

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



'GRAND VICTORY OF BJP IS CERTAIN IN TELANGANA'



SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN GUJARAT

THIS ENERGETIC TEAM WILL TAKE GUJARAT TO NEWER HEIGHTS OF PROGRESS: PM



CABINET APPROVES EXTENSION OF FREE FOOD GRAIN TO 81.35 CRORE BENEFICIARIES

SINCE 2014 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS CHANGED



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda and other senior leaders at a massive rally after inaugurating Koppal BJP District Office and nine other district BJP Offices at Kavalur in Karnataka on December 15, 2022



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda receiving the greetings at the culmination of Praja Sangrama Yatra in Karimnagar, Telangana on December 15, 2022



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda at the BJP State Treasurers Meeting at party HQ in New Delhi on December 13, 2022



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, Union Ministers Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Shri G. Kishan Reddy at Kashi Tamil Sangamam in Varanashi on December 16, 2022



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah chairing the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata on December 17, 2022



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh attending the Commissioning Ceremony of INS Mormugao, a warship, packed with state-of-the-art weapons & sensors in Mumbai on December 18, 2022

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BHUPENDRA PATEL TAKES OATH FOR 2ND TIME AS CHIEF MINISTER; 16 MINISTERS ALSO SWORN-IN

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



@narendramodi

The effect of the changed priorities and work culture of the Central Government is visible across the country. Northeast is also a big beneficiary of this change.

(18 December, 2022)

@JPNadda

We are all filled with pride over the successful test-fire of nuclear-capable ballistic missile #Agni5 . Today we have taken another giant step towards realising the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' objective of Hon. PM @narendramodi in the defence sector. Congratulations to @DRDO_India.

(15 December, 2022)



@AmitShah

Some NGOs work to make society healthy, while some want to harass society, the policy of the Government of India cannot be the same for both. The Modi government clearly believes that strict action will be taken against any NGO that does not follow the law of FCRA.

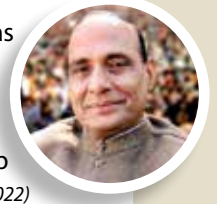
(21 December, 2022)



@rajnathsingh

Recently, our country's economy has joined the top five economies in the world. And the estimate of a big agency of the world tells that in the next 5 years i.e. by 2027, India will join the top 3 economies of the world.

(17 December, 2022)



@Dr. K Laxman

Rising self-reliance of Petrochemicals industry under Modi govt is working as catalyst to realize India's \$5 trillion-economy vision!

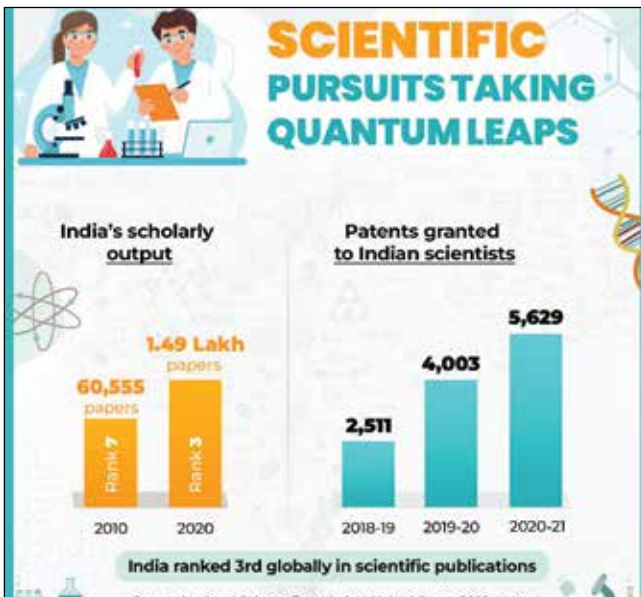
(19 December, 2022)



@B L Santhosh

He hit the nail on the head with @MamataOfficial on his side. Thank you @SrBachchan for standing for victims of political violence in West Bengal.

(15 December, 2022)



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR

wishes a very happy

PONGAL, BIHU & MAKAR SANKRANTI (14 JANUARY)

to all of its readers



ANTYODAYA WILL SEE THE RISE OF A NEW INDIA

As the new BJP government takes oath in Gujarat and Shri Bhupendra Patel is sworn in as Chief Minister of the state for the second time, a new chapter in Gujarat's history is being written with the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the BJP Karyakartas. While the BJP has been in government for the last 27 years in Gujarat and has received the blessings of the people for the seventh time in a row, the spirit of serving the people through politics of performance continues to inspire the Karyakartas across the nation. Along with the commitment to good governance and development embodied in the "Gujarat Model" of developmental politics that emerged under the charismatic and visionary leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, the nation is witnessing a new kind of politics with a single minded devotion to serving the people. The historic mandate of the people of Gujarat has sent a message across the country that the unprincipled politics of casteism, corruption, dynasty, and opportunism can be defeated with the politics of performance, commitment, and hard work. The Congress, which has become a symbol of corruption, dynasty, policy paralysis, and divisive politics, is now continuously relegated to the background in Indian politics. While the overwhelming blessings of the people have further strengthened the commitment of the Karyakartas, the need of the hour is to exceed people's expectations by dedicating to serving them tirelessly.

The outrageous remark of Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto is not only unacceptable but highly condemnable in the civilised world. It is undoubtedly the result of the utter frustration in which Pakistan finds itself owing to its unabated faith in terrorism, deep nexus with terrorists, various terror outfits and their networks, and underworld operators. Today, Pakistan stands exposed as a sponsor, harbinger, and promoter of terrorism across the world. Moreover, Pakistan has become an exporter of terrorism, causing havoc in many cities across the world while harbouring

dreaded terrorists, extending all kinds of logistics, and protecting them on its soil. On the other hand, India, under the strong and determined leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has become a crusader against terrorism, bringing it to the agenda of every multilateral international forum. India's relentless campaign against terrorism has resulted in the international marginalisation of Pakistan. The uncivilised and shameful attack on the Prime Minister by Pakistan is a result of such desperation, which continues to haunt it as the epicentre of terrorism. The statements of Bilawal Bhutto should be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

While in the winter session of parliament, the Congress has tried to mislead the country by raising baseless questions on Tawang, the statement of Rahul Gandhi on armed forces is highly offensive and condemnable. It is not the first time that the Congress has tried to belittle the achievements of the armed forces and question their capabilities, but it has become a habitual offender on questions of national security. Instead of recognising the valour, strength and courage of the armed forces,

the Congress has tried to break morale of the nation by attempting to undermine the achievements of the country. It is shocking to see that the Congress' statements on the issues of national security are often similar to Pakistan's statements and sometimes in line with China's positions. The Congress will do well to apologise for its position on the issues of national security and desist from such criminal acts in the future.

The extension of 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' for one year shows the unflinching commitment of the Modi government towards the principles of 'Antyodaya'. Ensuring food security to the poorest of the poor by extending the scheme to more than 80 crore people is a rare example in the world. There is no doubt that Antyodaya will see the rise of a New India. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org

**BJP forms government in Gujarat
for seventh time in a row**

BHUPENDRA PATEL TAKES OATH FOR 2ND TIME AS CHIEF MINISTER 16 MINISTERS ALSO SWORN-IN



A new BJP government for the seventh time in a row, led by Shri Bhupendra Patel was sworn-in at a grand ceremony at Helipad Ground of Sachivalaya near the Vidhan Sabha in Gandhinagar on 12 December 2022. Shri Bhupendra Patel took oath as Chief Minister for the second time and became 18th Chief Minister of Gujarat. The oath was administered by Gujarat Governor Shri Acharya Devrat. Apart from the Chief Minister, the Governor also administered the oath to 16 ministers; who will form the Chief Minister's 2.0 cabinet. Out of the 16 ministers, eight are in the Cabinet rank, two are Ministers of State (Independent

PM CONGRATULATES GUJARAT CM AND OTHER MINISTERS



Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Gujarat CM Shri Bhupendra Patel and other Ministers. In his message the PM said, "Congratulations to Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel on taking oath as CM of Gujarat. I would also like to congratulate all those who took oath as Ministers. This is an energetic team which will take Gujarat to even newer heights of progress".

List of MLAs sworn-in as Cabinet Ministers

1.	Shri Kanubhai Mohanlal Desai
2.	Shri Rushikesh Ganeshbhai Patel
3.	Shri Raghavjibhai Hansrajbhai Patel
4.	Shri Balvantsinh Chandansinh Rajput
5.	Shri Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai Bavaliya
6.	Shri Mulubhai Hardasbhai Bera
7.	Dr. Kuberbhai Mansukhbhai Dindor
8.	Smt. Bhanuben Manoharbhai Babariya



GUJARAT WILL WRITE A GOLDEN CHAPTER OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY: JP NADDA



Congratulating Shri Bhupendra Patel and his team after the swearing-in ceremony, the BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, “Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Shri @Bhupendrapbjp ji on taking oath for the second time as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and the members of his cabinet. I have full faith that the state will write a golden chapter of progress and prosperity under the guidance of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji”.

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda further said, “Met the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri @Bhupendrapbjp ji and wished him for a successful tenure. I have full faith that under the guidance and leadership of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the state will reach the pinnacle of development”.

Among others, the Chief Ministers of BJP and NDA ruled states like Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, MP CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Karnataka CM Shri Basavaraj Bommai, Assam CM Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, Haryana CM Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant, Uttarakhand CM Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Tripura CM Shri Manik Saha, Maharashtra CM Shri Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Nagaland CM Shri Neiphiu Rio were present on the oath taking ceremony.

It was a big moment for the BJP as it marked a record breaking historic victory in the recently concluded Gujarat Assembly elections, counting for which was held on December 08. Despite ruling the state for 27 long years, the BJP got a massive majority with 156 seats, while the opposition Congress got only 17 seats out of the 182 Assembly seats in the state.

