

KAMAL SANDESH



PM ADDRESSES FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KUTCH

Vol. 16, No. 01

01-15 January, 2021 (Fortnightly)

₹20



BJP COMMITTED TO MAKE 'SONAR BANGLA'



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda offers prayers at Ramkrishna Mission Ashrama, Sarisha, West Bengal



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda inaugurating state BJP Election Office & 9 Distt. BJP Offices from Hasting Office, Kolkata



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda interacts with representatives from fishermen community at Radio Station Ground Diamond Harbour, Kolkata



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addresses BJP Karyakartas in West Bengal



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah pays floral tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at Rabindra Bhawan, Shantiniketan in West Bengal



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah paying floral tributes to great martyr Shri Khudiram Bose in Midnapore, West Bengal

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WE ARE GOING TO FORM A BJP GOVERNMENT IN BENGAL WITH MORE THAN 200 SEATS

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@narendramodi

Netaji Subhas Bose's bravery is well-known. A scholar, soldier & statesman par excellence, we are soon to commence his 125th Jayanti celebrations. For that, a high-level committee has been formed. Come, let us mark this special occasion in a grand manner!



@JPNadda

Under the leadership of Shri @narendramodi, the BJP is committed to the all-round development of Jammu and Kashmir and to connect its people with the mainstream of the country. The people of the state have expressed their faith in "Ek Bharat - Shreshtha Bharat" by participating in such a large number in this festival of democracy.



@AmitShah

Modi government is doing everything possible to restore the grass root democracy in Jammu & Kashmir. The recently held DDC polls for the first time in the history of J&K is the testimony of the same. The mass participation in these elections reflects people's faith in democracy.



@rajnathsingh

Congratulations to Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi on receiving the 'Legion of Merit' from the United States President for his inspiring leadership in strengthening India-US relations. This award is the recognition of his leadership and statesmanship by the global community.



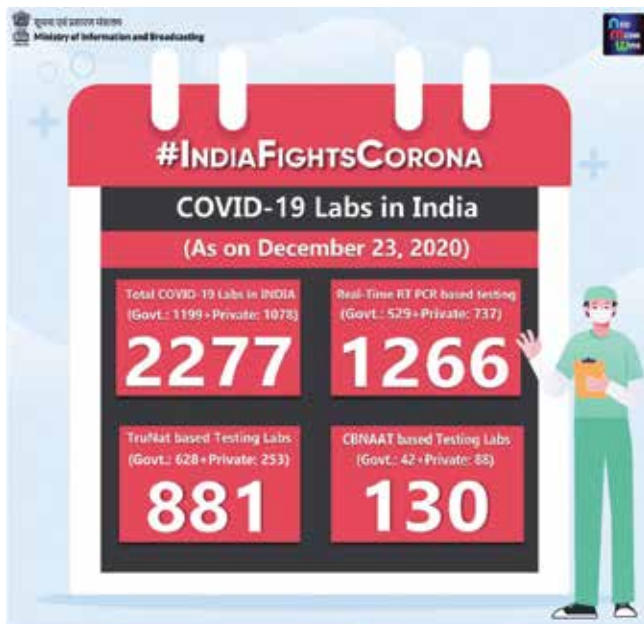
Nitin Gadkari

Hearty Congratulation to our PM Shri Narendra Modi ji on being conferred the "The Legion of Merit" honour by the USA as a recognition of his efforts towards improving the US-India strategic partnership. It is yet again affirmed that PM Modi is a global leader working towards improving lives of every human.



@blsanthosh

In line with its policy of Sab ka saath, Sab ka vikas PM @narendramodi Govt approves a scholarship plan of ₹59K Cr which will benefit 4 Cr SC students over a period of 5 years. Big Big move towards inclusive development. Thank You @TCGEHLOT



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
PONGAL, BIHU & MAKAR SANKRANTI (15 JANUARY)
to all of its readers

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR BJP FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI

The massive victory of BJP in District Development Council (DDC) is set to open a new era in the political history of Jammu-Kashmir. The successful conduct of the DDC elections, heavy voter turnout and the way people participated and responded in these elections show not only the power of unity and integrity but people's faith in democratic process and the politics of development and performance. While the constituents of Gupkar alliance may still refuse to introspect over the results, the emergence of independents as winners in many seats may lead to creation of new leadership committed to fulfil the aspirations of the people. It is clear that the people of Jammu-Kashmir want to come out of the regressive politics of dynasty, corruption and alienation and embrace the politics of development, performance and integration in the days to come. The DDC elections have not only deepened the roots of democracy but also show immense support for the policies and programmes of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who is committed to pave the path of development in the region.

The people across India are blessing BJP with victories and supporting the programmes and policies of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. While in Bihar assembly elections the NDA was blessed with clear

majority by the people of the state for the fourth time, in the by-elections that were held simultaneously across India, BJP got overwhelming support of the people in every state including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Manipur. In the local body elections also BJP has been scoring big. In the GHMC elections, BJP's tally has improved manifold to the dismay of all the political observers in the country. Whether the elections were held for Bodoland Territorial Council or for Arunachal Pradesh local bodies or in the elections of Ladakh Hill Council, the 'Lotus' bloomed everywhere. In the local bodies elections held in Rajasthan, BJP came out with flying colours in both rural and urban local body elections. In Kerala too, BJP has immensely improved its tally in the local body polls showing that people are now banking on 'Lotus' for the future of the state. The people are reposing faith in BJP from panchayat to parliament as it has emerged as a symbol of hope for every section of the society cutting across regions.

While BJP is increasingly getting people's support in the country, Congress led opposition is developing cold feet. The condemnable attack on the convoy of BJP

National President Shri JP Nadda in West Bengal is a pointer to the growing nervousness of TMC government in the state. While TMC is fighting a losing battle in West Bengal, Congress led opposition is pushing itself on suicidal tracks in desperation. In utter frustration the Congress has aligned itself with destructive forces in the country and getting increasingly identified with 'tukde-tukde gang' while creating confusion through its malicious propaganda campaigns. The most recent instance is that in place of supporting the revolutionary pro-farmer and pro-agricultural reforms in the country, it's trying to foment troubles by creating confusion and misleading a section of farming community.

India is experiencing a newfound confidence under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and rising at global stage. The recent award of 'Legion of Merit' by US is recognition of the people of India who are showering their blessings on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi again and again. The overwhelming support for BJP and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's appeal for an 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' can be seen from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. As the new saga of unity, integrity and development is being written, strengthening of democratic process in India is taking the country to newer heights. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org

THE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR BJP AND PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI'S APPEAL FOR AN 'AATMNI RBHAR BHARAT' CAN BE SEEN FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI. AS THE NEW SAGA OF UNITY, INTEGRITY AND DEVELOPMENT IS BEING WRITTEN, STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN INDIA IS TAKING THE COUNTRY TO NEWER HEIGHTS.



‘WE ARE GOING TO FORM A BJP GOVERNMENT IN BENGAL WITH MORE THAN 200 SEATS’

Bharatiya Janata Party National President, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda began his two-day *pravas* of West Bengal from December 9th where he received a grand welcome at the airport by the BJP karyakartas. During his *pravas*, he participated in various programmes targeted at strengthening the party base at the booth level.



“I had a bulletproof car. But almost all other cars were damaged. Kailash Vijayvargiya has a fracture in his hand. Our 50 workers on motorbikes were beaten up and their vehicles snatched. Eight of them are in the hospital.”

Jagat Prakash Nadda
BJP National President

After inaugurating the party’s West Bengal election office at Hastings, Kolkata he also inaugurated party offices in nine districts virtually. Shri Nadda then left for Bhabanipur Assembly seat where he conducted a community outreach programme called ‘Aur Noi Anyay’ – BJP mission against the ‘gunda raj’ of the TMC.

In the evening, Shri Nadda held a ‘chai pe charcha’ meeting with the Bhabanipur assembly election team. Later he prayed at the Kalighat Kali Temple for the betterment of the society, country and West Bengal.

Thereafter, he met representatives from the slum communities and discussed various issues concerning them. At the same place, Shri Nadda met with the West Bengal election team.

On December 10th, Shri Nadda addressed a meeting of BJP party cadres from East 24 Paraganas at the Radio Station ground in Diamond harbour. Later he offered prayers at the Ramakrishna Ashram and held a meeting with representatives

TMC GOONS ATTACK JP NADDA'S CONVOY

ATTACK ON SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDAJI IN BENGAL IS EXTREMELY CONDEMNABLE: AMIT SHAH

During his two days *pravas* of West Bengal, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda's convoy was attacked by TMC goons with stones and bricks shattering windscreens of many vehicles in Kolkata on December 10. The convoy was on its way to Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas district to participate in a party workers rally.

The vehicles of several party leaders including that of BJP National General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, National Vice President Shri Mukul Roy, BJP State President Shri Dilip Ghosh and National Secretary Shri Anupam Hazra which were part of the convoy were damaged in the attack. Shri Nadda, however, escaped unhurt. Shri Vijayavargiya suffered injuries in the attack. Reacting on the attack by TMC workers, Union Home Minister and former National President of BJP Shri Amit Shah expressed deep anguish while condemning the gruesome attack on the convoy of Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and said that the Central government is taking this attack very seriously.

The Union Home Minister said in a tweet that the attack on BJP's National President Shri Jagat Prakash Naddaji in Bengal is very condemnable. The central government is taking this attack very



seriously. The West Bengal government will have to answer to the peace loving people of the state for this sponsored violence.

The Union Home Minister, in his other tweet, criticized the anarchist and intolerant government of West Bengal, saying that West Bengal being pushed into an era of tyranny, anarchy and darkness under the Trinamool regime everyday. The manner in which political violence has been institutionalized and brought to the extreme level within the West Bengal under TMC rule is sad and worrying for all those who believe in democratic values. ■

of the fishermen's community and deliberated on their problems and other issues. In the evening, he addressed a press conference at the Radio Station ground in Diamond harbour.

Addressing the press conference, he lambasted the anarchist policies of the Trinamool Congress government and called upon to overthrow Mamata's government and form the BJP government in the state. In a most unfortunate incident, the convoy of Shri JP Nadda was attacked by the goons of TMC, injuring senior BJP Leaders. (Details above)

The National President condemned the gruesome attack on his convoy by the Trinamool goons and said that the incident which happened today tells

the story of Mamataji's disillusionment. Mamtaji has seen that her base has been eroded. The incident also shows that law and order in the state is in very bad shape. He said that no further political debate is needed in this matter. The way Mamata government is working is contrary to India's democratic system which clearly shows that another name for intolerance is Mamta government.

Shri Nadda pointed towards the poor law and order in the state and said that in the last one year, hundreds of BJP workers have been killed in West Bengal, and I have performed the 'Tarpan' of hundreds of the workers in Kolkata. BJP workers were killed for political reasons, the people of Bengal will



never forgive it. The people of Bengal have to decide whether they want to maintain such a culture? In West Bengal, when the elected people's representatives are not safe, what will be the condition of the common man? The national president said that people from Bangladesh are coming and settling here, but the Trinamool Congress is driving away the people of the state.

