

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



'JUNGLE RAJ HAS RETURNED TO BIHAR'



'INDIA'S SKILL CAPITAL CAN BECOME THE ENGINE OF GLOBAL GROWTH'



BJP National President Shri J.P. Nadda waving at the gathering at Karyakarta Samavesh in Chitradurga, Karnataka on 05 January, 2023



BJP National President Shri J.P. Nadda addressing a huge public meeting in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on 27 December, 2022



Odisha BJP welcomes BJP National President Shri J.P. Nadda at a massive public meeting in Kandhmal on 28 December, 2022



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing a massive 'Jan Biswas Yatra' rally in Tripura on 05 January, 2023



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah while addressing Booth President & BLA-2 Meeting at Bengaluru, Karnataka on 31 December, 2022



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh dedicating to the nation 28 BRO infrastructure projects worth Rs 724 crore, in 7 border States during an event in Arunachal Pradesh on 03 January, 2023

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER



@narendramodi

My vision for Indian science is one that enables our scientific achievements to support the mass movement to become Aatmanirbhar.

(January 3, 2023)



@JPNadda

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon. PM @narendramodi approved the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) Scheme for the modernisation of Prasar Bharti, with an outlay of Rs.2,539.61 cr & will give a major boost to public service broadcasting.

(January 4, 2023)



@AmitShah

Modi ji gave ₹ 9234 crores to Chhattisgarh in the District Mineral Fund, but it fell prey to the corruption of the Congress. Congressmen used it to build their homes and purchase vehicles.

(7 January, 2023)



@rajnathsingh

India has always remained against war as we believe in 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam'. We do not believe in war, but if it is forced upon us, we will fight. We are ensuring that the Nation is protected from all threats.

(January 3, 2023)



@Dr. K Laxman

India-Australia free trade agreement yielding results! First tranche of Made in India goods worth Rs 2,400 crore shipped to Australia from Chennai port.

(January 4, 2023)



@B L Santhosh

Supreme Court 5 judge bench dismisses all 58 petitions against Demonetisation implemented by PM @narendramodi Govt . A big slap to all forces who are engaged eternally to destabilise the country & stop the momentum of Development heralded by Hon'ble PM & his team .

(January 2, 2023)



PM Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Atal Ji on his Jayanti (25th December) at 'Sadaiv Atal' in New Delhi



WORLD IS ACKNOWLEDGING INDIA'S INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS

While addressing the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Indore, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called upon the NRIs to be the brand ambassadors of India's cultural heritage, the Make in India campaign, yoga, ayurveda, the cottage industries, and handicrafts. He also invoked them to be the brand ambassadors of India's millets, which are supposed to become a major attraction worldwide. It is to be noted that the PBD was organised as a physical event after a gap of four years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The last event was organised virtually in 2021, during the pandemic. Pravasi Bharatiyas have made India proud by making significant contributions in various parts of the world as the most democratic, peaceful, and disciplined citizens of the countries in which they live. At the same time, their links with India are celebrated, cherished, and viewed with an urge to contribute positively to the onward journey of the nation. The PBD has strengthened the bonds of Pravasi Bharatiyas with the country of their origin under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the last eight years. While addressing the event, the Prime Minister said that while the world is watching India with curiosity and a desire to know more about the country, Pravasi Bharatiyas can play an important role by making them aware of the remarkable achievements of the nation. As India completes 75 years of independence and enters the Amritkal, the role of Pravasi Bharatiyas becomes all the more important in taking India's growth story forward through their positive contributions.

In a highly significant verdict, the Supreme Court has upheld the decision of demonetization while dismissing the arguments against the government's decision making process in withdrawing Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 notes. While upholding the decision of the union government, which was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on November 8, 2016, the Supreme Court in its verdict has ruled that the

notification withdrawing the legal tender of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 currency notes "does not suffer from any flaw in the decision making process." As the Supreme Court verdict exposes the opposition's false propaganda against demonetization, the strong fundamentals of the Indian economy, even in the face of adversities during the COVID-19 pandemic, prove its healthy impact on the economy beyond doubt. The decision of demonetization which was well intentioned and well timed not only helped in making the economy clean by cracking down on terrorism, terror funding, corruption, money laundering, fake currencies and lacs of shell companies but helped expand the economy by formalising it and by heralding an era

of digital age. Today, when most of the major economies of the world are floundering in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, India is shining as a bright star, registering the highest rates of growth in the world. Moreover, the cleaning of the economy has made India an attractive investment destination, resulting in record FDI in recent

years and burgeoning forex reserves. Demonetization can be seen as a game changer so far as digitization of the economy is concerned, as India today leads globally in digital transactions, leaving other developed countries far behind.

Today, the world is acknowledging India's incredible achievements in not only facing the challenges of Covid-19 pandemic but for laying down strong foundation for future growth and development. While the nation has converted challenges into opportunities under the charismatic and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has not only produced Made in India vaccines but administered more than 220 crore vaccines in a record time while becoming fifth largest economy in the world. The imprints of India's remarkable achievements are visible in every sector and its successes can be seen getting celebrated across the nation. ■

The imprints of India's remarkable achievements are visible in every sector and its successes can be seen getting celebrated across the nation



WHEREVER YOU ARE THE COUNTRY IS FOR YOUR INTERESTS AND EXPECTATIONS: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 09 January, 2023. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention is the flagship event of the Government of India that provides an important platform to engage and connect with overseas Indians and to enable the Diaspora to interact with each other. The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organised in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh Government from 08-10 January 2023 in Indore. The theme of this PBD Convention is "Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal". Over 3,500 Diaspora members from nearly 70 different countries have registered for the PBD Convention.

Shri Narendra Modi released a commemorative postal stamp 'Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen' and also inaugurated the first-ever digital PBD Exhibition on the theme 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle' to highlight the contribution of our Diaspora freedom fighters in India's Independence.

The 17th PBD Convention holds significance as it is being organised as a physical event after a gap of four years and the first after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The last PBD Convention in 2021 was held virtually during the Pandemic.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is taking place in all its glory after a gap of four years and highlighted the significance and joy of personal interaction. Welcoming everyone on the occasion on behalf of 130 crore Indians, the Prime Minister said that the event is taking place on the land of Madhya Pradesh which is known as the heart of India and famous for the holy waters of Narmada, the greenery, the tribal culture and spirituality. The Prime Minister mentioned the recently dedicated 'Maha Kaal Maha Lok' and hoped that dignitaries and delegates will be able to visit the sacred place. Talking about the host city, Indore, the Prime Minister said Indore is a city as well as a phase, "It is a phase that walks ahead of time while preserving its heritage." He also mentioned the culinary fame of Indore and its achievement in the Swachata movement.

Shri Narendra Modi remarked that the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is special in numerous ways as India completed 75 years of its independence only recently. He also informed that the first-ever digital PBD Exhibition on the theme 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' has also been organised which brings the glorious era to the fore once again. Highlighting the significant role of

Pravasi Bhartiya in the next 25 years of the journey of Amrit Kaal, the Prime Minister stated that India's unique global vision and its role in the global order will be strengthened by them.

'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

Shri Narendra Modi observed that when we look at crores of Pravasi Bhartiya on the global map, myriad images emerge simultaneously which paint the picture of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and the feeling of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat comes to the fore when two Pravasi Bhartiya meet on any foreign land. "The feeling of pride in being the mother of democracy increases manifold when Pravasis are talked about as the most democratic, peaceful and disciplined citizens in different parts of the world", the Prime Minister remarked.

World is watching India keenly

Prime Minister Shri Modi remarked that the Pravasi Bhartiya have another important role to play in addressing the world's desire to know more about India. He said that the world is watching India keenly with great curiosity and highlighted the extraordinary



achievements of the nation in recent years.

The Prime Minister gave the example of the Make in India vaccines and the record inoculation figures of more than 220 crore free doses to Indians.

He also mentioned India's emergence in the global economy during the current period of instability and becoming the 5th largest economy in the world.

He also gave examples of the rising startup ecosystem and Make in India in the electronics manufacturing sector.

Highlighted Tejas fighter planes, aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and nuclear submarine Arihant and said that it is only natural for the people of the world to be curious about India.

India is creating multiple records

The Prime Minister also mentioned India's cashless economy and Fintech and said that 40% of the world's real-time digital transactions are being done in India.

About space technology, the Prime Minister said that India is creating multiple records of launching hundreds of satellites at once.

Also threw light on the software and digital technology industry of India and said that its capability is only increasing with time.

He urged everyone present on the occasion to enrich their knowledge not just about India's culture and tradition but also about the nation's progress.

India is taking over G-20 Presidency

G-20 is not just a diplomatic event but it should be turned into a historic event of public participation

where one can witness the sentiment of 'Atithi Devo Bhava', the Prime Minister said. He informed that more than 200 meetings will take place as part of the G-20 summit which will take place in different cities in India and said that it will be a great opportunity to establish meaningful connections with the delegates of many countries.

Skill capital of the world

Shri Narendra Modi said that today India has the opportunity to become not only the knowledge center but also the skill capital of the world. He underlined the skill, values and work ethics of Indian youth. "This skill capital can become the engine of global growth", the PM added. The Prime Minister noted the enthusiasm among the next generation Pravasi Bhartiya Youth. He urged the gathering to tell the youth about their country and also provide them occasions to visit it.

"In the last 8 years, India has tried to strengthen its Diaspora. It is India's commitment today that wherever you are the country is for your interests and expectations", he said.

Special Guests of Honour H.E. Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and H.E. Mr Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Suriname, Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Union Minister of External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar, MoS External Affairs Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Shri V Muraleedharan and Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh were those present on occasion among others. ■

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY WINS THE HEART OF PEOPLE BY SERVING THE PEOPLE: JP NADDA

As preparations for the 2023 Karnataka elections begin, Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri JP Nadda reached Karnataka on 05 January, 2023 and attended the “Shakti Kendra Pramukh Sammelan” in Tumkur and “Karyakarta Samavesh” in Chitradurga. The BJP National President Shri Nadda first arrived in Tumakuru and attended a meeting with Shakti Kendra Pramukhs. BJP Shakti Kendra Pramukh Sammelan aims at boosting the activism of booth level party Karyakartas.