Minister of State (Independent Charge)	
1.	Shri Harsh Rameshkumar Sanghvi
2.	Shri Jagdish Vishwakarma

Minister of State	
1.	Shri Parshottambhai Odhavjibhai Solanki
2.	Shri Bachubhai Maganbhai Khabad
3.	Shri Mukeshbhai Zinabhai Patel
4.	Shri Praful Chhaganbhai Pansheriya
5.	Shri Bhikhusinhji Chatursinhji Parmar
6.	Shri Kunvarjibhai Narsinhbhai Halpati

Charge) and six are Ministers of State (MoS). The new entrants include 11 former ministers.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, senior BJP leaders, including BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri BL Santhosh and other union Ministers.

GUJARAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A LEADER IN GOOD GOVERNANCE: AMIT SHAH



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said, "Congratulations to Shri @Bhupendrabjp on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for the second time. The people of Gujarat have given unprecedented support to BJP's politics of development. I am sure that under the guidance of Shri @narendramodi ji, the double engine government of Shri Bhupendra ji will take Gujarat's pride and development to new heights".

He said, "I met the Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri @Bhupendrabjp ji. I am sure that under the guidance of PM Shri Narendra Modiji and your leadership, the Gujarat government will take the state to a new level of development and progress".

BHUPENDRA PATEL ELECTED AS LEADER OF BJP LEGISLATIVE PARTY

Earlier, following the historic election results, Shri Bhupendra Patel resigned as Chief Minister along with his entire cabinet on 09 December, 2022 to pave the way for the formation of a new government. He was elected as the leader of the BJP Legislative Party on 10 December, following which he met the Governor and staked the claim to form the next government.

On 10 December 2022, the incumbent Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendra Patel was unanimously elected the leader of the legislative party at the meeting of 156 BJP MLAs held at Shree Kamalam, the State Party Headquarters in Gandhinagar. Union Defence Minister Shri

WISHING A SUCCESSFUL TENURE AHEAD: RAJNATH SINGH



Wishing all the best to the newly sworn-in Ministry, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Congratulations to Shri @Bhupendrabjp ji on taking oath as Gujarat's Chief Minister for the second term. I am confident; he will continue taking the state forward on newer heights of development and good governance. Wishing him a successful tenure ahead".

He further said, "Met with the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri @Bhupendrabjp ji. My best wishes to him for a successful tenure ahead".

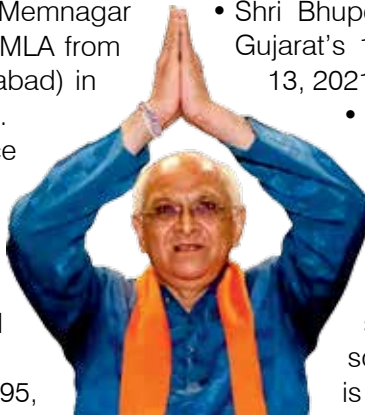
Rajnath Singh, former Karnataka CM and Bharatiya Janata Party Parliamentary Board member Shri BS Yediyurappa and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Munda were the central observers at the meeting. Former Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Rupani, Deputy CM Shri Nitin Patel and former Education Minister Shri Bhupendra Chudasma were also present at the meeting in Gandhinagar.

In the BJP Legislative Party meeting Pardi MLA Shri Kanu Desai formally proposed Shri Bhupendra Patel's name. Speaking to media persons after the conclusion of the meeting at Shree Kamalam in Gandhinagar Shri Patel said, "Today, during the meeting of the BJP MLAs, I have once again been handed over the responsibility to lead the party. The government and the organisation will work together."

He said, "The people of Gujarat have once

Shri Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel was sworn-in as Gujarat's 18th Chief Minister on 12 December, 2022. In the 2022 Gujarat Legislative Assembly Elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party led by Shri Bhupendra Patel won a record-breaking 156 of the total 182 seats, with the party forming the state government for the 7th consecutive time.

- Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel began his political journey as a member in Memnagar municipality and got elected as MLA from Ghatlodia constituency (Ahmedabad) in 2017 Gujarat assembly elections.
- Shri Patel has extensive experience in administration, having served as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), and Corporator for Thaltej ward from 2010 to 2015.
- He began his political career in 1995, when he was appointed as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Memnagar municipality. He served the municipality for over a decade, becoming Chairman of the local body during 1999-2000 and 2004-2006.
- He has also served as the Vice-Chairman of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation School Board between 2008 and 2010. Later on, he served as a Corporator from 2010 to 2015. During this tenure, he served as the Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).



LIFE SKETCH OF BHUPENDRA PATEL

- In 2015, he was appointed as the chairman of Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA).
- In 2017, Shri Patel became a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for the first time, by winning the election from Ghatlodia constituency with a wide margin of 1,17,000 votes.
- Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel was sworn-in as Gujarat's 17th Chief Minister on September 13, 2021.
 - Born on 15 July, 1962 in Ahmedabad, Shri Patel holds a Diploma in Civil Engineering from Government Polytechnic, Ahmedabad.
 - A firm believer of 'service before self,' Shri Patel has been an active social worker since an early age. He is also an active member of Pandit Deendayal Library managed by RSS at Memnagar.
 - In his new role as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel sees a huge opportunity to serve the citizens of Gujarat and is committed to set new benchmarks of good governance in the state.
- Beyond politics, Shri Patel enjoys playing badminton and cricket. He is a follower of Akram Vignan Movement founded by Dada Bhagwan. Shri Patel is also serving as trustee at Sardar Dham and World Umiya Foundation.

again put their stamp of approval on the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modiji, his politics of

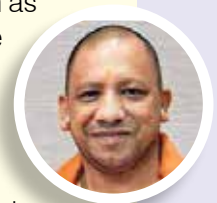
@Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Congratulations to all the colleagues who took oath of office today along with Shri Bhupendra Patelji and best wishes to the people of Gujarat who have paved the way for the historic victory of BJP by giving their invaluable votes.



@Yogi Adityanath

Heartiest congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patel ji on taking the oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. I have full faith that under the guidance of respected Prime Minister and your leadership, Gujarat will touch new heights of development and prove to be an important ally in the fulfillment of the resolution of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.



@Manohar Lal Khattar

Congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patel ji on taking oath as Chief Minister again with a huge majority in Gujarat. The historic mandate given by the public showing faith in respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji's leadership and BJP will lead Gujarat on the path of development and prosperity.



@Pushkar Singh Dhami

Congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patel ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and to his entire newly elected cabinet. Under the guidance of respected Prime Minister and your leadership, Gujarat will continue to move ahead on the path of development. Best wishes to all of you for a bright tenure.



@Himanta Biswa Sarma

Heartiest congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patelji on taking oath as CM of Gujarat for the second term. This is a reaffirmation of your dedication to public service.

I'm sure with margdarshan of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modiji, you will take Gujarat further on the path of development.



@Basavaraj S Bommai

Congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patel on taking oath as Gujarat Chief Minister which is his second stint as CM & seventh for BJP as a ruling party in the state. It is a clear vindication of the faith of people of Gujarat in his good governance & administration.



@Prof.(Dr.) Manik Saha

Congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patel ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister. Under the guidance of PM Shri Narendra Modi ji and under your leadership, the double engine government will take Gujarat on the path of development at double the speed, the wind of development blowing from Gujarat will blow unabated in the entire nation in 'Azadi ka Amrit Kaal'.



@Dr. Pramod Sawant

Attended the Swearing-in ceremony in Gujarat. Heartiest congratulations to Shri Bhupendra Patelji & the Council of Ministers who took oath today. Under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, our nation shall continue on the path of all round development.



@Neiphu Rio

Congratulations Shri Bhupendra Patel Ji on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. I also extend my congratulations to all those who took oath as Ministers. I wish you and your Council of Ministers a successful tenure.



development and put their trust on the BJP". Gujarat would work with Shri Narendra Modi who wants to place the state in the league of developed state of the country".

The Chief Minister assured that the BJP would work round the clock to implement the party's manifesto. After the meeting Shri Bhupendra Patel met Gujarat Governor Shri Acharya Devrrat. Gujarat BJP President Shri CR Paatil, Shri Harsh Sanghavi, Shri Purnesh Modi and Shri Shankar Chaudhary were among the other leaders who

met the Governor. Later, Shri Patel also travelled to New Delhi, where he met the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and formally invited them for the swearing-in ceremony. ■

“APPEASEMENT TO NONE BUT JUSTICE TO ALL” IS PRINCIPLE OF BJP: JP NADDA

The BJP National President, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has inaugurated the Koppal District BJP office, virtually inaugurated nine other District offices and laid the foundation of three BJP offices in Karnataka on 15 December, 2022. He said, it is a matter of great pleasure for the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party that 10 new offices of the party district units are getting inaugurated while foundation stone has been laid for construction of three new district offices. Till now 296 new District Offices of the party have been opened in the country, while by March 2023, 210 other new District Offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party will be inaugurated, he said.

BJP Government Implemented Pro-Poor Policies

Addressing a huge gathering of Karyakartas Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is highly committed for the development and growth of Karnataka. The BJP government and our senior leaders Shri BS Yediyurappa and Shri Basavraj Bommai have implemented on ground the pro-poor and public welfare policies of the Modi Government. For that today, Karnataka leads in all fronts and particularly on the innovation index.

He said all the opposition parties are just bothered about the future of their families and dynasty. They are busy in minting money by indulging in big scams and massive corruption. On the other hand all BJP

‘BHARAT TODO YATRA’

- Shri JP Nadda said the so called ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’ of Rahul Gandhi is actually the ‘Bharat Todo Yatra’.
- Rahul Gandhi is seeking penance through his Yatra because his ancestors never missed a chance to break India.
- Is Rahul Gandhi unaware of the fact that his great grandfather implemented the Article 370 to separate Jammu and Kashmir from our country?
- This is the same Rahul Gandhi who had openly supported anti-India forces who had shouted slogans against our country in JNU.
- Such people will unite the country or break it?
- During his ‘Bharat Jodo Yatra’, Rahul Gandhi is roaming around with people who does not believe in national integration, unity of our country and our rich cultural heritage.
- They are in the streets not to unite the country, but to break it.
- The Congress is not aware what progress and development mean. It only knows how to grab power, how to fleece people and loot public money by indulging in scams and take commission.
- This is the history of the Congress party in Karnataka.