Taking a dig at Mamta government, he further said that a new chapter of misrule has been initiated by the total politicization of administration in West Bengal under the leadership of Mamtaji by completely criminalizing politics and institutionalizing corruption. The classic example of corruption is that the Trinamool Congress government was not ashamed of corruption in the hard times of Cyclone and Corona epidemics. During the Cyclone times the central government led by Shri Narendra Modi released one thousand crore rupees as an advance to make arrangements for the people of Bengal and promised to release further 12 thousand crore rupees, but Mamtaji initiated corruption in this



“Trinamool workers with party flags and armed with lathis attacked our convoy at multiple places. Stones and bricks were thrown by TMC workers. A number of cars have been damaged. Police were standing like mute spectators.”

Dilip Ghosh

BJP State President, West Bengal



“In Bengal, Mamata Banerjee is showering bricks on BJP leaders. But, BJP has its own policy, we do not give up our tolerance. We will answer the bricks with flowers. Our ‘Lotus’ will give a new identity to the state.”

Kailash Vijayvargiya

BJP National General Secretary

package too, and even High Court directed the state government CAG audit in this matter but Mamataji reached the Supreme Court to hide the corruption. Why is Mamtaji so afraid of audit? Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had sent 5 kg of rice, 5 kg of wheat and 1 kg of pulses per family to 80 crore people of the country at the time of Corona epidemic, but TMC activists here also indulged in corruption. Stolen rice was recovered from TMC worker's house. This is a 'chal' (rice) thief government.

Attacking the corrupt Trinamool government of West Bengal, the BJP National President said that 'cut money' has become a way of life in West Bengal and the political patronage by Mamata government has allowed organized corruption by 'tolabaji', sand and coal syndicate. It is a matter of great shame that even while performing the last rites in West Bengal, people have to pay bribe. The Mamata government has brought such misrule in West Bengal.

Criticizing the various political parties of the country, the National President said that in the elections of Bihar, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, everywhere, family parties have been rejected by the people and people have voted for the BJP. The same will happen in Bengal, here too people have made up their mind to say no to these parties. I have come here to assure the people of Bengal that you had given opportunity to Congress, Communists on several occasions and given two opportunities to Mamataji. Give one chance to BJP under the leadership of Modiji, we promise to make 'Sonar Bangla' within 5 years. I definitely say that we are going to form a BJP government in Bengal in the upcoming elections with more than 200 seats. ■

BJP WILL MAKE WEST BENGAL A 'SONAR BANGLA': AMIT SHAH

Union Home Minister and former BJP National President Shri Amit Shah visited West Bengal on his two-day *pravas* on 19-20 December 2020. On December 19, Shri Amit Shah visited Shri Ramakrishna Mission, Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Centre, Kolkata. He paid his tributes to Swami Vivekanand ji, the great son of India who showed to the world the great Indian culture and tradition. He also interacted with the media at Shri Ramakrishna Mission.

Later Shri Shah visited the famous Maa Siddeshwari Mandir at Medinipur where he offered prayers and sought the blessings of the goddess for prosperity of West Bengal and the entire nation. After that he offered tributes to great freedom fighter Shaheed Khudiram Bose at his statue. He then visited Devi Mahamaya Temple and offered prayers seeking blessings for wellbeing, peace and prosperity of West Bengal and the entire nation.

Shri Amit Shah also visited Belijuri village in Medinipur and had lunch at the house of a farmer family. Later in the afternoon, Shri Amit Shah addressed a massive public rally at Medinipur College ground and urged the people of Bengal to uproot the Mamata Banerjee government which has become synonymous with corruption and anarchy, and vote for BJP to form the new government in the state.

Lambasting the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, the Union Home Minister said that



Didi says that the Bharatiya Janata Party is expert in defection. Didi, I have come here to remind you which was your original party? Was Trinamool Congress? When you left the Congress and formed the Trinamool Congress, was it not a defection? Today, when Shri Shubhendu Adhikari is leaving your party and joining Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi against the injustice and exploitation of the people of West Bengal, you are feeling it is a case of defection! But Didi, this is just the beginning, you will be left alone as elections come. You might not have imagined the type of 'Tsunami' I am witnessing in West Bengal. There is a reason why so many people are leaving other parties and joining Bharatiya Janata Party. When a person changes his party, he decides only after much thought. Those who are joining the BJP in West Bengal, they are the people who came out with the slogan 'Maa, Mati, Manush', but Mamta Didi gave the slogan of 'Maa, Mati, Manush' to 'Tolabaji, appeasement and converted it to nepotism.

Continuing the attack on Mamta Banerjee, Shri Shah said that Didi does not see the future of 10 crore Bengali people, the future of crores of youth. According to her, her nephew is everything, she is always worried how to make her nephew the chief minister. I have come to ask the people of West Bengal 'what is the fault of the youth of West Bengal that the state is not developing. I have come to ask the farmers of West Bengal that why the assistance



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah having lunch at Shri Jhunu Singh ji & Shri Sanatan Singh ji's home in Belijuri village, Midnapore.

of Rs 6000 that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is giving to the farmers of the country, is not availed by the farmers of West Bengal? About 10 crore farmers of the country have received the assistance amount of about 95,000 crores till now but the farmers of West Bengal have not received a single rupee as Mamta Didi does not send the list of beneficiary farmers to the Center. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gives health facilities up to five lakh rupees free of cost to the poor people across the country. The poor people of West Bengal should have got this facility as well, but Mamta Didi does not allow this scheme to be implemented in the state. As long as there is a Mamata Didi government in West Bengal and until the people of the state overthrow the Trinamool Congress government, the poor in the state are not going to get the benefit of Ayushman Bharat Yojana nor will the farmers get the respect.

Shri Shah said that I was watching the newspaper and I read the statement of some big leaders here, who said that no one can defeat the Trinamool in West Bengal. I want to remind those people that in the Lok Sabha elections, the same people used to say that the Bharatiya Janata Party will not secure a single seat in West Bengal, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and our State President Shri Dilip Ghosh we have secured 18 Lok Sabha seats. Mamta Didi, you hear, this time when the results of the Legislative Assembly elections come, then see it, this time the Bharatiya Janata Party

is going to form the government in West Bengal with victory over 200 seats.

Taking a dig at the Trinamool government, the Union Home Minister said that Mamata Didi had promised the development of West Bengal but the state did not develop, instead corrupt and anarchic elements got political asylum here. Mamta Didi, you had promised to end corruption in West Bengal, but the support sent by the Central Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party to the victims of the Amfan storm was also taken away by your people. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, sent eight months free food grains for the poor people of West Bengal in the Corona period, was also taken away by the Trinamool Congress workers, poor people could not get anything. Even in this case, the High Court had to order CAG Audit. Mamta Didi, you should be ashamed that your worker looted the grain from the plates of poor. Therefore, the people of West Bengal do not want you to come in power again.

Mamata Didi had promised the development of West Bengal but the state did not develop, instead corrupt and anarchic elements got political asylum here.

While condemning the attack on the convoy of BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Shri Shah said that when our party's National President visited West Bengal, the convoy of his car was attacked. Mamta Didi, do you think that this will scare us? More than three hundred of our workers have been killed, but listen carefully, the more violence you do, every worker of Bharatiya Janata Party will face you with more resoluteness.

Shri Amit Shah further said that I urge the people of West Bengal that the problem of the farmers and labourers of West Bengal can be resolved with the formation of BJP Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that there are bomb blasts in West Bengal, and only Bharatiya Janata Party can stop this nuisance. Hailing the people of West Bengal, he said that you gave the Congress a chance in the state for three decades, gave leftist parties 27 years and also gave 10 years to Mamata Didi. Now give the opportunity to the Bharatiya Janata Party, we will continue to make West Bengal a 'Sonar Bangla'.

The people's enthusiasm in the public meeting

held at Midnapore College Ground was clearly visible. With the slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Jai Shri Ram', the entire Midnapore was buzzing. Shri Shubhendu Adhikari, a senior leader of the Trinamool Congress and a minister in Mamta government, along with his colleagues, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in the presence of Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. State President of BJP Shri Dilip Ghosh, National General Secretary of the party and in-charge of West Bengal Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, National Vice President of the party Shri Mukul Roy, Senior Party Leader Shri Rahul Sinha, Union Minister Ms. Deboshree Chowdhary, MP Shri Jyotirmoy Mahato, Ms. Lockett Chatterjee, Shri Soumitra Khan, Rajya Sabha MP Shri Swapan Das Gupta, Bharti Ghosh, Sanyal Dutta were also present among others.

Shri Shah said that today one MP, nine MLAs, one former Minister, one Minister of State, 15 Councilors, 45 Chairmen and two Chairmen of the District Panchayat have joined BJP. They are from Trinamool Congress, Congress, Communist Party, under the leadership of Shri Shubhendu Adhikari - good people from all parties have joined the Bharatiya Janata Party to work under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, I heartily welcome all of them.

In the evening, Shri Shah held a review meeting of election management works with Central Ministers from West Bengal, organisation secretaries, zonal observers and BJP state general secretaries at 'The Westin', Kolkata.

On December 20, 2020, the second day of his visit, Shri Shah visited Vishwa Bharti University at Shanti Niketana where he paid tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in the morning. He also interacted with the media there. After this, he visited the famous Sangeet Bhawan of Vishwa Bharti University. He then addressed a gathering at Bangladesh Bhawan Auditorium at Vishwa Bharti University. Shri Shah also visited Shyambati (Birbhum) where he had lunch with the Baul Singer family. The Union Home Minister also held a massive roadshow



Shri Amit Shah participates in a road show in Bolpur

in Bolpur (Birbhum) from Hanuman Mandir, Stadium Road to Bolpur Circle. In the evening he addressed a press conference at Mohor Kutir, Birbhum where he lashed out at the Mamata Banerjee government and reiterated the commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party government to make West Bengal a 'Sonar Bangla'.

The current government has set three dangerous trends in politics of West Bengal - administration has been politicized, politics has been criminalized and corruption has been institutionalized. These three trends are very dangerous for democracy and for the people.