Addressing the Sammelan Shri Nadda said PM Shri Narendra Modi is highly committed for the growth, development and prosperity of Karnataka. The double engine government of the Bharatiya Janata Party has taken development and progress to every household across the state. It is the duty and responsibility of every BJP karyakarta to take these achievements and good work of our government to the masses because the Congress party commits fraud and misleads people by carrying out fake campaigns.

He said the Bharatiya Janata Party wins the heart of the people by serving the people, whereas the Congress party does the politics of cheating and mistrust. It is Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who has established the culture of report cards in our political system and ended the Congress' culture of vote bank politics.

Whatever the Bharatiya Janata Party promises, it delivers

While addressing the Karyakarta Samavesh in Chitradurga, Karnataka the BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said whatever the Bharatiya Janata Party promises, it delivers. The Bharatiya Janata Party government does all that is necessary for the growth and development of the state and the country.

Shri JP Nadda said the Bharatiya Janata Party is

BJP GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTED SOCIAL JUSTICE IN TRUE SENSE

- The Narendra Modi led BJP Government has implemented social justice in true sense.
- For the first time the Narendra Modi Government Cabinet has 12 Dalit ministers, 27 OBC ministers and 8 Tribal ministers.
- The Atal Bihari Vajpayee government had formed the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The Narendra Modi Government gave constitutional status to the OBC Commission.
- Under the PM Adarsh Adivasis Gram Yojana, over 9,500 villages have been identified. Additional 5,500 villages have been added to the list.
- The Narendra Modi Government is working on a big scale for the growth and development of 36,428 Tribal dominated villages across the country.
- The development and transformation of Tribal villages is being done through efficient utilization of the District mineral fund.
- Several Eklavya Residential Schools have been constructed across the country for our Tribal students.

not a family based party, neither a casteist party nor a party of any particular community. ■

'JUNGLE RAJ HAS RETURNED TO BIHAR'

BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S PRAVAS AT MUZAFFARPUR, BIHAR



Addressing party workers in Paru, Muzaffarpur district of Bihar on 03 January 2023, BJP National President Shri JP Nadda commenting on the formation of the 'Mahagathbandhan' government in the state around five months ago said that 'Jungle Raj' has returned to Bihar.

"Since the formation of the 'Mahagathbandhan' government in Bihar, not a day goes without hearing about murder, loot, kidnappings, rapes and other crimes. 'Jungle Raj' has returned to the state. There is a complete breakdown in law and order in the state," he said.

Nitish Kumar backstabbed the people

Shri Nadda said Bihar wants change, the people of Bihar wants to grow and prosper with renewed vigour. The people of Bihar have

KEY POINTS

- The backdoor entry of RJD in power in Bihar has once again started the era of jungle raj in the state.
- RJD becoming a partner in the Bihar government, there has been a massive increase in the cases of murder, loot, kidnaps and crimes against women.
- The entire law and order situation in Bihar has collapsed and the administration is feeling helpless.
- The people of Bihar are feeling cheated and are highly dejected with Nitish Kumar and RJD.
- It is very difficult to understand who is in charge of the government under the rule of 'Sushashan Babu'?
- Who is ruling Bihar and where is good governance?

already decided to give a clear majority to the Bharatiya Janata Party and form the government under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Bharatiya Janata Party is firmly with the people of Bihar.

Shri Nadda asked, Nitish Kumar should tell the people why

he severed ties with NDA. By throwing Bihar towards Jungle Raj, Nitish Kumar has insulted the mandate of the people of Bihar. Nitish Kumar has backstabbed the people of Bihar and has cheated them. In the ensuing elections the people of Bihar will give a befitting reply to Nitish Kumar of this insult in a democratic manner. ■

BJP National President's Chandrapur, Maharashtra Pravas

'ENSURE GRAND VICTORY OF BJP'



As part of the pre-poll preparations undertaken through Lok Sabha Pravas Yojna, BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda visited Chandrapur in Maharashtra on 02 January, 2023. Soon after his arrival, Shri Nadda first visited the famous Kali temple in the city. He addressed a public rally and presided over an organisational meeting.

Addressing the huge gathering Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi we have to ensure the grand victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Kamrup. This victory will begin from Chandrapur, Maharashtra. The Lotus will bloom, the Sun will shine, darkness will fade away, and the nation will grow and prosper.

Maharashtra will never forgive Uddhav Thackeray

Shri Nadda said for his greed for power and for the chair of Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena backstabbed the people of Maharashtra and joined hands with those against whom the late and our beloved Shri Balasaheb Thackeray ji fought and struggled his entire life. The people of Maharashtra will never forgive such people.

During the Congress - Shiv Sena and NCP government there were three separate centers of corruption that were opened in the state. Their Home Minister has just come out of jail, while one minister is still inside the jail. The entire nation knows how in their government a police officer was involved in extortion in the garb of tackling terrorism, he said.

Since the formation of the so-called Mahavikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra everyone saw how the Shiv Sena and Uddhav Thackeray compromised with the party's ideology and meekly surrendered to the coalition partners, Shri Nadda said. ■

BJP National President's Kandhmal & Banapur, Odisha Pravas

'Modi government contributes greatly for growth and development of Odisha'



Addressing a huge public meeting in Kandhmal, Shri JP Nadda said for the development of Odisha it is imperative that the Lotus should bloom in the state under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi. I want to appeal to the people of Odisha to please vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party and ensure that Lotus blooms in the state in Lok Sabha as well as Vidhan Sabha elections. It is time; the people of Odisha should also join the development Yatra under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi.

BJD failed to protect the property of Mahaprabhu Jagannath

Shri Nadda asked, Why has the BJD failed to protect the gems and property of Mahaprabhu Jagannath? Where are the keys of the 'Ratna Bhandar' of the temple? Where has the original keys of the 'Ratna Bhandar' of Mahaprabhu disappeared? Naveen Patnaik Babu is roaming around with duplicate keys. Is Naveen Babu running an original government or a duplicate government? He will have to answer all these questions. Why has he failed to protect the 'Ratna Bhandar', he will have to answer this?

Centre spending crores of rupees for Puri

Addressing another huge rally at Banapur in Puri district Shri JP Nadda said the Modi government at the centre spent crores of rupees for Odisha particularly for Puri. The Modi government is constructing the Jagannath stadium in Puri.

For the first time in our country a Tribal woman who comes from a very humble background has been elevated to the highest Constitutional position. And it is a matter of great honour and pride that she hails from the holy land of Odisha, Shri Nadda said. ■



GIVE FULL MAJORITY TO BJP IN KARNATAKA

Further Strengthen The Modi Government: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah arrived in Bangalore on 29 December, 2022 for a three days visit to Karnataka. During his visit he addressed a massive public meeting in Mandya and inaugurated a mega dairy in Gejjalagere Dairy complex in Mandya

On December 31st, 2022 the Union Home Minister participated in Bhumi Pooja and inaugurated several development projects in Devanahalli. At the end of the tour, Shri Amit Shah met the party leaders and interacted with BJP Booth Presidents and Booth Level Agents (BLA) in Bengaluru. He also launched the Yeshasvini health insurance scheme in which 24 lakh cooperative sector farmers have registered till now and uniform software for the 5700 cooperatives in the Agri sector.

Rally in Mandya

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah after inaugurating a mega dairy project at Mandya, where he shared the stage with former Prime Minister Shri HD Deve Gowda and Chief Minister Shri Basavraj Bommai, addressed a mammoth rally in Mandya. Shri Shah criticized the Congress and JD(S) and said these parties followed the politics of Parivarvad. "Enough of the Congress and JD(S)...now it's time to vote for the BJP," he said.

The Union Home Minister said Karnataka had enough of Congress and JD(S) rule. Both are corrupt and dynastic parties. This time we all have to ensure a clean sweep for the BJP. He said the people of Mandya and Karnataka have resolved to form a BJP government with a full majority this time to build a prosperous Mandya and a happy Karnataka.

In Karnataka, when Congress comes to power, Karnataka becomes an ATM of Delhi & when JDS comes to power, Karnataka becomes the ATM of a family. The Siddaramaiah government withdrew cases

HIGHLIGHTS

- On one hand PM Shri Narendra Modi bans the highly radical terrorist organization called PFI, but on the other hand Congress lifts around 1700 cases against the PFI. Now the people of Karnataka have understood this game.
- Kumaraswamy ji always goes and sits on the laps of the Congress party. There is no need to tolerate a party which wins 30-35 seats and later engages in blackmail.

against 1700 PFI members but the Modi government banned the PFI and put all the anti-national elements behind the bars, he said.

Shri Shah asked to give a full majority to BJP in the Karnataka assembly elections and further strengthen the Modi government which is working hard to develop and secure the country.

Booth President's Rally In Bengaluru

Addressing the Booth President's Rally in Bengaluru Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said, "I urge the Bharatiya Janata Party workers to continue to strengthen the booths, the work of strengthening the nation is being done by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. When our booths become strong, the Bharatiya Janata Party will become stronger and it will also strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. When the Bharatiya Janata Party will become strong, it will also make our nation safe, secure, prosperous, capable, and strong". ■

Next government is going to be formed by BJP in Tripura: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah along with Tripura Chief Minister Shri Manik Saha and other senior leaders flagged off Bharatiya Janata Party 'Jan Vishwas Yatra' at Dharmanagar on 05 January, 2023. The Yatra will last for eight days and cover around 60 constituencies of the poll-bound Tripura. The purpose of Jan Vishwas Yatra programme is to strengthen the party support base in the state. The Yatra will showcase the developmental works the BJP government has done since 2018

After flagging off the Yatra, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and Tripura Chief Minister Shri Manik Saha addressed a huge gathering during the Jan Vishwas Yatra at Dharmanagar. "I sincerely thank all the brothers and sisters who came for supporting BJP's 'Jan Biswas Yatra' in such large numbers. People's faith in BJP proves that this time BJP will get a massive majority bigger than before in Tripura.

While addressing the event, the Home Minister said, "The communist government had included the employees of Tripura in the 5th Pay Commission and Biplab Bhai gave them the 7th Pay Commission. Congress is finished in the country and Communist are finished in the world."

