of three daughters, I understand the struggle our daughters face in fighting gender stereotypes and biases.

But with their determination they are able to sail on the ship of success. I feel proud to cheer my daughters' triumphs towards equality. Arushi, my eldest daughter, has defied all odds and is now an Indian classical dancer, entrepreneur and film producer. I couldn't have been

"GROSS ENROLMENT RATIO OF GIRLS ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION IS NOW HIGHER THAN BOYS. AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL IT IS 94.32 PER CENT AS AGAINST 89.28 PER CENT FOR BOYS, AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL IT IS 81.32 PER CENT AS COMPARED TO 78 PER CENT AND AT THE HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL GIRLS HAVE ACHIEVED A LEVEL OF 59.7 PER CENT COMPARED TO ONLY 57.54 PER CENT."

more proud when Shreyasi continued the military tradition of Uttarakhand and joined the Army Medical Corps. Vidushi, the youngest of the three, wants to bring a change in society and is a gold medalist in law.

Allied to the march towards equality with our sisters and daughters of the country, let us understand the theme of Women's Day: "I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights." The year 2020 has been earmarked as a crucial year by UN Women to assess progress made globally to achieve gender equality and human rights for all women and girls since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action.

On this occasion, it is important for me to reflect on how successful the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) under the leadership of PM Modi has been in providing equal opportunities. It is heartening that due to the Swachh Bharat Mission, 14,67,679 schools now have a functioning girls toilet, an increase of 4.17 percentage points in comparison to 2013-14. The impact of the mission has resulted in an increase in enrolment of girls by 25 percentage points in 2018-19 from 2013-14.

In her budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman applauded the results of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: "Gross enrolment ratio of girls across all levels of education is now higher than boys. At the elementary level it is 94.32 per cent as against 89.28 per cent for boys, at the secondary level it is 81.32 per cent as compared to 78 per cent and at the higher secondary level girls have achieved a level of 59.7 per cent compared to only 57.54 per cent."

To increase equality of access and opportunity for girls, the MHRD has sanctioned 5,930 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls and have an enrolment of 6.18 lakh girls. An incentive amount of Rs 8.56 crore to the 28,547 beneficiaries has been sanctioned under the National Scheme of Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education. The scheme provides Rs 3,000 which is deposited in the name of eligible unmarried girls below 16 years of age and entitles them to withdraw it along with interest on reaching 18 years of age and after passing Class X.

Apart from an increase in the gross enrollment rate of the girl child in schools, the educational outcomes and achievements have also improved. I must also



express my happiness and pride that girls have performed better than boys in the CBSE Class XII examinations in 2018 -19.

To increase the participation of women in STEM education, supernumerary seats have been created in the IITs and NITs. As

**IT IS SAID WHEN YOU EDUCATE
A GIRL CHILD, YOU EDUCATE AN
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NEW INDIA.**

a result, the number of girls in NITs has grown from 14.11 per cent in 2017-18 to 17.53 per cent in 2019-20 and in IITs from 8 per cent of the total student body in 2016 to 18 per cent in 2019-20

for B.Tech programmes.

In conjunction with the celebration of progress obtained by India in improving gender equality in the education system, there is a need for a much larger collective effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating "gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations".

It is said when you educate a girl child, you educate an entire family. Let us all work together for the educational empowerment of all our girls and work towards making a New India.

(The writer is Union minister of Human Resource Development.)

MODI GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SPARE ANY INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IN RIOTS: AMIT SHAH

Speaking on the recent law and order situation in some parts of Delhi while replying to a discussion under Rule 193 in Lok Sabha on March 11, Shri Shah expressed grief over the violence and paid homage to those who lost their lives in the riots. He further expressed his support to the victims and their families and assured them that the perpetrators would be caught and punished irrespective of their religion or political affiliation. He took the occasion to assure the nation and the people of Delhi that the Narendra Modi government will not spare any individual involved in the riots, and that no innocent will be harassed.

Noting the quick and efficient response of Delhi Police, Shri Shah said that it was to the credit of the force that not a single incident of rioting took place after 11:00 PM on the 25th of February and the riots were contained within 36 hours, with the first incident being reported at 2:00 PM on 24th February. He remarked that Delhi Police had done a commendable job to limit the riots to 4% area and 13% population of Delhi, and while not undermining the violence that took place,



ASSURED THEM THAT THE PERPETRATORS WOULD BE CAUGHT AND PUNISHED IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR RELIGION OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO ASSURE THE NATION AND THE PEOPLE OF DELHI THAT THE NARENDRA MODI GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SPARE ANY INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IN THE RIOTS, AND THAT NO INNOCENT WILL BE HARASSED.

wrapping up the riots in 36 hours shows the efficacy of the action taken by Delhi Police.