Addressing the press, Shri Shah said that I have done and seen many road shows, but I have never seen a road show like today. It has become clear today that the people of West Bengal want change. The people of the state have decided that in the Vidhan Sabha

elections, they will give the opportunity to serve the state to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He further slammed the Trinamool government and said that the current government has set three dangerous trends in politics of West Bengal - administration has been politicized, politics has been criminalized and corruption has been institutionalized. These three trends are very dangerous for democracy and for the people. Therefore, on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party, I earnestly request the people of West Bengal that the workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party are carrying out a campaign for change in the state, and the campaign of 'Noi injustice', please join them and make the change happen. You give your blessings to your beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and make the campaign to make West Bengal a 'Sonar Bangla' a success. ■

PM UNVEILS KEY PROJECTS IN GUJARAT

KUTCH HAS TAKEN A BIG LEAP IN BOTH NEW AGE TECHNOLOGY AND NEW AGE ECONOMY: PM

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 15 unveiled various developmental projects in Gujarat. These projects include a desalination plant, a hybrid renewable energy park, and a fully automated milk processing and packing plant. The Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani was present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said one has to keep up with the changing times and embrace global best practices. He lauded the farmers in Kutch in this regard, as they are now exporting fruits abroad. He said this indicates the innovative zeal of our farmers. He said the agriculture, dairy and fisheries sectors have prospered in Gujarat over the last two decades due to minimum interference from the Government. What Gujarat did was to empower farmers and cooperatives.

The Prime Minister said that farmers are being misled about the agriculture reforms. He pointed out that the agriculture reforms that have taken place is exactly what farmer bodies and even opposition parties have been asking over the years. He reiterated that the Government of India is always committed to farmer welfare and we will keep assuring the farmers, addressing their concerns.

The Prime Minister said, Kutch has taken a big leap in both new age technology and new age economy. Foundation stone laid for the Renewable Energy Park in Kharera, Desalination plant in Mandvi and the New Automatic plant at Sarhad Dehri in Anjar are going



to create new milestones in the development journey of Kutch. He added that the benefit of these projects would accrue to the tribals, farmers, cattle ranchers and common people of the region. He remarked that today, Kutch is one of the fastest growing regions of the country. The connectivity here is getting better day by day.

The Prime Minister recalled the moment in time when the people of Gujarat had a 'simple' demand - to get electricity during dinner time. He said things have changed so much in Gujarat. Today's youth in Gujarat are not even aware of the earlier days of inconvenience, he said. The Prime Minister recalled that the population in Kutch used to have negative growth. Now that people have stopped going out, the population is thriving as people are coming back. He called upon the researchers and universities to do a case-study on Kutch's four-fold development post the massive earthquake.

He lauded the Gujarat Government for introducing many farmer friendly schemes in the last twenty years. He said Gujarat was a pioneer to work on strengthening solar energy capacities.

The Prime Minister remarked that Energy security and water security are vital in the 21st century. He said that the early teams were mocked when they spoke of getting Narmada waters to Kutch to solve the problem of scarcity. Now, Narmada waters have reached Kutch and Kutch is progressing. ■



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets various groups of people in Kutch, Gujarat.

THREE LANE 1.5 KM LONG KOILWAR BRIDGE OVER SONE RIVER INAUGURATED IN BIHAR

Transport and Highways Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari on December 10 inaugurated the three lane 1.5 km long Koilwar bridge over Sone river in Bihar through Video Conferencing. A sum of 266 crore rupees has been spent on the bridge. The existing two lane bridge for both rail and road traffic is 138 years old.

A six-lane bridge is being made in its place, of which, a three-lane carriageway has been opened for public. The bridge is major road for transport between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gadkari said, the Ministry has approved a four-lane elevated road from Bharauli (Buxar) to Haidaria for providing connectivity to the Poorvanchal Expressway.

- During the inauguration, Shri Gadkari informed that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved a 4-lane elevated road from Bharauli to Haidaria to provide connectivity to the Poorvanchal expressway. Its DRP will be ready by June 2021.
- The widening of 70 km Mokama-Munger road, for which DPR will be completed by April 2021 has also been approved.

- The approval has been given to the proposal of 4 laning of Khagaria-Purnea road and its DPR will also be ready by April 2021.
- The 4 laning work of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonewarsha road, which is also a part of Ramjanki Marg, will further simplify the travel to Jakanpur Dham in Nepal and its DPR will be ready by May 2021.
- The 7-km four-lane Koshi Bridge which is worth Rs. 1,478 crores is likely to be completed by 2023.
- The tender for Vikramshila Bridge which is 4 km long and worth Rs. 1,110 crores have also been issued and its construction is most likely to be completed in 2024.
- The work on the Buxar bridge will also be completed by 2021. It will provide an alternative route of 250 km which will take only 6 to 8 hours for travel.
- A five km long bridge of four-lane over Ganga river has also been announced near the existing bridge in Patna and its agreement was signed in October 2020. It will be a unique bridge with a 242-meter span which will facilitate the movement of large ships under it. ■

7th Instalment of Rs.6,000 crore released to the States as back to back loan to meet the GST compensation shortfall

The Ministry of Finance released the 7th weekly instalment of Rs.6,000 crore to the States to meet the GST compensation shortfall. Out of this, an amount of Rs.5,516.60 crore has been released to 23 States and an amount of Rs.483.40 crore has been released to the 3 Union Territories (UT) with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir & Puducherry) who are members of the GST Council. The remaining 5 States, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation.

The Government of India had set up a special borrowing window in October, 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of Rs.1.10 Lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST. The

borrowings are being done through this window by the Government of India on behalf of the States and UTs. The borrowings have been done in 7 rounds. The amount borrowed so far was released to the States on 23rd October, 2020, 2nd November, 2020, 9th November, 2020, 23rd November, 2020, 1st December, 2020, 7th December, 2020 and 14th December, 2020.

The amount released this week was the 7th instalment of such funds provided to the States. The amount has been borrowed this week at an interest rate of 5.1348%. So far, an amount of Rs.42,000 crore has been borrowed by the Central Government through the special borrowing window at an average interest rate of 4.7712%. ■

CABINET APPROVES ASSISTANCE OF ABOUT RS. 3,500 CRORE FOR SUGARCANE FARMERS

THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE DIRECTLY CREDITED INTO FARMERS' ACCOUNTS

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 16 has approved assistance of about Rs. 3,500 crore for sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan).

Currently, there are close to five crore sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan) and their dependents in India. In addition to this, there are about five lakh



balance, if any, would be credited to mill's account.

This subsidy aims at covering expenses on marketing costs including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and costs of international and internal transport and freight charges on export of upto 60 LMT of sugar limited to Maximum Admissible Export Quota (MAEQ) allocated to sugar mills for sugar season 2020-21

This decision will benefit the five crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents, as well as the five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related ancillary activities. ■

@narendramodi

Today is a day of special happiness for crores of Annadata of the country. The cabinet has approved an assistance of Rs 3500 crore for 5 crore sugarcane farmers. Money will be directly transferred to their accounts. This will also benefit millions of workers associated with sugar mills.

workers employed in the sugar mills and ancillary activities; and their livelihood depends on the sugar industry.

Farmers sell their sugarcane to the sugar mills, however the farmers are not getting their dues from

@JPNadda

Farmer's interest is always on top priority for PM @narendramodi ji's govt. Today's Cabinet announcement of export subsidy on Sugar not only solves the problem of excess production but also gives Rs 27,000 Crore approx. to 5 Crore Sugarcane farmers & benefits 5 Lakh laborers.

the sugar mill owners as they have surplus sugar stock. To address this concern, the Government is facilitating the evacuation of surplus sugar stock. This will enable payment of dues of the sugarcane farmers. Government will incur about Rs. 3,500 crore for this purpose, and this assistance would be directly credited into farmers' accounts on behalf of sugar mills against cane price dues and subsequent

@amitshah

The Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah said that the Modi government is continuously working in the interests of farmers of the country. In a tweet he said the Modi government took another major decision and approved an assistance of Rs. 3,500 crore for sugarcane farmers. Shri Amit Shah expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for this decision which will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers, their families and five lakh workers associated with this sector. Shri Amit Shah further said that this assistance will be directly deposited in the accounts of farmers.

MOOKERJEE AND TANDON



DEENDAYAL
UPADHYAYA

It is neither right nor safe to draw comparisons between great personalities for in a world so dissimilar, each individual has characteristics and distinctive traits, the parallel of which is not possible to find. In the case of great people these peculiarities are so pronounced and developed that each becomes a type by himself. Nevertheless Babu Purushottam Das Tandon and Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee both belonged to a category of great men who look great not only from a distance but grow greater still as you approach them. There are others and their tribe is legion today who is artificially elevated to the position of greatness. Through press and propaganda and by practising the art of leadership, they acquire greatness and remain great so long as you are fortunate enough not to see them from a point of acquaintance. A closer analysis will reduce these titans to tiny-gods. Too much contact with them might turn you into a cynic with no interest in life. On the other extreme are those whose fate has been mourned by Gray in his famous elegy. They are really great people, genius of the purest ray, serene, but they die

unknown and unsung in the dark unfathomed depths of the ocean where they lived and worked. But Dr. Mookerjee and Tandon belonged to neither category. They had real worth coupled with public fame and name. But it is true that public recognition of their merit and services lagged far being the reality. They could acquit themselves well in any office they held. In fact in their case it was not office that gave them prestige but on the contrary they who lent glory to the office

Tandonji and Mookerjee both represented and fought for upholding the cause of Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada. An effort was a foot to supplant the true culture of India by some hybrid variety. Tandonji and Mookerjee were both against this attempt.

they held.

Dr. Mookerjee was honoured as a Minister of the Central Cabinet but he rose much higher in the estimation of the people when he came out of the Cabinet.

LIKE A TRUE KARMAYOGI

Tandon, when he became the President of Indian National Congress, lent a sublime halo to an office which today nobody is prepared to accept. That year there was a keen contest. And Tandonji won making it clear that he commanded a considerable and faithful following in the

organisation. But when he relinquished office he gave evidence of his real greatness for he did so without any rancour orally-will. Like a true Karmayogi, without any attachment, he staked his all in the contest, but renounced so eagerly converted prize as if he had nothing to do with it.

Tandonji was great as the Speaker of the UP Legislative Assembly but became greater as an Ex-Speaker. He was great as President of the Congress and became greater as Ex-President after his resignation.

Tandonji and Mookerjee both represented and fought for upholding the cause of Bharatiya Sanskriti and Maryada. An effort was a foot to supplant the true culture of India by some hybrid variety. Tandonji and Mookerjee were both against this attempt.

And they resisted it, one from within the Congress and the other from without. Whether through the Hindu Mahasabha or, due to changed circumstances, through Jana Sangh, Dr. Mookerjee sought to build up this resistance of the nationals of Bharat against the on slaughter of the 'composite culturists.' Tandonji fought this battle in the name of Hindi both before and after independence.

TANDONJI & LANGUAGE

There is a great deal of misunderstanding about Tandonji's espousal of the cause

of Hindi, specially amongst the non-Hindi speaking people. They think that Hindi is sought to be enforced throughout the country as a rival to, and ultimately to take the place of regional languages. In fact the issue has been, and is not. Hindi versus regional languages but Hindi versus Hindustani and Indian languages versus English. Those who take up the cause of English mistakenly harbour an idea that English as an all-India language will not harm the growth of regional languages. If English continues, the days of all the great languages of India are unnumbered.

