

KAMAL SANDESH

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PM's reply to the Motion of Thanks on President's Address in Rajya Sabha



'BJP IS A PRO-ACTIVE, PRO-RESPONSIVE AND PRO-RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL PARTY'



**SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH UNION FINANCE MINISTER
SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**





Karnataka BJP welcomes BJP National President Shri JP Nadda at the District Booth Committee Convention in Udupi on February 20, 2023



BJP National President Shri JP Nadda receiving the greetings at Purba Medinipur public meeting in West Bengal on February 12, 2023



BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addressing after launching BJP's Nagaland Vision Document 2023 in Kohima, Nagaland on February 14, 2023



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah addressing a huge public meeting in Tura, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya on February 17, 2023



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah lighting the lamp at a Karyakarta Meeting in Sonapat, Haryana on February 14, 2023



Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressing the 'Bandhan Ceremony' after forging of 266 partnerships, worth around Rs 80,000 crore during the #AeroIndia2023 in Bengaluru on February 15, 2023

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SOCIAL MEDIA CORNER

@Narendramodi

The move from 'Mai Baap culture' to trusting our citizens has been transformational. It has powered India's growth trajectory..

(17 February, 2023)



@JPNadda

The TMC will answer for its crimes, for its loot & murders. The saffron flood is coming in full swing & the TMC will be ousted from Bengal. A revolution is coming in Bengal & the BJP's chariot will lead the way. There is no alternative to the BJP, Bengal wants BJP & not TMC.

(16 February, 2023)



@AmitShah

Modi government is making full use of the technology at the North Eastern Space Applications Center (NESAC) to better understand the challenging terrain of the northeastern region and implement the development projects there.

(21 February, 2023)



@Rajnathsingh

Today collective security has become sine-qua non for our development and prosperity. Terrorism, illegal arms trade, drugs smuggling, human trafficking, etc pose significant security threats to the whole world.

(14 February, 2023)



@Dr. Sudha Yadav

India is leading the world. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi G-20 is going to pave the way for global prosperity and public welfare.

(11 February, 2023)



@B L Santhosh

Communist rule is the biggest mistake of Kerala. Your GST is half of national average. In every corner of the country Kerala students are there. Why so ..? Industrial environment is in peril. Other than violence & pampered eco system what else you have created ...? ZERO.

(13 February, 2023)



eSanjeevani OPD
STAY HOME OPD

Registers the Outstanding Feat of **10** CRORE Tele-consultations

- 2.20 lakh Providers onboarded
- 15,465 Hubs established
- 1.12 lakh Spokes operationalised

Over **57% female** beneficiaries and over **12% beneficiaries** are senior citizens

Data as of 2023 | Source - Col



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR

wishes a very happy

HOLI (08 MARCH)

to all of its readers



INDIA HAS BECOME A BEACON OF HOPE

While major economies around the world are bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict, India remains a bright spot in the world. India, as a bright spot, is supposed to contribute 15% of the global growth in 2023, as per the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) estimates. Not only this, as the world economy is slated to slow, the Indian economy is projected to register more than 6% growth. India's success in handling the COVID-19 pandemic and leading the world on various fronts by helping other nations during the pandemic has been acknowledged across the world. The call of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to convert every challenge into an opportunity found itself translated into a national resolve. It was under his visionary and charismatic leadership that many reforms were initiated, the poorest of the poor were taken care of by schemes like 'Pradhanmantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' and a huge 'Aatmnirbhar Bharat' package was announced to support MSMEs and other vulnerable sectors of the economy. Apart from producing 'Made in India' vaccines and giving more than 220 crore free vaccine doses, the massive digitalization of the economy now sees India recording more than 40% of the global transactions alone. Today, when India emerges as the growth engine of the world and gets acknowledged by international agencies like the IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, the nation has become a beacon of hope and expectations.

Today, when India emerges as the growth engine of the world and gets acknowledged by international agencies like the IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, the nation has become a beacon of hope and expectations

As India raises expectations across the world, it may prove to be a growth engine of the global economy, as can be seen in a recent purchase order of 470 aircraft by Air India from France and US companies. While welcoming the purchase order, US President in one of his tweets has hoped that it may create one million jobs in 44 states across America. India, as the fifth largest economy, up from the tenth position it held during the Congress led UPA regime, has also seen the doubling of its per capita income, record forex reserves, record exports, and record capex. Today, India leads the world with strong economic fundamentals and the highest rate of growth among major economies, thanks to the Modi government's visionary policies and timely actions. The Budget 2023–24 can be seen in the context of transformative policies that have been revolutionising investments across various sectors. While the total outlay on budget has more than doubled in the last nine years, the allocations to various ministries are witnessing a manifold increase in this period. Even amid the high global inflation, the Modi government reined in inflation to an average of 4.93% in the last nine years, compared to the Congress-led UPA regime's average of 8.45%. While the Congress-led UPA regime saw a peak of 11.99% inflation, the BJP led NDA has seen the highest inflation of 7.8%, mainly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the tireless efforts, unyielding spirit, various reform initiatives, and national resolve during the COVID-19 pandemic, today the Indian economy is more formalised and inclusive, empowering the poor, marginalized, SC, ST, OBCs, women, and youth the most.

The mantra of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' which remains the guiding principle for India in its efforts to serve humanity across the globe, found its echo in "Operation Dost." In the quake-hit countries of Turkey and Syria, the Indian rescue team served humanity under the operation and rescued the earthquake victims, sending a message of service and friendship to other countries in distress. It may be noted that the role played by India during the COVID-19 pandemic, various natural calamities, the Russia-Ukraine war, the financial crisis in Sri Lanka, and in global peacekeeping has been applauded across the world. As India has donned the mantle of G-20 presidency under the charismatic and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, it has emerged as a reliable friend of many countries across the world. ■

 shivshaktibakshi@kamalsandesh.org



BJP IS THE ONLY PARTY WHICH HAS A POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, CADRE AND MASS FOLLOWING

The BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on a three-day Pravas to Karnataka reached Mangaluru international airport on 19 February, 2023. After his arrival, the senior leaders of the party accorded a grand welcome at the Airport. On 20 February 2023, the BJP National President offered prayers at the famous Sri Krishna Temple in Udupi and took part in a grand bike rally at Chikkamangaluru. Thereafter, he interacted with Elected Representatives of Sringeri Constituency at Devegowda Vokkaligara Kalyana Mantapa in Chikkamagaluru District and visited one of the holiest and most important Hindu pilgrim centers, Sri Sharada Devi Temple at Sringeri and offered prayers. On 21 February 2023, the BJP National President Shri JP Nadda interacted with Intellectuals & Professionals at Kuvempu Kalamandira. Then he proceeded to Belur in Hassan district where he addressed a massive public rally. He had his lunch at a Party Karyakarta's house in Belur and chaired the District Booth Committee Convention.

While addressing District Booth Committee congregation at Udupi in Karnataka BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda said the double engine government of the Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership and guidance of PM Shri Narendra Modi has implemented the policy of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas" on the ground.

He said all the major political parties in the country including the Congress, SP, BSP, RJD, TMC, BRS, DMK are dynastic parties. It is only the

Bharatiya Janata Party, where the party is the family. The Bharatiya Janata Party is a pro-active, pro-responsive and pro-responsible political party.

To achieve India of our dreams

The Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party in the country which has a political ideology, it has a cadre, and it has mass following. Since the inception of the Party we have remained strongly committed and relentlessly followed our principles and ideology.

The National President said whatever the BJP says, it delivers and fulfills all its promises. We do



AT SRI KRISHNA TEMPLE UDUPI & SRINGERI MATH ESTABLISHED BY ADI SHANKAR

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda visited and offered prayers at Sri Krishna Matha temple in Karnataka's Udupi.

During the Karnataka Pravas, Shri JP Nadda also visited the Sringeri Mutt. Sringeri was one of the four Peethas established by Adi Shankaracharya and its one of the holiest and most important centres of Hindus.



- Today, Karnataka tops the country in FDI, while the state stands at number two position in the world for fulfilling the special purpose vehicle schemes.
- Karnataka's share in India's space sector programmes is 25 per cent and 75 per cent in defence aircraft manufacturing.

whatever necessary for the growth, development, progress and prosperity of the nation and the states. I appeal to all the Party Karyakartas to work unitedly and with full dedication for the next 25 years to achieve India of our dreams. We have to fulfill the mission of PM Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Nadda told.

Make the 'Lotus' bloom

Shri JP Nadda said, it is the duty of all the BJP workers to reach out to the masses and tell them about the achievements of BJP governments at

Increased SC & ST reservations

He said, in Karnataka the BJP government has increased the SC reservation from 15 per cent to 17 per cent and the ST reservation has been hiked by 3 per cent to make it 7 per cent. Similarly, the BJP government has included the Malingayat community under 2D category and the Vokkaliga community in 2C category fulfilling their long pending demand.

In the past 8 years under the leadership of Shri Modi our top leaders in Karnataka Shri BS Yeddyurappa and Shri Basavraj Bommai have worked tirelessly for all the sections of the society particularly for farmers, villagers, poor, oppressed, Dalits and Tribals, youth and women- all these have been empowered and made economically stronger.

the centre and states. We have to try hard to make the 'Lotus' bloom at every booth in Karnataka, he added.

India gave orders for 470 aircrafts

In the recently concluded Asia's largest air show in Karnataka India gave orders for 470 aircrafts to France and the US. Today, India is helping in the growth of the economy of Europe and the US. It is all happening under the charismatic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, he said.

He said Shri Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation the helicopter manufacturing unit of the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd in Tumkur. This Greenfield helicopter manufacturing plant spread in 615 acres in not only India's but entire Asia's largest helicopter manufacturing unit. This will revolutionize the economy of Karnataka and the country and give new wings to the growth and development of our country.

Development schemes for Karnataka

In June 2022 Shri Narendra Modi had announced several development schemes worth over Rs. 33,000 for Karnataka. This will help in speeding the growth and development of the state. Through the Global Investors Summit Karnataka has got investments worth over Rs 9 lakh crores which is a magnificent achievement, Shri Nadda said. ■



"Today, we are moving towards permanent solutions to the problems"

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi replied to the motion of thanks on the President's address to Parliament in the Rajya Sabha on 09 February, 2023. The Prime Minister said as opposed to the earlier times "Our government's aim is to provide permanent solutions for the citizens and empower them. It is our resolve that India becomes 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047", the Prime Minister remarked. Excerpts:

The Prime Minister started his reply by thanking the Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji for guiding both the Houses by presenting the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' in her address.