Despite being rich in natural beauty, the tourism industry did not flourish in Tripura due to communist violence. The BJP government has developed the infrastructure of the tourism industry in such a way that it has increased 11 times over the previous five years, he added.

During the communist regime, the drugs and smuggling problem



in Tripura increased to a great extent. BJP has tackled this drugs problem and curbing intruders as well as providing income to the youth here, he said.

Shri Shah said the people of Tripura trusted BJP to form a single majority government and BJP took everyone along and will position the state at the height of development.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 'Jan Vishwas Yatra' will cover Dhamanagar in North Tripura district to Sabroom in South Tripura district.

- Tripura BJP started the Jan Vishwas Yatra to strengthen the party support base in the state.
- The Yatra will last for eight days and cover around 60 constituencies of the state.
- The main purpose of the Yatra is to showcase the developmental works the BJP government has done since 2018.
- BJP National President Shri JP Nadda will be present on the concluding day of the Yatra on January 12 and he will address a massive rally. ■

GDP GROWTH IN 2022-23 PROJECTED AT 7%: NSO

India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected at 7% for 2022-23 on the back of a rebound in services and farm sectors but may face strong headwinds in the months ahead due to the geopolitical situation and possible recession in several countries across the globe. The first advance estimate for 2022-23 released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Friday estimated GDP growth at 7%, a shade higher than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which pegged it at 6.8%. Last month, the central bank cut its GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 citing accentuated headwinds from protracted geopolitical tensions, tightening global financial conditions and slowing external demand.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also kept its outlook for India's economic growth unchanged at 7 per cent for the current fiscal year. As per ADB, Despite recent global headwinds, the Indian economy is expected to grow by 7.0 per cent, as projected in the



Update, supported by a strong domestic base. The Manila-based ADB in a report saw Asia expanding 4.2 per cent this year before accelerating to 4.6 per cent in 2023. These projections compare to the previously estimated expansion of 4.3 per cent and 4.9 per cent, respectively. ■

Railways Revenue Earnings up by 71% in Passenger Segment

The total approximate earnings in passenger segment for Indian Railways on originating basis during April to December 2022 is Rs. 48,913 Crore, registering an increase of 71 per cent in comparison to Rs. 28,569 Crore achieved during the same period last year.

In reserved passenger segment, the total approximate numbers of passengers booked during the period 1st April to 31st December 2022 is 59.61 Crore as compared to 56.05 Crore during the same period last year, showing an increase of



6%. The revenue generated from reserved passenger segment during the period 1st April to 31st December 2022 is 38,483 Crores as compared to 26,400 Crores during the same period last year,

showing an increase of 46 %.

In Unreserved passenger segment, the total approximate numbers of passengers booked during the period 1st April to 31st December 2022 is 40,197 lakhs as compared to 16968 lakhs during the same period last year, showing an increase of 137%. The revenue generated from Unreserved passenger segment during the period 1st April to 31st December 2022 is Rs 10,430 Crores as compared to Rs 2169 Crores during the same period last year, showing an increase of 381%. ■

CABINET APPROVES NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 4 January approved National Green Hydrogen Mission. The initial outlay for the Mission will be Rs.19,744 crore, including an outlay of Rs.17,490 crore for the SIGHT programme, Rs.1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs.400 crore for R&D, and Rs. 388 crore towards other Mission components. MNRE will formulate the scheme guidelines for implementation of the respective components.

The Mission will result in the following likely outcomes by 2030:

- Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country
 - Over Rs. Eight lakh crore in total investments
 - Creation of over Six lakh jobs
 - Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore
 - Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions
- The Mission will have wide ranging benefits

creation of export opportunities for Green Hydrogen and its derivatives; Decarbonisation of industrial, mobility and energy sectors; reduction in dependence on imported fossil fuels and feedstock; development of indigenous manufacturing capabilities; creation of employment opportunities; and development of cutting-edge technologies. India's Green Hydrogen production capacity is likely to reach at least 5 MMT per annum, with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW. The targets by 2030 are likely to bring in over Rs. 8 lakh crore investments and create over 6 lakh jobs. Nearly 50 MMT per annum of CO₂ emissions are expected to be averted by 2030.

Facilitate export of Green Hydrogen

The Mission will facilitate demand creation, production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen. Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), two distinct financial incentive mechanisms – targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolysers and production of Green Hydrogen – will be provided under the Mission.

1,50,000 AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRES OPERATIONALIZED

In a significant achievement demonstrating strengthening of the country's health infrastructure, India has surpassed a notable landmark- 150,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) have been operationalised before 31st December. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji applauded the efforts of the nation in accomplishing this feat before the set deadline and commended that these centers will serve to provide citizens all across the nation to easily access and avail primary healthcare facilities.

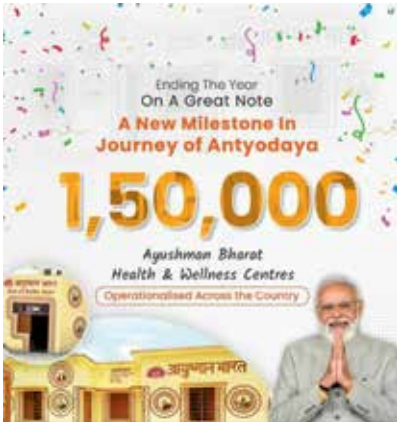
Fulfilling the principles of "Antyodaya"- leaving no one behind, 150,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) are transforming the delivery of comprehensive primary health care services which are universally free and cater to all age groups from birth to death, through a continuum of care approach. Ensuring the reach of healthcare services to the innermost regions of the nation through various initiatives, AB-HWCs have surpassed 8.5

Cabinet approves National Green Hydrogen Mission with an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore
Rs 17,490 crore for SIGHT program

Outcomes

- Hydrogen production capacity to reach 5 MMT per annum
- Addition of 125 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030
- Creation of over 6 lakh jobs
- Reduction in fossil fuel imports of over Rs 1 Lakh crore
- Reduction of 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions

*MMT - Million Metric Tonne
*SIGHT - Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Program



teleconsultations via e-Sanjeevani, where nearly 4 lakh teleconsultations take place on a daily basis.

More than 86.90 crore beneficiaries have been cumulatively screened for non-communicable diseases which

include 29.95 Crore for Hypertension, 25.56 Crore for Diabetes, 17.44 Crore for Oral cancer, 8.27 Crore for Breast Cancer and 5.66 Crore for Cervical Cancer.

In light of expansion of AB-HWCs, the number of essential medicines has increased to 172 at Primary Health Centres – Health Wellness Centres (PHC-HWC) and 105 at Sub Health Centres – Health Wellness Centres (SHC-HWC) and essential diagnostics have also expanded to 63 at PHC-HWC and 14 at SHC-HWC. AB-HWCs also encompass wellness sessions on Yoga, Zumba, cyclathons, walkathons, and provide guidelines on diet, physical activity, positive parenting, tobacco, alcohol cessation among other aspects to imbibe a mindset for community well-being.

Till date, more than 1.60 crore wellness sessions have been conducted at these centres.

A group of people standing outside a building

50 ELECTRIC BUSES LAUNCHED IN DELHI WITH SUPPORT UNDER FAME INDIA PHASE II SCHEME OF THE UNION MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of Heavy Industries said that under the FAME II Scheme of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), Cities/STUs/ State Governments placed supply orders for 3,538 Electric Buses. Out of those 3,538 Electric Buses, a total of 1,716 electric Buses have been deployed as on 2nd January 2023.

He further stated that for the Union Territory of Delhi 400 Electric Buses; 300 Electric Buses to Delhi

Transport Corporation (DTC) for intra city operations and 100 Electric Buses to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for last Mile connectivity were sanctioned in the Month of August 2019. A total of 250 buses have already been deployed by DTC. ■

AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORTS UP BY 16%

The exports of agricultural and processed food products rose by 16 percent in the eight months (April-November) of the current Financial Year 2022-23 in comparison to the corresponding period of FY 2021-22.

According to the provisional data by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the overall export of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) products increased by 16 percent growth in terms of USD during April-November 2022 to USD 17.43 billion from USD 15.07 billion over the same period of the last fiscal.

The initiatives taken by the APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) that works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry have helped the country in achieving 74 percent of its total export target for the year 2022-23 in eight months of the current fiscal. ■

INDIA TAKES OVER LEADERSHIP OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC POSTAL UNION

First time an Indian is leading an international organization in the postal sector

India will take over the leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) having its Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand from this month. Following the successful elections held during the 13th APPU Congress held in Bangkok during August- September 2022, Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh, erstwhile Member (Personnel), Postal Services Board will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years.

Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) is an intergovernmental organization of 32-member countries of the Asian-Pacific region. APPU is the only Restricted Union of the Universal Postal Union

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

(UPU) in the region, which is a specialized agency of the United Nations. The goal of APPU is to extend, facilitate and improve postal relations between member countries and to promote cooperation in the field of postal services.