Whatever the English-maniacs may say, no power can retain English in India so long as the virile and rich languages of Bharat are there.

The day of execution may be delayed but the judgement has been delivered the day when Britishers quit India.

HINDUSTANI A COMPROMISE WITH SEPARATISM

The real issue is between Hindi and Hindustani. There has been, and is, no such language as Hindustani. It is the product of a policy of appeasement and compromise with the separatist and anti-national forces, culminating in the establishment of Pakistan.

A language is not simply a vehicle of expression but is also concerned with the life-values of the people who seek to use it. In this respect the national

languages of India are so perfect that you can use any one of them without losing your cultural moorings.

If a man from Mathura goes to Madras and settles there and in the course of ages begins to speak Tamil instead of Hindi, he loses nothing in content. The final product will be the same. But not so with English or French.

And what is Hindustani? It is a language like Esperanto seeking to provide a vehicle of expression not to all the people of India but only to those in the north that has a fairly large vocabulary of Arabic and Persian. Such a language

There only homage to Rajarshi Tandonji can be to see that his services to Hindi and Bharatiya Culture do not go in vain, and now that the other side is resolutely trying to by pass the will of the people, they should organise themselves and in the tradition of Tandonji put up a fearless and successful fight.

if it can be artificially put up will be as far away from the people as English. To most of the Hindi people and to all the non-Hindi people it will be as unintelligible as Latin and Greek. Moreover, it is a part of the big schemes of deculturising the people of Bharat. If this attempt succeeds in the case of Hindi, it will not leave untouched and untrained other Bharatiya languages, for the basis and content of all of them is the same culture, which is being displaced from the Hindi region. It is a process of

annihilation by degrees. Will not the protagonists of composite culture demand that Marathi and Bengali, Kannada and Tamil should also be overburdened with Arabic and Persian words and that they should also like Hindustani be written in two scripts? Tandonji believed in one culture and therefore he took up the cause of Hindi. The cause of Hindi is the cause of all the Indian languages.

OUR DUTY

Now that these valiant fighters for these noble causes are no more with us, it is our duty to see that the fight does not end. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee had bequeathed us an organisation that can legitimately strive to become a strong and fitting instrument of resisting subversion of our culture and heritage. Unfortunately, Tandonji, fighting as he was from within the Congress, has not left any organised body to take up his cause.

So long as he was there Congressmen could rally around him. But today there is no such central figure.

There only homage to Rajarshi Tandonji can be to see that his services to Hindi and Bharatiya Culture do not go in vain, and now that the other side is resolutely trying to bypass the will of the people, they should organise themselves and in the tradition of Tandonji put up a fearless and successful fight. ■

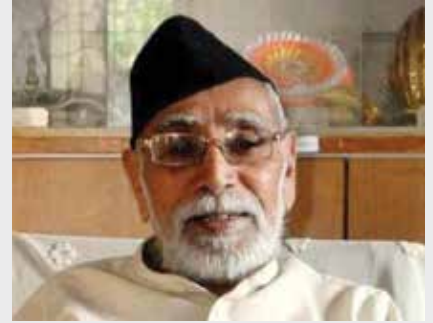
(Source: Organiser, 16 July, 1962)

MG VAIDYA PASSES AWAY

Senior RSS ideologue and the first spokesperson of the organization, Madhav Govind Vaidya (Baburao) passed away on December 19 at the age of 97. He was known as the 'Encyclopedia of RSS'. He was one of the very few surviving veterans of the RSS who have not just seen but worked closely with all the six Sarsanghachalaks of the RSS.

The RSS said in a press statement, "The demise of Shri Madhav Govind alias Baburaoji

Vaidya is the loss of a senior guardian for all the karyakartas of RSS. He was a distinguished scholar of Sanskrit, a fine journalist, an active member of the Vidhan Parishad and a brilliant litterateur. He was an active participant in the gradual development of Sangh's activities. His life was deeply aligned with Sangh's thoughts and values, and a manifestation of Sangh's core values in all four vistas of his life viz. personal, familial, social and professional. Through his characteristic style of employing lucid words, logical approach and experiential interpretation in his speeches and writings, he endeavoured to rightly present Sangh to the world all his life. As a result of his inspiring life, his next generation is also invested in working for national interests and his two sons Shri Manmohan



@JPNadda

"Received the sad news of the demise of Shri Madhav Govind Vaidya Ji, a senior ideologue of RSS who dedicated his entire life to the service of Maa Bharti. He was striving to promote social harmony and uniting the nation into one thread throughout his life. His departure is an irreparable loss to the entire society."



@narendramodi

"Shri MG Vaidya Ji was a distinguished writer and journalist. He contributed extensively to the RSS for decades. He also worked to strengthen the BJP. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

SENIOR BJP LEADER AND FORMER MP SATYADEV SINGH PASSES AWAY

Former MP and senior BJP leader Shri Satya Dev Singh passed away on December 17 at the age of 75. He was being treated at the Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon due to poor health where he breathed his last.

Shri Satyadev Singh had held several important responsibilities including the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha National President as well as Uttar Pradesh State Vice-President. He had held responsibility of BJYM National President from 1980 to 1985. He

was known for his simplicity and transparent politics. He also served as the part of BJP's disciplinary committee. As a committed politician, he contested from Gonda Lok Sabha constituency for the first time in 1977 and won. Later, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Balrampur parliamentary seat as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1991 and 1996. He also played an important role in Devipatan Mandal in the Ram Mandir movement.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister



Yogi Adityanath and UP BJP President Shri Swatantra Dev Singh expressed condolences on his demise. ■



NEW BUILDING WILL BECOME A WITNESS TO MAKING OF 'AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT': PM MODI

PM LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building on December 10. The new building is an intrinsic part of the vision of 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' and will be a landmark opportunity to build a peoples' Parliament for the first time after independence, one which will match the needs and aspirations of 'New India' in the 75th anniversary of independence in 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that today is a milestone in India's democratic history, filled with the idea of Indianness. He added that the start of the construction of Parliament House of India is one of the most important stages of our democratic traditions. He gave a call to the people of India, to build this new building of the Parliament together. He said it can't be more beautiful or more pure than the new building of our Parliament witnessing when India celebrates 75 years of its independence.

The Prime Minister recalled the moment when he entered the Parliament House for the first time in 2014 as an MP. He said that when he entered the Parliament House for the first time, he bowed his head and saluted this temple of democracy, before

stepping into it. He remarked that many new things are being done in the new Parliament House that will increase the efficiency of the MPs and modernize their work culture. He said if the old Parliament House gave direction to post-independence India, the new building would become a witness to the making of a 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat.' If work was done to fulfill the needs of the country in the old Parliament House, then the aspirations of 21st century India will be fulfilled in the new building.

The Prime Minister remarked that democracy elsewhere is about election procedures, governance and administration. But democracy in India is about life values, it is the way of life and the soul of a nation.

@JPNadda

Hon PM Shri @narendramodi Ji laid the foundation stone for new Parliament building in New Delhi. The building will give necessary upgrades and facilities to the institution, enhance the productivity of Parliament & will prove revolutionary in streamlining the administration.



He added India's democracy is a system developed through centuries of experience. There is also a life mantra, an element of life as well as a system of order in the democracy in India. He said it is India's democratic strength that is giving new energy to the development of the country and giving new faith to its countrymen. He said democracy in India is constantly being renewed every year and it is seen that voter turnout is increasing with every election.

The Prime Minister remarked that democracy in India has always been a means of resolving differences along with governance. Different views, different perspectives empower a vibrant democracy. He said our democracy has moved forward with the goal that there is always room for differences so long as it is not entirely disconnected from the process. He stressed that policies and politics may vary but we are for the service of the public and there should be no differences in this ultimate goal. He added whether debates occur within the Parliament or outside, the determination towards national service and dedication towards national interest should be reflected in them constantly.

The Prime Minister urged the people to remember that it is the responsibility of the people to awaken the optimism towards democracy which is the basis of the existence of the Parliament House. He reminded that every member who enters Parliament is accountable towards the public as well as the Constitution. He said there are no rituals as such to consecrate this temple of democracy. It is the representatives of the people who come to this temple that will consecrate it. He said their dedication, their service, conduct, thought and behavior will become the life of this temple. Their efforts towards the unity and integrity of India will become the energy that gives life to this temple. He added when each public representative will offer his knowledge, intelligence, education and experience fully here, then this new Parliament House will gain sanctity.



@AmitShah

“The foundation stone of the new Parliament House is a golden day in our history. I congratulate, the Prime Minister on this glorious occasion. Parliament House symbolizes our faith in democracy, which reminds us of the value of freedom and the struggle for it and also motivates us to serve the nation. The new Parliament House will be a symbol of a self-reliant India, which will become the locus for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of our citizens. The Modi government is totally devoted and dedicated in empowering the poor and deprived sections of the country and this new Parliament House will be a witness to our commitment to this resolution.”



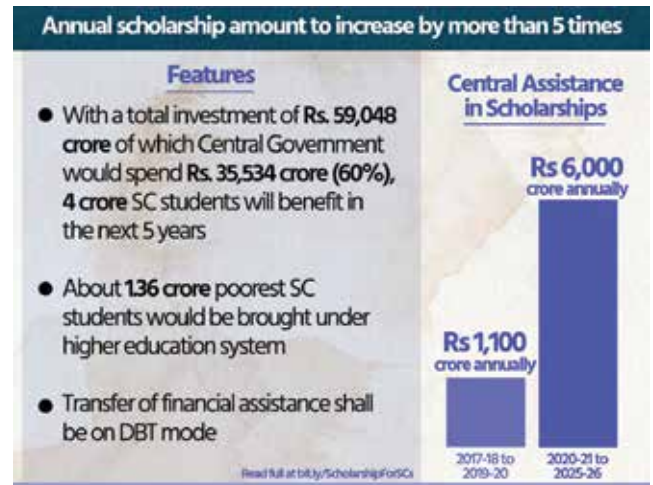
The Prime Minister urged the people to take the pledge to keep India First, to worship only the progress of India and the development of India, every decision should increase the strength of the country and that the country's interest is paramount. He asked everyone to take the pledge that there will be no greater interest for them than national interest. Their concern for the country will be more than their own personal concerns. Nothing will be more important to them than the unity, integrity of the country. Dignity and fulfillment of the constitution of the country will be the biggest goal of their life. ■

Cabinet approves Rs.59,000 Cr post matric scholarship scheme for more than 4 Cr SC students in 5 years

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 23 December approved major and transformatory changes in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Post Matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes (PMS-SC)' to benefit more than 4 Crore SC students in the next 5 years so that they can successfully complete their higher education.

The Cabinet has approved a total investment of Rs. 59,048 Cr of which Central Government would spend Rs. 35,534 Cr (60%) and the balance would be spent by the State Govts. This replaces the existing 'committed liability' system and brings greater involvement of the Central Govt in this crucial scheme.

The Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Castes allows students to pursue any post matric course starting from class 11th and onwards, with the Govt meeting the cost of



education.

The Central Govt is committed to give a big push and further impetus to this effort so that the GER (Higher Education) of SCs would reach up to the National standards within the 5 year period. ■

1200 KMS LONG 33 NH PROJECTS IN KARNATAKA LAUNCHED

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on December 19 inaugurated and laid foundation of 33 NH projects in Karnataka today thru virtual mode. These projects include 1197 kms long roads worth Rs 10,904 crore. The event was presided over by Chief Minister Shri Y S Yeddiyurappa, and was attended by former Prkme Minister Shri H D Devegowda, Union Ministers Shri Prahlad Joshi, Shri Sadanand Gowda, Gen Dr V K Singh, ministers from the State and senior officers.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gadkari informed that over 900 km NH length has been added in Karnataka during last six years, and

it now stands at 7652 kms. He said, a total of 71 works are in progress in length of 2,384 kms at a cost of Rs. 37,311 Crore. Out of these, more than 70% progress has been achieved in 26 works amounting to Rs 12,286 Crore covering a length of 1,127 Km. He said, upto 70% progress has been achieved in 45 works amounting to Rs 25,025 Crore covering a length of 1257 Km.

The Minister added that for providing smooth connectivity to the ports for the benefit of trade and economy, 4-laning of the entire coastal road from Goa Border to Kerala Border connecting port city of Belekeri, Karwar and Mangalore covering a length of 278 Km have been taken up at a cost of Rs



3443 crore and the work has been substantially completed.

Shri Gadkari further informed that the Union Government shall invest approximately an amount of Rs 1,16,144 crore in Karnataka State in the coming years. He said, 11 road projects of 275 kms worth Rs 5083 crore have been awarded in the State during the financial years 2019-21. ■

POLITICS CAN WAIT BUT SOCIETY CAN NOT: PM

P rime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on December 22 addressed the Centenary Celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) through video conference. He also released a postal stamp commemorating the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled Sir Sayyad's remark that the 'the first and foremost duty of one who is concerned about his country is to work for the welfare of all people. Irrespective of the caste, creed or religion.' Shri Modi gave examples of the government schemes providing benefits without any discrimination. Bank accounts of over 40 crore poor are opened without any discrimination. More than 2 crore poor were provided pucca houses, without discrimination. More than 8 crore women are getting gas connection without discrimination. About 50 crore people have availed free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh under Ayushman scheme without any discrimination. "Country's resources belong to each and every citizen and should benefit all. Our government is working with this understanding" said the Prime Minister Shri Modi.

Shri Modi asked to be vigilant against misleading propaganda and keep the interest of the nation supreme in one's heart. Politics can wait but society can not, similarly poor belonging to whichever section, can not wait. We can not waste time and should work together to create an Aatamnirbhar Bharat. For attainment of national goals, all differences must be set aside, Shri Modi added.

The Prime Minister lauded Aligarh Muslim University for the unprecedented contribution to the society during the Corona pandemic. He added getting thousands of people to do free tests, building isolation wards, building plasma banks and contributing a large amount to the PM Care Fund shows the seriousness of fulfilling your obligations to society. He said today, with such organized efforts, India is successfully combating the global epidemic like Corona, keeping the country paramount.



The Prime Minister said that in the last 100 years, AMU has also worked to strengthen India's relations with many countries of the world. He further said the research done here on Urdu, Arabic and Persian languages, research on Islamic literature, gives new energy to India's cultural relations with the entire Islamic world. The Prime Minister recalled a time when the drop out rate of Muslim daughters was more than 70 percent due to lack of toilets. He said the government built separate toilets for the school-going girl students in mission mode under Swachh Bharat Mission. And now the school drop-out rate of Muslim daughters has come down to about 30 percent. He lauded the "Bridge courses" being run for school drop-out students by the Aligarh Muslim University. He further said the government is very focused on the education of Muslim daughters and their empowerment. In the last 6 years, nearly one crore Muslim daughters have been given scholarships by the government. He further stressed that there should be no discrimination on the basis of gender, everyone should get equal rights, everyone should get the benefit of development of the country.

The Prime Minister said the country took forward the efforts to build a modern Muslim society by ending the practice of triple talaq. He said earlier it was said, if a woman is educated then the whole family gets educated. Education brings with it employment and entrepreneurship. Employment and entrepreneurship bring with them economic independence. Empowerment comes from economic independence. An empowered woman contributes equally to every decision, at every level, as much as anyone else. ■

278 LAKH HOUSEHOLDS PROVIDED TAP WATER CONNECTIONS UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION

TAP WATER CONNECTIONS REACH OVER 6 CRORE RURAL HOUSEHOLDS

2 78 lakh Households (HHs) have been provided tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission which was announced on 15 August, 2019. According to a report issued on December 16 by Union Jal Shakti Ministry, at present 6.01 Crore rural households in the country are getting potable water in their households through taps. 18 districts across the country have provided tap connections to all households and States are competing with each other to ensure tap water supply to every home. A dashboard indicating the progress of the Mission is available at the Ministry's website. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), in partnership with States with an aim to provide potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis through tap connections to every rural home in the country by 2024.

After the mission came into being, States were requested to undertake a revalidation exercise of baseline data, according to which there are 19.05 Crore rural households in the country, out of which 3.23 Crore households were already provided tap connections. Remaining 15.81 Crore households are to be provided with tap connections. Thus, the objective is to cover approx. 16 Crore households in a time-bound manner while ensuring the functionality of already provided connections. This means 3.2 Crore households to be covered every year i.e. approx. 88,000 tap connections to be provided on daily basis. With this goal in mind, States/ UTs are making all out efforts to provide tap water connections in rural areas.

In 2020-21, a sum of Rs. 23,500 Crore has been allocated for the implementation of JJM. Besides this, in 2020-21, 50% of 15th Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies, i.e. Rs. 30,375 Crore as tied grant will be utilized for water supply and sanitation. This will help in better planning, implementation,

management, operation and maintenance of drinking water supply systems in villages so as people continue to get potable water on regular and long-term basis.

Various States/ UTs have committed to achieve the goal of the Mission well before 2024. Goa has already ensured tap water supply to all households. In 2021, Bihar, Puduchery and Telangana have planned to provide tap water connection to all households. Similarly, States/ UTs of Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Sikkim have planned for 2022. While Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chhattisgarh have planned for 100% coverage in 2023. States like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal have planned for 2024. ■

278 lakh Households (HHs) have been provided tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission which was announced on 15 August, 2019.

IN J&K, 100% HOUSEHOLDS OF SRINAGAR AND GANDERBAL GET TAP WATER CONNECTIONS

In the UT of Jammu and Kashmir every household in Ganderbal and Srinagar districts has got tap water connections and every family is getting potable piped water in their homes. The UT is planning 100% coverage by 2022 to accomplish the ambitious target of providing tap water connection to every rural household of J&K. This kind of work in these difficult terrains speak volumes of the commitment of the people and Govt. to provide basic facilities in rural areas. Out of 18.17 lakh rural households in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, 8.66 lakh (48%) are provided with tap water connections. Jammu & Kashmir plans to provide tap connections in 2.32 lakh households during 2020-21. ■


BTC election results show that BJP is emerging everywhere, Congress is disappearing from every nook and corner: Prakash Javadekar

Addressing a press conference at the BJP Central headquarters in Delhi, Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar on December 13 assessed the party victory in recently held local body and assembly elections. He said that the BJP has had a resounding success in the recently concluded Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) election, 2020. He added, "During the last election, BJP had won only one seat, while this time BJP has won 9 seats. In the 40-seat Bodoland Territorial Council, BJP fielded candidates on 26 seats only. Together with the United People's Party Liberals (UPPL), BJP proposed the name of Shri Pramod Boro for the Chief Executive Member of the Bodoland Territorial Council."

"The victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) election is another electoral success for the party. Congress has won only one seat in this election. The Bodoland

@JPNadda

I thank the people of Kerala for giving an improved mandate to BJP in Local Body Elections. @BJP4Keralam President @surendranbjp Ji & Karyakartas worked tirelessly & with this mandate, we will continue to expose the corrupt, communal & hypocrite politics of both LDF & UDF fronts.



Territorial Council formerly belonged to the Congress. BTC election results show that BJP is emerging everywhere, Congress is disappearing from every nook and corner."

"Earlier, the Bharatiya Janata Party had a historic success in the local civic elections in Rajasthan last week. All 21 district heads are being from BJP. In the election of 4371 Panchayat Samiti members, BJP won 1,990 seats while in the results of District Councils, BJP won 353 out of 606 seats. It shows that the Bharatiya Janata Party is winning everywhere."

Prior to Rajasthan, the Bharatiya Janata Party won 49 seats in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) election, whereas earlier BJP had won only 4 seats. TRS, which is the ruling party of Telangana, got 99 seats in the last election of GHMC, while it has lost 44 seats this time and has to satisfy with only 55 seats. The Congress has won just two seats. It is a matter of great pride that BJP is reaching new height with every election and Congress is going down.

Earlier, in the election of Ladakh Hill Council, BJP also got a spectacular victory. In the 26-seat council, the BJP won 15 seats while the Congress was reduced to only 9 seats.

"In the Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, the BJP-JDU coalition once again formed the government with full majority, with the blessing of the people. Along with this, BJP had won a tremendous victory in the by-elections in many states of the country. While the BJP won 19 out of 28 seats in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP won eight out of eight seats in Gujarat. The BJP won 6 out of 7 seats in Uttar Pradesh, while the BJP won

BJP REGISTERS EMPHATIC WIN IN GOA PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

| Party | Seats won | Seats Contested | Strike rate |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| BJP | 33 | 42 | 78.6% |
| CONG | 4 | 37 | 10.8% |
| MGP | 3 | 17 | 17.6% |
| AAP | 1 | 20 | 5% |
| NCP | 1 | 6 | 16.7% |
| RSP | 0 | 1 | 0% |
| IND | 7 | 78 | 9% |

Legend: ■ Seats won ■ Seats Contested ■ Strike rate

In an emphatic win, BJP bagged 33 seats in Zilla Panchayat polls. The BJP won 14 of the 24 seats of the South Goa zilla panchayat, election to one seat was cancelled after the death of a Congress candidate, and 19 of the 25 seats in North Goa. Congress, which had for the first time officially contested the Zilla Panchayat polls, suffered a humiliating defeat winning just one seat in North Goa and three in South Goa. ■

BJP WINS 9 SEATS IN BTC ELECTIONS

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won nine out of 40 seats in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) polls and announced post-poll alliance with the regional United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and the Gana Suraksha Party (GSP).

The results for the two-phased polls on 7 and 10 December were announced on December 13. While UPPL won 12 seats, the GSP secured one. ■

four in Manipur, two in Karnataka and won Dubangka by-election in Telangana.”