The Prime Minister said as opposed to the earlier times "Our government's aim is to provide permanent solutions for the citizens and empower them." He said while it was the responsibility of the government in the earlier times to provide solutions to the people's problems, they had different priorities and intentions. "Today, we are moving towards permanent solutions to the problems", he added. The Prime Minister gave the example of the water issue and explained that instead of tokenism, a holistic integrated approach of creating water infrastructure, water governance, quality control, water conservation, and irrigation innovation has been deployed. Similar measures have created permanent solutions in

financial inclusion, DBT via Jan Dhan - Aadhar- Mobile, infrastructure planning and implementation via PM Gatishakti Masterplan,

"We understand the importance of Infrastructure, Scale and Speed for building a modern India", the Prime Minister said. He emphasized that the working culture in the country has been transformed by the power of technology and the government is focused

on increasing the speed and enhancing its scale.

"Mahatma Gandhi used to say 'shrey' (merit) and 'priy' (dear). We have chosen the path of 'shrey' (merit)", the Prime Minister remarked. The Prime Minister underlined that the path chosen by the government is not the one where resting is a priority, but the one where we work tirelessly every day and night to fulfill the aspirations of the common people.



He reiterated the efforts of the government where 100 percent of benefits reach every beneficiary in the country. "This is true secularism. This eliminates discrimination and corruption"

The Prime Minister highlighted that the government has taken the significant step of achieving saturation in the Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal. He reiterated the efforts of the government where 100 percent of benefits reach every beneficiary in the country. "This is true secularism. This eliminates discrimination and corruption", Shri Modi said.

The Prime Minister said, "For decades, the development of tribal communities was neglected. We gave top priority to their welfare."

He informed that a separate Ministry for tribal welfare was created during the tenure of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and concerted efforts for tribal welfare were undertaken.

The Prime Minister emphasized that "small farmers are the backbone of India's agriculture sector. We are working to strengthen their hands." The Prime Minister said that small farmers were neglected for



a very long time. The current government focussed on their needs and created

“We have succeeded and are using technology for empowering common citizens”

many opportunities for the small farmers along with small vendors and artisans. The Prime Minister also elaborated on the steps taken for women empowerment and talked about the government's initiative to empower, ensure dignity and create ease of living at every stage of a woman's life in India.

“With the expertise of our scientists and innovators, India is becoming a pharma hub of the world”, the Prime Minister remarked as he drew attention to the unfortunate events when some people tried to let down India's scientists, innovators and vaccine manufacturers. The Prime Minister talked about inculcating scientific temper through measures like Atal Innovation Mission and Tinkering lab. He complimented the youth and scientists for fully harnessing the

opportunities created by the government and launching private satellites. “We have

succeeded and are using technology for empowering common citizens”, he said.

“The country today remains the world leader in digital transactions. The success of Digital India has drawn the attention of the whole world today”, the Prime Minister said. He recalled the time when India used to import mobile phones whereas today, we take pride that mobile phones are being exported to other countries.

“It is our resolve that India becomes ‘Viksit Bharat’ by 2047”, the Prime Minister remarked. He reiterated that the government has taken many significant steps to grab the opportunities that we have been looking out for. “India is ready to take the giant leap and not look back anymore”, the Prime Minister concluded. ■

PM ADDRESSES POST-BUDGET WEBINAR ON ‘GREEN GROWTH’

“AMRIT KAAL BUDGET ACCELERATES THE MOMENTUM FOR GREEN GROWTH”

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the post-budget webinar on ‘Green Growth’ on February 23, 2023. It is the first of a series of 12 post-budget webinars organized by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for the effective implementation of the initiatives announced in the Union Budget 2023.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister remarked that all the budgets tabled in the country after 2014 have been forwarding new-age reforms apart from finding solutions to the challenges faced in the present day.

Shri Modi outlined three pillars for green growth and energy transmission. First, increasing the production of renewable energy;



Second, reducing the use of fossil fuel in the economy; and Finally, rapidly moving towards a gas-based economy in the country

This strategy has underlined the announcements of measures like ethanol blending, PM KUSUM Yojana, incentives for solar manufacturing, rooftop solar scheme, coal gasification, and battery storage in the Budgets of the past few years. Underlining

the significant announcements in previous years' budgets, the Prime Minister highlighted schemes such as green credit for industries, PM Pranam Yojna for farmers, Gobardhan Yojna for villages, vehicle scrapping policy for cities, Green Hydrogen and wetland conservation in this year's budget. The Prime Minister underlined that these announcements lay the foundation stone and pave the way for future generations.

The Prime Minister said that India's commanding position in the renewable energy space will ensure a commensurate change in the world. This Budget will play a key role in establishing India as a lead player in the global green energy market. ■



SPECIAL INTERVIEW

'BUDGET - A BLUEPRINT FOR INDIA@100 AND INDIA'S AMRIT KAAL'

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the first Union Budget of the 'Amrit Kaal' in Parliament on 01 February, 2023. In a conversation with Kamal Sandesh Associate Editor Ram Prasad Tripathy, the Union Finance Minister elucidated at length on how the world has recognized the Indian Economy as a 'bright star' in the 75th year of India's Independence. India's economic growth is estimated at 7 per cent, the highest among all major economies, notwithstanding the challenging circumstances owing to the massive global economic slowdown, economic distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine War. She emphasized that the Indian economy is on the 'Right Track' and heading towards a 'Bright Future'. Excerpts of the conversation:

What's the central objective you wanted to achieve with this first Budget of Amrit Kaal?

The budget is essentially a blueprint for India@100 and India's Amrit Kaal. We envision a prosperous and inclusive India, in which the fruits of development reach all regions and citizens, especially our youth, women, farmers, OBCs, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Several factors are favorable and positive for India's first budget of the 'Amrit Kaal', including demographics, infrastructure build-up and global restructuring of supply chains.

This Budget presents a compelling vision and strategy that further strengthens this belief. While providing a strong impulse for near-term growth through a jump in capital expenditure and a reduction in the tax burden on the middle class, it also addresses the technological trends that India should consider as it plans its next phase of growth. We have improved the quality of government spending and the government is taking major steps to revive investment which will drive growth in the years to come.

Despite all hurdles like the Covid-19 pandemic followed by worldwide recession, and Russia-Ukraine war Indian economy is growing at around 7%. What's the secret behind this growth story of Modi government?

The Indian economy has battled the global

headwinds well due to the carefully-calibrated policies undertaken by the Modi government.

The government's policy response to the COVID pandemic aimed at maintaining macroeconomic stability and protecting vulnerable households, has been carefully designed and well-targeted. It combined demand and supply-side reforms.

India is building infrastructure—roads, railways, airports—at a breakneck pace. We have given free food to 800 million Indians during the pandemic period. We have administered more than 2 billion Covid vaccine jabs, and a vast percentage of them free—an enterprise of a scale hardly seen before in human history.

Strong tax collections, adequate Forex Reserves and positive policy space, along with prudent macroeconomic management, have helped make India's economy resilient to deal with a financial

crisis.

What's the idea behind the big Capex push in Budget 2023? How it is going to help the growth prospects of the economy?

- A provision of Rs. 10 lakh crore has been made in the budget for capital investment, a massive 33% growth for the third consecutive year, growth potential and job creation, to crowd in private investment and make India truly self-reliant.
- Infrastructure will make it easier and more



convenient for people to move goods, services and labour, boosting local economic activity and potentially creating new jobs. This will ensure a significant multiplier effect on the overall medium-term growth prospects of the economy, resulting in economic development of the States.

This year's Budget has many things to boost the Agriculture sector. Do you think these allocations will also transform the infrastructural requirements of Rural India?

This budget will make agriculture and cooperatives the pivot of the development of the rural economy. The government has brought the world's largest food storage scheme into the cooperative sector - Storage Capacity. An ambitious plan to form new primary cooperative societies has also been announced in the budget. This will expand the area of milk and fish production along with farming. Farmers, animal husbandry and fishermen will get a better price for their produce.

- Many steps have been taken for the farmers in this budget. We have set a target of Rs 20 lakh crore availability of agricultural credit. We have allocated Rs 2,200 crore for providing quality and disease-free planting material for high-value horticulture crops.
- We have made allocations for natural farming, Agri-startups and Agri-tech which will be beneficial for the farmers. Under PM-Kisan launched by the Modi government, 11.3 crore farmers have been covered to meet their financial needs since inception.
- We have continuously increased the MSP for the farmers. From 2018, the MSP for all mandated crops has been fixed at 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production.

The global pandemic of the recent past has affected the middle class and particularly youth in India. Is this budget going to bring the much-awaited relief to them and create jobs?

- The first budget of Amrit Kaal lays a strong foundation for the aspirations and resolutions of a developed India. This Amrit Kaal will be extremely beneficial for our "Amrit Peedhi".
- In the last few years, our government has prioritised innovation as a development strategy. Innovation is at the heart of our 'Atmanirbhar

Bharat' initiative, which has 3 clear objectives-

1. Make in India,
2. Innovate in India, and
3. Transform the Indian Economy.

It will create billions of opportunities for the youth.

- "PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0", covering new age courses for Industry 4.0 like Coding, AI, Robotics, Mechatronics, IoT, 3D Printing, Drones and soft skills to skill millions of youths will be started within the next three years.
- 30 "Skill India International Centres" will be set up in different states to skill the youth for international opportunities. District education and training institutes will be developed in a vibrant way. Sector-specific skill and entrepreneurship development will be synergised to achieve the objectives of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative for tourism.

Tax relief has been given to middle class through the new slabs and rates under the new tax regime. Not every taxpayer could avail of deduction under various provisions of the Income Tax Act. The new tax regime benefits many such taxpayers and they have more freedom to invest in a way that suits them. The new tax regime is simple and easy for taxpayers. Our citizens will not have to pay tax if their income is less than 7 lakhs. We have introduced standard deduction of Rs 50,000, raised the basic tax exemption limit to Rs 3 lakh. These provisions would put more money in the hands of individuals, and thus higher investment potential.