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'GRAND VICTORY OF BJP IS CERTAIN IN TELANGANA'



The fifth phase of Praja Sangrama Yatra under the leadership of Telangana BJP President Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar was concluded with a massive public rally at Kareem Nagar in Telangana on 15 December, 2022. BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed the rally on the concluding day. The Yatra, which was started from Bhainsa, wound its way through Nirmal, Khanapur, Korutla, Jagtial, Kondagattu and Gangadhara. Telangana BJP President Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar has walked for over 1,400 km and covered 56 Assembly segments in the State. He also addressed 14 public meetings and over 100 roadside meetings during the Yatra

Addressing the massive rally at the culmination of the Praja Sangram Yatra in Kareem Nagar, Telangana, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, "It is not the final closing of the Praja Sangram Yatra, it is the culmination of the first phase of the Padyatra. The Bharatiya Janata Party will soon announce the schedule of the next phase of the Yatra and will visit every village and town, every household to expose the KCR government in Telangana. This Yatra is not going to stop now, it will become the voice of the people of Telangana who are suffering due to the misrule and corruption of the KCR government".

"PRAJA GOSA, BJP BHAROSA"

Shri JP Nadda said the grand victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Dubakka and Huzurabad clearly reflects the mood of the people of Telangana. In the upcoming assembly elections in Telangana the grand victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party is certain. Now the Bharatiya Janata Party has started a new campaign -- "Praja Gosa, BJP Bharosa". Through this we will reach out to every house in every village and town where all our leaders will participate. The Bharatiya Janata Party has given a new slogan -- "Salu Dora, Selavu Dora" which means -- Enough is enough,

goodbye KCR.

He said during the second and third phases of the Praja Sangram Yatra, the TRS government had tried to stop the Yatra. "I want to tell KCR and he should remember that there is Democracy in our country and the people throw all repressive and anti people forces into dustbin".

WORKING FOR WELFARE OF ALL SECTIONS

Today, in our country there is a government being run under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi which is working for the welfare and empowerment of all sections of our society. However, on the other hand in Telangana we have an anti-democratic government. The anti-people KCR government is neck-deep in corruption and scams and the people of the state are suffering due to the atrocities committed by the KCR government. KCR is a big liar who is cheating and fooling people of Telangana. He says Telangana is the richest state, but the fact is that Telangana was a richest state but you have made it a poor and debt ridden state. Today Telangana is in debt worth over Rs 3.29 lakh crores, Shri JP Nadda added.

ONLY BJP CAN THROW TRS GOVERNMENT OUT

Shri JP Nadda said the people of Telangana

TRS, NECK DEEP IN CORRUPTION

The BJP National President said, "I am pained in saying this, and I am sure KCR must be fuming, but the question is why the investigating agencies have to call KCR's daughter for interrogation? The biggest irony is that TRS - Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which is neck deep in corruption and involved in scams, is changing its name to BRS - Bharat Rashtra Samithi".

- Shri JP Nadda said KCR used to say that he will run his government in a democratic manner and make Dalit the Chief Minister. But now only KCR's son and daughter and his son- in-law are seen in the party running the show.
- A person who used to talk about democracy is busy promoting his family and dynasty in the party and Telangana.
- Loot and scams at micro level is going on in Telangana under the patronage of KCR.
- At the lower level his ministers and MLAs are busy looting the people of the state.
- The KCR government in Telangana is running Dharani portal for land revenue, which has become the tool of loot and massive corruption in the state.
- KCR had promised he will give two- bedroom house to poor but KCR has made his farmhouse by snatching the house from the poor.
- KCR neither waived loans of farmers, nor did he gave land to our SC and ST brothers and sisters.
- He also did not give Rs 3,016 monthly stipend to the youth as he had promised. This is the reality of KCR and his government.

know that it is only the Bharatiya Janata Party which can throw the TRS government out of Telangana. People want the corrupt, repressive and anti people government of KCR to go. The people of Telangana have made up their mind to elect the Bharatiya Janata Party in the state in order to run a pro poor and development -oriented government in Telangana.

KCR MADE NO EFFORTS TO GET TELANGANA OUT OF DEBT: BANDI SANJAY

Addressing on the conclusion of the fifth phase of his Praja Sangrama Yatra in Karimnagar, Telangana BJP President Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar said Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao made absolutely no efforts to get the state out of the financial doldrums. He said, "I am asking the Chief Minister: Where is your plan? Where is your policy to get Telangana out of the debt you pushed into?"

Shri Bandi Sanjay said the Telangana government was not able to pay salaries to its staff. "Do you want a government that will pay your salaries on the first of every month? Or do you want to live with a government that has no answer on how it can pay the salaries to its staff? When the BJP comes to power, our government will ensure prompt salary payments," he said.

The people must decide whether they want a corrupt TRS government or a BJP government which is ready to construct houses for shelter-less poor, which is ready to strengthen education and health sectors, and take care of the poor, he said. ■

→→ Continued from Page 11

leaders and Karyakartas are busy serving the people of the state round the clock.

Jana Sangh and BJP worked hard to unite the country

The BJP National President further said it is the great people of our country, the Jana Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party who worked hard to unite the country. Today, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been cementing the bond between the citizens by uniting the country. For us our party is one big family, but for the Opposition parties their families have become the party.

The Jana Sangh and the Bharatiya Janata Party have always played a major role in the national

integration and led from the front in keeping our unity intact. The sterling examples of it are scrapping of Article 370 from our Constitution which led to the unification of Jammu and Kashmir with India in the real sense, the supreme sacrifice of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee for Jammu and Kashmir, Goa Mukti Andolan, hoisting of the National Flag at Lal Chowk in Srinagar.

The Bharatiya Janata Party believes in the principle of --"Appeasement to none but Justice to all". It is the Bharatiya Janata Party which opposed the evil of Triple Talaq and the Modi government ended it. It is our party which took the pledge of constructing the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, which is now being fulfilled under the guidance of Shri Narendra Modi. ■

Nationwide protest against Pakistan Minister's remarks

The Bharatiya Janata Party on 17 December, 2022 staged a nationwide protest condemning Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto for making derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that sparked an outrage across the country. The minister made these remarks during a press conference

Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Telangana and Rajasthan. In the national capital, the BJP workers also took out a protest march, condemning the remarks of Bhutto.

In Uttar Pradesh, the agitation against Bhutto's remark started on 16th December as BJP State President Shri Bhupendra Singh

Lucknow, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Mahoba and Prayagraj.

BJP leaders in Pune led by Maharashtra BJP President Shri Chandrashekhar Bawankule held a protest at Tilak Chowk. The Karyakartas also protested in Mumbai and other cities in the state.

In Gujarat also, BJP workers carried out statewide protests against Pakistan's Foreign Minister.

In Karnataka and Telangana also, several leaders and protestors took out rallies and raised slogans against Bilawal Bhutto and Pakistan and demanded an unconditional apology.

BJP leaders and Karyakartas also protested also organised in Odisha Assam, Haryana, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

PAKISTAN SPONSORING AND SPREADING TERRORISM: S JAISHANKAR

External Affairs Minister Shri S Jaishankar also ripped into Pakistan over its role in sponsoring and spreading terrorism and advised Islamabad to clean up its act and try to be a good neighbor. In reply to a question from a Pakistani journalist, who accused India of spreading terror, Shri Jaishankar replied, "You are asking the wrong minister when you say how long will we do this. It is the ministers of Pakistan who will tell how long Pakistan



at the United Nations in New York. BJP Senior leaders and Party workers led the protest in various States including Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh,

Chaudhary issued a statement calling his remarks against Shri Modi as shameful. The protesters held placards and staged protests in various districts including

intends to practice terrorism."

Addressing a press conference, Union Ministers Shri Anurag Thakur and (MoS) Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi also condemned Bhutto's remarks as a sign of intellectual bankruptcy. They said the remark has been made to remain in power, mislead the world and divert global attention from Pakistan's collapsing economy, lawlessness and anarchy, and simmering differences in the Pakistani army, its deteriorating global relations and the fact that Pakistan has become the major sanctuary for terrorists. What more can be expected from Pakistan's foreign minister which reflects his and his government's desperation and mental bankruptcy?, they asked". ■

COMMENT 'HIGHLY DEROGATORY AND FULL OF COWARDICE': BJP

In an official statement, the BJP said that the party condemned the shameful statement of the Pakistani Foreign Minister by burning his and Pakistan's effigy in various states. Slamming Bhutto's comments, the BJP said, the "reprehensible and uncalled for remarks have further lowered the image of Pakistan on the global platform. Let Pakistan not forget that their students were evacuated from war hit Ukraine under the protection of the Indian Tricolour."

The statement said the comment is 'highly derogatory and full of cowardice' and said, "The statement is also aimed at misleading the world and diverting global attention from Pakistan's collapsing economy, lawlessness and anarchy in Pakistan, simmering differences in the Pakistani army, its deteriorating global relations, and the fact that Pakistan has become the major sanctuary for terrorists".

The BJP said India's foreign policy is being appreciated globally, while Pakistan is facing backlash from even smaller nations. "On one hand we have our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi under whose leadership India has left its indelible mark on various global fora, and on the other hand, we have Pakistan which has faced ridicule and insult on various international platforms. On one hand, India's foreign policy is being appreciated globally, while on the other hand, Pakistan is facing backlash from even smaller nations".

BJYM PROTESTS OUTSIDE PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI

The BJYM workers also staged a protest outside Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on 16 December against Bilawal's statement. BJYM National President Shri Tejasvi Surya said, "BJYM strongly condemns Pakistan External Affairs Minister Bhilawal Bhutto's distasteful & cheap remarks against PM Shri Modi. Nothing better can be expected of a country whose only export is terrorism."