“The elections to the local bodies of Arunachal Pradesh are going on now. BJP candidates have been elected unopposed in 60% of Gram Panchayat seats. BJP candidates won unopposed in 5,410 seats of 8,291 gram panchayats. Similarly, BJP candidates have been elected unopposed in more than 90 of the 240 seats of the Zilla Parishad.”

“Be it Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections, Arunachal Pradesh local bodies elections, Rajasthan local bodies elections, Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections or Telangana to Gujarat to Manipur to Karnataka, the Bharatiya Janata Party has had a spectacular victory everywhere and the

BJP IMMENSELY IMPROVES ITS TALLY IN KERALA

In Kerala local body polls, BJP won 1,800 wards. BJP finished second in close to another 600 wards across the state. It finished second in 32 of the total 100 wards in Thiruvananthapuram city corporation. BJP had won 1,236 seats in the last local body elections. ■

@JPNadda

Congratulations to NDA partner UPPL and Assam CM @sarbanandsonwal, State President @ranjeetkrdas, senior min@himantabiswa & @bjp4assam for securing clear majority in Assam BTC election. The result shows the faith of people in leadership and policies of Hon PM @narendramodi Ji. 

Congress has lost lots of its ground. So, the message is loud and clear that Bharatiya Janata Party is coming everywhere, Congress is going. Another summary of these election results is that the people of the country have full faith in the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on his policies and on the rule of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Whether rural citizens or urban, all the voters of the country have unwavering faith in the Prime Minister's development agenda.” ■

BJP ACHIEVES UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS IN RAJASTHAN

Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar and BJP National General Secretary Shri Bhupendra Yadav on December 9 expressed gratitude towards the people of Rajasthan for party's spectacular success in the recently held Panchayat Raj and Zilla Parishad elections. Earlier, while tweeting BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said that in the Panchayati Raj and Zilla Parishad elections in Rajasthan, the people, farmers and women of the rural areas of the state have shown their faith in BJP. I express my gratitude towards the people of Rajasthan for this. This victory symbolise the faith of villages, poor, farmer and laborer in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Shri Javadekar said that in Rajasthan Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad elections, the Bharatiya

Janata Party has achieved unprecedented success. According to the reports received so far, of the 4371 results of the Panchayat Samiti were declared, the BJP won 1,990 seats while the Congress could win only 1,718 seats. Similarly, in the results declared so far by the Zilla Parishad, BJP got 353 out of 606 seats, while the Congress could get only 250 seats. BJP also won 14 Zila Pramukh out of 21 seats, while the Congress has been reduced to only 5 seats. BJP has so far won 93 seats out of 222 block panchayats. He said that among the 2.5 crore voters in the rural areas of Rajasthan were mainly farmer voters and they have openly accepted the policies, plans and agricultural reforms of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while blessing the Bharatiya Janata Party. ■

'INDIAN FARMERS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO MODERN FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO FARMERS IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES'

PM ADDRESSES CONCERNS OVER MSP, CONTRACT FARMING CAUTIONS AGAINST FALSE PROPAGANDA

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 18 addressed Kisan Sammelan held across Madhya Pradesh through video conferencing. He also inaugurated and laid foundation stone for cold storage infrastructure and other facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed, no matter how hard the farmer works, if there is no proper storage of fruits-vegetables-grains, then the farmer is bound to suffer huge losses. He urged the business world to contribute in developing modern storage facilities, cold storage and setting up new food processing ventures. He said this will serve the farmers and in the true sense, serve the country.

The Prime Minister stressed that Indian farmers should have access to the modern facilities available to the farmers in the developed countries, it cannot be delayed any longer. He added in a rapidly changing global scenario, the situation in India cannot be accepted as the farmer becomes helpless due to lack of facilities and modern methods, it is already too late.

Referring To the recent discussions on the agriculture laws, the Prime Minister emphasized that consultation for these agricultural reform laws has been going for the last 20-22 years and these laws were not brought overnight. Farmers of

the country, farmers' organizations, agricultural experts, agricultural economists, agricultural scientists, progressive farmers of our country have also been continuously demanding improvement in the agriculture sector, he said.

The Prime Minister cited that the previous Governments did not implement the Swaminathan Committee report for over 8 years. Even the peasants' agitation did not shake the consciousness of these people. He said these people ensured that their government does not have to spend much on the farmer. He criticized the opposition that farmers are used by them for politics whereas his government is dedicated to farmers and considers farmers as Annadata. Shri Modi said the recommendations of the report of the Swaminathan Committee was implemented by this Government, giving MSP of one and a half times the cost to the farmers.

On debt waiver, the Prime Minister said it does not reach the small farmer who did not go to the bank, who did not take the loan. He said in the PM-Kisan scheme every year farmers will get about 75 thousand crore rupees, directly into farmers' bank accounts. No leakage, no commission to anyone. He also described how the availability of urea improved due to neem coating and crack down on corruption.

The Prime Minister criticized that



if the previous governments were concerned about farmers, then around 100 large irrigation projects in the country would not hang for decades. Now our government is spending thousands of crores of rupees to complete these irrigation projects in mission mode. He said that the Government is working to ensure water to every farm. He said that the government is equally promoting beekeeping, animal husbandry and fisheries along with grain-producing farmers.

The Prime Minister remarked that to promote fisheries, the Blue Revolution Scheme is operationalized. Some time ago, the Prime Minister Matsya Sampada Yojana was also launched. Due to these efforts, all previous records of fish production in the country have been broken.

He stressed that there is no reason for mistrust in the recent agricultural reforms done by the Government and there is no place for lies. He asked the people to ponder, why would the Swaminathan Committee report be implemented, if the Government intended to remove the MSP. ■

INDIA & BANGLADESH HOLDS VIRTUAL SUMMIT

BOTH SIGN SEVEN AGREEMENTS/MOU

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Smt. Sheikh Hasina held a Summit in virtual format on 17 December 2020. Both sides held comprehensive discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations, and exchanged views on regional and international issues. Seven bilateral documents were signed.

On this occasion, the following bilateral documents were signed and exchanged by the officials of the Governments of India and Bangladesh:

- Framework of Understanding (FOU) on Cooperation in Hydrocarbon Sector; Protocol on Trans-boundary Elephant Conservation;
- MOU regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) through Local Bodies and other Public Sector Institutions;
- MOU on Supply of Equipment and Improvement of Garbage / Solid Waste Disposal Ground at Lamchori Area for Barishal City Corporation;



Terms of Reference of India-Bangladesh CEOs Forum;

- MoU between Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum, Dhaka, Bangladesh and the National Museum, New Delhi, India; and
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture.

Other bilateral development partnership projects like Beautification and city development project in Rajshahi City; Construction of Khalishpur Collegiate Girl's School in Khulna were inaugurated. ■

2ND PROJECT 17A SHIP 'HIMGIRI' LAUNCHED

'Himgiri', the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched on December 14 Dec 20. She made her first contact with the waters of Hoogly River at 1335 Hrs at the launch ceremony, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was the Chief Guest. The ship has taken its name and crest of the second Frigate of the Leander Class of ships, which incidentally was launched 50 years ago in 1970.

Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements. The launch of 'Himgiri' has showcased GRSE's commitment towards the building of three state-of-the-art warships of P17A for Indian Navy. Over the years, GRSE has emerged as a leading shipyard having built over 100

ships. The yard has scaled up its infrastructure and skill sets to meet new challenges in building of P17A ships. P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.

Since its inception, Project 17A has upheld India's vision for Atmanirbhar Bharat. P17A ships have been indigenously designed by Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Design Group) - DND(SSG), and are being built at indigenous yards namely MDL and GRSE. Naval shipbuilding provides a great opportunity to energise our economy post COVID-19. Project 17A ships are sourcing 80% of the material/ equipment required for the project from indigenous vendors and with employment generation for over 2000 Indian firms and MSMEs within the country. Modular construction of the ship through outsourcing, and integrated construction methodology are being used to enhance GRSE's productivity for delivery of ship targeted in August 2023. ■

DOORS OF UNION GOVERNMENT ARE ALWAYS OPEN FOR DIALOGUE WITH FARMERS' UNIONS: NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

MSP AND APMC WILL REMAIN: SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL

Appealing to the Farmers Union leaders to continue dialogue and to find an amicable solution, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar along with Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Railways and Commerce, Shri Piyush Goyal outlined the various suggestions that have been given to farmers in a proposal to address their concerns about the Farm Acts. They were speaking to media at a Press Conference in New Delhi on 10 December.

The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act 2020 and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities Amendment Act 2020 are the biggest agricultural reforms in the country so far. The reforms will provide farmers market freedom, encourage entrepreneurship, access to technology and they will transform agriculture.

The Ministers said that Union Government is willing to give assurance on MSP and procurement. Government is willing to ensure a level playing field in transactions inside and outside the existing APMC Mandi's, Government has said farmers can approach civil courts in disputes besides the SDM courts, Government is willing to address concerns regarding penalty for stubble burning and in the proposed electricity amendment Bill. It has also assured that farmers land will be protected under the new farm Acts.

Both the Union Ministers, Shri Tomar and Shri Goyal spoke about the various measures that the Modi government has taken since its inception to improve the lot of farmers and towards strengthening the Agriculture sector. They said the latest Acts were reforms undertaken after many rounds of consultations with stakeholders. They give the farmers freedom to sell anywhere and strengthen farmers with a protective legal framework when dealing with private companies. Agriculture Minister gave an example of a farmer from Maharashtra who got immediate payment



from the trader after the grievance was successfully addressed under the new laws. They said when the Centre makes a law it is for the whole country. The Central Government is well within its Constitutional Rights while making laws on Agricultural trade. The Budgetary allocations for agriculture have seen a significant rise from 2014-2020 and this shows the commitment of the Govt. towards farmers and the rural sector. An allocation of over Rs.75,000 crore has been made for just PM Kisan initiative under which farmers get Rs 6000 per year of direct income support. Rs 1 Lakh crore Agri Infrastructure has been set up for the development of farm gate infrastructure. Neem coated urea scheme was introduced by Modi Govt. for reduced use of chemicals and improved soil health. The Modi Government announced MSP hikes based on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission and on the formula that farmers must get at least 1.5 times the cost of production. The Government has also ensured greater procurement and greater payment to farmers. Under the PM Kisan Maan Dhan Yojna, farmers are given pension support. Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO's) bring farmers together and provide them with a greater say in their future. 10,000 such FPO's are being created.

All these initiatives are aimed towards the farmer whose welfare and whose income occupies the central place in the Government's schemes for Agriculture. ■

UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER WRITES LETTER TO FARMERS TO BUST MYTHS

An eight-page open letter penned by Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar to farmers highlighted the benefits of new farm laws. The Minister while explaining the new farm laws busted the 'myths' being propagated by oppositions.