The thrust for Environment and green growth is clearly visible from the huge emphasis of the budget for the Green Hydrogen Mission and from other steps. What's the road map ahead?

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given a vision for "LIFE", or Lifestyle for Environment, to spur a movement of environmentally conscious lifestyle. India is moving forward firmly for the 'Panchamrit' and net-zero carbon emission by 2070 to usher in green industrial and economic transition. This Budget builds on our focus on green growth.

The recently launched National Green Hydrogen Mission, with an outlay of Rs. 19,700 crores, will facilitate the transition of the economy to low carbon intensity, reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports,

>>> Continue on page 23

Free education for girls from KG to PG: JP Nadda

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda released party's 'Vision Document' for the Meghalaya Assembly elections in Shillong on 15 February, 2023. In its 'Vision Document', the party announced to form an STF under the chairmanship of a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate the corruption cases in the state. The BJP National President promised several schemes of women and youth empowerment during that occasion.

The BJP President announced free education for girls from KG to PG. He said women would get 33 percent reservation in government jobs and free scooty would be provided to meritorious college-going students if party is voted to power. The state will go to polls on 27th of this month. Key highlights of the document:

Good Governance

- We will establish a Special Task Force under a retired Supreme Court Judge to investigate all cases of corruption to take swift and decisive action against any delay, defect or denial of government services.
- We will implement the 7th Pay Commission in Meghalaya for all government employees.

Culture and Tourism

- We will expedite the establishment of a state-of-the-art Tribal Museum to showcase the rich tribal culture and heritage of the state.
- We will establish the Tribal War Memorials honoring Pa Togan Nengminja, U. Tirot Sing Syiem and U Kiang Nangbah, who were brave freedom fighters from the Garo Hills, Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills regions.
- We will expand the tourism economy of Meghalaya by investing Rs. 1000 crores for the promotion of Meghalaya as a major national and international tourism destination.

Empower Farmer

- We will increase the annual financial assistance under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme from the

current Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 8,000 per annum.

- Will provide financial assistance of Rs. 3,000 per annum under the Chief Minister's Landless Farmer Scheme to all landless farmers.
- We will provide financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 per annum to all fishermen under the Fishermen Income Support Scheme.

Empower Women

- Will introduce the Ka Phan Nonglait scheme providing a bond of Rs. 50,000 on the birth of a girl child.
- We will provide free-of-cost, quality education to all female students from KG to PG.
 - We will provide free scooties to all meritorious college-going female students from financially weak households.
 - We will provide 33% reservation for women in all Government jobs, with a special focus on the police force.



Empower Youth

- We will provide skill training and create 3.5 lakh self-employment opportunities by setting up two new SEZs, Industrial Units, one additional IT Park, banking and hospitality industries over the next 5 years.
- We will introduce Karnesh Marak Youth Support Scheme to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 to unemployed graduates for a period of 1 year to help them prepare for higher education or government jobs.

Health for All

- Will double the per-family annual insurance cap from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs under Ayushman Bharat.
- We will initiate the Meghalaya Health Infrastructure Mission with an investment of Rs. 2,500 crores for the development of medical colleges and other health infrastructure in the state. ■

'VISION DOCUMENT REFLECTS THE AMBITIONS, DESIRES AND ASPIRATIONS OF NAGALAND'

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda released the party's 'Vision Document' for Nagaland Assembly Elections in Kohima on 14 February, 2023. State BJP President Shri Temjen Imna and other BJP leaders were also present during the event.



Addressing on the occasion Shri JP Nadda said, the Vision Document 2023 for Nagaland have taken care of many issues and represented all the "Asthalthami" focusing on peace, power, tourism, 5G connectivity, culture, natural farming, sports and potential to form- that in coming days what Nagaland will be going to do under NDPP and BJP alliance. He said today, Nagaland is in the path of normalcy, peace, prosperity, development and consolidation.

He said the 2023 Vision Document of the party reflects the ambitions, desires and aspirations of the people of Nagaland.

In the vision document the BJP made several promises which will be catered in the next five years of governance. Excerpts:

Preserving Rich Naga Identity and Culture

- We will establish a dedicated Nagaland Cultural Research Fund with an investment of Rs. 1,000 crores to promote research, protection and conservation of languages and culture of all communities.
- Will establish Saramati Cultural University in Kiphire with an investment of Rs. 500 crores focusing on imparting knowledge and research.

Agriculture and Farmer Welfare

- We will increase the financial assistance under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme from the current Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 8,000 per annum.
- We will launch the Agri-Infrastructure Mission with an investment of Rs. 500 crores to develop a holistic agri-infrastructure of collection and primary processing centers.

WOMEN WELFARE

- Will introduce the Neidonuo Angami Women Welfare Scheme under which a bond of Rs. 50,000 will be provided on the birth of a girl child.
- Will provide free-of-cost, quality education to all female students from

KG to PG.

- We will provide 2 free-of-cost LPG cylinders to all Ujjwala beneficiaries every year.
- Will launch the CM Free Scooty Scheme to provide free scooty to meritorious college-going female students.

Youth Empowerment

- Provide 2 lakh self-employment opportunities in the next 5 years through the establishment of Software Technology Parks, Agro Processing, Textiles, MSMEs, Tourism, etc.
- Invest Rs. 500 crores to launch a Nagaland Skill Development University to train the youth.
- We will provide digital tablets to all the meritorious students of classes 10th and 12th.
- We will set up a State Sports University.

Boosting Healthcare

- We will double the per-family annual insurance cap from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs under Ayushman Bharat.
- We will invest Rs. 500 crores to double the number of beds across all government hospitals and expand the presence of daycare clinics in the state.
- We will introduce Nagaland State Cancer Prevention and Treatment Policy and invest Rs. 400 crores to set up a Super Specialty cancer hospital and research centre in Zunheboto.

Promoting Tourism

- We will introduce Nagaland Tourism Skill Mission to provide training and employment opportunities to 50,000 local youth. ■

TMC stands for Terror, Mafia and Corruption: JP Nadda

BJP National President Shri JP Nadda addressed back-to-back two massive rallies in Purbasthali (Purba Bardhaman) and Ramnagar (Purba Medinipur) in West Bengal on 13 February, 2023 as part of the BJP's mass outreach drive ahead of the crucial Panchayat polls scheduled in May this year. Criticising the Mamata Banerjee led TMC regime in Bengal Shri Nadda said the time has come to bid farewell to the Jungle Raj of the TMC, which stands for 'Terror, Mafia, Corruption'.

He said with no development in sight the state has been brought to a standstill under the TMC rule but the BJP will do everything to oust the TMC from power.

Referring to massive irregularities in implementing the PM Awas Yojana (PMAY) in West Bengal, he said schemes meant for the welfare of the poor were looted by TMC leaders. "During audit, it was found that people who have two-three storey buildings received houses under the scheme. This is the situation in West Bengal".

Bengal's political cauldron has been on the boil for a while over allegations and counter allegations of corruption in the implementation of the central housing scheme after it was reported that applications by several people, owning multi-storey homes, have received approval in some districts.

Despite having a woman Chief Minister, the BJP National President said West Bengal "tops the chart when it comes to crime against women. "The TMC stands for 'Terror and Tolabaji', 'Mafia and Money laundering' and 'Corruption'. Be it school recruitment or any other hiring, jobs are up for sale".

Lauding party Karyakartas putting up a brave fight against the terror tactics of the TMC, Shri Nadda said the mass gatherings at his rallies reflect that people are eagerly waiting for a change.

"It is time to bid farewell to the Jungle Raj of Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal. Mamata Banerjee has to be sent on a long leave. We have to remove this party from power democratically," he said.

Shri Nadda also slammed the TMC government for being neck-deep in corruption. He said, "Modi ji sends money, and as soon as it reaches here, it is siphoned off, and it turns into a scam. Modi government is honest, while the state government is corrupt." ■

'Only BJP government can eliminate Maoists'

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on a day's Pravas visited Jagdalpur (Bastar), Chhattisgarh on 11 February, 2023. After offering prayers at Maa Danteshwari Mandir in Jagdalpur, Shri Nadda reviewed the progress of a Super Specialty Hospital in Dimarapal, took part in several public programmes and chaired an organisational meeting. Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, BJP State President Shri Arun Sao and other senior leaders were also present on these occasions.

Addressing a huge public rally at Lalbag Ground in Jagdalpur the BJP National President said there is a spurt of Maoist attacks in the state after Congress



came to power. He said the killing of three BJP leaders in the region within a span of one month tells volumes about the law and order situation

in the state.

Shri Nadda hailed former Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh for ensuring good governance during his 15-year term and said only the BJP has the courage to fight the Maoist and if anyone can eliminate the Maoists from Chhattisgarh, it is the BJP government.

The BJP National President said Congress was a synonym of illusion and its only work was to make things hang in and mislead people. Divide and rule is in the blood of Congress.

While recalling the role of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee in the formation of Chhattisgarh Shri JP Nadda said the achievements of the BJP government that lasted in the state for 15 years from 2004 to 2018 is phenomenal. He said all the major central institutions – IIT, IIM, IIIT and AIIMS had come to Chhattisgarh during the BJP government.

After the public rally, Shri JP Nadda went to Narayanpur to pay tributes to the BJP District President Shri Sagar Sahu, who was shot dead by Maoists on 10th February. ■

'Shiv Srishti' theme park based on the life of Shivaji Maharaj inaugurated

Union Home minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah on 19 February inaugurated the first phase of 'Shiv Srishti', a theme park based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Pune, Maharashtra. Many dignitaries including Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis were also present on this occasion.

Shri Amit Shah saluted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for his contribution in Swadharma, Swaraj and Swabhasha to the country. In his address he said that after the inauguration of the first phase of 'Shiv Srishti,



on the day of Shiv Jayanti, it will be open to the public from tomorrow. This is a historic day for people all over the world who take inspiration from the life of Shivaji. Shri Shah said that by travelling around the country, 'Shiv Shahir' Babasaheb Purandare ji dedicated his whole life to compile Shiv Charitra, so that the bravery of Shivaji Maharaj can reach to the masses. It is due to his efforts that today the number of people who know about Shivaji Maharaj in the country is so high.