"This is the first time an Indian is leading an international organization in the postal sector. At this crucial juncture for the sector, it is a privilege for the Department to have its officer lead the activities of the Union, especially beginning from this year of India's G20 presidency" said Shri Vineet Pandey, Secretary, Department of Posts. ■

INVESTMENT APPROVAL FOR 382 MW SUNNI DAM HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT IN HIMACHAL PRADESH BY SJVN

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 4 January approved the investment for 382 MW Sunni Dam Hydro Electric Project in Himachal Pradesh by SJVN Limited, for an estimated cost of Rs. 2614.51 crore including Rs. 13.80 crore as budgetary support from Government of India for cost of enabling infrastructure. Ex-post facto approval is given for cumulative expenditure incurred amounting to Rs.246 crore till January, 2022. Keeping in view the aims and objectives of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the present proposal for setting up of 382 MW Sunni Dam HEP by SJVN shall provide various benefits to local suppliers/ local enterprises/ MSMEs and shall encourage entrepreneurship opportunities within the country besides promoting employment and socio-economic development of the region. ■

GOVERNMENT HAS DEEPENED THE REACH OF PMBJP WITH MORE THAN 9000 STORES COVERING 743 OUT OF 766 DISTRICTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Medicines priced 50%-90% less than that of branded Medicines

With an objective of making quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all, Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India in November, 2008. The target

of opening 3000 Kendras was achieved in December 2017. Further, a revised target of total 6000 outlets was also achieved in March, 2020. In this journey, the number of Kendras have now increased to 9000 from 8610 in the last financial year. Hence, the Government has deepened the reach of PMBJP with more than 9000 stores covering 743 out of 766 districts across the country. The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,000 by March 2024. The product basket of PMBJP comprises 1759 medicines and 280 surgical devices covering all major therapeutic groups such as Cardiovascular, Anti-cancers, Anti-diabetics, Anti-infectives, Anti-allergic, Gastro-intestinal medicines, Nutraceuticals, etc. In addition to this, various nutraceutical products like Protein Powder, Malt-based Food Supplements, etc. and some AYUSH products like Ayuraksha Kit, Balraksha Kit and Ayush-64 tablet as Immunity boosters have been added in the product basket of the Pariyojana. Medicines available under PMBJP are priced 50%-90% less than that of branded medicines. ■

NTPC DELIVERS ELECTRIFYING PERFORMANCE REGISTERING GROWTH OF 11.6% TO 295.4 BU

- NTPC generates 254.6 BU during Apr-Dec 2022, an increase of 16.1% over the previous year, on a standalone basis
 - NTPC portrays phenomenal growth in captive coal production by achieving 14.6 MMT of production
 - NTPC group installed capacity is 70824 MW
 - The company cross 3 GW of Renewable capacity
- NTPC, India's largest power generating company recorded a generation of 295.4 BU during Apr-Dec 2022, registering a growth of 11.6% compared to the same period, previous year. On a standalone basis, NTPC generated 254.6 BU during Apr-Dec 2022, an increase of 16.1% over the previous year. NTPC group installed capacity is 70824 MW. Recently, the company has crossed 3 GW of Renewable capacity. ■

RAKSHA MANTRI DEDICATES TO THE NATION 28 BRO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the Nation 28 infrastructure projects of Border Roads

Organisation (BRO), worth Rs 724 crore, during an event organised at Siyom Bridge on Along-Yinkiong Road in Arunachal Pradesh on January 03, 2023. The projects comprise 22 bridges, including Siyom bridge; three roads and three other projects in seven border States/Union Territories of Northern & North-Eastern regions. Eight of these projects are in Ladakh; five in Arunachal Pradesh; four in Jammu & Kashmir; three each in Sikkim, Punjab & Uttarakhand and two in Rajasthan. In addition, three telemedicine nodes - two in Ladakh & one in Mizoram – were inaugurated. The Raksha Mantri, in his address said that it is the top priority of the Government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to connect the border areas and ensure the development of its residents. ■

RS 1,49,507 CRORE GST REVENUE COLLECTED FOR DECEMBER 2022, RECORDS INCREASE OF 15% YEAR-ON-YEAR

The gross GST revenue collected during December 2022 is Rs 1,49,507 crore, of which CGST is Rs 26,711 crore, SGST is Rs 33,357 crore, IGST is Rs 78,434 crore (including Rs 40,263 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 11,005 crore (including Rs 850 crore collected on import of goods).

The Government has settled Rs 36,669 crore to CGST and Rs 31,094 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue of Centre and the States after regular settlements in the month of December 2022 is Rs 63,380 crore for CGST and Rs 64,451 crore for the SGST. ■

WITH 16.39% INCREASE COAL PRODUCTION TOUCHES 607.97 MILLION TON DURING APRIL-DECEMBER 2022

India's coal production increased impressively by 16.39% to 607.97 MT during Apr-Dec'22 as compared to 522.34 MT produced during the same period of FY 22. CIL reported coal production of 479.05 MT up to December of FY 23 as compared to 413.63 MT during the same period of FY 22, representing an increase of 15.82%.

Ministry of Coal has paved the way for releasing additional coal in the market by greater utilization of mining capacities of captive coal blocks which has led to increase in production of coal by Captive and

Other companies by 31.38% to 81.70 MT during Apr-Dec'22 as compared to 62.19 MT produced during the corresponding period of FY 22. ■

UIDAI ENABLES 'HEAD OF FAMILY' BASED ONLINE ADDRESS UPDATE IN AADHAAR

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has put in place a resident friendly facility to help them update address in Aadhaar online with the consent of the Head of Family (HoF).

The HoF based online address update in Aadhaar will be of great help to the relative(s) of a resident-like children, spouse, parents etc, who don't have supporting documents in their own name to update address in their Aadhaar.



It can be done by submitting Proof of Relationship document like Ration Card, Marksheet, Marriage Certificate, Passport etc. mentioning the name of both the applicant and HOF and the relationship between them and OTP based authentication by the HOF. In case even Proof of Relationship document is not available, UIDAI provides the resident to submit a self-declaration by the HOF in the UIDAI prescribed format.

With people moving cities and towns due to various reasons within the country, such a facility will be beneficial for millions of people. This choice would be in addition to the existing address update facility using any valid Proof of Address document prescribed by UIDAI. Any resident above the age of 18 can be an HOF for this purpose and can share his/her address with his/her relatives through this process.

In the 'My Aadhaar' portal (<https://myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in>), a resident can choose this option while seeking to update address online. ■



DEENDAYALJI: AN ASCETIC POLITICIAN

- KAILASHPATI MISHRA

INDIA has witnessed the advent of many eras in her very long and ancient history. One such era lay between October 1951 and 1967 and that was the era of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. In earlier ages India had to undergo the ravages of foreign invasions and for centuries together had to remain chained to dominance by foreign intruders. Throughout that period the struggle for independence continued to be waged in one form or the other. From the 19th century till the first half of the 20th century many revolutions seeking independence continued to take shape and the situation of win and- lose continued to persist. In all the revolutions, the desire for independence continued to be the central objective. In the month of August 1947, proclamation of Independence was made which, however was accompanied by several complications. The moments of happiness and celebrations were also tinged with curses as well. The absence of an eternal solid ideology continued to loom large. First, a unified India was divided into two political entities and later fragmented into three. An orgy of violence and bloodshed commenced in the newly - separated country called Pakistan. Persons displaced from that region made a beeline for India as refugees. The newly - created borders became unsafe and the number of refugees swelled into crores. Conspiracy of intrusion also continued. About 550 princely States recognised and left behind

by the British also started raising their heads. Among the rulers who had taken over from the British only the great Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India, could visualize the extent of threat to the country. Because of his untiring efforts and farsightedness, merger of these States into the sovereign Indian union commenced at a fast pace. The entire world knows what the great Sardar had to do



to make Hyderabad and Junagarh princely entities merge into the Indian mainstream. Sardar Patel was about to succeed in Kashmir too when brakes were applied to his advancing steps by the then Prime Minister. The country had to witness another black day of misfortune when Sardar Patel died. Since then Kashmir problem has been complicated so much that the country has not been able to come out of it.

The British exploited the country

economically to such an extent that it left India a financial wreck. A great chunk of India's population went below the poverty line. The English had contrived to sap the economic sources of the country. In these circumstances and the course of events that unfolded, the Bhartiya Jana Sangh came into being on October 21, 1951. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee became its first President and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya its General Secretary. The era of Pandit Upadhyayaji commenced mainly from this date. It will be no exaggeration if we consider this great man as an "avatar". He understood the Indian way of life very correctly and presented an ideology best suited to Indian's reconstruction. He came out with his philosophy of "integral humanism". He presented a treatise on "Purusharthchatushtya". Along with other elements of established life, he laid stress on Antyodaya. Enunciating his principles for national administrative system he laid stress on attending to the needs of the persons standing on the lowest rung of the ladder of development and to apply the healing touch by putting balm on the cracks of his feet. That is the cardinal principle of Antyodaya which the country has obtained from him.

The nature of India is based on this philosophy and as long as it will continue to be the guiding principle of our thinking, behaviour and conduct, welfare and upliftment for our people is assured. When

this basic principle gets ignored, degradation is bound to set in. Upadhyayaji had laid stress on this thought and he dedicated all his life for the achievement of this objective. When we try to analyse the definition of integral humanism in conjunction with “Purusharthchatushtya”, we will be able to appreciate the efficacy of the Antyodaya era in right perspective. Several incidents of his life inspire us to work in this direction.

He had no special interest for foreign travel, yet at times he did succumb to the persistent pressure of his friends. Those who kept company with him were not only acquainted with his nature and conduct, but were also impressed by it. Simple living and high thinking were integral part of his life. Once on the prodding of his friends he consented to visit the USA. He went there but did not forsake Indian dress. He met the President of USA who got highly impressed. He visited many places there. Once the US President continued to ask Upadhyayaji again and again, how could he serve India. For some time he continued to avoid a direct reply. But the President continued to persist with his question. Ultimately, in very sweet words he smilingly said: “If you really want to help India then I request you stop financially helping our country even by a penny”. The President must have been taken aback because at that time Indian rulers had been visiting every corner of the world with a begging bowl and if they succeeded in getting even a loan, they boasted of a victory. On the other hand, India had a great man who for the welfare of the country was urging the US not

to be give even a penny to India. I cannot say how the thinkers of today will take it, but it is this same principle that the revered Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Deendayalji had shared.

I had some unforgettable personal experiences travelling with Pandit Deendayalji. It was in 1963. We arrived at Farbesganj in Bihar in the afternoon. Panditji addressed a meeting in the evening. He had stayed there for one night. Next day, while returning by the train, about half a dozen people were sitting opposite Panditji in the compartment.

Perhaps one of them had heard Panditji the previous evening. He enquired, “Are you Pt. Deendayal”? When smilingly he said yes, the man shot back saying Jan Sangh had no economic policy. In a very clam, sweet tone Panditji replied, “A party which has no economic policy cannot sustain itself.” The gentleman then asked, “Are you rightist or leftist”? Panditji smiled again and in his own style replied, “Brother, God has gifted me two eyes. Why do you wish to make me a one-eyed person”? The gentleman then realized he had met a very serious person. Then Panditji explained, “Rightists are those who have have lost their left eye and leftists, their right one. If you want enunciation of Jan Sangh’s economic policy, then I would sum it up in two words: “pragmatic and realistic.”