Shri Surya added, "Bilawal Bhutto is a frustrated political dynast of failed state of Pakistan. PM Modi's global war on terror is hurting Pakistan at global level & naturally, it's ISI controlled foreign minister is mouthing such distasteful statements against PM



Modi. India condemns this."

BJYM has received messages from fellow Indians and people across the world to condemn the Pakistan foreign minister's vicious and spiteful comments against the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy.

The BJYM strongly condemns the distasteful and uncivilized remarks made by Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto

against Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16 December 2022 at the United Nations. The comments reflect the utter frustration of a desperate political dynasty trying to make himself relevant in the failed state of Pakistan. His vilification of Prime Minister Modi emanates from his country's frustration over its inability to continue using terrorism as state policy.

The karyakartas of BJYM also held protests in all states across the country against the aforementioned remarks by the Pakistani foreign minister. Not only India but the world condemns this atrocious act of Pakistan. The Karyakartas said Pakistan should apologize for its act. ■

CABINET APPROVES EXTENSION OF FREE FOOD GRAIN TO 81.35 CRORE BENEFICIARIES TILL DECEMBER 2023

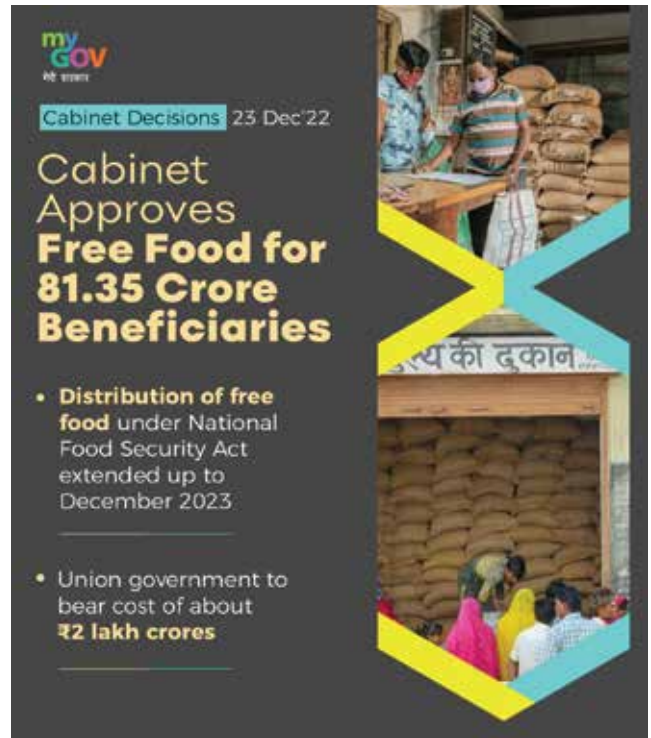
The Central government will provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for one year from January 1, 2023, the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has decided on 23 December, 2022.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi "The welfare of the country's poor is of paramount importance for us. In such a situation, the government has taken this important decision to ensure their food security. More than 80 crore people of the country will get its direct benefit"

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda "The Union Cabinet's historic decision which was chaired by Hon'ble PM @ Narendramodi to provide free ration under National Food Security Act for 81.3 crore poor people till December 2023 will strengthen food security and bring relief for the underprivileged".

Noteworthy, the PMGKAY was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shuttered by a nationwide lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the corona pandemic. During the pandemic period, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for 28 months free distribution of food grains was done under 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' (PMGKAY). Under the scheme, 5 kg of wheat and rice is provided free of cost to 80 crore poor per month. The scheme had been in effect for 28 months now. Its latest extension was to expire this month. In the last 28 months, the government has spent Rs 1.80 lakh crore on distribution of free ration to the poor under PMGKAY. In September, 2022 the government had extended PMGKAY for three months till 31 December, 2022.

Now, the Centre will spend more than Rs 2 lakh crore in this period as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes, to remove the financial burden of the poor and the poorest of the poor, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Commerce & Industry and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal



said while addressing media persons after the Cabinet meeting.

The Minister said this was a historic decision that reflects the sensitivity of the prime minister towards the beneficiaries of welfare schemes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Centre to spend over Rs 2 lakh crore in next 1 year on food subsidy under NFSA
- This is over and above the monthly distribution of highly subsidised food grains under NFSA
- 5 kg food grains per person to Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries and 35 kg per household to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) beneficiaries (poorest of the poor) will be provided free of cost for next one year
- He said under the NFSA, subsidized food grain was distributed at Rs 3 per kg for rice, Rs 2 per kg for wheat and Rs 1 per kg coarse grains to beneficiaries.
- The cabinet has decided that the beneficiaries will now receive the food grains free of cost. ■

Union Cabinet approves revision of pension of Armed Forces under 'ONE RANK ONE PENSION'

- Armed Forces Personnel retired up to June 30, 2019 to be covered
- Over 25.13 lakh to be benefitted
- Rs 23,638 crore to be paid as arrears from July 2019 to June 2022
- Estimated additional annual expenditure for implementation of the revision calculated as approx. Rs 8,450 crore @31% Dearness Relief

The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 23 December, 2022 has approved revision of pension of Armed Forces Pensioners/family pensioners under One Rank One Pension (OROP) w.e.f. July 01, 2019. Pension of the past pensioners would be re-fixed on the basis of average minimum and maximum pension of Defence Forces retirees of calendar year 2018 in the same rank with the same length of service.

Noteworthy, the Government took a historic decision to implement OROP for the Defence Forces Personnel/family pensioners and issued a policy letter on November 07, 2015 for revision of pension w.e.f. July 01, 2014. In the said policy letter, it was mentioned that in future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 years. Approx. Rs 57,000 crore has been spent @



Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly installments. However, all the family pensioners, including those in receipt of Special/Liberalised Family Pension and Gallantry Award Winners, shall be paid arrears in one installment

Rs 7,123 crore per year in eight years in the implementation of OROP.

BENEFICIARIES

The Armed Forces Personnel

retired up to June 30, 2019 {excluding premature (PMR) retired w.e.f. July 01, 2014} will be covered under this revision. More than 25.13 lakh (including over 4.52 lakh new beneficiaries) Armed Forces Pensioners/family pensioners will be benefitted. Pension for those drawing above the average shall be protected. The benefit would also be extended to family pensioners, including war widows and disabled pensioners.

Arrears will be paid in four half-yearly installments. However, all the family pensioners, including those in receipt of Special/Liberalised Family Pension and Gallantry Award Winners, shall be paid arrears in one installment.

The estimated annual expenditure for the implementation of the revision has been calculated as approx. Rs 8,450 crore at 31% Dearness Relief (DR). ■

Indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Mormugao, second warship of P15B class, commissions

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao (D67), second warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, was commissioned in the august presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on December 18, 2022. The event marked the formal induction of the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.



P15B DESTROYERS

- P15B destroyers incorporate new design concepts for improved survivability, seakeeping and manoeuvrability.
- Enhanced stealth has also been achieved, making the ships difficult to detect. With a significantly increased indigenous content,
- P15B destroyers are a hallmark of self-reliance in warship design and building
- it is a shining example of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

In his address, the Raksha Mantri described INS Mormugao as one of the most powerful indigenously-built warships which will significantly enhance the country's maritime capabilities and secure national interests. "INS Mormugao is one of the world's most technologically-advanced missile carriers. With over 75% indigenous content, it is a testimony to India's excellence in design and development of warships and a shining example of our growing indigenous defence production capabilities. The warship will

meet the present and future needs of our country as well as of our friendly countries across the globe," he said.

The ship is equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare conditions. With over 75% indigenous content, all her major weapons and sensors have been developed and manufactured in India. ■

INDIAN NAVY GETS 5TH SCORPENE-CLASS SUBMARINE

The Indian Navy on 20 December, 2022 received the fifth scorpene-class submarine Vagir ahead of its planned commissioning next month. The induction of the submarine, built under Project-75, is set to bolster the Indian Navy's combat capability.



India has been focusing on shoring up its maritime capability with a focus on the Indian Ocean in the backdrop of concerns over China's growing forays into the region, considered the backyard of the Indian Navy.

Project-75 includes the indigenous construction of six submarines of Scorpene design. The submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in Mumbai and the construction of these submarines are another step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. ■

INDIA'S RANK IS THE BEST AMONGST G 20 COUNTRIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE PERFORMANCE INDEX

The Climate Change Performance Index 2023 report was released recently and India secured 8th position in the index which is 2 positions up from the last edition. Since no country was strong enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating, thus the top three places i.e 1-3 are vacant. Thereafter India is amongst the top 5 countries. With India (8th), the United Kingdom (11th), and Germany (16th), only three G20 countries are among the high performers in CCPI 2023. Thus India's rank is the best amongst the G 20 countries. This information was given by the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey in a written reply in Lok Sabha on 19 December. ■

INDIA WITNESSES EMPHATIC GROWTH IN EXPORT OF AGRI AND ALLIED COMMODITIES

Government has increased Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of 6 mandated Rabi crops for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2023-24, on the basis of recommendation of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACPC), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/ Departments concerned. The MSP for wheat now stands at Rs. 2125 per quintal; Barley Rs. 1735 per quintal; Gram Rs. 5335 per quintal; Masur Rs. 6000 per quintal; Rapeseed & Mustard Rs. 5450 per quintal and Safflower Rs. 5650 per quintal.

The country has witnessed emphatic growth in export of agri and allied commodities. As compared to the year 2015-16, the Agri and allied export has increased from 32.81 billion USD in 2015-16 to 50.24 billion USD in 2021-22 i.e. an increase of 53.1%. The efforts of Government at positive implementation of these schemes have yielded remarkable results towards augmenting the income of the farmers. As part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has released a book, which contains compilation of success stories of 75,000 farmers out of innumerable successful farmers who have increased their income more than two times.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh

Tomar in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on December 16. ■

FEMALE ENROLMENT IN IITs HAS INCREASED IN 2021-22

To promote the female students for pursuing higher education and research, University Grants Commission (UGC) provides special post graduate scholarships for girl students across the country.