The Union Home Minister said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while being the Chief Minister of Gujarat, requested Babasaheb to organize 'Janta Raja' program in every district of Gujarat. The youth used to become devotees of Shivaji Maharaj after viewing this programme. Shri Shah congratulated the trustees for their effort in realizing the dream of Babasaheb, for taking forward this holy work of Babasaheb. He said that Shivaji's life is a message that continues to inspire people from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Dwarka to Calcutta's Ganga Sagar even. Babasaheb collected the authorized documents of Shivaji Maharaj's life and his works from all over the world and prepared the history of Shiva's character for the new generation, that's why Babasaheb Purandare's name was changed to Shiv Shahir Babasaheb Purandare. ■

'Initiative taken by PM Modi to bring lasting peace in northeastern state will bear fruit'

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 21 February, 2023 said that Naga peace talks are underway and hoped that the initiative taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to bring lasting peace in the northeastern state will bear fruit.



Addressing an election rally in Tuensang, Nagaland Shri Shah said there are some issues related to development and rights of eastern Nagaland and those will be addressed after the assembly elections.

Asserting that insurgency is on the wane in the Northeast, he claimed that there has been a 70 per cent dip in violent incidents in the region under the BJP rule.

The Union Home Minister also claimed that there has been a 60 per cent reduction in deaths of security forces, while civilian deaths have dipped by 83 per cent in the Northeast.

Noting that Armed Force (Special Powers) Act, 1958 has been lifted from large parts of Nagaland by the BJP government, he expressed hope that the Act will be removed from across the northeastern state in the next three to four years.

PM Shri Narendra Modi's initiative to take the Naga peace talks to fruition should pave the way for the total exit of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act from Nagaland within the next three to four years, Shri Amit Shah said.

"I want to remind you all of Nagaland before 2014. Bloodshed, gunfights, blasts, and insurgency traumatized the state. PM Shri Narendra Modi then started the ongoing peace process, putting Nagaland on the path to lasting peace and development with the preservation of Naga culture, language and traditions," he said in Tuensang. ■

PM dedicates Delhi – Dausa – Lalsot section of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

Delhi-Mumbai is one of the most advanced expressways in the world

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation, the 246 km Delhi – Dausa – Lalsot section of the Delhi Mumbai Expressway on 12 February. He also laid the foundation stone for 247 kilometres of National Highway projects to be developed at a cost of more than Rs 5940 crore. The Prime Minister's emphasis on the building of excellent road infrastructure as an engine of growth, development and connectivity in New India is being realised by the construction of a number of ongoing world-class Expressways across the country.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed pride in dedicating the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to the nation. He underlined that this is one of the most advanced



expressways in the world which presents a grand picture of developing India.

The Prime Minister said that when such modern roads, railway stations, railway tracks, Metro and airports are constructed, the country's development gets momentum. He also highlighted the multiplier effect of the investment on infrastructure. "For the last nine years, the Central Government is also continuously making huge investments in infrastructure", the Prime Minister remarked as he noted

investments worth more than 50,000 crores for the construction of highways in Rajasthan. In this year's budget, the Prime Minister informed that there has been an allocation of 10 lakh crores for infrastructure which is 5 times more than the allocation in 2014. He underlined that the poor and middle class from Rajasthan will greatly benefit from these investments. The Prime Minister underscored the benefits of investment in infrastructure on the economy and said that it creates employment and connectivity

The Prime Minister stated that when investments are made in highways, railways, ports, airports, optical fibers, digital connectivity, construction of pucca houses and colleges, every section of the society gets empowered. ■

INDIA CAN GROW AT 8%: World Bank President

India faced challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic but has recovered "strongly" and can achieve 8% growth through a stronger private sector, land and agriculture reforms, and ensuring credit gets to small enterprises, among others, said Mr. David Malpass, president of the World Bank. This is the right time for India to attract investment amid a global diversification of supply chains and manufacturing, he told ET in an interview, calling for a focus on making the country competitive. Mr. Malpass was in India to attend a meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors. He met Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on 22 February, 2023.

On global monetary tightening, the outgoing World Bank chief said interest rates were abnormally



low over the past decade and the world should plan on this normalising. He warned that developing countries, in particular, are facing much higher financing costs and interest rates on their debt. ■

AIR INDIA ORDERS 470 AIRCRAFTS FROM FRANCE & USA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 14 February participated in a video call with President of France H.E. Emmanuel Macron, Shri Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus, Tata Sons, Shri N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of the Board, Tata Sons, Mr. Campbell Wilson, CEO, Air India and Mr. Guillaume Faury, CEO Airbus on the occasion of the launch of a partnership between Air India and Airbus.

Air India and Airbus have signed a contract for the supply of 250 aircraft, 210 single-aisle A320neos and 40 widebody A350s to Air India.

This commercial partnership between these two players of the aviation sector also displays the strength of the India-France Strategic Partnership, which marks its 25th anniversary this year.

In his address, Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted the rapid expansion and growth of the civil aviation market in India which will give impetus to greater connectivity between India and the rest of the world, and will in turn encourage tourism and business in India.

Complimenting the strong presence of French companies in India, Prime Minister also recalled

US President announces the historic agreement

In another deal, United States President Mr. Joe Biden announced a historic agreement between Air India and Boeing on 14 February, with the Tata-owned airline purchasing 220 aircraft from the American aviation major.

"I am proud to announce today the purchase of over 200 American-made aircraft through a historic agreement between Air India and Boeing. This purchase will support over one million American jobs across 44 states and many will not require four-year college degrees," American President Mr. Biden said.

the recent decision by French aerospace engine manufacturer SAFRAN to set up its largest MRO facility in India to service aircraft engines for both Indian and international carriers.

Prime Minister Shri Modi thanked President Macron for his partnership in taking the India-France relationship forward and looked forward to working with him under India's G20 Presidency. ■

TWELVE CHEETAHS FROM SOUTH AFRICA RELEASED AT KUNO NATIONAL PARK

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Bhupender Yadav on 18 February released Twelve cheetahs brought from South Africa at Kuno National Park, Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.

Earlier, after covering a distance of more than 7900 kilometers from Johannesburg in South Africa, these 12 cheetahs reached Kuno National Park. In a series of tweets Shri Yadav said Project Cheetah, launched under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, reached another milestone in Kuno National Park with the release of 12 cheetahs.

Shri Yadav specially thanked the Indian Airforce for their efforts in making it possible for getting 12 cheetahs from South Africa to the Kuno National Park.

Shri Yadav said under Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi India has shown the world how to move from ecological wrong to ecological harmony. He said the arrival of 12 cheetahs furthers that journey. In a splendid example of Jan Bhagidari, over 450 cheetahs are ensuring the cheetah acclimatize well in India, he added.

Now the total number of Cheetahs in Kuno National Park has increased to 20. Last year in the month of September, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had released 8 cheetahs brought from Namibia in Kuno National Park. ■

RECORD 75% OF DEFENCE CAPITAL PROCUREMENT BUDGET EARMARKED FOR DOMESTIC INDUSTRY

Bandhan ceremony witnesses forging of 266 partnerships, worth around Rs 80,000 crore

Record 75 per cent (approx. Rs one lakh crore) of the defence capital procurement budget has been earmarked for domestic industry in Financial

Year (FY) 2023-24, up from 68 per cent in 2022-23. This was announced by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh during the Bandhan ceremony of 14th Aero India in Bengaluru on February 15, 2023. In FY 2023-24, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been allocated a total Budget of Rs 5.94 lakh crore, which is 13.18 per cent of the total budget (Rs 45.03 lakh crore). Capital outlay pertaining to modernisation and infrastructure development has been increased to Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

Shri Rajnath Singh termed the decision as an unprecedented step taken by the Government at the outset of 'Amrit Kaal' to further strengthen the defence sector and minimise import dependency.

The Bandhan ceremony also witnessed the forging of 266 partnerships including 201 MoUs, 53 major announcements, nine product launches and three Transfers of Technology, worth around Rs 80,000 crore. ■

MORE THAN 200% GROWTH IN DIGITAL PAYMENT VOLUME IN LAST FOUR YEARS

For promotion of digital payments, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has introduced the Incentive Scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions for the current financial year. This was stated by the Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha on 13 February. The Minister stated that there has been a growth of more than 200% in digital payment volume during the last four years since 2018-19. Further, as per the data sourced from National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI transactions registered in FY 21-22 were 45 billion, showing 8 times growth in last 3 years and 50 times growth in last 4 years. The Minister stated that the Scheme provides financial incentive to Banks for promoting point-of-sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions using RuPay Debit Cards and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions of low value (i.e up to Rs. 2,000) on the BHIM-UPI platform. The Scheme also promotes UPI lite and UPI 123 PAY as economical and user-friendly digital payment solutions. MeitY has allocated Rs. 2,600 crore for the Scheme for FY 2022-23.

The incentive Scheme has promoted digital payments by incentivising Banks to build a robust

digital payments ecosystem and to promote RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI as low-cost digital payments mode across all sectors and segments of population, the Minister stated. ■

INDIAN RAILWAYS' PRODUCTION UNITS ON FAST TRACK

Indian Railways' Production Units are on fast track to achieve record production in 2022-23. Indian Railways' Production Units i.e. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) at Chittaranjan, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) at Varanasi, Patiala Locomotive Works (PLW) at Patiala, have produced 785 electric locomotives in FY 2022-23 till 31st January. Indian Railways' Coach production units have ramped up LHB coach production by manufacturing 4,175 LHB coaches in FY 2022-2023, till 31st January, to ensure convenient and faster mobility. ■

INDIA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION GOES UP BY 10 % IN DECEMBER 2022

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of December, 2022 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 107.4, is 9.8% higher as compared to the level in the month of December, 2021, as per the provisional figures of Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM). At the same time, the cumulative growth for the period April-December, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of the previous year is 5.4 per cent.