He said, "I urge the farmers to recognize this white lie being spread by some people motivated by political interests and reject it outrightly. The government which gave MSP one and a half times of the cost to the farmers, the government which in the last 6 years has almost doubled the amount of MSP for farmers, such government will never stop MSP. MSP continues and will continue."

He added, "As the agriculture minister of the country, my duty is to dispel farmers' misconceptions, to make every farmer of this country tension-free. It is my duty to expose the

conspiracy being hatched to create a wall between the farmers and the Centre."

The Minister appealed to the farming community not fall for anti-national forces trying to destabilise the country by using the agitation. Shri Tomar said that the same people are hiding behind farmers and directly or indirectly promoting unrest for their political interests.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Sharing the link of the letter in his tweet urged people to read the contents of Agro-reform laws that are easily available on PIB and NaMo app.

In the tweet the Prime minister said, "There is a lot of content, including graphics and booklets that elaborate on how the recent Agro-reforms help our farmers. It can be found on the NaMo App Volunteer Module's Your Voice and Downloads sections. Read and share widely".

| MYTH | TRUTH |
|--|--|
| The MSP system is ending. | The MSP system in operation and will be operational. |
| APMC mandis are being closed. | APMC mandis will be continued. This law will not be applicable on APMC mandis. |
| Farmers' land is in danger. | Agreement will be only for crop, not for land. There will be no agreement for any transfer of land including sale, lease and mortgage. |
| Contractors can acquire land of the farmer against any due. | Whatever be the situation, the land of the farmers is safe. |
| There is no price guarantee for farmers in the case of contract farming. | The procurement price of agricultural produce will be mentioned in the farming agreement. |
| Farmers will not be paid. | Farmers have to be paid within the stipulated time frame, otherwise legal action will be taken and penalty will be imposed. |
| Farmers cannot withdraw from the contracts. | Farmers can withdraw from the contract at any time without any penalty. |
| Contract farming has never been tried before. | Many states have approved contract farming. Many states even have contract farming laws. |
| There is no consultation or discussion regarding these laws. | There have been discussions for two decades. It started in the year 2000 with the Shankarlal Guru Committee. Thereafter, the Model APMC Act in 2003, APMC Rules in 2007, Committee of Chief Ministers of Haryana, Punjab, Bihar and West Bengal in 2010 and approved by Agriculture Ministers of 10 states in 2013, Model APMC Act in 2013 and finally approved by Parliament in 2020. |

BJP EMERGES AS SINGLE LARGEST PARTY IN DDC ELECTIONS IN J&K

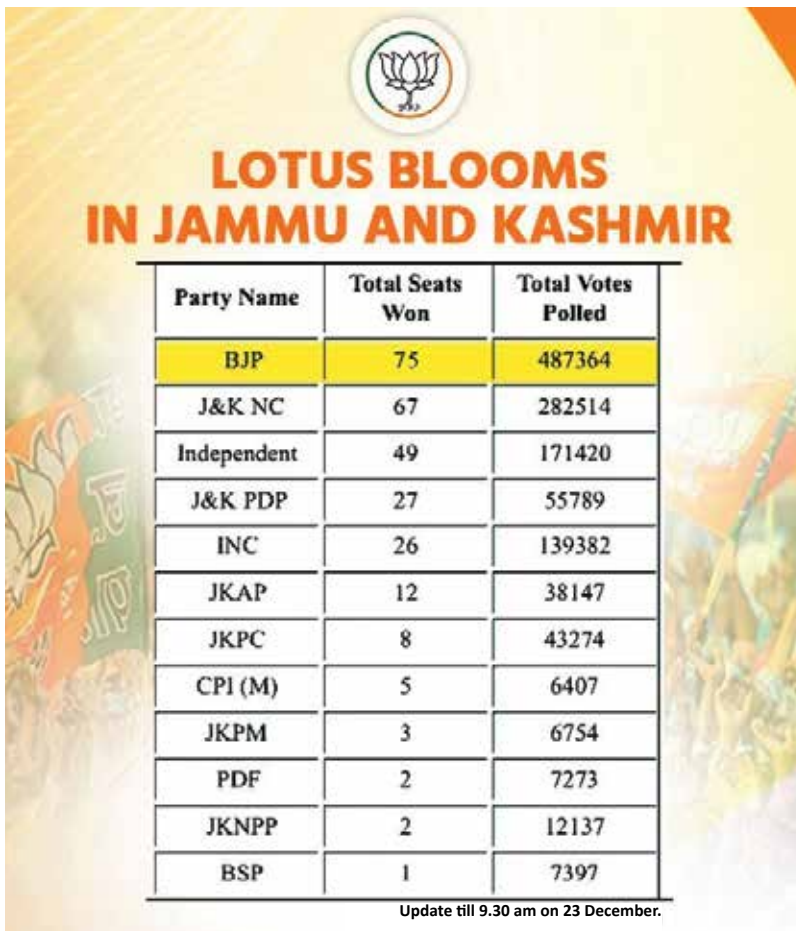
On the historic victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the District Development Council (DDC) election of Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad addressed a press conference in the party office and thanked the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the BJP's success in the election. While hailing it, he called it a victory of democracy.

Shri Prasad said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has got a historic victory in the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir. In this election, the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as the single largest party, defeating the Gupkar alliance which itself underscores the changing winds of Jammu and Kashmir. BJP has



“I express my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for making BJP the largest party in the DDC elections. The people have expressed their faith in the leadership and decisions of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji. Many congratulations to @BJP4JnK.”

Jagat Prakash Nadda
BJP National President



won 75 seats in the DDC election while no other party alone has come closer to this figure. National Conference (NC) has won 67 seats, PDP only 27 and Congress somehow manage 26 seats. 50 independents have also won, with several candidates winning with BJP's support. The most important thing in this election is that the Bharatiya Janata Party has got more votes than the votes of major parties like National Conference, PDP and Congress put together. While BJP has got about 4.87 lakh votes, NC has got 2.82 lakh votes, PDP has got only about 56 thousand votes and Congress has got 1.39 lakh votes. In this way, BJP got 38% of the total votes cast and the Gupkar alliance got only 32% of the votes. The point to note here is that there are eight small and big parties in the Gupkar alliance which came together only to compete with the BJP.

The senior BJP leader said that the peacefully concluded District Development Council (DDC) elections

in Jammu and Kashmir is a victory of Indian democracy, a victory of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and a victory of hope and confidence for the golden future of the region. While slamming the Gupakar alliance, he said that they knew they could neither compete with the Bharatiya Janata Party nor defeat the BJP alone. The election results have proved that even together they cannot defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Shri Prasad said that we are happy that in the Kashmir Valley too, we have won the election. I congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for this magnificent victory. The party's National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda ji, along with the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji and the entire team of the J&K BJP. I also congratulate every party worker who worked day and night for the development of the party in Jammu and Kashmir and also sacrificed their life for this cause.



“Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS, BJP Opens Account in Kashmir Valley, BJP Candidate Er Ejaz Hussain Won the Balhama Constituency of Srinagar. हर हर मोदी घर घर मोदी.”

Ravinder Raina

BJP State President, Jammu & Kashmir

The Union Minister said that the peacefully conducted Jammu and Kashmir DDC election is a tight slap on the face of separatists. He asserted that for the first time, the people saw transparent election process in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that a major feature of this election was that hundreds of new independent candidates participated in it, expressing their faith in the great cause of democracy. Many independent candidates openly fought against the Gupkar Alliance, which shows that new leadership is emerging in the region and the politics of appeasement and dynasty is coming to an end.

Shri Prasad said that more than 51% of the



“In the #DDCElections @BJP4JnK is the single largest party & has more votes than National Conference, PDP & Cong combined. With this result & overall 51.5% polling & peaceful election process, J&K is back on track. Congratulations Team @BJP4JnK @ImRavinderRaina”

BL Santhosh

National General Secretary (Org), BJP

people exercised their voting right in the DDC elections held in eight phases. Where people did not even use to come out of their homes to vote, people have exercised their voting right very firmly. Large voting also took place in areas like Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama. Voting in large numbers also took place at Sopore in North Kashmir which was prone to separatism. Good voting also took place in extremist affected areas like Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal. There was very little voting in these areas in the Lok Sabha elections, but after the removal of Article 370, the faith of the people in democracy has been strengthened and now they want to join the mainstream of development.

The Union Minister said that the work of some people is only one and that is to criticize the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, criticize the Bharatiya Janata Party. But, the Bharatiya Janata Party has won almost all the elections held after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. This means that the people have full faith in the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on his policies and on the programmes of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Whether rural citizens or urban, all the voters of the country have unwavering faith in the Prime Minister's development journey.

Shri Prasad said that I want to mention here again that the grand success in DDC elections which BJP has got is a victory of India, victory of democracy of the country, victory of aspiration of the people and undoubtedly it is a victory of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. ■

FARM ACTS ARE STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TOWARDS DOUBLING FARMERS INCOME: NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY MET AGRICULTURE MINISTER AND NARRATED THE BENEFITS OF THE FARM ACTS

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar met members of Farmer Producer Organisations of Federation of Indian FPOs and Aggregators (FIFA) representing 15 states and around 500 FPOs at Krishi Bhawan on December 17. They expressed their support for the recent Agricultural Reforms by the Government of India. They thanked the minister for the enabling environment which these Acts have created to scale business of FPOs to benefit the small and marginal farmers. They narrated their experiences in which they described how small farmers have benefitted from the recent reforms and Farm Acts.

The recent Agricultural Reforms, which can support FPOs to setup their own markets to enhance the incomes of farmers are --: the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment & Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; Liberalization of control orders under the Essential Commodities Act; Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and operational guidelines for promotion of 10,000 FPOs.

These reforms in Agriculture sector will lead to increased volume of production of horticulture crops and value-added commodities; Institutional credit to strengthen small farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs); will boost the agri-logistic infrastructure in a major way; will develop backward and forward linkages to meet demand of all consumption zones of India; will lead to One Nation One Market and will make the FPO movement a mass movement.

NAFED (National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.) has been designated as one of the National Implementing Agencies for formation and promotion of 10000 FPOs Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. NAFED has acquired FIFA to provide market linkage support to the FPOs for their produce and create markets in partnership with the FPOs under



the brand of NAFED e-Kisan Mandi (NeKM) which will be connected to the National Digital Marketing platform being created by NAFED.