This small discussion became his treatise on economic policy, in brief. His words still echo in my mind. The gentlemen sitting opposite became speechless. They got

their convincing answers. Another incident. By that time Panditji’s acquaintance with the intelligentsia has started spreading fast. There was a public meeting at Gandhi Maidan in Patna. After sitting at the rostrum for some time I got down to mix with the crowd which included established well-known professors, wellknown public figures. Those were the days of shortages and the word “hoarding” was very much common in speeches. In his address Panditji asked people what was the price of tomatoes these days. Someone from the audience said Rs. 15 per ser. Hearing this Panditji said, this means hoarding is also being extended to tomatoes. Somebody from the crowd shouted, “How could there be hoarding of tomatoes? It is a raw, perishable commodity”. Panditji asked, “If there is no hoarding, why is it so dear?” Somebody said, “Because of corruption”. Then Panditji explained corruption through a mathematic equation, “Corruption is equal to shortage of commodity multiplied by Government Regulations”. Hearing this, some scholars could’nt help saying, “Panditji is great”.

I am satisfied that the spirit of Antyodaya which was unleashed by Panditji is still alive. In spite of difficult economic conditions, India continues to march fast forward steadfastly. The speed with which the country will adopt the philosophy of Antyodaya and will take steps to translate it into practice, I am certain, India will come out more confident, more self-reliant. ■

(The writer was leader of the BJP and a former Governor of Gujarat and Rajasthan)

'A glorious century rests at the feet of god'

PM Narendra Modi's mother Heeraben passes away

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mother Heeraben Modi passed away at the age of 100 early on 30 December, 2022. Following his mother's demise, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that he always felt the presence of a trinity in her,

combining an ascetic's journey, a selfless doer, and a life committed to values. Prime Minister Shri Modi recalled that when he met her on her 100th birthday, she had told him: "work with wisdom and live with purity".

The Prime Minister Shri Modi informed through Twitter about the demise of his mother. He tweeted,

"A glorious century rests at the feet of God... In Maa, I have always felt that trinity, which contains the journey of

an ascetic, the symbol of a selfless Karmayogi and a life committed to values," the Prime Minister posted a heartfelt tribute informing about his mother's



demise.

Tributes poured in after the demise of PM Modi's mother. Leaders from all parties and citizens from across the country expressed their condolences on the demise of the great mother. PM Shri Modi arrived in Gujarat early

Affection and truthfulness gave the country a successful leadership: JP Nadda

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, expressing his condolence in a series of tweets, said "I express my deepest condolences on the demise of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji's revered mother.

The struggling and virtuous life of Hira Baji is always an inspiration, her affection and truthfulness gave the country a successful leadership. The loss of Mother is irreparable; there is no way to fill this void.

I humbly offer my respectful obeisances at the feet of the Triveni Mother of Simplicity, Austerity, and Karma. May God give strength to the Prime Minister and his family members and give a place to the pious soul at his holy feet. Om Shanti!"

Heera Ba's demise creates a void that is impossible to fill: Rajnath Singh

Expressing grief, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said mother's demise creates a void in life that is impossible to fill.

"I am deeply pained by the passing away of Hira Ba, mother of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi. The death of a mother leaves such a void in one's life that is impossible to fill. I express my condolences to the Prime Minister and his entire family in this hour of grief," Shri Singh said in a tweet.

Sacrificial ascetic life of Heera Ba will always be in our memory: Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah expressed deep sadness over the demise of Heera Ba and said her sacrificial ascetic life will always be remembered.

In tweets Shri Shah said, very sad to know about the demise of the Prime Minister's mother. A mother is the first friend and teacher of a person's life and the pain of losing a mother is undoubtedly the biggest pain in the world.

"The struggles faced by Heera Ba to nurture the family, her sacrificial ascetic life will always be in our memory. The entire nation stands with Prime Minister Shri Modi and his family in this hour of grief. The prayers of crores of people are with you. Om Shanti."

on December 30, 2022 to perform the last rites. Her final rites were held at Gandhinagar's Muktidham crematorium. ■

KESHARI NATH TRIPATHI NO MORE

BJP Senior leader and former Governor of West Bengal and three-time Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi is no more. He passed away at the age of 88 due to prolonged illness in Prayagraj on January 8.

He played a key role in building BJP in UP: PM

In his condolence message, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi Ji was respected for his service and intellect. He was well-versed in Constitutional matters. He played a key role in building BJP in UP and worked hard for the state's progress. Pained by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers.

Source of inspiration for all of us: JP Nadda

The BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, "The news of the demise of respected Keshari Nath Tripathi ji, a senior leader, former Governor of West Bengal, and a source of inspiration for all of us, is very sad. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and pray to God for the departed soul's peace. Om Shanti!"



Passing away of Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi is extremely sad: Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his condolences to the bereaved family on Twitter, saying that the death of the respected senior leader, senior member of the BJP family, and former Governor of West Bengal Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi is extremely sad. May Lord Shri Ram give place to the departed pious soul in his holy feet and give strength to the bereaved family members to bear the sorrow.

Apart from West Bengal, Shri Tripathi had held additional charge as the Governor of Bihar, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. He was hospitalised a few days ago after his fractured hand and for treatment of age-related ailments as well. He was, however, released from the hospital three days ago.

Born on November 10, 1934 in erstwhile Allahabad, Shri Tripathi was also a senior advocate at the Allahabad High Court. He joined RSS when he was just 12 and later switched to Bharatiya Jana Sangh. He was jailed in Naini Central Jail in 1953 for participating in the 'Kashmir Andolan' and again in 1990 for taking part in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.

Shri Tripathi was elected MLA for the first time in 1977 from Jhansi assembly constituency in Prayagraj district. He went on to win six more Assembly elections and his last victory was in 2002 from Allahabad South seat.

In a career spanning decades, Shri Tripathi was elected as the Speaker of the UP Assembly under different chief ministers including Shri Kalyan Singh, Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Ram Prakash Gupta, Sushri Mayawati and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. ■



Narendra Modi: The True Spirit of A Karmyogi

By Dilip Trivedi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mother Heeraben Modi passed away at the age of 100 in early hours of December 30, 2022. PM Shri Modi performed the last rites of his mother in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Hours after cremation of his mother, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi resumed his duties and attended all the pre-scheduled meetings.



But this was not the first time that PM Shri Modi resumed his duties after enduring a personal loss. A similar incident took place when his father Shri Damodardas Modi passed away in 1989. A similar commitment towards his work was displayed by Shri Narendra Modi even at that time.

Shri Dilip Trivedi from Gujarat recalls the incident from 1989. He says that there was an organisational meeting to be held in Ahmedabad. That meeting was supposed to be attended by Shri Narendra Modi also.

As soon as the Karyakartas reached the venue, they enquired about Shri Narendra Modi, who had not reached the venue till then. After some time, someone

informed that Shri Narendra Modi's father had passed away and so he had gone to Vadnagar for the funeral.

Everyone thought that Shri Narendra Modi won't be able to attend the meeting and therefore Karyakartas decided to start the meeting without him.

To everyone's surprise, Shri Narendra Modi reached the meeting venue in the afternoon and attended the rest of the session.

After the meeting was over, we went to him and asked about his presence in the meeting despite a personal loss back home. He replied that after attending the funeral he left home for the meeting. Shri Modi further said that since it was an important meeting and we have to proceed with our duties therefore it was necessary to participate in this meeting.

Shri Trivedi says that it was an important lesson for all the Karyakartas present there that despite such a personal loss, Shri Narendra Modi was committed towards his duties. Shri Trivedi further says that this is a true example of being a Karmyogi! ■

KAMAL PUSHHP



Sahyog, Samarpan Aur Sanskar



Shyama Sharma

Date of Birth	25/03/1947	Gender	female
State	Himachal Pradesh	District	SIRMOUR
Town/City	Nahan	Level	State
Post in Organisation	State President	Active years	1966-2015

SUSHRI SHYAMA SHARMA: STORY OF SELFLESS SERVICE

Sushri Shyama Sharma from Nahan, Himachal Pradesh was a practising lawyer. She actively worked for social causes and for the labourers working for Yamuna Hydro Project demanding Wage Board. In chilly December Sirmour Police had arrived to arrest her but she had jumped into the Tons River and reached Jaunsar Babar by night crossing the

river in chilled night. Thereon she moved to Delhi and remained underground for a year. She was arrested under MISA during Emergency and was in Central Jail Nahan for more than a year. She was the only woman from Himachal to have got arrested during the Emergency. She held the post of Minister of State (Independent). ■

VEER BAL DIWAS IS A DAY OF A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE NATION:PM

IT MARKS THE MARTYRDOM OF SONS OF SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi participated in a historic programme marking 'Veer Bal Diwas' at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi on 26 December. During the programme, the Prime Minister attended a 'Shabad Kirtan' performed by about three hundred Baal Kirtanis. The Prime Minister also flagged off a march-past by about three thousand children in Delhi on this momentous occasion.

On 9th January 2022, the day of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Prime Minister had announced that 26th December would be observed as 'Veer Bal Diwas', to mark the martyrdom of sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh - Sahibzadas Baba Zorawar Singh Ji and Baba Fateh Singh Ji.

India is celebrating the first Veer Bal Diwas, today: Modi

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that India is celebrating the first Veer Bal Diwas, today. It is a day of a new beginning for the nation when we all come together to bow our heads for the sacrifices laid down in the past. "Shaheedi Saptah and Veer Bal Diwas is not just a cauldron of emotions but a source of infinite inspiration", the Prime Minister said.

Shri Modi said that Veer Bal Diwas will remind us Age does not matter when it comes to extreme valour and sacrifice. Veer Bal Diwas will remind us of the immense contribution of ten Sikh gurus and the sacrifice of the Sikh tradition for protecting the honour of the nation. "Veer Bal Diwas will tell us what is India and what is its identity and every year, Veer Bal Diwas will inspire us to recognize our past and make our



future. This will also remind everyone about the strength of our young generation", the Prime Minister Added.