Production level of important minerals in December, 2022 were: Coal 833 lakh tonnes, Lignite 35 lakh tonnes, Natural gas (utilized) 2888 million cu. m., Petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes, Bauxite 2272 thousand tonnes, Chromite 340 thousand tonnes, Copper conc. 10 thousand tonnes, Gold 174 kg, Iron ore 251 lakh tonnes, Lead conc. 30 thousand tonnes, Manganese ore 307 thousand tonnes, Zinc conc. 137 thousand tonnes, Limestone 355 lakh tonnes, Phosphorite 170 thousand tonnes, Magnesite 9 thousand tonnes and Diamond 43 carat. ■

'NANO UREA IS GREEN TECHNOLOGY, SAVES SOIL AND INCREASES THE PRODUCTION'

Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya on 14 February inaugurated

GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

the IFFCO Nano Urea Liquid Plants at Aonla and Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh. Addressing the event, Dr Mandaviya stated that today is an important day because Nano urea plants have been dedicated to the nation. He said that Nano Urea, in the coming times will ensure the progress of the farmers, increase their income. In this way it will change the future of our farmer.

Union Minister highlighted the benefits of Nano urea stating that it is the best green technology and provides solution of pollution. It saves the soil and also increases the production and hence is the best for the farmers. He further said that Government's Expert Committee has given approval to Nano DAP and it will also come to replace DAP shortly. He added that Nano-DAP will immensely benefit our farmers and it will be available at half the cost of DAP.

Dr. Mandaviya also underlined the efforts of the government in making Nano urea available to the farmers. He also pointed out the challenges in bringing Nano urea ranging from getting approvals from various departments, convincing the farmers to tackling conventional urea lobby.

Dr. Mandaviya also said that it is an alternate fertiliser. ■

ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION BASED ON ALL INDIA WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX (WPI) FALLS TO 4.73%

The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is 4.73% (Provisional) for the month of January, 2023 (over January, 2022) against 4.95% recorded in December, 2022. Decline in the rate of inflation in January, 2023 is primarily contributed by mineral oils, chemicals & chemical products, textiles, crude petroleum & natural gas, textiles, and food products. ■

PROJECTS WORTH 1359.61 CRORE, COMPLETED IN NORTH-EASTERN REGION

17 Airports presently operational in NER

Several infrastructure development projects inter alia for increasing road connectivity and National highways as well as for promoting airways have been taken up by the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Central Government in North

Eastern Region (NER).

A total of 3179 kms of road projects have been completed during the last 5 years in the North Eastern Region. In addition, under various schemes being implemented by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region a total of 79 projects worth Rs 1359.61 crore have been completed during the last five years. A total of 8017 kms of National Highways have been sanctioned and 5932 kms. of National Highways have been completed respectively, during the last 10 years in the North Eastern Region. With the recent operationalization of 8 airports, 17 airports are presently operational in the North Eastern Region. The Donyi Polo Airport in Hologni Arunachal Pradesh has been the recent most Airport to be operationalized in the North Eastern Region.

This information was given by the Minister for Development of North Eastern Region Shri G. Kishan Reddy in the Lok Sabha in a written reply on 13 February, 2023. ■

73 AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN OPERATIONALIZED UNDER UDAN SCHEME TILL JANUARY 2023

Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) on 21 September 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses. UDAN is a market driven scheme. Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN.

As on 31 January 2023, a total number of 73 unserved /underserved airports including 9 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalised, since 2017, under the UDAN scheme. UDAN is an ongoing scheme where bidding rounds are conducted from time to time for covering more destinations/stations and routes under the scheme.

VGf amount of around Rs. 2355 crore has been released to Selected Airline Operators as on 31.01.2023 for the operation of UDAN flights. ■





TANA-RIRI: How Narendra Modi fulfilled his childhood dream

-Dasrath Patel

Vadnagar's Tana-Riri temple is now one of the major tourist attractions in the vicinity. PM Shri Narendra Modi's efforts to renovate and develop an otherwise abandoned temple also realized his childhood dream for Tana-Riri. Let's know how?

Shri Dashrath Patel is a childhood friend of Shri Narendra Modi. Both were together from school to college, throughout their student life. He recalls, both of them visited the Tana-Riri temple while they were studying in M.N. College, Visnagar, Gujarat.

At that time, the temple was in a dilapidated situation. The plaster had scrapped out, bricks were also exposed from the wall. No one seemed to be taking care of the temple.

Looking at the sad state of the temple, Shri Narendra Modi told his friend that he will repair the temple when he will be back there. At that time Shri Dashrath Patel was a little doubtful about this because it was quite difficult to visit the temple again in student life. He

expressed his opinion to Shri Narendra Modi stating, we may not get time to visit here again. Narendra Modi then replied to him, "The renovation of the temple will happen at the right time."

Shri Patel further says that after many years when Shri Narendra Modi became the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he visited the Tana-Riri temple. Shri Modi left no stone unturned to renovate the temple and develop it as a prominent tourist attraction where devotees can visit easily.

He also made the annual Tana-Riri Music Festival a national event by inviting some of the prominent singers of the country. This made people know about the temple and its historical importance.

Shri Patel says that Shri Narendra Modi fulfilled his childhood resolve of renovating the Tana-Riri temple. He not only fulfilled his resolve but also gave the due importance to the place through its music festival. Now, the temple is a world renowned one where people from different parts of the globe visit and offer prayers. ■



FROM GARIABAND TO DEVBHOG, HE STRENGTHEN THE ORGANISATION

Shri Premlal Sinha was an SRSS Swayamsevak since childhood. Being associated with the ideology of the RSS, he was harassed by the Congress government. The work of the organisation was difficult while being a teacher in government service, so in 1960, he resigned from the school post and became a full-time worker of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Due to his loyalty and duty towards the organisation,

he never bowed down to the pressure from Congressmen. To earn a living, he opened a cycle puncture shop, and he remained firm even in financial constraints. From Gariaband to Devbhog, he continuously travelled to strengthen the organisation. He even had to go to jail due to the Emergency in 1975. He was recognised as a brilliant speaker, an active worker, and he faithfully discharged his various



प्रेमलाल सिन्हा

Date of Birth 17/10/1937	Gender male
State Chhattisgarh	District GARIYABAND
Town/City गरियाबंद	Level District
Post in Organisation District Executive Member	Active years 1960-1998

responsibilities in the BJP. ■

Senior BJP leader and former Governor of Gujarat OP Kohli passes away

Senior BJP leader and former Governor of Gujarat Shri Om Prakash Kohli passed away after a brief illness in Noida on 20 February. He was 87 years old.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took to Twitter to condole the demise. "Saddened by the passing away of Shri OP Kohli Ji. He played a key role in strengthening our Party in Delhi. As MP and Governor, he focused on issues of public welfare. He was also passionate about the education sector. My thoughts are with his family. Om Shanti," tweeted Prime Minister Shri Modi.

The BJP National President Shri JP Nadda expressing condolence on the demise of the leader said in a tweet, "The news of the demise of senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, former Governor of Gujarat Om Prakash Kohli ji is very sad. Your devotion to organization building, democratic values and service to the society will always be exemplary. May God give place to the departed soul at his lotus feet. Om Shanti!"

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah condoled the demise and said "Received



the sad news of the demise of former Governor of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and senior BJP leader Om Prakash Kohli. Kohli ji's life as a teacher, worker and administrator was inspiring to all. I express my condolences to his family members in this hour of grief. Om Shanti Shanti"

Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Shri OP Kohliji in his long public life earned a lot of respect for his efficiency and scholarship. He was the Governor of Gujarat and also played an effective role in strengthening the BJP in Delhi. I am deeply saddened by his death. May God give strength to his family."

Shri Kohli, a former president of the party's Delhi unit, was unwell for the past two to three months. His last rites was performed at the Nigam Bodh Ghat on 21 February.

Shri Kohli was the 19th Governor of Gujarat between 2014 and 2019. He also held the additional charge as Governor of Madhya Pradesh from 2016 to 2018 and as the Goa governor for three weeks in 2014. Shri Kohli also served as the BJP's Central Office Secretary, Parliamentary Party Office Secretary, and President of the Delhi BJP unit. ■

BJP National President pays homage to 3 party leaders recently murdered in Chhattisgarh

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda during his Pravas to Jagdalpur (Bastar) in Chhattisgarh on February 11, 2023 strongly condemned the brutal killing of three BJP leaders in the state and paid tributes by visiting their houses. Shri Nadda said that three BJP leaders have been brutally murdered in Chhattisgarh in the recent past. Our leader Shri Neelkanth Kakkem ji was brutally attacked and murdered. The dead body of our leader Shri Budhram Karatam Kilepal ji was found under



suspicious circumstances and now our leader Shri Sagar Shahu ji has been mercilessly murdered. There is dearth of words to condemn the way our District Vice President Shri Sagar Shahu ji was mercilessly murdered in

Narayanpur. This incident has hurt my heart hard.

He said, "I want to say from this forum that your son and your brother are not alone in this fight. BJP with 18 crore members is standing with you. We all stand with you in this fight against Naxalism and will fight this ideology firmly in a democratic manner".

There was peace, prosperity in Chhattisgarh in BJP's government, but murders have increased in Congress's Bhopesh Baghel government. This is a matter of great concern, he said. ■

PM inaugurates Aadi Mahotsav at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi

“Aadi Mahotsav is presenting a grand picture of India’s tribal heritage during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated ‘Aadi Mahotsav’, the mega National Tribal Festival at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi on 16 February. Aadi Mahotsav is an attempt to showcase tribal culture on the national stage and it celebrates the spirit of tribal culture, crafts, cuisine, commerce and traditional art. It is an annual initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Upon arriving at the venue, the Prime Minister paid floral

tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and took a walk-through of the stalls at the exhibition.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said that Aadi Mahotsav is presenting a grand picture of India’s tribal heritage during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Prime Minister highlighted the prestigious tableau of the tribal societies of India and expressed delight at getting the opportunity to witness the various flavours, colours, adornments, traditions, art and art forms, delicacies and music. He said that the Aadi Mahotsav represents a picture of the diversity and magnificence of India standing together shoulder to shoulder.