50 NEKMS WILL BE CREATED IN 2021 IN THE FOLLOWING STATES:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Haryana | 3 |
| Punjab | 2 |
| Rajasthan | 3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3 |
| Gujarat | 5 |
| Maharashtra | 8 |
| Karnataka | 3 |
| Tamil Nadu | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 3 |
| Telangana | 1 |
| Jharkhand | 2 |
| Bihar | 2 |
| Chattisgarh | 1 |
| Odisha | 2 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 4 |
| J&K | 1 |
| NorthEast | 3 |

All India Kisan Coordination Committee Members submit a memorandum to Agriculture Minister in favour of the Farm Acts

THE INTENTIONS AND POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE TOWARDS THE WELFARE OF THE FARMERS- NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

The office bearers from different States representing the All India Kisan Coordination Committee met Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in Krishi Bhavan on December 14. Farmer leaders from Telangana, Maharashtra, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Bihar spoke to the Agriculture Minister. All of them were convinced that the recent Farm Acts are for the benefit of farmers across India and will save farmers from the clutches of the middlemen who exploited farmers over the years. They were of the opinion that the laws would ensure freedom of choice to farmers in sale and purchase of agri-produce and allow barrier-free trade and commerce outside premises of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees. They further added that giving farmers the right to enter into agreements with the buyer would enable prior price determination and transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor. These farm reforms, they felt, would also enable farmers to access modern technology, better seeds and other inputs, besides attracting private investment into the agriculture sector.

More than seven thousand NGOs work under the umbrella of the All India Kisan Coordination Committee and their members will all rise up to support the recently enacted Farm Acts. This assurance was given to the Agriculture Minister by the All India



Kisan Coordination Committee representatives. They expressed their gratitude to the Union Government for enacting these Farm Acts and urged not to give in to the demands of the agitators to roll them back. They also appealed that the Government should continue to educate the people about the benefit of these laws through advertisements and through training programmes.

Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar clarified that the intention and policy of the government are clear and farmers are already benefiting from the pro-farmer reforms which will help in increasing the income of farmers. The Government is always ready to engage in dialogue. ■

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF YOGASANA AS A COMPETITIVE SPORT

The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on December 17 announced the formal recognition of Yogasana as a competitive sport at a joint press conference held by the Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Naik, and the Union Minister of State (IC) for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Kiren Rijju in New Delhi on December 17.

While addressing, Shri Naik traced the origins of Yogasana competitions to the Indian Yoga tradition, where such competitions have been held for centuries.

He said that they are still being conducted today at multiple levels, but a strong and sustainable structure to impart national visibility to the competitions is yet to emerge. He further said that the Government decision to recognise Yogasana as a competitive sport comes after 3-4 years of wide consultations with the stakeholders of the Yoga sector. The Minister also said that Yogasana is an integral and important component of Yoga, which is psycho-physical in nature and popular across the globe for its efficacy in fitness and general wellness. ■

TRIBES INDIA CONTINUES EXPANDING ITS RANGE BY LAUNCHING MORE NEW PRODUCTS

Tribes India is continuing to add more new products, in the Forest Fresh and Organic range, to make its product offerings attractive, while enabling millions of tribal enterprises access to larger markets. This week, 20 more impactful, immunity products have been added to Tribes India range. A large number of new products (immunity boosting products, produce in the Forest Fresh and Organics range and tribal arts and handicrafts) have already been included by Tribes India in its range in the past two months. All the new products introduced in the past few weeks are available in 125 Tribes India outlets, Tribes India mobile vans and also on online platforms such as the Tribes India E-marketplace (tribesindia.com) and e-tailers.

Among the products launched on December 15 include 10 products from the Irulas and Kurumbas tribes of Tamil Nadu. These include three organic variants Shikakai powder, red rice, spices such

as nutmeg, nutmeg pickle and two types of Aval (Poha/ flattened rice). 10 attractive Dokra metalcraft decorative, handcrafted by the Gond and Korcu tribes from Madhya Pradesh have also been included in the Tribes India Catalogue. These beautifully crafted metal pieces are reasonably priced and are both decorative pieces and utility items. These include statues of Nandi, deer, card cases, napkin holders and pen stands.

The recently launched Tribes India e-marketplace, India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace which aims to connect 5 lakh tribal enterprises to national and international markets, showcases tribal produce and handicrafts, making them accessible to customers across the country.

With a variety of natural and sustainable produce and products, the Tribes India e-marketplace offers a glimpse into the age-old traditions of our tribal brethren. Do check out market.tribesindia.com. Buy Local Buy Tribal! ■

EXPONENTIAL RISE IN INDIA'S TESTING; CUMULATIVE TESTS CROSS 15 CR

India has crossed yet another landmark milestone in the fight against the global pandemic. The cumulative testing has crossed 15 Cr. 9,22,959 samples were tested in the last 24 hours which has increased India's total cumulative tests to 15,07,59,726. The past one crore tests were added in just 10 days. Comprehensive and widespread testing on a sustained basis has resulted in bringing down the positivity rate.

In another significant achievement, India has reported less than 40,000 new daily cases for eleven continuous days. In the last 24 hours, only 31,521 persons were found to be COVID positive in the country.

India also registered 37,725 new recoveries in the same duration which has led to a further contraction of the Active Caseload. India's present active caseload of 3,72,293 consists of just 3.81% of India's Total Positive Cases.

The total recovered cases have surpassed 92.5 lakh (92,53,306) on December 10, 2020.

The Recovery Rate has improved to 94.74%. The gap between Recovered cases and Active cases is steadily increasing and presently stands at 8,881,013. 77.30% of the new recovered cases is contributed by ten States/UTs.

Maharashtra saw 5,051 persons recovering from COVID. Kerala and Delhi reported 4,647 and 4,177 new recoveries, respectively. Ten States/UTs have contributed 74.65% of the new cases.

Maharashtra reported 4,981 cases in the last 24 hours. Kerala recorded 4,875 new cases while West Bengal reported 2,956 daily cases yesterday. 77.67% of the 412 case fatalities that have been reported in the past 24 hours are from Ten States/UTs.

18.20% of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra which reported 75 deaths. Delhi also saw a figure fatality count of 50 contributing another 12.13% of the fatalities.

The daily new deaths have been less than 500 from the last five days. ■

US PRESIDENT CONFERS PRESTIGIOUS MILITARY DECORATION 'LEGION OF MERIT' TO PM MODI

The Legion of Merit, Degree Chief Commander, was bestowed on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on behalf of Trump on 21 December. United States' President Donald Trump conferred the Legion of Merit, one of the highest military honours of the US, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "exceptionally meritorious service" as the leader of India. According to HT media report, the medal is rarely awarded and can only be conferred by the US President. It is usually given to heads of state or heads of government. The award was received on behalf of the Prime Minister by India's ambassador to

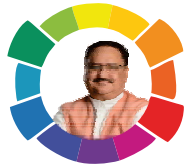
the US, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that he is deeply honored for being awarded Legion of Merit by the US Government. In a series of tweets, he said, "I am deeply honoured to be awarded the Legion of Merit by @POTUS @realDonaldTrump. It recognises the efforts of the people of India & the US to improve bilateral ties, reflected in the bipartisan consensus in both countries about the Indo-US Strategic Partnership. The 21st century presents both unprecedented challenges as well as opportunities. The India-US relationship can leverage the



vast potential of our people's unique strengths to provide global leadership for the benefit of entire humanity. On behalf of the 1.3 billion people of India, I reiterate my government's firm conviction and commitment to continue working with the US government, and all other stakeholders in both countries, for further strengthening India-US ties." ■



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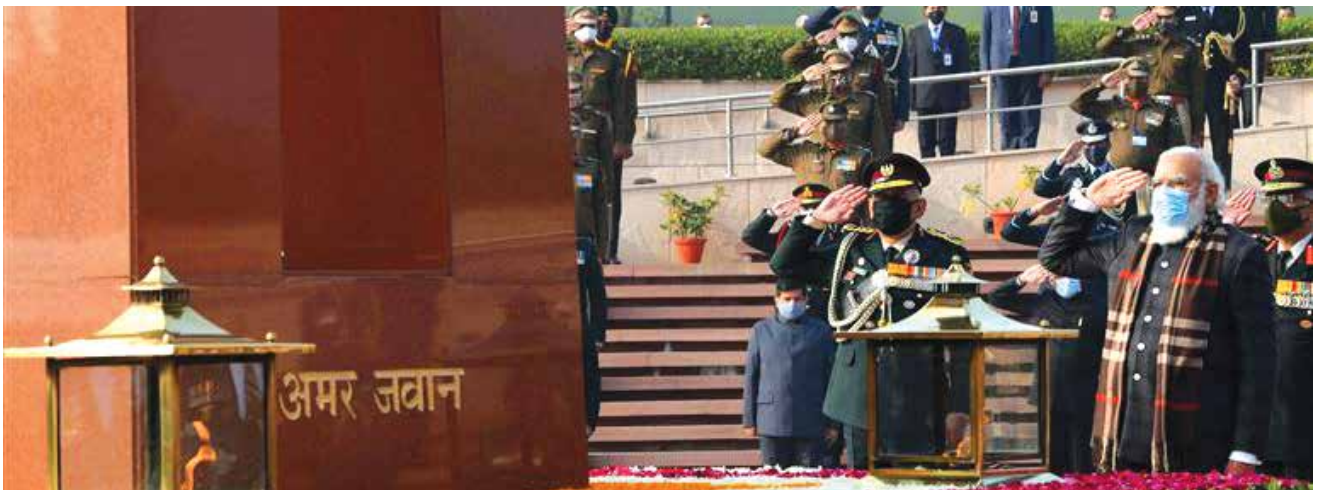
Dr. Mookerji Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramania Bharati Marg, New Delhi-110003
Ph.: 011-23381428 Fax: 011-23387887 E-mail: kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying tributes to Guru Teg Bahadur during his visit to Gurdwara Rakabganj Sahib, in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the Kisan Sammelan in Madhya Pradesh, via video conferencing, in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi pays homage at the National War Memorial, on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meets various groups of people, in Kutch, Gujara



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying homage to the martyrs of the 2001 Parliament attack, at Parliament building, in New Delhi



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Features:

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- Age group covered: 18 to 70 years
- Annual Premium: Rs. 12

Enrollment can be done at Bank Branch / BC Point

Achievements
as on 2nd Dec, 2020

Total enrollments: 21,4716 Cr.
No. of claims disbursed: 43,278

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

Features:

- Risk Coverage: Rs. 2 lakh (in case of death due to any reason)
- Age group covered: 18 to 50 years
- Annual Premium: Rs. 330

Enrollment can be done at Bank Branch / BC Point

Achievements
as on 2nd Dec, 2020

Total enrollments: 9,4980 Cr.
No. of claims disbursed: 1,99,145

Atal Pension Yojana

Features:

- Age to provide a definite pension to all
- Focus on pension coverage for all
- Minimum guaranteed pension of Rs. 1000 to the 60th year onwards from the age of 68
- After death of both - subscriber and first nominee, the pension amount would be returned to the nominee

Any Indian national between the age group of 18-40 years with a valid saving account in bank or in post office is eligible to enroll and contribute under APY.

Achievements
as on 16th Dec, 2020

Total subscribers: 2,71,12,885
Female subscribers: 1,18,39,846