Similarly, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is also giving 10000 scholarships (PRAGATI) to the girls entering in the technical education.

To improve female enrolment in the Undergraduate Programmes in IITs, supernumerary seats were created which increased the female enrolment from 8% in 2016 to 20% in 2021-22. Similarly, the enrolment of girls in NITs has increased to nearly 22.1% in 2021-22.

There has been consistent improvement in the enrolment of female students in STEM Courses. As per AISHE Report, the number of female students enrolled in STEM Courses has increased from 4197186 in 2016-17 to 4387248 in 2020-21.

The information was given by the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Subhas Sarkar in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on 14 December. ■

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF 46.86 CRORE RELEASED UNDER 'ONE NATION ONE RATION CARD' PLAN

The Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ms. Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 14 December shared that through technology-driven 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC) system, all beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), particularly migrant beneficiaries, can lift their monthly entitled foodgrains, either in parts or full, from any electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) enabled Fair Price Shop (FPS) in the country by using their existing ration card or Aadhaar number with biometric authentication. Their family members back home, if any, may also lift the part/balance foodgrains on the same ration card.

'One Nation One Ration Card' plan for nationwide portability of ration cards is implemented by this Department under the Central Sector Scheme i.e. Integrated Management of Public Distribution System

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

(IM-PDS), which was sanctioned in April 2018 with total outlay of Rs. 127.3 Crore.

The scheme is extended till 31st March 2023. So far, financial assistance of Rs. 46.86 Crore has been released to States/UTs, NIC/NICSI, etc. during last three financial years 2020-21 (Rs.12.65 crore), 2021-22 (Rs.23.76 crore) and 2022-23 (Rs. 10.45 crore). ■

DPIIT RECOGNIZED STARTUP CREATE OVER 8.6 LAKH DIRECT JOBS

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognized startups have self-reported creation of over 8.6 lakh direct jobs as on 30th November 2022 since the launch of Startup India in 2016

The Government with an intent to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country launched Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016. In order to meet the objectives of the initiative, the Government unveiled an Action Plan for Startup India that laid the foundation of Government support, schemes and incentives envisaged to create a vibrant startup ecosystem in the country. The Action Plan comprises of 19 action items spanning across areas such as "Simplification and handholding", "Funding support and incentives" and "Industry-academia partnership and incubation". ■

GROSS DIRECT TAX COLLECTIONS FOR FY 2022-23 REGISTER A GROWTH OF 25.90%

The figures of Direct Tax collections for the Financial Year 2022-23, as on 17.12.2022 show that net collections are at Rs. 11,35,754 crore, compared to Rs. 9,47,959 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding Financial Year i.e FY 2021-22, representing an increase of 19.81%.



The Net Direct Tax collection of Rs. 11,35,754 crore (as on 17.12.2022) includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs. 6,06,679 crore (net of refund) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax (STT) at Rs. 5,26,477 crore (net of refund).

The Gross collection of Direct Taxes (before adjusting for refunds) for the FY 2022-23 stands at Rs. 13,63,649 crore compared to Rs. 10,83,150 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, registering a growth of 25.90% over collections of F.Y. 2021-22. ■

INDIA HAS JUMPED FROM 7TH TO 3RD GLOBAL RANKING IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

India has jumped from 7th to 3rd global ranking in scientific publications. This was disclosed on 18 december by Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh after a review with Union Secretary Department of Science & Technology (DST) Dr S. Chandrasekhar.

Lauding the consistent efforts of India's scientific fraternity, Dr Jitendra Singh gave all credit to an enabling milieu and freedom of working provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He said, the very fact that such quantum leaps in our scientific pursuits are happening only in the last few years is a testimony to the push given by PM Modi both in terms of the ease of policy as well as his personal indulgence and prioritisation. ■

OVER 4 CRORE HEALTH RECORDS OF CITIZENS DIGITIZED AND LINKED WITH THEIR AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH ACCOUNT

The flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is making steady progress in building a comprehensive digital health ecosystem for the country. With over 4 crore digital health records linked to the ABHA accounts of individuals, the scheme has crossed a significant milestone. More than 29 crore citizens have generated their unique Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) so far.

With their health records linked to their ABHA accounts digitally, citizens will be able to access and manage these records as per convenience. This enables citizens to create a comprehensive medical history across various healthcare providers thereby improving clinical decision-making. Further, the

citizens can also share relevant health records with ABDM registered healthcare providers digitally.

Elaborating on ABDM's role in digitizing health records, Dr. R. S. Sharma, CEO, NHA said – “As the implementing agency for ABDM, National Health Authority is working closely with different stakeholders to ensure that the benefits of digital health services can be availed by more citizens. We're planning to launch an incentive scheme for health facilities such as hospitals, clinics, diagnostic labs etc. to further promote digitization of health records. We're also encouraging different health locker applications to integrate with ABDM so that citizens get more choice for storing and managing their digital records.”

Adding further he said – “With continuous focus on digitization of health records, we aim to achieve paperless medical consultations and thereby more accuracy in each transaction between the patient and healthcare service provider.”

This digital linking of individual's health records with ABHA is being carried out extensively across different health facilities of the country with the support of State Governments. The leading contributors to ABHA-linked health records include Government of Andhra Pradesh, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) scheme under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, eHospital and CoWin among others. ■

FOUNDATION STONE OF 8 NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS WORTH RS 1800 CRORE LAID IN NASHIK

Union Minister For Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on 18 December inaugurated and laid foundation stone of 8 National Highway projects of 226 km length worth Rs 1800 crore at Igatpuri ,Nashik,Maharashtra today in the presence of Union Minister of State Dr. Bharti Pawar, Member of Parliament Dr. Subhash Bhamre, Mr. Hemant Godse, MLAs and officials .

With these highway projects transportation in the district will be accessible and safe, Fuel and time will be saved, as well as pollution will be less. These projects will make it easier for agricultural and handicraft business to reach the local markets, help in connectivity of the rural areas with the cities more accessible, as well as new industries and new

employment opportunities will be created through them. ■

FIRST-EVER 'SURETY BOND INSURANCE' FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS LAUNCHED

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on 19 December launched one of India's first-ever Surety Bond Insurance product from Bajaj Allianz.

Commenting on the product launch, Shri Gadkari said “India is well on its path to becoming a \$ 5 Trillion economy and achieving the dream of our honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji; insurance will play an important role in this growth. To realize Modi Ji's dream, it is important that infrastructure projects are executed at a faster speed; infrastructure, and notably roads, are vital to the economic and social growth of our country. With this new instrument of Surety Bonds, the availability of both liquidity and capacity will definitely be boosted; such products stand to strengthen the sector.”

- Surety Bond Insurance will act as a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.
- The product will cater to the requirements of a diversified group of contractors.
- The Surety Bond Insurance is a risk transfer tool for the Principal and shields the Principal from the losses that may arise in case the contractor fails to perform their contractual obligation.
- The product gives the principal a contract of guarantee that contractual terms and other business deals will be concluded.
- In case the contractor doesn't fulfil the contractual terms, the Principal can raise a claim on the surety bond and recover the losses they have incurred.
- Unlike a bank guarantee, the Surety Bond Insurance does not require large collateral from the contractor.
- The product will also help in reducing the contractors' debts to a large extent thus addressing their financial worries.
- The product will facilitate the growth of upcoming infrastructure projects in the country. ■

A Major Initiative launched to promote nutritious-cereals through special lunch for MPs

A major initiative was taken by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to promote millets in the country and the world by organizing 'Special Millets Lunch' for MPs in the Parliament Courtyard on 20 December.

With a view to prepare for the International Year of Nutritious Cereals in the year 2023, Vice President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri. Harivansh, former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, BJP National President Shri J.P. Nadda, Congress National President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha Shri Adhiranjan Chowdhary, Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha and Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and Union Ministers and MPs of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha participated in the 'Special Millets Lunch' and welcomed the Millets Year.

2023 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS

On the initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the proposal of the Government of India, the United Nations has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets, which will be celebrated with enthusiasm across the country as well as globally. Its preparations

MILLETS FOR MEALS!
PM MODI AND OTHER MPS HAVE A SPECIAL LUNCH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Members of Parliament had a special lunch prepared only of millets. The lunch was hosted by the Union Agriculture Minister. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said; "As we prepare to mark 2023 as the International Year of Millets, attended a sumptuous lunch in Parliament where millet dishes were served. Good to see participation from across party lines."

The luncheon served an elaborate curated Millet buffet to highlight the diversity of Indian Millets & variety of Millet cuisines. Millet based products were also exhibited at the event venue.



are going on in full swing at the national-international level. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is taking several steps in collaboration with all concerned to spread awareness about millets with the objective of increasing the demand and acceptance of millets.

Shri Tomar said that Prime Minister Shri Modi wants our ancient nutritive grain to get a respectable place in the food plate again. Also, this initiative will ensure remunerative returns to the farmers cultivating millets in the long run, he added.

The launch ceremony of the International Year of Nutri-cereals was recently organized by the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome (Italy).

- Millets are important crops of dry lands.
- These short grained highly nutritious cereal-food crops are grown on less fertile soils with less rainfall.
- Millets, native to India, have gained popularity as nutra-cereals, as they provide essential nutrients for normal functioning.
- Millets were the first crops to be cultivated in Asia and Africa, later spreading as an important food source for advanced civilizations around the world. ■



How CM Narendra Modi made fresh milk available for jawans at Kutch border

Aditya Chauhan

The world knows that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi celebrates the festival of Diwali with Jawans at the border. This year he was in Kargil to celebrate the festival of lights with army men guarding the nation at international border. While on his visit, PM Shri Narendra Modi termed Jawans his family and said that his festival is incomplete without visiting them.

Many may have the impression that PM Shri Modi started visiting Jawans after taking over as Prime Minister of India. But that is not true.

Even before becoming the Chief Minister of Gujarat, when he was the general secretary of BJP, he visited the Jawans and served them while the Kargil war was going on with Pakistan.