“The Aadi Mahotsav is like an infinite sky where the diversity of India is projected like the colours of a rainbow”, the Prime Minister remarked. Drawing an analogy to the colours of a rainbow coming together, the Prime Minister said that the nation’s magnificence



comes to the fore when its infinite diversities are threaded into the string of ‘Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat’ and that is when India provides guidance to the entire world. He emphasized that the Aadi Mahotsav is giving strength to the unity in diversity of India while giving impetus to the idea of development with heritage.

PM Shri Modi emphasized that the country is moving with unprecedented pride with regard to its tribal glory. He informed that the tribal products find a place of pride in his gifts to foreign dignitaries. Tribal tradition is presented by India as an integral part of Indian pride and heritage on global platforms. India, the Prime Minister said,

conveys solutions to problems like global warming and climate change in the tribal way of life. The Prime Minister emphasized the tribal community of India has a lot to inspire and teach with regard to sustainable development.

Underlining the contributions of the tribal society in the struggle for India’s independence, the Prime Minister lamented the veiled attempt for decades to cover up the glorious chapters of the sacrifice and valour in the pages of history. The Prime Minister highlighted that the nation has finally taken the step in the Amrit Mahotsav

to bring these forgotten chapters of the past to the fore and said, “For the first time, the country has started celebrating Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda”. Recalling the opportunity to inaugurate the museum dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda in Ranchi, Jharkhand, he also noted that museums related to tribal freedom fighters are coming up in various states. Even though it is happening for the first time, the Prime Minister said that its impression will be visible for many generations to come and will provide inspiration and give direction to the country for many centuries. ■

'THE NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY PREPARES THE YOUTH OF INDIA FOR THE NEW CENTURY'



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Uttarakhand Rozgar Mela via video message on 20 February. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister highlighted that today, marks a new beginning for those who got their appointment letters and said that it is not just a life-changing opportunity but a medium for holistic change. Highlighting the new experiments taking place in the country in the educational sector, the Prime Minister noted that most appointees would be serving in the field of education. "The new National Education Policy prepares the youth of India for the new century", the Prime Minister remarked as he laid down the responsibility enshrined upon the youth of Uttarakhand to take this resolution forward.

The Prime Minister highlighted the constant endeavor of the central and Uttarakhand government

Tourism sector in Uttarakhand is expanding as a result of far-flung areas being connected by road, rail and internet

that every youth gets new opportunities based on their interest while getting access to the right medium to move forward. He said that the recruitment campaign in government services is also a step taken in this direction. The Prime Minister noted that lakhs of youth in the country have received their appointment letters from the Central Government in the last few months and expressed delight that Uttarakhand has become part of it. He informed that such recruitment campaigns are taking place all over the country in BJP-ruled states and union territories on a large scale. "I am happy that today Uttarakhand is becoming a part of it", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the Mudra Yojana is playing a crucial role in boosting employment and self-employment opportunities in the tourism sector. ■

>>> Continued from page 11

and make the country assume technology and market leadership in this sunrise sector. Our target is to reach an annual production of 5 MMT by 2030. This Budget provides 35,000 crore for priority capital investments towards energy transition and net zero objectives, and energy security by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

How will this historic Budget help usher in the Hon'ble PM's vision of 'Amrit Kaal' and position the Indian economy globally?

India is a bright spot in the world with the highest growth rate. In the last nine years, the size of the Indian economy has increased from the 10th to the 5th largest economy in the world.

The government has laid relentless emphasis on capital expenditure. It will complement industrial development with cost-effective logistics infrastructure and seamless connectivity. Several reforms have been proposed to improve the Ease of Doing Business.

India is being seen as a manufacturing hub due to the PLI Schemes, the creation of infrastructure and other reforms done by the government over the years. All these have made India an attractive investment destination and it has received over \$160 billion in FDI in the last two financial years. India will also benefit from the EU+1 and China+1 strategies being adopted by the global MNCs. ■



INDIA'S SOFT POWER IS BLOOMING UNDER MODI GOVERNMENT

This month saw déjà vu of that magnanimous yet strategic mindset when India was among the first nations to respond with aid to Turkey after a devastating earthquake. It is no secret that relations between the two countries had been strained, with acerbic exchanges and sparring at global forums over Jammu and Kashmir and cross-border terrorism.



BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA

Since 2014, the PM has shown a willingness to see beyond conflicts and do the right thing in the larger interest. This was visible during Covid-19, the Lankan economic crisis, and now again in earthquake-hit Turkey. While it is too early to predict the future of Turkish-Indian relations, it can nevertheless be unambiguously stated that India's humanitarian outreach has led to a thaw and overt mutual professions of friendship (NDRF).

Days after Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was sworn into office for his first term in 2014, a retired senior American diplomat visiting Delhi fretted if he would de-

prioritise India's relationship with the United States (US). That apprehension was based on the torment the former chief minister of Gujarat had been subjected to from some quarters in that nation, including being denied a visitor's visa for some time on specious grounds that were ultimately demolished at every level of India's judiciary. That diplomat's concern was

In the past nine years, India has significantly ratcheted up its earlier fledgling efforts to assist other nations in distress. This became especially noteworthy during the pandemic and its aftermath. The world watched with astonishment as India defied dire predictions and stood head and shoulders above others in minimising the pandemic's ravages

proven unwarranted when the new PM took the US by storm in September of that year, making friends and influencing people. He also sent an unmistakable

message of India's growing clout with a rousing diaspora event at New York's Madison Square Garden, the first of many such congregations worldwide.

This month saw déjà vu of that magnanimous yet strategic mindset when India was among the first nations to respond with aid to Turkey after a devastating earthquake. It is no secret that relations between the two countries had been strained, with acerbic exchanges and sparring at global forums over Jammu and Kashmir and cross-border terrorism.

Such willingness to put aside slights and personal affronts, see beyond conflicts, and do the right thing in the larger national and global interest is rare, and easier said than done. Even statesmen and diplomats

are human and not always capable of taking the high road. It takes a big heart, steely determination and a deeply held belief in a higher principle, in this

case, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, Indic philosophy's old vision of the world as one family.

In the past nine years, India has significantly ratcheted up its earlier fledgling efforts to assist other nations in distress. This became especially noteworthy during the pandemic and its aftermath. The world watched with astonishment as India defied dire predictions and stood head and shoulders above others in minimising the pandemic's ravages. It developed vaccines and rolled out history's biggest and fastest vaccination campaign.

But besides the billions of vaccinations at home, it was the hundreds of millions of doses made available to over 100 other nations that stunned the world.

The subsequent financial aid that India provided to economically devastated neighbours marked a major milestone. These are consequential because of the significant amounts, friendly outreach, and geopolitical context in the midst of a global economic crisis. In the case of Sri Lanka, for instance, prompt Indian help came when the country was in dire straits, having defaulted on its international repayments. It stood in stark contrast to China, whose mercantilist forays had pushed the emerald isle to economic collapse. This has been made possible by India's sharply

rising economic trajectory. Good intentions alone would not have been of much use if India did not have the wherewithal to back these initiatives. The Indian economy is now the fastest growing among the big nations. That has attracted worldwide admiration, respect, and keenness to develop closer ties.

India's influence and friendships are blooming around the world under the PM's stewardship, but of special significance is PM Modi's ability to turn around relationships that had previously been tepid or

But this new India, while going out of its way to court friendship, is also capable and willing to respond robustly to hostile actions. Just as the world acclaims India's friendly outreach of soft power, it has also watched with respect our calibrated but fierce responses to Chinese aggression and Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

even downright contentious. The rapprochement with a Taliban-run Afghanistan and newly developed rapport with many West Asian Islamic nations are cases in point.

But this new India, while going out of its way to court friendship, is also capable and willing to respond robustly to hostile actions. Just as the world acclaims India's friendly outreach of soft power, it has also watched with respect our calibrated but fierce responses to Chinese aggression and

Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

This transition to a new global image of India has registered with all but the most dyed-in-the-wool Modi baiters. Recall how some domestic opponents belittled many of his early initiatives, such as promoting the International Day of Yoga or the aspiration for an Indian renaissance, and once again becoming a Vishwa Guru, an example setter among nations, and a magnet for scholars, investors and tourists. The harshest of the PM's critics went so far as to question the armed forces

and its exercise of hard power. The idea that a recalcitrant Pakistan bent on rebuffing peace overtures and continuing cross-border terrorism could be isolated by a principled Indian thrust was mocked. Yet, that is almost where that hapless country — besieged by jihadi-incubating, democracy-

overthrowing men in uniform — finds itself today.

While it is too early to predict the future of Turkish-Indian relations, it can nevertheless be unambiguously stated that India's humanitarian outreach has led to a thaw and overt mutual professions of friendship. In a world undergoing tectonic geopolitical shifts, a rising India is playing its hand with aplomb and is being widely welcomed. ■

(The Writer is the National Vice-President of BJP)



Digital connectivity creating new opportunities for the youth of Northeast



TARUN CHUGH

Azaadi ka Amrit Mahautsov is going on. It is a matter of misfortune that after independence, the Congress governments in India neither made concrete ground efforts for the economic development of the North East nor did the work to integrate the citizens there into the mainstream of development was made. Because of this, the feeling of natural affinity towards this part of the rest of the country could not be formed in that way. The BJP-led NDA government under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee took the initiative of development in the Northeast for the first time and formed a separate ministry for it, but after that there was no special effort for the development of the Northeast in the 10 years of the UPA government of the Congress. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, a new story of all-round development of North East India has been written.

Earlier, the states of North-East used to struggle with the problems of insurgency, infiltration, bandh, blockade, drug smuggling,

corruption and caste tension, but Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave the entire North-East the form of 'Ashtalakshmi' and gave it development, connectivity and infrastructure development. It has become a major hub of IT, industrial development, sports, investment and organic farming. Shri Narendra Modi focused on the balanced and rapid development of every state of the country so that the country could become self-reliant. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Act East' policy instead of 'Look East' policy has brought

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave the entire North-East the form of 'Ashtalakshmi' and gave it development, connectivity and infrastructure development

unprecedented changes in the Ashtalakshmi states of the Northeast in the last 9 years.