The Prime Minister paid grateful tributes to the Veer Sahibzades, Gurus and Mata Gurjari. "I consider it to be the good fortune of our government that we got the opportunity to declare 26th December as Veer Bal Diwas", he said.

Prime Minister said, "On one hand there were

heights of terror and religious fanaticism, while on the other hand, there was the pinnacle of spirituality and kindness to see God in every human being. The Prime Minister further informed that in the midst of all this, the Mughals possessed an army of millions, while the Veer Sahibzades of Guru had their courage. They did not bow down to the Mughals even though they were alone. This is when the Mughals walled them in alive. It is their bravery that has been a source of inspiration for centuries

Resolution of 'Rastra Pratham'- Nation First

The Prime Minister said, "Resolution of 'Rastra Pratham'- Nation First, was the unshakable resolve of Guru Gobind Singh Ji". Shri Modi corroborated the point by recounting the immense personal sacrifice of his family. "This tradition of 'Nation First' is a huge inspiration for us", the Prime Minister stressed. Shri Modi commented that the future of India's coming generations will depend upon their source of inspiration. Recounting innumerable examples of inspiring children like Bharat, Bhakt Pruhlaad, Nachiketa and Dhruv, Bal Ram, Luv-Kush and Bal Krishna, the Prime Minister said that from ancient times to the modern period brave boys and girls have been a reflection of India's valour. ■

PM Chairs National Ganga Council Meet

‘PURITY OF MAA GANGA IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY’

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi chaired the National Ganga Council meet held on 30th December 2022 via video conferencing in Kolkata. Shri Modi said that the meeting of Council provides a great opportunity to discuss ways to further strengthen the Namami Gange initiative. PM Modi also spoke about ways to enhance cleanliness efforts including expanding the network of sewage treatment plants in the smaller towns. During the meeting, PM emphasized on ways to enhance various forms of herbal farming along the Ganga. PM Shri Modi said that the purity of Maa Ganga is our common heritage and also our responsibility. Our forefathers have given us a precious heritage and it is our destiny to hand over this heritage to future generations in the same condition and with same purity.

Prior to the meeting, PM Shri Modi also laid foundation stone and dedicated Namami Gange and Drinking Water & Sanitation Projects to the nation via video conferencing. The Prime Minister inaugurated 7 sewerage infrastructure projects (20 Sewage Treatment Plants and 612 km network) at a cost of more than Rs 990 crore. These projects will benefit municipalities of Nabadwip, Kacharapra, Halishar, Budge-Budge, Barrackpore, Chandan Nagar, Bansberia,



The purity of Maa Ganga is our common heritage and also our responsibility. Our forefathers have given us a precious heritage and it is our destiny to hand over this heritage to future generations in the same condition and with same purity

UttraparaKotrung, Baidyabati, Bhadreswar, Naihati, Garulia, Titagarh, and Panihati. These projects will add the sewage treatment capacity of over 200 MLD in the State of West Bengal.

Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for 5 sewerage infrastructure projects (8 Sewage Treatment Plants and 80 Km Network) to be developed under National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) at an estimated cost of Rs 1,585 crore. These projects will add 190 MLD new STP capacity in West Bengal. These projects will benefit areas of North Barrackpore, Hooghly-Chinsura, Kolkata KMC area- Garden Reach & Adi Ganga (TollyNala) and Mahestala town.

The Prime Minister reflected on the importance of the project for Rejuvenation of River Adi Ganga, infamously known as TollyNala, and a tributary of Ganga, in Kolkata. Recognizing the bad situation of the river, the project has been approved by NMCG at an estimated cost of Rs. 653.67 crore that includes construction of modern sewerage infrastructure comprising of 3 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) of 10 Million Litres per Day (MLD), 11.60 MLD and 3.5 MLD capacities. This project is 100% centrally sponsored. Prime Minister stressed that holistic preventive steps are being taken under the programme towards cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers. ■

'Tamil Nadu is not in Safe hands under DMK'

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressed a massive public meeting in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on 27 December, 2022 and appealed to the people of the state to give their support and blessings to the BJP. He spent a night at the Isha Yoga Center in Coimbatore. Several senior party functionaries including National General Secretary Shri C. T. Ravi, Union Minister Shri L. Murugan, BJP State President Shri K. Annamalai, BJP's legislative party leader Shri Nainar Nagendran, BJP Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Vanithi Srinivasan, Senior BJP leaders Shri Sudhakar Reddy, Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan and all the BJP district presidents were present in the rally. Earlier, Shri Nadda interacted with social media influencers in Coimbatore.

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said, PM Shri Narendra Modi has a true love for Tamil culture. Being an Indian, we all should be happy about this. He talked about Tamil language and Tamil culture at the UN General Assembly too. He quoted lines of a great poet Kaniyan Poongundranar at the World's most prestigious platform. He has made the World aware about the greatness of Mahabalipuram, the intricacies of "Pattamadai".

He said India is in safe hands but Tamil Nadu is not in the safe hands because DMK is not even a regional party. In reality, DMK has become a family dynastic party in which only the first family (Karunanidhi & Sons) has the power and everything. In DMK, 'D' stands for Dynasty, 'M' stands for Money swindling and 'K' stands for Katta panchayat.

- Shri Nadda said we are here to take care of people of the country including Tamil Nadu while for the DMK and the Congress, they are here to take care of their only one family.



- For us, Nation First, Party Second and Self is the Last
- While for the DMK and the Congress, they think - self first, party second and the nation in the last.
- They don't think about the nation, but only their respective family.
- We are here to unite, they are for divide and rule. That is the difference between the BJP and the DMK & the Congress.
- Hence, I said that India is in safe hands but Tamil Nadu is not. Better change hands in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu will give blessings in the coming elections

Shri Nadda said, to support the growth of the Defence sector and enhance manufacturing capacity

in the sector, two Defence Industrial Corridors are being set up in India, out of which one in Tamil Nadu. New campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil is being opened.

The enthusiasm I see here gives me immense confidence that in the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, you will give your blessing and full support to Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri Nadda added.

Tamil Nadu is a land of rich culture

The BJP National President further said Tamil Nadu is a land of rich culture. It is a revolutionary land as in the 1800s, the Polygar wars were fought against the Britishers. We also remember that Lord Murugan has been blessing this land. I pray to Lord Murugan that Tamil Nadu should become more prosperous.

We know Tamil is one of the oldest languages. A rich language and a rich culture. Tamil being one of the oldest languages, it has given direction not only to India but to the entire world, he added. ■



PRADHAN MANTRI ADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA: AN ANALYSIS

The 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana' has been launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to achieve the goal of integrated social and economic development of the tribal people. So that every kind of facility can be made available to the villages with tribal populations and solid infrastructure can be provided to them



ARJUN MUNDA

Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India constitute about 8.6 percent of India's population, numbering about 104 million. There are over 700 Scheduled Tribes notified under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas', the Government of India has focused on the development of tribals and preservation of their heritage and culture as a priority. In line with this vision and its abiding commitment to the welfare of tribals, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has geared itself for regional development through the enhanced allocation of financial resources, a convergence of efforts, and restructuring of the planning and implementation machinery of the Ministry.

Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY):

The 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana' has been launched by the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs to achieve the goal of integrated social and economic development of the tribal people. So that every kind of facility can be made available to the villages with tribal populations and solid infrastructure can be provided to them. The objective of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana

The objective of Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana is to convert villages with specific tribal populations into Adarsh Grams

is to convert villages with specific tribal populations into Adarsh Grams.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs has revived the earlier scheme of 'Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Scheme (SCA to TSS)' with the name 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY)' for implementation during 2021-22 to 2025-26, which aims at the integrated development of villages with significant tribal population, covering a population of about 4.22 crores (about 40 per cent of the total tribal population).

The objective of this scheme is to achieve integrated socioeconomic development of selected villages through the convergence approach. It involves the preparation of village development plans based on needs, potential and aspirations. Apart from this, it also includes maximizing the coverage of individual/family benefit schemes of the Central / State Governments and improving the infrastructure of critical sectors such as health, education, connectivity, and livelihood.

Majorly in 8 areas of development under this scheme:

It is envisaged to bridge the existing developmental gaps. These areas are-

1. Road connectivity (Internal and inter-village/block)
2. Telecom connectivity (mobile/internet)
3. School
4. Anganwadi Centre
5. Health Sub-Centre
6. Drinking water facility
7. Drainage and
8. Solid Waste Management.

A provision of Rs 20.38 lakhs per village has been made as a 'gap feeling' measure for

approved activities, including administrative expenses under PMAAGY. Further, States/UTs are encouraged to pool resources in the form of Central and State Scheduled Tribe Component Fund (STC) funds and other financial resources available with them for saturation of infrastructure and services in the identified villages under PMAAGY goes.

The scope of the existing scheme of "Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan" has been expanded to include 36,428 villages under 'Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana' to develop them as Adarsh Grams in coordination with the concerned Ministries.

Salient Features of PMAAGY:

- It is envisaged to benefit 36,428 villages from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The main objective of this scheme is to achieve integrated socio-economic development of tribal-dominated villages.
- Under PMAAGY, an amount of Rs 20.38 lakhs will be provided to each village for the approved works, including administrative expenses.
- A target has been set to develop 7,500 villages every year.
- An amount of Rs 1,927 crores has already been released to the states for 16,554 villages in 25 states.
- Gram Vikas Yojana, with respect to 6264 villages has been approved for implementation.

These villages will be developed comprehensively as the tribal

population in these villages is more than 500 and up to 50% of the total population.

The cabinet has approved an amount of Rs 7276 crores for the next five years. A total amount of Rs 2130.47 crores has been allocated under the scheme during 20121-22 and 2022-23 with Rs 785 crores and Rs 1345.47 crores respectively. Further, it is envisaged that the concerned Ministries will play their part in various areas of development in these villages out of STC funds of about Rs 79177.74 crores as per their planned norms. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Government of India)

SINCE 2014, MASSIVE INCREASE IN THE BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS TO THE NORTH EAST REGION

The Government has made development of North East a major priority. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has visited North East region more than 50 times in the last 8 years, while Union Ministers have also visited the North-East more than 400 times.