Here is an anecdote when Narendra Modi was Chief Minister of Gujarat narrating how he facilitated the Jawans with fresh milk at the Kutch border.

Shri Aditya Chauhan, BJP leader from Uttarakhand recalls his meeting with PM Shri Modi in Haridwar. Chauhan's elder brother is in BSF and had served at the Kutch border. He used to tell Chauhan that CM Shri



Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi visits Indo-Pakistan Border at Kutch

Another Jawan raised the issue of availability of fresh milk instead of packaged ones available there. To everyone's surprise, CM Shri Narendra Modi made availability of cows for the Jawans to get them fresh milk

Narendra Modi used to visit them on festivals.

In one such incident, while CM Shri Modi was on a visit to Kutch, the Jawans were interacting with him. They raised two significant points with CM Shri Modi. One, the entire area was marshy and there was electricity problem for the company of BSF. On their demand, CM Shri Modi made inverters and chargers available for the Jawans.

Another Jawan raised the issue

of availability of fresh milk instead of packaged ones available there. To everyone's surprise, CM Shri Narendra Modi made availability of cows for the Jawans to get them fresh milk.

Shri Aditya Chauhan terms these actions by Shri Narendra Modi as encouraging because he not only established communication with the central forces serving the international border, but also went over and beyond to meet their demands. ■



DHARMA IS NOT RELIGION

- Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

THE distortions of Dharma that we now-a-days see all around us are largely the result of foreign education. The English word 'religion' has substantially contributed in distorting the pure meaning of Dharma. The British first heard the word when they came to India. They had no word of an equally comprehensive meaning. So they translated it as religion. Such translation has distorted the meaning of Indian words. Dharma is a very wide term which includes many religions. A religion a system of worship, and there are many such systems prevailing in this land. But in spite of these systems and sects Dharma is one. Dharma is that which is good for everyone irrespective of the system of worship and can open up for him the way to salvation.

DHARMA SUSTAINS WORLD

RELIGION means a creed, or a sect, it does not mean Dharma. Dharma is a very broad concept. It is concerned with all aspects of life. It sustains society. It sustains the whole world. That which sustains is "Dharma"

The fundamental principles of Dharma are eternal and universal. Yet their implementation may differ according to time, place and circumstance.

The complete treatise on the rules in general and their philosophical basis is the meaning of Dharma.

These rules cannot be arbitrary. They should be such as to sustain and further the existence and progress of the entity which they serve.

FUNDAMENTAL OF CIVILISED LIFE

WE believe in Dharma not just because it is instrumental in acquiring Artha but because it is a



fundamental principle of civilized life.

Kama too can be attained only through Dharma. Having produced the material things, such as nice food, when, where, how and in what measure it will be used can be determined only by Dharma. If a sick person eats food meant for a healthy one and vice versa, both of them will be at a disadvantage. Dharma helps in restraining the natural tendencies of man whereby

he is able to determine what is beneficial to him apart from what is pleasurable. Hence Dharma is given the foremost place in our culture.

DHARMA GUIDES GOD

GOD cannot act contrary to Dharma. If he does, then he is not omnipotent. Adharma is a characteristic of weakness, not of strength. If fire; instead of radiating heat, dies out, it is no longer strong. Strength lies not in unrestrained behaviour, but in well-regulated action. Therefore God who is omnipotent is also self-regulated and consequently fully in tune with Dharma. God descends in the human body to destroy adharma and re-establish Dharma, not to act on passing whims and fancies. Hence even God can do everything but act contrary to Dharma. But for the risk of being misunderstood, one can say that Dharma is even greater than God. The universe is sustained because He acts according to Dharma.

DHARMA IS HIGHER

NEITHER the Legislature is higher nor the Judiciary. Dharma is higher than both. The Legislature will have to act according to Dharma. Dharma will specify the limits of both. The Legislature, the Judiciary or the people, none of these is supreme. Some will say, "Why, people are sovereign.

They elect". But even the people are not sovereign because people too have no right to act against Dharma. If an elected government allows people to go against Dharma and does not punish, then that government is in reality a government of thieves. Even the general will cannot go against Dharma. Imagine the situation, if by some manoeuvring, thieves gain a majority in the government and send one of their ranks as an executive. What will be the duty of the minority if the majority is of thieves and elects a thief to rule ?

DHARMA RAJYA

IN our country we cannot think of any sentiment with which Dharma is not bound up. Hence we feel that our State cannot forsake Dharma. A secular State, in our opinion, does not mean a State without Dharma. The word Religion means a tenet in this country and those who believe it are called sects like the Jains, Shaivas and Christians. Naturally the State cannot belong to any of these sects. It must look on all with an equal eye. So we can say that a State is non-sectarian. This would be the ideal, but such a State, even without being partial to a particular sect or against some other sect, can encourage ways and means of achieving both material and spiritual progress and thus be called Dharma Rajya.

JANA RAJYA AND DHARMA RAJYA

IF the four million people of Kashmir say that they want to secede, if the people of Goa say they want to secede and if some say they want the Portuguese to return,

all this will be against Dharma. Of the 45 crore people of India, even if 449,999,999 opt for something which is against Dharma, even then this does not become truth. On the other hand, even if one person stands for something which is in accord with Dharma, that constitutes truth, because truth resides with Dharma. It is the duty of this one person that he tread the path of truth and change people. It is from this basis that a person derives the right to proceed according to Dharma.

Let us understand very clearly that Dharma is not necessarily with the majority or with the people. Dharma is eternal. Therefore, in the definition of democracy, to say that it is a government of the people is not enough ; it has to be for the good of the people. Dharma alone can decide.. Therefore, a democratic government "Jana Rajya", must also be rooted in Dharma i.e. a "Dharma Rajya". In the definition of 'Democracy' viz. "government of the people, by the people and for the people", 'of ' stands for independence, 'by' stands for democracy, and 'for' indicates Dharma. Therefore the true democracy is one where there is freedom as well as Dharma.

WRONG MEANING OF SPIRITUALISM

ONE of the main reasons for looking to the West for a solution to economic problems is the mistaken belief that Indian culture and religion, being spiritual, are indifferent towards problems of a material life. This erroneous belief is the result of deliberate propaganda and of a wrong

meaning of spiritualism. As a matter of fact our definition of religion ('Dharma') has taken materialism fully into account. Dharma is defined as that which leads to both physical and metaphysical development. Materialism and spiritualism are neither contradictory nor separate from each other. Spiritualism is a point of view of life from which we look at all problems. If spiritualism can give a true definition of the universe there is no reason why it should not give us a solution to all problems of the world. India has not thought only of the metaphysical world, it has thought of material wealth also. Chanakya has said that happiness depends upon Dharma and Dharma depends upon material wealth.

DYNAMIC RELIGION

THE Vedic Religion has always undergone transformation. This religion is dynamic and living. It is not like a stagnant pool. New thoughts have always entered this religion and old thoughts have developed through change, but every new change has kept up its link with the old. Every new agitator maintained a feeling of reverence for his ancestors. Every new reformer gave respect to our ancient tradition, our ancestors and achievements and at the same time propounded new thoughts to suit the times. As these new thoughts had not broken off with the basic thought, they did not in any way harm the life of the nation. On the contrary, they contributed to its development. ■

(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Rajee)

'BRAVE JAWANS SHOWED EXEMPLARY VALOUR ON INDO-CHINA BORDER'

Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah in a statement given to the media in parliament complex highly condemned opposition's behavior in Parliament on 13 December, 2022

Shri Amit Shah said, "I strongly criticise the Opposition parties, particularly the Congress party, for disrupting and stalling the Question Hour in Parliament today. When the Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was ready to make a statement on the issue in Parliament, there was no need or logic behind the Congress party and other Opposition parties stalling the Question Hour".

"Today, there is the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the country and Shri Narendra Modi is our Prime Minister. I want to categorically state that till the time there is the Bharatiya Janata Party government and Shri Narendra Modi ji is our Prime Minister no one can encroach even an inch of our land".

Our valiant soldiers defended our motherland

On the night of December 08 and in the morning of December 09 our brave jawans showed exemplary valour on the Indo-China border in Arunachal Pradesh. I commend and salute our brave soldiers for their courage. Our valiant soldiers defended our motherland and within a few hours of the infiltration by the Chinese soldiers, they were made to retreat from our motherland. My salute and kudos to our brave soldiers for protecting our motherland.

Scrapping of FCRA registration of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

- Shri Amit Shah said the Congress party tried to stall the Question Hour because the fifth question during the Question Hour was related to the scrapping of the FCRA registration of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.
- The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in 2005-06 and 2006-07 got the financial aid of Rs 1.35 crores from the Chinese embassy. The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation was registered to do social work, but the Chinese embassy gave the money to the Rajiv Gandhi

Foundation to do research work on the development of Indo-China relations, which is against the law as per the FCRA rules.

- Since the money given by the Chinese embassy to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation was not as per the FCRA law and guidelines, a notice was served to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. The Union Home Ministry served notices to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and followed all legal procedures before cancelling the FCRA registration of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

China illegally occupying thousands of hectares of Indian land in 1962

Shri Amit Shah said, "Did the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation do any research on China illegally occupying thousands of hectares of Indian land in 1962; did the Foundation studied how the love and affection of Nehru ji for China cost India the permanent seat in the UN Security Council; did the Foundation studied the Congress party giving dinner to top officials of the Chinese embassy during the peak of tensions at Galwan? What was the outcome of such research

done of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation?"

Shri Amit Shah said when there was the Congress party government in the country in 2006 the Chinese embassy had staked its claim on Arunachal Pradesh and entire NEFA. China had then refused giving visa to Congress Chief Minister Dorji Khandu saying that Arunachal Pradesh was part of China. Did the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation also do any research on this topic?

He said China had strongly objected to the then Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh's visit to Arunachal Pradesh on October 13, 2009. Following threat by the Chinese government in 2011 the then Congress party government had stopped border infrastructure development works and road construction work in Demchok. Why these were works stopped, did the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation also do research on this?

The Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust on July 7, 2011 gave Zakir Naik's Islamic Research Foundation Rs 50 lakh as grant. What was the purpose and motive behind the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust giving money to Zakir Naik?, Shri Shah asked. ■



'Rahul Gandhi once again lowered the morale of our armed forces'

In a Press Statement, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on 17 December, 2022 said the statement of Rahul Gandhi has once again lowered the morale of our armed forces. It is highly condemnable and unpardonable.

He said our armed forces are epitome of sacrifice, bravery and valour. Whenever the nation has faced any crisis, our army has led from the front to serve our country.

Congress party signed an MoU with China

We all know that the Congress party had signed an MoU with the Communist Party of China. It is also in the public domain that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation had



taken funding from the Chinese embassy. Perhaps that is the reason why Rahul Gandhi always speaks in favour of the Chinese government and its army.

Big question mark on the patriotism of Rahul Gandhi

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said when the Indian forces were on

high alert in Doklam, during that time, Rahul Gandhi was meeting Chinese officials in the Chinese embassy in a clandestine manner. This puts a big question mark on the patriotism of Rahul Gandhi. He had even cast aspersions on the surgical strikes and the Pulwama terror attack. Rahul Gandhi has never spoken in the favour of India and its armed forces. He speaks the language of Pakistan and China.

Shri Nadda said, "I once again strongly condemn the statement of Rahul Gandhi which is the sad reflection of his mental bankruptcy". ■

Government to provide skill based training to differently-abled people

Under Skill India Mission, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is implementing its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) for Skill based training of the youth across the country including the differently-abled candidates under Short Term Training (STT) courses and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). STT is linked to placement while RPL recognises the existing skills of the candidate and does not mandate placement. Further, there is an exclusive Sector Skill Council for differently-abled, namely Skill Council for PwD (SCPwD) for catering to the needs of the differently-abled candidates and run training in PwD-friendly training centres (TCs). Such centres are structurally designed to enable differently-abled candidates to experience training with ease. These training centres are structurally designed to cover Braille, computer screen reader for visually impaired, sign language interpreter for speech and hearing impaired etc. In addition, other Training Centers can also enroll differently-abled candidates.

Further, National Institute for Entrepreneurship

and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida, an autonomous Entrepreneurship Development Institute under MSDE has conducted various training programmes covering 1,95,395 beneficiaries during the last five years (2017-18 to 2021-2022) which includes 1,907 differently-abled candidates.

Further, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements a "National Action Plan (NAP) for Skill Development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)" which was launched in March, 2015. The objective of the scheme is to provide skill training to PwDs for enabling them to become self-reliant and productive members of the society and to integrate them with the mainstream of the society. NAP is implemented under the umbrella scheme – "Scheme for Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 (SIPDA)".

This information was given by the Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. ■

Golden Jubilee celebration of North-Eastern Council, Shillong

Eight states of north-east region are Asht Lakshmis: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah participated in the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the North-East Council, in Shillong in Meghalaya on 18 December. On this occasion, many dignitaries



Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma and Chief Ministers of other North-Eastern States were present.

Shri Amit Shah said during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the agreement with the NLFT in 2019, the

including Governor of Meghalaya Brig. (Dr) B. D. Mishra, Chief Bru and Bodo Agreement in 2020,

and Karbi Agreement in 2021 were agreed upon.

The Assam-Meghalaya and Assam-Arunachal border disputes have also almost ended, and due to the restoration of peace, the North-East region has moved on the path of development. The biggest example of this is earlier there used to be a demand to remove AFSPA from the North-East, but now the demand does not arise, rather the Government of India is taking steps and initiatives to remove AFSPA. He said that now 60% area of Assam, seven districts of Nagaland, 15 police stations in six districts of Manipur and Tripura and Meghalaya have become completely AFSPA free, while in only one district in Arunachal AFSPA is yet to be lifted. ■

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the meeting of North Eastern Council (NEC) in Shillong on 18 December, 2022. The meeting marks the golden jubilee celebration of the North Eastern Council, which was formally inaugurated in 1972.

Hailing the contribution of NEC in the development of the North East region, Prime Minister said that this golden jubilee celebration of the NEC coincides with the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Understanding that he often refers to the 8 states of the region as 'Asht Lakshmi', he said the government should work on 8 foundation pillars for its development, viz. Peace, Power, Tourism, 5G connectivity, Culture, Natural farming, Sports, Potential.

Prime Minister said that the

Northeast is our gateway to South-East Asia and can become a centre for development of the entire region. And to realise this potential of the region, work is going on the projects like Indian-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway and Agartala-Akhaura rail project.

Prime Minister highlighted that the government has gone beyond the conversion of the 'Look East' policy to 'Act East', and now its policy is 'Act Fast for Northeast' and 'Act First for Northeast.' Highlighting the success of peace

initiatives in the region, he said that many peace agreements have been signed, inter-state boundary agreements have been done and there has been a marked reduction in instances of extremism.



'DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY OF TRIPURA WITNESSING NEW HEIGHTS'

PM lays foundation stone and inaugurates key initiatives worth over 4350 crores in Agartala

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 18 December laid the foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation various key initiatives worth over Rs. 4350 crores. The projects include the launch of Grih Pravesh programme for beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban and Rural, connectivity projects for the widening of the Agartala bypass (Khayerpur – Amtali) NH-08, laying the foundation stones for 32 roads of more than 230 kilometres in length under PMGSY III and improvement projects of 112 roads covering a distance of over 540 kilometres. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the State Institute of Hotel Management at Anandnagar and Agartala Government Dental College.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister thanked everyone present on the occasion for waiting eagerly for the commencement of the function and also apologised for the slight delay that was caused due to the engagements in Meghalaya where he laid the foundation stones and dedicated multiple projects earlier in the day.

The Prime Minister acknowledged the commendable work carried out in the state regarding cleanliness campaigns for the past 5 years and remarked that it is the people of Tripura who have turned it into a public movement. As a result, Tripura has come out as the cleanest state in India when it comes to small states area-wise. "With the blessing of Maa Tripura Sundari, the development journey of Tripura is witnessing new heights", he said.

A significant focus of the Prime Minister has been towards ensuring that everyone has a house of their own. In a key step towards ensuring the same in the region, the Prime Minister launched the Grih Pravesh programme for beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Rural. These houses, developed at a cost of over Rs 3400 crores, will cover over 2 lakh beneficiaries.

With a focus on improving road connectivity, the Prime Minister inaugurated the project for widening the Agartala bypass (Khayerpur – Amtali) NH-08, which will help ease traffic congestion in Agartala city.



He laid the foundation stones for 32 roads of more than 230 Km in length under PMGSY III (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and for the improvement of 112 roads covering a distance of over 540 Km. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the State Institute of Hotel Management at Anandnagar and Agartala Government Dental College. ■

PM lays foundation stone and inaugurates projects worth 2450 crores in Shillong

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 18 December also laid the foundation stone, and inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth over Rs. 2450 crores in Shillong, Meghalaya.

The multiple projects include the inauguration of 320 completed and 890 under construction 4G mobile towers, the new campus of IIM Shillong, at Umsawli, the Shillong – Diengpasoh Road which will provide better connectivity to new Shillong satellite township and four other roads projects across the three states viz. Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated Spawn Laboratory at Mushroom Development Center and Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre in Meghalaya and 21 Hindi libraries in Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and Assam. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of six road projects across the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

He also laid the foundation stone of the Integrated Hospitality and Convention Centre at Tura and Shillong Technology Park Phase -II. ■

SINCE 2014 INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS CHANGED: S JAISHANKAR

BJP INITIATES 'FOREIGN POLICY DIALOGUE'

The foreign Affairs Department of BJP initiated its first interaction session of the "Foreign Policy Dialogue" on 17th December 2022, where Shri S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India was invited as a key speaker. Dr. S Jaishankar interacted with research scholars of international relations from Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Milia Islamia and other premier institutions of India at the BJP Headquarters in Delhi. In the Opening remarks Dr. Vijay Chauthaiwale, In-Charge, Foreign Affairs Department of Bharatiya Janata Party, explained the idea and objective behind the "Foreign Policy Dialogue" which is to connect academia with the best resource persons available to discuss on the contemporary facets of global politics

In his address, Dr. S Jaishankar said "From history one big learning is that we have continuously underestimated dangers from the outside world and the Panipat syndrome which means that living in ignorance until the enemy has actually arrived at your gates should be changed." He stressed on the need to understand the risks posed by the events that happen in other nations. He said "Like COVID which started in China impacted the entire world and the effects of Russia-Ukraine war in the form of inflation, Oil price hike and economic uncertainties, terrorism can also hit us any day, thus shouldn't be ignored as it is happening in some other place." He further stated that "Foreign policy is dependent on national unity. With each passing year relations between India and other nations is growing. Considering



Since 2014 India's foreign policy has changed. Neighbourhood first policy started with swearing-in ceremony of PM Narendra Modi where he invited all the neighbouring countries to the ceremony, which was an unprecedented move in India's diplomatic history

the world as a workplace, Indian participation in the global workplace is a big opportunity and also, Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi is supporting manufacturing, promoting agriculture, supporting services and foreign investments to grow our exports."

REACHING TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

- In the context of reaching to the neighbourhood he said since 2014 India's foreign policy has changed. Neighbourhood first policy started with swearing-in ceremony of PM Shri Narendra Modi where he invited all the neighbouring countries to the ceremony, which was an unprecedented move in India's diplomatic history.
- Earlier, when something bad happened, our neighbours used to look at the west, today, this region turns to India. During the Nepal earthquake, Yemen war, mudslides in Sri Lanka, Maldives water crisis and Mozambique cyclone, India has become the first responder.

WORLD PERCEIVES INDIA TODAY

- While highlighting the change

in the way the world perceives India today, he said “Earlier we were a back office, now we are leaders in pharmacy, innovation and research.