After becoming the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi alone has visited the Northeast more times than all the Prime Ministers have visited the North-Eastern states after the independence of the country. Due to this, development is at a fast pace here. The result of this change in Delhi's thinking about the Northeast is that the Northeast

is now becoming the gateway to India's development. The mantra of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local for Global' has given pace to the development. For a long time, there is thinking in the country that if there is development in the border area, then the enemy will be benefited. Due to this negative thinking, connectivity could not improve in all the border areas of the country including the North East. Now, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emphasized on the development of HIRA ie Highway, Inland Waterway, Railway and Airway. This has bridged the heartland gap between the North Eastern states, the rest of India and Delhi.

Just in the month of December, Prime Minister Modi had visited here in which he had laid the foundation of development projects worth thousands of crores. In the last nine years, the Modi government has shown 'red cards' to many obstacles related to the development of Meghalaya. Work is going on fast to connect all the capitals of North East including Shillong with rail service. In Meghalaya, air service is running on 16 routes under the UDAN scheme. Farmers in Meghalaya and North East are also benefiting from better air connectivity. With

the Krishi Udaan scheme of the central government, the fruits and vegetables from here are easily reaching the markets of the country and abroad. In the last 9 years, Rs 5,000 crore has been spent on the construction of the National Highway in Meghalaya. The number of rural roads built in the last nine years under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana in Meghalaya is seven times more than what was built in the previous 20 years.

Digital connectivity is creating new opportunities for the youth power of the North East. Compared to 2014, the optical fiber coverage in the North-East has increased almost 4 times. In Meghalaya this increase is more than 5 times. Thousands of mobile towers are being installed for mobile connectivity. The inauguration of IIM and foundation stone laying of Technology Park in Meghalaya will also expand the opportunities for education and earning. More than 150 Eklavya Model Schools are being set up in the tribal areas of the North East, out of which 39 are in Meghalaya. In this budget, provision has also been made to recruit a large number of teachers in Eklavya Model Schools. Parvatmala Yojana will increase the convenience of tourist places here and tourism will also develop. With regard to sports also, the central government is moving ahead with a new approach today, which has benefited the Northeast the most.

The governments that were in the country for a long time had the idea of 'Divide' for the North East

and we have come up with the idea of 'DEVINE'. Rejuvenation is happening with the DEVINE scheme. As Prime Minister Modi himself has said, we are removing all divisions between communities and regions, and in the North East we are creating corridors of development, not borders of disputes. In the last 8 years, many organizations have left the path of violence and have taken the path of permanent peace. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure that there is no need for AFSPA in the North East. The decades-long border dispute between the states is being resolved. For us, North-East is not the end point, but the gateway to security and prosperity. Under Vibrant Border Village, emphasis is being laid on developing better facilities in the border villages.

Tribal society has benefited the most from our policy of peace and development. The development of tribal areas is our priority while maintaining the tradition, language, food and culture of the tribal society. Bamboo was removed from the category of tree and brought into the category of grass. This gave a boost to the manufacture of tribal products associated with bamboo. Many Van Dhan Kendras have been established here. In Meghalaya, electricity has reached 2 lakh houses for the first time, more than 70 thousand houses have been built for the poor, three lakh families have got the facility of tap water for the first time.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working on the policy

of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'. All-round and all-inclusive development has taken place in our government without any discrimination of caste, religion, class, sect and region. People have been developed through schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Awas Yojana, Jal-Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Social Security Scheme, Saubhagya Yojana etc. The Global Minority Report, which came out in December, has acknowledged that India is the best country for minorities. The report says that the way there is a special provision in the Constitution of India for the cultural and educational promotion of minorities, such provision is not there in any other country. This is not just a report, but a story of faith and growth. In October 2021, Prime Minister Modi went to the Holy Vatican City, where he met His Holiness the Pope. Narendra Modi has also invited him to visit India. Prime Minister Modi himself admitted that this meeting left a deep impression on his mind. In this important meeting, the challenges before humanity were discussed and it was agreed that how the spirit of unity and harmony can lead to the welfare of all. India is moving forward in this sense and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the empowerment of every citizen here is getting stronger. ■

(The writer is BJP National General Secretary)



BUDGET 2023/24 – FOUNDATION FOR VISHWAGURU BHARAT

The Budget 2023-24 of Shri Narendra Modi government lays the foundation for Vishwaguru Bharat, an economic superpower



**GOPAL KRISHNA
AGARWAL**

The last full-fledged budget before the general elections next year has resisted to be a populist budget and the Government must be applauded for it. It takes confidence and commitment to stick to the fundamentals of prudent book-keeping when it makes complete sense to go all out political. This attribute, which was also visible during the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' package in the wake of Covid-19 crisis, will keep the economy on an even keel.

When the global economies are reeling under inflation and being sucked into recessionary cycle, India continues to be an outlier with manageable inflation, high GDP growth rate and well calibrated fiscal consolidation glide path. The difference of Modi Government's approach to balance the macroeconomic challenges of fighting recession, controlling inflation and meeting fiscal deficit consolidation target is very much evident in budget 2023-24.

A major achievement of the Government has been its management of fiscal affairs.

Several challenges on macro-economic front that stemmed from external factors and were unseen at the time of presentation of budget last year unfolded as the year rolled by. The actual expenditure on food and fertilizer subsidy for the current year is much more than was initially budgeted while the excise tax collected had to come down due to energy price relief provided to the consumers. Despite this Modi Government has managed to adhere to the budgeted target of 6.4 percent for fiscal deficit for the year 2022-23. The fiscal deficit

The highlight of 2023-24 budget undoubtedly has to be the increased allocation for capital expenditure which has been increased by 33 percent to Rs 10 lakh crore

target for the coming financial year has been put at 5.9 percent of the GDP. Thus the march on the path of fiscal consolidation continues and the Government has committed to bring it down in the range of 4.5 percent by the year 2025-26.

The highlight of 2023-24 budget undoubtedly has to be the increased allocation for capital expenditure which has been increased by 33 percent to Rs 10 lakh crore. Anyone, familiar with the concept of 'multiplier effect' of expenditure would know that government Capex

has a much bigger effect on the economy than government or private consumption expenditure. After two consecutive years of increase in government Capex, the Government would have stepped off the accelerator, but, the increase in Capex under this context is really heart-warming.

The budget focuses on MSME growth. Capital allocation for collateral free lending to MSME sector has been increased to Rs 9,000 crores. This will lead to an incremental lending of Rs. 2 lakh crore to this sector. Custom duties have been reduced on a number of commodities to make manufacturing in India more competitive with raw material availability at lower costs. These steps, together with the continued work on 'ease of doing businesses', will

help the MSME sector in a major way. Government has reduced 39,000 compliances and decriminalized more than 3,000 laws and also introduced Vivad Se Vishwas 2 scheme for enhancing business and government trust.

Relief in personal income tax was widely demanded and the budget has respected the wishes of the people. An individual can now earn up to Rs 7 lakh per annum and not pay any income tax. This is a whopping 40 percent increase over the current exemption limit of Rs 5 lakh per annum. Also the surcharge on

income above Rs 5 crore per annum has been reduced and the highest marginal rate of taxation will come down from above 42 percent to about 39 percent.

This year's budget is a document with the futuristic vision. Government has listed 7 priorities- saptarishi- that will guide policymaking up to 2047. These have elements of green growth and energy transition while not losing sight of inclusive development and reaching the last mile. The focus and commitment to sustainable growth can be seen from schemes like MISHTI- for Mangrove plantation along the coastline and Amrit Dharohar - for preserving the bio-diversity in wetlands. Scrapping of old vehicles also finds a detailed mention in the budget. Establishing centre of excellence for artificial intelligence (AI) shows that the budget has vision as well as ambition. Skill India scheme will henceforth include futuristic skills like AI, robotics, 3D printing etc. The government plans to set up 100 labs for developing 5G services. Government has identified the potential of tourism industry to propel employment and growth of economy and it will see a number of schemes to realise its true potential.

Government's support to agricultural sector and its commitment to the rural economy is evident from the setting up of agricultural acceleration fund and millet development programme.

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Schemes like Gobardhan yojna and facilitating natural farming are a case in point. The Government has committed itself to provide large scale support to the cooperative sector at the Panchayat level which can enhance financial inclusion and empowerment of small farmers.

level of global engagement and ensure to achieve the vision of our prime minister to make India an economic superpower in the coming decade. Truly this budget is an Amrit Budget- a foundation for Vishwaguru Bharat. ■

(The writer is National Spokesperson of BJP on Economic Affairs)

Signing of MoU between India and South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector approved

The Union Cabinet 15 February chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and the Government of Republic of South Africa for cooperation in Disability Sector.

The bilateral Memorandum of Understanding will encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of the Republic of India and Government of South Africa through joint initiatives in the disability sector. It will strengthen bilateral ties between India and South Africa. Specific proposals for cooperation between the two countries, as mutually agreed upon, will be taken up for implementation during the period of validity of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Union Cabinet 15 February chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW). The MoU is to provide recognition of the qualification, training of each others members and admit the members in good standing by prescribing a bridging mechanism on the prevailing terms and conditions. ■

India carries out 'Operation Dost' successfully in Turkey & Syria

The Army medical team deployed under Operation Dost in Turkey returned on 20 February India after finishing successful relief operation in quake-hit Turkey. India launched 'Operation Dost' to aid in search-and-rescue in Turkey and Syria following deadly earthquakes that struck on February 6 and claimed over 46,000 lives to date. The 99-member self-contained team successfully set up and ran a fully equipped 30-bedded Field Hospital in Iskenderun, Hatay, attended nearly 4,000 patients.

The team has won the hearts and minds of the Turkish people. "The patients were very thankful as their health care system was not functioning at the max so they were kind of very grateful to the nation and the team that we are there and providing the necessary medical assistance," MEA informed via tweet.

The Prime Minister interacted with the National Disaster Response Force personnel involved in 'Operation Dost' in earthquake-hit Turkey and Syria.

Addressing the personnel, the Prime Minister lauded them for



their great work in 'Operation Dost' in earthquake-hit Turkey and Syria. The Prime Minister elaborated on the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. The Prime Minister said in Turkey and Syria the Indian team reflected the spirit of the entire world being one family for us.