North-East was previously known for unrest, bandhs etc but in the last eight years, peace has been established under the leadership of Prime minister Narendra Modi. There has been a 74% reduction in insurgency incidents, 60% reduction in incidents of attacks on security forces and 89% reduction in civilian deaths. About 8,000 youth have surrendered and have joined the mainstream.

Further, agreement with the National Liberation Front of Tripura in 2019, The Bru and Bodo Agreement in 2020, and Karbi Agreement in 2021 were sealed. The Assam-Meghalaya and Assam-Arunachal border disputes have also almost ended, and with the restoration of peace, the north-east region has moved on the path of development.

Since 2014, we have witnessed massive increase in the budgetary allocations to the region. Since 2014, more than 4 lakh crores under 10% GBS have been allocated for the region.

The Union Cabinet, Chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 7

approved Schemes of Ministry Of Development Of North Eastern Region, with an outlay of Rs 12,882.2 Crore, for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). ■



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
REPUBLIC DAY (26 JANUARY)
to all of its readers



DEMONETISATION: ITS LEGAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

The Court observed that the Government and the RBI had considered all the relevant factors before taking decision and merely because some citizens faced hardship, it cannot be said to be bad in Law.



**GOPAL KRISHNA
AGARWAL**

There are three dimensions to Demonetisation debate: Legal, Political and Economic dimensions. There were 58 petitions filed against government's decision to implement Demonetisation on various objections. Hon'ble Supreme Court rejected all the contentions of the petitioners. Issues with regards to Central Government's power, the decision making process, the period provided for exchange of notes, consultations with the Reserve Bank of India; The Court observed that the Government and the RBI had considered all the relevant factors before taking decision and merely because some citizens faced hardship, it cannot be said to be bad in Law.

A six-year period is more than enough time for any policy to be reviewed threadbare and determine if it was beneficial or not. The Supreme Court of India's verdict has done just that. The Supreme Court upholding the decision of the Central government, should settle all including the Legal aspects of Demonetisation debate.

This should have satisfied

opposition parties including Congress. The Congress had systematically attempted to erode the confidence of the people over the years. It is the Congress party that had misled the entire Nation. By spreading misinformation, the Party had tried to stall this pro-poor reform.

On the Political dimension, people have welcomed the decision with open arms. Shri Narendra Modi has won major

Demonetisation was a decisive strike against corruption, black money, counterfeit currency and terrorism. As a result of demonetization, there is greater transparency

State Elections held since 2016, with overwhelming majority including that of Uttar Pradesh in 2018 and National General Elections in 2019. People have shown full confidence in the vision and decisions of Shri Narendra Modi ji, whether it is the fight against Covid pandemic, implementation of GST etc. etc.

As I look after the economic affairs at the Party forum, I will delve deeply on the economic aspect of the debate. This aspect is the least understood and

therefore much confusion has been created by the Opposition Parties.

Demonetisation was a decisive strike against corruption, black money, counterfeit currency and terrorism. As a result of demonetization, there is greater transparency in business environment, as well as an increase in tax compliance. Several lakh shell companies (3.8 lakh Shell companies and 4.5 lakh directors related to shell entities) have been unearthed and struck off Registrar of Companies Affairs. Penal actions have been initiated against these Companies and their Promoters. Post-demonetisation, Hawala operators and Dabba trading have been severely affected.

The introduction of demonetisation has led to the formalization of the business ecosystem. Tax base expansion has led to an increase in revenue for the economy. The government has used this revenue to create better urban and rural infrastructure in India and improve social services. Rise in tax collections and improvement in the Tax-to-GDP Ratio can be attributed to demonetisation. It has helped India move towards the ideal situation where low taxes are levied on a large base.

Following decades of institutionalized discrimination

against the lower strata of the pyramid i.e. the poor population in the country, demonetisation significantly increased financial inclusion among those previously excluded. Pre and Post-demonetisation, crores of new bank accounts were opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), bulk of which (80 per cent) were with public sector banks. Of the new Jan Dhan accounts, 53.6 per cent were in urban areas and 46.4 per cent are in rural areas.

Modi Government has been cracking down on hoarders of black money and those who had stolen money from the people. Focused approach of our government, through initiative like Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, Amendment to the prevention of Corruption Act, Whistle Blower Protection Act, Income Disclosure Schemes, Foreign Illegal Assets Declaration Scheme, Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Act, along with Demonetisation has been successful in breaking the backbone of black economy in the country. Demonetisation was not the step in isolation but our effort have been 360 degrees.

Simultaneously our government has strengthened the Social welfare delivery mechanism for the poor and plugged leakages from public distribution systems. With the Jan Dhan Accounts and digital payments, government initiated the Direct Benefits Transfer infrastructure.

During Demonetisation, non-profit organizations & non-corporates were the second-largest category of entities with regard to average cash deposited. While they account for only 4.6% of PAN nos, cash deposited by them accounted for a disproportionate 16.2%.

Demonetisation in 2016 mandated that any undisclosed income, in the Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes denominations - had to be deposited into bank accounts or declared for a formal change. At that time, 86.9% of the legal currency in circulation (15.4 trillion) existed in these two denominations.

Post-demonetisation, digital

Modi Government has been cracking down on hoarders of black money and those who had stolen money from the people

payments have become an integral part of daily life. In terms of digital payments, India at present is ranked first in the world today. As per the volume, the value of digital transactions has multiplied many-fold. Congress has always mocked Indians, Congress' former Finance Minister in Parliament questioned the ability of our poor brothers and sisters to embrace digital technology.

Demonetization has had a long-term, systemic and behavioral change among the people as well as entities.

Demonetization led to a permanent increase in the use of digital transactions. The more dramatic effects were seen in the payments sector.

Some important indicators points to the positive impact of Demonetisation:

The share of Currency in circulation (CIC) in payment systems has been declining from 88% in FY16 to 20% in FY22 and is estimated to go down further to 11.15% in FY27. Use of paper based instruments such as cheque etc. has declined from 46% in FY16 to 12.7% in FY22. Since the inception of Unified payment Interface (UPI), every month online transactions have been increasing and has touched Rs 84 lakh crore in FY22. The NPCIL operated platform saw an increase from 1 lakh transactions in October 2016 to almost 783 crore in December 2022.

The Fintech industry has also seen tremendous growth in India over the last decade after the digitalization push by the government which was catalysed by Demonetization. With a Fintech adoption rate of 87% against the global average of 64%, India is one of the fastest-growing Fintech markets in the world. More than 6,636 Fintech startups in India meant that the industry had a market size of \$50 billion in 2021, and it is estimated to reach \$150 billion by 2025. India's Fintech industry is expected to grow at a CAGR of 20% to reach a transaction value of \$138 billion in 2023.

(The writer is National Spokesperson of BJP, on Economic affairs)

Supreme Court upholds validity of Union Government's **DEMONETIZATION DECISION**

On January 2 a five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court endorsed the validity of the Modi government's November 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes. The top court upholding the government's decision dismissed the petitions against demonetization.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Centre's notification dated November 8, 2016, is valid and meets the proportionality test. Prior to the November 8 notification issued under Section 26(2) of the RBI (Reserve Bank Of India) Act, the RBI and the Centre had been in consultation for six months. The statutory procedure under Section 26(2) of the RBI Act was not violated merely because the Centre had taken the initiative to "advise" the Central Board to consider

recommending demonetisation. The government was empowered under the provision to demonetise "all series" of banknotes. The court said such measures undisputedly are required to be taken with utmost confidentiality and speed. If the news of such a measure is leaked out, it is difficult to imagine how disastrous the consequences would be. Demonetisation was done for the proper purposes of eliminating fake currency, black money and terror financing.

On 8th November 2016, the government announced that the largest denomination of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 were demonetised with immediate effect ceasing to be a legal tender. Objectives of Demonetisation was to discourage the use of high-denomination notes for illegal transactions and thus curb the widespread use of black money. To encourage digitisation of commercial transactions, formalise the economy and so, boost government tax revenues.

The formalisation of the economy means bringing companies under the regulatory regime of government and subject to laws related to manufacturing and

income tax.

With the Supreme Court's majority decision upholding the 2016 demonetisation exercise, the BJP demanded an apology from the Congress, specifically Rahul Gandhi, for the opposition party's "ugly campaign" against the government move.

The BJP also rebuked senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram for his "uncharitable" comments on the Supreme Court's decision.



"It is a historic decision and is in national interest. The court said the government has the right to make policy decisions," senior BJP leader Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad told a press conference at the party headquarters in Delhi.

"Even the judge (Justice BV Nagarathna) who dissented said the policy was (made) with good intention," Shri

Prasad added and asked if Rahul would now "say sorry" to the nation. Claiming that demonetisation was done "to control fake currency and contain terrorist funding and black marketing", Shri Prasad said the move was successful in achieving its objectives and dealt the "biggest blow" to terrorism. "The court has rejected the argument that the RBI was not consulted. In sum and substance, the court in its majority judgment found the entire decision making process fair and reasonable," Shri Prasad added.

Demonetization was an efficient and effective move to boldly counter the threat of black money and parallel economy (illegal economy, such as money laundering, smuggling, and so on) with visible impact on how the government's policies are perceived in international economic power circles.

This move by the government gained greater significance for a globally connected India because it demonstrated boldness in addressing an issue that has remained a thorn in this generation's growth success story. ■

PM FLAGS OFF VANDE BHARAT & INAUGURATES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WATER IN KOLKATA



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 30 December flagged off the Vande Bharat Express, connecting Howrah to New Jalpaiguri via video conferencing. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Joka-Taratata Stretch of the Joka-Esplanade Metro Project (Purple Line). He also dedicated four railway projects to the nation including Boinchi - Shaktigarh 3rd Line, Dankuni - Chandanpur 4th Line Project, Nimita - New Farakka Double Line and Ambari Falakata - New Maynaguri - Gumanihat Doubling Project. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of the New Jalpaiguri Railway Station.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Modi apologised for not being physically present today, as for him, this is the day to bow to the land of Bengal as the history of the freedom struggle is infused in every particle of Bengal. "Land from where the call of Vande Matram originated, saw the flagging off of Vande Bharat today", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister recalled that on December 30, 1943, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose hoisted the Tricolour in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and set the wheels in motion for the independence of India. On the 75th year anniversary of this historic day, the Shri Modi informed that he got the opportunity to visit Andaman to name an island in honour of Netaji. He further added that India had taken a resolve to start 475 Vande Bharat trains during the celebrations of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and the train being flagged off today from Howrah to New Jalpaiguri is one of them.