Commenting on the quick spread of the riots, Shri Shah remarked that the riots spread fast because of the high population density of the affected areas, which has a mixed population. He said, the narrow lanes prevented effective timely intervention by police vehicles and rescue by ambulances. He said that on the 23rd and 24th of February, 30 to 40 companies of Delhi Police and CAPFs were deployed in affected areas and further added that more than 80 paramilitary companies are deployed even today in the affected areas, with specialized strike forces created to quickly control the riots if such a situation arises again.

Shri Shah gave an account of the action taken by Delhi Police after the riots and said that more than 700 FIRs have been registered so far and a total of 2647 people have been detained or arrested. He said that more than 25 computers are analyzing CCTV footage to identify perpetrators and that Delhi Police has appealed to the public for any footage they may have,

and many common people have come forward with the footage they shot on their phones. He noted that on the basis of the scientific analysis, more than 1100 people have been identified, and 40 teams have been formed to arrest those rioters who have been identified. He added that several people crossed over from Uttar Pradesh specifically to incite riots, which shows that this was a well-planned conspiracy. He said that one of the first actions on part of the police was the sealing of the UP-Delhi border at 10 PM on 24th of February.

Shri Shah said that two SITs have been formed under senior police officers to investigate the riots and a case of conspiracy has been registered. He said that the investigation has recovered 152 arms used in the riots and about 49 cases under arms act were registered.

He noted that agencies are investigating Hawala transactions that took place after January and three people who financed the riots have been arrested by Delhi Police, and two people affiliated with ISIS have also been nabbed for stoking communal violence. In order to ensure the prevalence of peace, more than 650 Peace Committee meetings have taken place till date, with representation from all communities being ensured.

Shri Shah said that the Ministry had communicated to the Delhi High Court regarding the establishment of a Claims Commission for relief and rehabilitation of victims and informed the House that recoveries would be made from those responsible for the destruction of properties. He also noted that more than 60 social media accounts had been created specifically to incite communal violence between 22 and 26th

February, and that 25 cases had been registered under the IT Act for the same.

Shri Shah urged the House not to refer to the victims on the basis of their religion and emphasized that every victim was an Indians. He added that 52 people had been killed and 526 injured in the riots, while 371 shops and 142 houses had been destroyed.

Refuting the allegation that the police was siding with rioters, Shri Shah said that on some occasions, the police had to resort to throwing stones in order to deter the rioters while maintaining restraint. He said that more than 5000 tear gas shells and 400 bullets had been fired by the police to control the riots.

SHRI SHAH SAID THAT TWO SITS HAVE BEEN FORMED UNDER SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS TO INVESTIGATE THE RIOTS AND A CASE OF CONSPIRACY HAS BEEN REGISTERED. HE SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAS RECOVERED 152 ARMS USED IN THE RIOTS AND ABOUT 49 CASES UNDER ARMS ACT WERE REGISTERED.

Referring to the background of the riots, Shri Shah said that after a rally at Ramlila Ground on 14th December by the Opposition, Dharna at Shaheen Bagh started on 16th December. He said, a WhatsApp group United Against Hate was created on 17th February and inflammatory speech was given by some leaders on 19th February, all these led to protests by 8-9 groups in the area and culminated into riots.

Shri Shah also added that that vested interests have incited and misled minorities and indulged in fear mongering that the CAA would take away their citizenship, which is not true. He emphasized that not a single clause in CAA takes away anyone's citizenship.

Again lauding the role of Delhi Police, Shri Shah said that the force acted with great restraint and yet with great efficiency to control the riot in 36 hours, and ensured its primary objective of not letting the riots spread in the several mixed localities of Delhi. ■

AS OF NOW, 500 PROJECTS IDENTIFIED UNDER SAGARMALA

THE Sagarmala programme is the flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes. The main vision of the Sagarmala Programme is to reduce logistics cost for EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.

Sagarmala Programme was approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2015 and a National Perspective Plan was prepared by the Ministry of Shipping which was released on 14th April 2016. As of now, 500 projects have been identified at an estimated infrastructure investment of Rs. 3.55 Lac Crore across all the pillars. Out of these, 143 projects (worth Rs. 0.88 Lac Crore) have been completed, and 190 projects (worth Rs. 2.12 Lac Crore) are already under implementation. Remaining set of 167 projects are under various stages of development



and expected completion are well within 2035.

Implementation of these projects are being done by the Central Line Ministries, State Governments / Maritime Boards and SPVs preferably through the private sector and through the Public Private Participation (PPP) wherever feasible. The information was given by Ministry of Shipping in Parliament. ■

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA JOINS BJP

Congress leader and former Congress MP Shri Yotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP on March 11, 2020 in New Delhi. He joined the party at a formal ceremony in Delhi and inducted by BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.



Soon after his induction, Shri Scindia told reporters the Congress was no longer the party it once was and attacked its Madhya Pradesh unit on issues such as farm loans and corruption.