Recalling the images of a mother who blessed the members of the team for their efforts, the Prime Minister noted the pride that every Indian felt after witnessing every image of rescue and relief operations that was carried out in the affected areas. The Prime Minister underlined the unmatched professionalism and the human touch and said that it plays a crucial role when a person is dealing with trauma and has lost everything.

The Prime Minister also praised the acts of compassion shown by the team.

Remembering the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat and recalling his time as a volunteer there, the Prime Minister underlined the difficulty of the task of removing rubble and finding people below that and how the entire medical system was hit as the hospital itself had collapsed in Bhuj.

The Prime Minister also recalled the Machhu Dam tragedy in 1979. "On the basis of my experiences in these calamities, I can appreciate your hard work, spirit and emotions. Today I salute you all.", the Prime Minister said.

He underlined that those who are capable of helping themselves are called self-sufficient but those who have the capability to help others in their time of need are called selfless. This, he said, applies not only to individuals but to nations also. That is why in the past few years India has nurtured its selflessness along with its self-sufficiency. ■

Highlighting the importance of quick response time during a natural calamity, the Prime Minister referred to the 'Golden Hour' and said that the speedy response of the NDRF team in Turkey drew the attention of the entire world. He said that the quick response highlights the preparedness and training skills of the team.

BJP National President launches the book “Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux”

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda launched the book “Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux” at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, New Delhi on 22 February, 2023 and highlighted India’s role in the global arena under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He discussed in detail the growing stature and leading role of India in solving global issues. “Modi: Shaping a Global Order in Flux” has foreword by the External Affairs Minister of India Shri S. Jaishankar while its editors are Shri Sujan Chinoy (Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses), Shri Vijay Chauthaiwale (In-Charge, Foreign Affairs Dept, Bharatiya Janata Party) and Shri Uttam Kumar Sinha (Fellow at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses and holds an adjunct position at the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University). Many dignitaries and distinguished persons were present in the event.

Shri JP Nadda said, the book gives us a deep insight about how India’s image changed globally under the dynamic leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi. It is also a chronology of changes that happened in the international arena vis-a-vis India, how India played an important role in the changing world order, how



we formed new partnerships and how India gave new dimensions to its relationship with some of the leading and developed countries.

He further said, under the dynamic leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi the way the world looks towards India has completely changed. Shri Modi has strengthened ties with our neighbors and also opened new avenues in the fields of international relations. Today India’s role is acknowledged globally when it comes to carrying out humanitarian missions helping other countries in times of need and crisis. But on the other hand, India also gives its adversaries a tough message when it comes to the matter of India’s sovereignty. ■

INDIAN RAILWAYS LAUNCHES RAIL POST GATI SHAKTI EXPRESS CARGO SERVICE

First time tariff on the basis of per Kg of the goods per Kilometre has been determined

Indian Railways and India Posts have formally on 16 February launched Rail Post Gati Shakti Express Cargo Service, Joint Parcel Product of Railways and India Post. It is an initiative of partnership between Indian Railways and India Posts in providing seamless logistics for the services sector in the country. This is in compliance with the Budget Announcement of FY 2022-23. Today (16 February) it has been started, on the four sectors -Delhi to Kolkata; Bangalore to Guwahati, Surat to Muzaffarpur and Hyderabad to Hazrat Nizamuddin. However, total 15 sectors (mentioned in Annex-A) have been planned to be covered in the first phase.

The highlights of this service are Total logistic

Service: Pick-Up and Delivery at customer premises, Palletization -Transportation through covered and sealed boxes, Semi-mechanized handling, Time tabled service, Insurance at 0.05% of the declared value of the cargo for loss, damage and deterioration, Integrated Parcel Way Bill. Joint Marketing Teams between Posts and Railways have been made to take this initiative forward. Doing away with the slab system of pricing is an innovation herein.

Railways and Department of Posts have collectively upgraded their tools, machinery and handling equipment, storage space for optimum use. ■

Aspirations of the Indian society have become a driving force for the government

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 10 February inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 in Lucknow. He also inaugurated the Global Trade Show and launched Invest UP 2.0 during the programme. Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit 2023 is the flagship investment summit of the Government of Uttar Pradesh which will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, think tanks and leaders from across the world to collectively explore business opportunities and forge partnerships. The Prime Minister also took a walkthrough of the exhibition on display.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed the investor community, industry leaders and policymakers both as a Prime Minister and as a Member of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the land of Uttar Pradesh is known for its cultural splendor, glorious history and rich heritage. Noting the capabilities of the state, the Prime Minister drew attention to the unwanted tags such as underdevelopment, BIMARU, and the poor law and order situation attached to Uttar Pradesh. He also touched upon the scams worth thousands of crores that were unearthed on a daily basis in earlier times. The Prime Minister said within 5-6 years, Uttar Pradesh has established a new identity. Now Uttar Pradesh is known for good governance, better law and order situation, peace and stability. "New opportunities for wealth creators are being made here", the Prime Minister added. The Prime Minister also stressed that initiatives for better infrastructure in UP are bearing fruit. He said very soon UP will be known as the only state with 5 International airports. Freight corridor will connect the state directly with the sea coast in Maharashtra. The



The Prime Minister emphasized that today's India, in real terms, has started moving on the path of speed and scale. As basic needs of a very large segment have been met and they are thinking ahead. This is the biggest reason for the trust in India

Prime Minister also noted a meaningful change in the government's thinking in UP for ensuring ease of doing business. "Today UP has become a source of hope and inspiration", the Prime Minister remarked. He underlined that UP has become a bright spot for the nation just like India has become a bright spot on the global stage.

He stated that the aspirations of the Indian society have become a driving force for the government which is providing impetus to the development works

carried out in the country. Noting the size and population of Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister told the investors that like India, In UP also, an aspirational society is awaiting you.

The Prime Minister said that due to the digital revolution, Uttar Pradesh society has grown inclusive and connected.

The Prime Minister highlighted the opportunities in Uttar Pradesh regarding dairy, agriculture, fisheries and food processing. He said this is one secretary where private sector participation is still limited. He told the investors about the PLI in the food processing industry. The Prime Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring a seamless modern system from input to post-harvest management for the farmers. He said small investors can use agri-infra funds.

Union Minister for Defence Shri Rajnath Singh, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt Anadiben Patel, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath and Ministers from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, foreign dignitaries and industry leaders were present on the occasion among others. ■

Cabinet approves Centrally Sponsored Scheme- “Vibrant Villages Programme” with financial allocation of 4800 Crore

The Union Cabinet on February 15 February chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme- “Vibrant Villages Programme” (VVP) for the Financial Years 2022-23 to 2025-26 with financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore.

- Comprehensive development of villages of blocks on northern border thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages. This will help in encouraging people to stay in their native locations in border areas and reversing the outmigration from these villages adding to improved security of the border.
- The scheme will provide funds for development of essential infrastructure and creation of livelihood opportunities in 19 Districts and 46 Border blocks 4 states and 1 UT along the northern land border of the country which will help in achieving inclusive growth and retaining the population in the border areas. In the first phase 663 Villages will be taken up in the programme.
- The scheme aids to identify and develop the economic drivers based on local natural human and other resources of the border villages on northern border and development of growth centres on “Hub and Spoke Model”
- Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
- 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.
- Key outcomes that have been attempted are, connectivity with all weather road, drinking water, 24x7 electricity – Solar and wind energy to be given focussed attention, mobile and internet connectivity. Tourist centers, multi-purpose centers and health and wellness Centers.

There will not be overlap with Border Area Development Programme. Out of financial allocation of Rs. 4800 Crore 2500 crore rupees will be used for roads.

Signing of MoU between India and Chile for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors approved

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on 15 February approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Chile for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied sectors.

The MoU provides for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. The main areas of cooperation envisaged are Agricultural policies for development of modern agriculture, Organic agriculture, as well as promote the exchange of policies aimed to develop organic production, Science and innovation to explore partnerships to promote innovation in the agricultural Indian Institutes and Chilean institutes as well as collaborate to confront common challenges.

Strengthening cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots

The Union Cabinet on 15 February, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved strengthening cooperative movement in the country and deepening its reach up to the grassroots. Ministry of Cooperation, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister of India and the able guidance of Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, has formulated a plan to establish viable PACS in each uncovered Panchayat, viable dairy cooperatives and viable fishery cooperatives in each coastal Panchayat/village as well as Panchayat/village having large water bodies, and strengthen the existing PACS/dairy/fishery cooperatives through convergence of various schemes of Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying by leveraging the ‘whole-of-Government’ approach. Initially, 2 lakh PACS/ Dairy/ Fishery cooperatives would be established in next five years. The action plan for implementation of the project shall be prepared by NABARD, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Fishery Development Board (NFDB). ■

India remains a 'BRIGHT SPOT', to contribute 15% of global growth in 2023: IMF MD

India continues to remain a relative "bright spot" in the world economy, and will alone contribute 15% of the global growth in 2023, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.



For this year, we expect India to retain a high growth rate, 6.8% for the year that ends in March. For FY 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024) we project 6.1%, a bit of slow down like the rest of the world economy, but way above the global average. And in that way, India is providing about 15% of global growth in 2023," Ms. Georgieva told PTI in an interview.

While digitisation pulled out the world's fifth-largest economy from pandemic lows, prudent fiscal policy and significant financing for capital investments provided in the next year's Budget will help sustain the growth momentum.

"India's performance has been quite impressive.

"Why is India a bright spot? Because one, the country has done really well to turn the digitalisation that has been already moving quite well into a major driver of overcoming the impact of the pandemic and creating opportunities for growth and jobs," the Managing Director noted.

That is the fastest growth rate among major economies. India remains a bright spot at a time when the IMF is projecting 2023 to be difficult with global growth slowing down from 3.4% last year to 2.9% in 2023, she observed. ■



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PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with NDRF personnel involved in "OPERATION DOST" in Türkiye and Syria, in New Delhi on February 20, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the 14th edition of Aero India 2023, in Bengaluru on February 13, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi pays homage to tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda at Major Dhyana Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on February 16, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi and the PM of Singapore, Shri Lee Hsien Loong witnessing the launch of UPI-Pay Now linkage between the two countries on February 21, 2023



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacts with French President, Emmanuel Macron on February 14, 2023.



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