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 30 December inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) at Joka in Kolkata. SPM – NIWAS has been set up at a cost of around Rs. 100 Crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal. Shri Modi said through this apex institute on Water and Sanitation, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) aims to bridge the knowledge and capacity building gap in the field of public health engineering, sanitation & hygiene, through short, medium & long-term courses which are not just related to engineering but also cover aspects of management, health, accounting, law and public policies. The inauguration of SPM-NIWAS was followed by a day-long national conference on 'Drinking Water Quality– Issues & Challenges' organized by DDWS and supported by UNICEF, INREM Foundation, WaterAid.

Nobel laureate, Professor Michael Kremer remotely addressed the conference and said if we can provide biological contamination free water, more than 1.4 lakh child deaths can be avoided annually. The concluding session of the conference was chaired by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The Union Minister reiterated Prime Minister's vision of cooperative federalism and stated that under Swachh Bharat Mission, Namami Gange, Jal Jeevan Mission, the combined efforts are being recognized around the globe. ■



PARLIAMENT PASSES 16 BILLS DURING APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2022: YEAR END REVIEW – 2022

The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs serves as an important link between the two Houses of Parliament and the Government in respect of Government Business in Parliament. Created in May, 1949 as a Department, it soon became a full-fledged Ministry with the allotment of more responsibilities and functions. The Ministry strives to provide comprehensive and quality services to a Body of Citizens comprising, the Parliament and its Members as well as Ministries/ Departments and other Organizations of Government of India and State Governments. A glimpse of the performance of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs during current fiscal (from April to November 2022) is as under:

Legislative Business

A total of 33 Bills (9 Bills in the Lok Sabha and 24 Bills in the Rajya Sabha) were pending at the conclusion of 7th Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha and 255th Session of Rajya Sabha (Winter Session, 2021). 19 Bills were introduced (18 in the Lok Sabha and 1 in the Rajya Sabha) during the period, making a total of 52 Bills. Out of these, 16 Bills were passed by both the Houses. 1 Bill, (in Lok Sabha) was withdrawn. A total of 35 Bills (7 Bills in the Lok Sabha and 28 Bills in the Rajya Sabha) were pending in both Houses of Parliament at the conclusion of 9th Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha and 257th Session of Rajya Sabha (Monsoon Session, 2022). The details of Sessions held during the period are as under:

BUDGET SESSION 2022

The Budget Session, 2022 of Parliament was held from Monday 31st January, 2022 to Thursday 7th of April 2022. In between, both the Houses were adjourned for recess on Friday, the 11th February, 2022 to reassemble on Monday, the 14th March, 2022

to enable Departmentally related Standing Committee to examine and report on the Demands for Grants relating to various Ministries/Department. The first part of the Budget Session yielded a total of 10 sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In the second part of the Session, there were 17 sittings of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. During the entire Budget Session, 2022, there were in total 27 sittings in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. During this Session, a total of 13 Bills (12 in Lok Sabha and 01 in Rajya Sabha) were introduced. 13 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 11 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. Total number of Bills passed by both the Houses of Parliament were 11.

Financial Business

The Union Budget for 2022-23 was presented to the Lok Sabha on Tuesday the 1st February, 2022. General discussions on Union Budget were held in both the Houses. The Lok Sabha also discussed and voted the Demands for Grants 2022-23, Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2021-22 and Demands of Excess Grants for 2018-19. Supplementary Demand for Grant in respect of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for 2021-22, Demands for Grants in respect of the Union

During the entire Budget Session, 2022, there were in total 27 sittings in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. During this Session, a total of 13 Bills (12 in Lok Sabha and 01 in Rajya Sabha) were introduced

Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2022-23 were also discussed and voted by Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha also returned all the related Appropriation Bills and the entire Financial Business was completed before 31st March, 2022. The Monsoon Session 2022 of Parliament: The Monsoon Session 2022 of Parliament was held from Monday the 18th of July, 2022 to Monday the 8th of August, 2022. The session provided for 16 sittings spreading over a period of 22 days. During the Session, 6 Bills (6 in Lok Sabha) were introduced. 7 Bills were passed by Lok Sabha and 5 Bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. Total number of Bills passed by both the Houses of Parliament. ■



MANN KI BAAT

'VARIOUS SUCCESSES OF 2022, CREATED A SPECIAL PLACE FOR INDIA ALL OVER THE WORLD'

In the 96th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on December 25, 2022, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that observing the past always provides inspiration for preparations for the present and future. He termed 2022's various successes as having created a special place for India all over the world. For our esteemed readers, we are publishing highlights from the address:

- Observation of the past always gives us inspiration for preparations for the present and the future. In 2022, the strength of the people of the country, their cooperation, their resolve, their expansion of success was of such magnitude that it would be difficult to include all of those in 'Mann Ki Baat'. 2022 has indeed been very inspiring, wonderful in many ways. This year India completed 75 years of her independence and this very year Amritkal commenced.
 - This year India has also got the responsibility of chairing the G-20 group. I had also discussed this in detail last time. In the year 2023, we have to take the enthusiasm of G-20 to new heights; make this
 - The various successes of 2022, have created a special place for India all over the world.
 - 2022 i.e. India attaining the status of the world's fifth largest economy;
 - 2022, i.e. the record of India surpassing the incredible figure of 220 crore vaccines;
 - 2022, i.e. India crossing the magical exports figure of 400 billion dollars;
 - 2022, i.e. adopting the resolution of 'Self-reliant India' by the people, enlivening it; 2022 meaning welcoming India's first indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant
 - 2022 meaning India's glory in Space, Drone and Defence Sector, 2022 meaning India's might in every field
 - Even in the field of sports, be it the Commonwealth Games, or the victory of our women's hockey team, our youth have shown tremendous potential.
 - Along with all this, the year 2022 will always be remembered for one more reason. This is the extension of the spirit of 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat'.
- event a mass movement.
- In today's era, the more evidence-based Indian medical systems are, the more their acceptance will increase in the whole world. With this thought, an effort is also being made in Delhi's AIIMS. Here, the Center for Integrative Medicine and Research was established six years ago to validate our traditional medical practices. Latest Modern Techniques and Research Methods are used in this.
 - Today, I would like to tell the listeners of 'Mann Ki Baat' about another challenge, which is now about to end. This challenge, this disease is 'Kala Azar'. The parasite of this disease is spread through the sting of the sand fly. When someone

has 'Kala Azar', one has fever for months, there is anemia, the body becomes weak and the weight also decreases. This disease can happen to anyone from children to elders. But with everyone's efforts, this disease named 'Kala Azar' is now getting eradicated rapidly. Till recently, the scourge of Kala-azar had spread in more than 50 districts across 4 states. But now this disease is confined to only 4 districts of Bihar and Jharkhand. I am sure, the strength and awareness of the people of Bihar-Jharkhand will help the government's efforts to eliminate 'Kala Azar' from these four districts as well. I also urge the people of 'Kala Azar' affected areas to keep two things in mind. One is - control of sand fly, and second, diagnosis and complete treatment of this disease as soon as possible. .

- My dear countrymen, our tradition and culture

Our tradition and culture have an unbreakable connection with Ma Ganga. Ganga water has been an integral part of our way of life

have an unbreakable connection with Ma Ganga. Ganga water has been an integral part of our way of life.

- The biggest source of energy behind the 'Namami Gange' campaign is the continuous participation of the people. In the 'Namami Gange' campaign, Ganga Praharis and Ganga Doots also have a big role to play. They are engaged in spreading awareness through planting trees, cleaning ghats, Ganga Aarti, street plays, painting and poems. A lot of improvement is also being seen in Biodiversity due to this campaign.
- I am happy that the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' has become firmly rooted in the mind of every Indian today. Since the inception of this mass movement in the year 2014, to take it to new heights, many unique efforts have been made by the people. ■



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PM Shri Narendra Modi participates in 'Veer Baal Diwas' programme at Major Dhyanchand Stadium in Delhi on December 26, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi chairs the 2nd National Ganga Council Meeting on December 30, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi flags off Vande Bharat Express & other development projects in Kolkata on December 30, 2022



PM Shri Narendra Modi addresses the 108th Indian Science Congress on January 03, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the second National Conference of Chief Secretaries in New Delhi on January 6, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi addresses Amrit Mahotsav at Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul Rajkot Sansthan from New Delhi on December 24, 2022



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TIGHTENING THE NOOSE ON TERRORIST OUTFITS

The Resistance Front
 A front of the
Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

Declared "Terrorist organization"
 Under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)

Source: GoI

DOOM-TO-BLOOM STORY OF THE PSBs

2017



Net loss 85,390 crore

(Caused by unrecovered loans, sanctioned during the UPA era)

2022(FY)




Profit 66,539 crore

Steps taken by Modi govt.

- infused **Rs 3.10 lakh crore** to recapitalise PSBs from 2016-17 to 2020-21
- Mega-merger of **10 PSBs**

*PSB: Public sector bank | Source: Media Report



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Furnishing All Business Approvals in One Place



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KYA - Know Your Approvals
 Data as of 2022 | Source - GoI



Cabinet approved continuation of Developmental Schemes by Ministry of DoNER up to FY 2025-26

An outlay of **Rs 12882.2 crore** approved

Outlay includes

- **Rs 8139.5 crore** for North East Special Infrastructure Development Schemes
- **Rs 3202.7 crore** for schemes of North Eastern Council
- **Rs 1540 crore** for special package for BTC, DHATC & KAATC

*BTC - Bodoland Territorial Council
 *DHATC - Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council
 *KAATC - Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council
 *DoNER - Department of North-East Region




PHOTOGRAPHER: AJAY KUMAR SINGH