PARLIAMENT PASSES MINERAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

Parliament passed the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 for amendments in Mines & Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015. Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 12 March while Lok Sabha already passed this bill on 6th March, 2020.

The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, will open a new era in Indian coal & mining sector specially to promote Ease of Doing Business. Union Coal & Mines Minister Sh. Pralhad Joshi said that this Bill will transform the mining sector in the country boosting coal production and reducing dependence on imports. ■



OUR AIM IS THE WELFARE OF FARMERS, POOR AND DALITS: JP NADDA

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda on 08 March, 2020 lashed out at the previous Congress led UPA government, accusing it of corruption in the purchase of Defence Equipment.

Addressing a massive gathering during a 'Pragati Rally' in Sirsa Haryana, he praised the Narendra Modi-led NDA government at the centre for the defence purchases made in the recent past and said that under the previous governments, soldiers even lacked bullet-proof jackets.

"Before the Modi government came to power, no major defence equipment, including aero planes, were purchased. And when they went to purchase these, there were scams, be it helicopters, submarines, aircraft or machine guns. During the previous UPA rule, there were scams after scams," he said.

"During Modi government, 36 Rafale fighter aircraft, 28 Apache and 15 Chinook helicopters have been inducted into the defence fleet," the BJP President said in the rally.

"Our soldiers did not have bullet-proof jackets

and now 1.86 lakh of them have got it and we are exporting these jackets now, which show how much progress India has made. Five lakh AK 203 modern assault rifles have been purchased to better equip our soldiers. I am saying all this to apprise you of the steps we have taken for our soldiers," he said.

Shri Nadda also claimed it was the Modi government at the Centre which fulfilled the long-pending demand of 'One Rank, One Pension' over which the Congress "only indulged in politics".

Shri JP Nadda said earlier governments promoted only family members and individuals associated with their party but now Modi Government's focus was only on development of people and well being of the people.

"For a long time, various governments ruled but never before anyone did a 'Pragati' rally.

Rallies were held to promote a particular individual or a leader. But here we talk of 'Pragati' (progress) of people. In other governments, 'Pragati' meant the progress of a leader," he said, adding that our aim was the welfare of farmers, poor and Dalits. ■

INDIA WINS AMBEDKAR HOUSE CASE IN LONDON

PRIMROSE HILL HOUSE MUSEUM WILL OPEN FOR PUBLIC SOON

The BR Ambedkar museum in London's plush Primrose Hill area will be thrown open to the public soon. This comes after an enforcement notice was quashed by the authorities resulting in a win for India. Set in the Primrose Hill area of London, which is home to many celebrities, Ambedkar House was the home of Dr. BR Ambedkar, architect of the Indian Constitution, between 1921 and 1922. The house was bought by the Maharashtra government for \$3.65 million in 2015 to turn it into a museum.

The museum came under dispute for its breach of planning pension in 2018 and eventually an enforcement

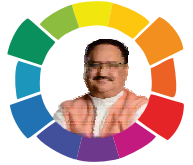


notice was issued on November 16, 2018, which was challenged by Janeevan John of Singhania on behalf of the Indian government. The matter was listed as a public inquiry and K Williams was appointed the Inspector. The inquiry was conducted on September 24 and October 11, 2019. The inspector

filed a report on December 4, 2019 in support of the appeal and conversion of the dwelling house to a museum. The secretary of the state order dated March 12, 2020 accepted the inspector's report and allowed the appeal to turn 10, King Henry's Road into a museum for BR Ambedkar. ■



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Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacting with a Nari Shakti Awardee and taking her blessings in New Delhi



Sardarni Mann Kaur, who received 'Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019' on International Women's Day, gives blessings to PM Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacts in Video Conferencing with leaders of SAARC to combat COVID-19 in the region



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacts with beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana in New Delhi



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BIG BONANZA FOR CENTRAL GOVT EMPLOYEES

Dearness Allowance hiked by 4% to 21%

- The move will benefit 48 lakh govt employees and 65 lakh pensioners
- Govt will incur Rs 14,595 crore additional expense

*Effective from Jan 1, 2020



Source - GOI | www.bjp.org



GOES GLOBAL

For the first time in history, India is exporting bullet proof jackets to 18 countries



Industrial Licenses issued to 15 companies with capacity over 10 lakh per annum to meet requirements



www.bjp.org

Source - MOD

#MODI20



EASE OF LIVING

FROM VIVAD TO VISHVAS REDUCING TAX LITIGATION

- Taking forward the budget proposal, Union Cabinet cleared Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020
- Under Vivad se Vishwas, only the disputed amount needs to be paid with all interests and penalties that accrued to be waived
- Now, the scope of scheme has been further increased to cover litigations pending in various Debt Recovery Tribunals too
- Tax disputes pending at the level of commissioner, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, high courts and the Supreme Court are already covered
- Cases involving Rs 9 lakh crore worth of direct tax collections are likely to be resolved through this scheme