- Through initiatives like Vaccine Maitri and Yoga India’s image has changed.
- World has expectations and since we are a civilizational state, our personality, heritage and culture will matter.
- Under PM Shri Narendra Modi’s leadership diplomacy, security, military and intelligence are working together and have become stronger.
- Since 2014, the image we have, sense of purpose we have, the confidence we have and the way the rest of the world perceives us has changed.”

INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS

In the later part of the discussion Dr. S Jaishankar addressed various questions posed by the participants.

- While answering the question related to India-China relations he said, “We need to accept reality that countries in international politics are fundamental units which compete with other countries. There are competitive aspects of relationship with China which was not realised in 1950’s.”

INDO-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

- Talking about the Indo-China border dispute he remarked

that the main issue is that after 1950 we have had our borders directly connected with each other which were not mutually determined and thus created a conflict. The impact of the 1962 war is still creating conflicts as a major part of Indian Territory was taken by China.

- Secondly, China took economic reforms earlier than India especially in the field of manufacturing and technology. However, under the leadership

No act of terrorism should be cost free and India needs to find ways to get Pakistan move away from terrorism... He said that India has made difference in the lives of people of Afghanistan without dwelling into political agenda. We have sent them wheat, vaccines and we run a hospital in Kabul and we continue to supply medicine

of Hon’ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, government is focusing on transforming India into a manufacturing hub, technology and innovation leader.

FUTURE OF INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY

- Discussing about the future of India’s foreign policy, he said that Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India are the key factors and building blocks that will shape the future of the nation. He described Indian market as our greatest power.
- Supporting small business and creating brand names, technological advancements

and strengthening supply chains within the country will earn respect to us.

PAKISTAN AND TERRORISM

- In the context of Pakistan and terrorism, he said that no act of terrorism should be cost free and India needs to find ways to get Pakistan move away from terrorism.
- While talking about Afghanistan he said that India has made difference in the lives of people of Afghanistan without dwelling into political agenda. We have sent them wheat, vaccines and we run a hospital in Kabul and we continue to supply medicine.
 - There is a lot of desire in Afghanistan to have more participation by India. In case of China’s investment in Nepal he stated that Nepal is a

common neighbour for both India and China. India cannot expect China to not invest in Nepal. Our challenge is to continuously prove that we are best partner for Nepal.

He concluded the discussion with an appeal to the participants that students should contribute with ideas to make India’s foreign policy more democratic and inclusive. The responsibility of making people aware of the importance of foreign policy lies on the youth of the country.

The detailed discussion was followed by a group photograph with Dr. S Jaishankar and the students were presented with a certificate of participation. ■

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT: AN OVERVIEW

The Winter Session, 2022 of Parliament which commenced on 7 December, 2022 has been adjourned sine die on 23 of December, 2022. Speaking about the Winter Session, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Shri Prahlad Joshi stated that the Winter Session, 2022 provided 13 sittings spread over a period of 17 days. Shri Joshi further said that Two Bill namely “the Multi-State Co-operative Societies(Amendment) Bill, 2022” to strengthen governance, enhancing transparency, increasing accountability and reforming electoral process, etc. in the Multi State Cooperative Societies by supplementing existing legislation and incorporating the provisions of Ninety-seventh Constitutional amendment & to improve monitoring mechanism and ensuring ease of doing business for Multi-State cooperative societies and “ the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2022” to amend certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising minor offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business were referred to the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament after motion having been adopted in the respective Houses after their introduction.

The Minister added that during the Session 9 Bills were introduced in Lok Sabha. 7 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 9 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. Total number of Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament during the Session is 9. Some of the major Bills passed by both Houses during the Session are:

- **The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022** seeks to increase the species protected under the law, and implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- **The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022** seeks to (a) mandate use of non-fossil sources, including Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Biomass and Ethanol for energy and feedstock; (b) establish Carbon Markets; (c) bring large residential buildings within the fold of Energy Conservation regime; (d) enhance the scope of

Energy Conservation Building Code; (e) amend penalty provisions; (f) increase members in the Governing Council of Bureau of Energy Efficiency; (g) empower the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to make regulations for smooth discharge of its functions.

- **The New Delhi Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022** proposes to change the name of the Centre from New Delhi International Arbitration Centre to India International Arbitration Centre so that a unique identity of the institute of national importance as conferred on it by law is evident and reflects its true objective.
- **The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022** seeks to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967 to exclude Gond community as a Scheduled Caste in four districts of Uttar Pradesh: (i) Chandauli, (ii) Kushinagar, (iii) Sant Kabir Nagar, and (iv) Bhadohi and recognise them as a Scheduled Tribe in these four districts.
- **The Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill, 2022** proposes to make special provisions for repression of piracy on high seas and to provide for punishment for the offence of piracy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- **The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022** seeks to further amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in the State of Tamil Nadu to include the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu.
- **The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2022** seeks to further amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Karnataka to include Betta-Kuruba as a synonym for the Kadu Kuruba community in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. ■



BJP IN PARLIAMENT

FOUR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER, 1950 PASSED IN PARLIAMENT

In the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, the government has passed four amendments to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. The order is a list of the communities that are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes (STs). In September, the Union Cabinet approved the decision to make changes in the Order.

ST status for Gonds in UP

On December 14, the Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022, in a voice vote. The Bill seeks to give the ST status to the Gond community in four districts of Uttar Pradesh and was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda in the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha had passed it in April.

The Bill will ensure the inclusion of the Gond community in the Scheduled Tribes list in the districts

of Sant Kabir Nagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Kushinagar, and Chandauli.

Hattees (Himachal)

The Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, on December 16 to include the Hattee community of Trans Giri area in Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district in the Scheduled Tribes list.

Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran (Tamil Nadu)

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022, was also introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 9. The Lok Sabha passed it through a voice vote on December 15. The Bill includes the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu.

Communities in Chhattisgarh

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fifth Amendment)

Bill, 2022, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 9. The Bill seeks to include the Dhanuwar, Dhanuwar, Kisan, Saunra, Saonra, and Binjhia communities in the ST list in Chhattisgarh and seeks to formalise Bhuinya, Bhuiyan, and Bhuyan as synonyms of the Bharia Bhumia community. It also includes three Devanagari versions of the name of the Pando community.

Tribal status to Betta-Kuruba community in Karnataka

Lok Sabha on December 19 passed a bill to include 'Betta-Kuruba' along with 'Kadu Kuruba' in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. Piloting the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Fourth Amendment) Bill 2022, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said that it seeks to provide justice to the Betta-Kuruba community of Karnataka. The minister said that the community has only 5000 members living in Karnataka. ■

TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) RISE TO 432

India having a diverse culture is home to various arts and crafts mastered by many generations over the years. Adding to the present collection of GIs, 09 new items from various states of India such as Gamosa of Assam, Tandur Redgram of Telangana, RaktseyKarpoo Apricot of Ladakh, Alibag White Onion of Maharashtra etc. have been given the coveted

GI Tags. With this the total number of GI Tags of India comes to 432. The top 5 states holding maximum number of GIs are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

Several initiatives have been undertaken by DPIIT in collaboration with various stakeholders where exclusive GI products showcased Indian tradition, culture and

enterprising activities under a single umbrella:

GI Pavilion (Aahar 2022) at ITPO, New Delhi for five days (26th -30th April 2022), India GI fair (26th-28th Aug 2022) was organized at the India Expo Center and Mart, Greater Noida. A weekly GI Mahotsav was conducted (16th -21st October 2022) at Trade facilitation Center, Varanasi. ■

25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata

'Eastern Region will play an important role in development of India'

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on 17 December, 2022 presided over the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata. The meeting was attended by the Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Jharkhand, the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Ministers from Odisha and other senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the States under the Council.

In his inaugural address, the Union Home Minister said that in the last eight years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, more than 1,000 issues were discussed in the meetings of the Zonal Councils and 93 percent of them were resolved, which is a huge achievement.

He said that in the eight years



from 2006 to 2013, a total of six meetings of the Zonal Councils were held (an average of less than one meeting per year), but in the eight years since 2014, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, a total of 23 meetings (including today's meeting) have been held (an average of three meetings per year).

Shri Amit Shah said that the Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has done a lot of work in the past

years in the direction of developing infrastructure in the States of the Eastern region.

He said that States of the Eastern region have a major share in the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Gati Shakti Scheme, as Shri Modi has always given thrust on the development of this region.

Shri Shah said that in the next 25 years, during the Azadi ka Amrit Kaal, the Eastern Region of the country will play an important role in the development of India.

Shri Amit Shah said, the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting was held in a good and positive atmosphere. Consensus was reached on many issues, while pending issues will also be resolved through consultations, he added. ■



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PM Shri Narendra Modi dedicates AIIMS and other projects in Nagpur, Maharashtra to the Nation on December 12, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates three National Ayush Institutes at the valedictory function of 9th World Ayurveda Congress, in Goa on December 11, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi pays homage to those who were martyred during the 2001 Parliament attack in New Delhi on December 13, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi participates in the inaugural function of Pramukh Swami Maharaj Shatabdi Mahotsav in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on December 14, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi participates in the golden jubilee celebration of the North Eastern Council meeting in Shillong on December 18, 2022



Tripura CM Shri Manik Saha welcomes PM Shri Narendra Modi at a public function in Agartala, Tripura on December 18, 2022



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- 800 projects** worth **Rs 5.4 lakh crore** identified
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- 20 ports** modernized at an estimated cost of **Rs. 1,191 Crore**
- Deepening of harbors at an estimated cost of **Rs 3004.63 Crore**



New India Boosting Petrochemical Industry

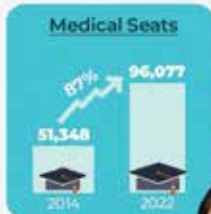


- Petrochemical market size amplified to **\$190 billion**
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 - EODB ensured through **100% FDI** through automatic route
- EODB - Ease of Doing Business
FDI - Foreign Direct Investment
Data as of 2022 | Source - Gov



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406 projects worth **Rs 3.85 lakh crore** were shut for various reasons

2022
Cleared pending road projects
Saved banks from **Rs 3 lakh crore** of NPAs



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