



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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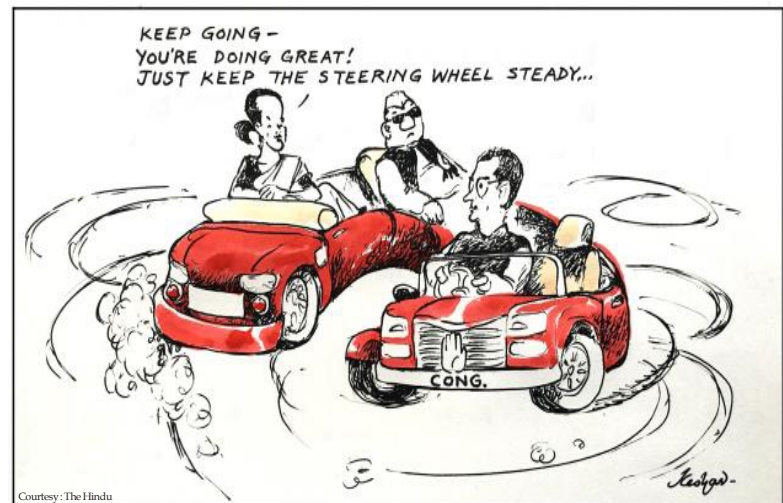
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Courtesy: The Hindu



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Living entities come into being from food, food is produced from rainfall, rainfall occurs from performance of sacrifice unto the Supreme Lord, the performance of sacrifice unto the Supreme Lord originates from prescribed Vedic activities.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 14)

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“Our Government is leaving no stone unturned to fulfil the vision & dreams of Dr. Ambedkar to create a prosperous & inclusive India.”

-Narendra Modi

“If development has to reach grass root, Assam needs BJP govt. We have decided that one minister from centre will visit N.East once in 15 days.”

-Amit Shah

Gita Jayanti : 21st December, 2015

Gita Jayanti is the day of revelation of Bhagavad Gita, the sacred text of the Hindus. It is celebrated on the Shukla Ekadasi, 11th day of the waxing moon of Margashirsha month of the Hindu calendar. It is believed the “Bhagavad Gita” was revealed to Arjuna by Sri Krishna Himself in the battlefield of Kurukshetra (in present day Haryana, India). The text is written in third person, narrated by Sanjaya to King Dhritarashtra as it transpired between Sri Krishna and Arjuna. Sanjaya, the secretary of the blind King Dhritarashtra, had been blessed by his Guru, Vyasadev, with the power to remotely view the events taking place on the battlefield as they transpired.

Being very despondent, Arjuna told his friend Lord Krishna of his sudden change of heart just before the commencement of the great Mahabharata war, and turned to Him for advice.

Therefore, the discourse of Bhagavad Gita took place just before the start of the Kurukshetra war. The conversation that ensued, Lord Krishna’s advice and teachings to Arjuna, is what is known now as the Bhagavad Gita, the most ancient scripture and non-sectarian philosophical work known to man.

Gita Jayanti is celebrated worldwide by all devotees and followers of Sanatana Dharma/Hindu Dharma, who revere Bhagavad Gita as their Divine Mother because She teaches us (in a non-sectarian and scientific manner) how to re-establish our lost relationship with God Almighty (The Supreme Divine).

In India it is generally observed by en-masse recitation of all 700 verses of the Gita chanted throughout the day. Devotees also fast on this day since it is an Ekadashi day. Bhajans and Poojas are held on this day.

In Malaysia, the Gita Jayanti Team celebrates Gita Jayanthi annually with the cooperation of different Hindu organizations. In Singapore, Gita Jayanti celebrations have become a grand, month-long ‘mega event’. Apart from India Hindus across the world and particularly in Malaysia, Bali (Indonesia), Cambodia, New Zealand, Australia and US are observing the Gita Jayanti every year. ■





Constitution Day : A positive initiative

For the first time in the history the nation has observed Constitution Day on 26th November this year. It is celebration of the legacy bestowed by our great freedom fighters who have laid strong foundation of our parliamentary democracy in our country. The legacy of parliamentary democracy is handed by the constitution of India which is respected in the world for its unique features and all embracing approach combining the strength of a pluralistic society. Nowhere in the world we can see the realization of the concept of 'unity in diversity' so beautifully and the makers of our constitution have made it possible through their comprehensive vision and inclusive approach. The ethos and spirit of the Indian constitution have added to vibrancy of our democracy and made possible the establishment of a welfare state guaranteeing rights and freedom to every individual in the nation. Nation observing Constitution Day on the day it was adopted by Constituent Assembly has helped in making every citizen more aware of the constitution and the ideals which it hands down to the people of this great nation.

The debate in the parliament to commemorate the constitution day has rekindled the spirit enshrined in the constitution. It became a special occasion particularly in the context of the 125th anniversary celebration of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, the chairman of the drafting committee of the constitution. The parliamentarians should be given credit for participating in the debate with utmost sincerity thereby increasing the faith of the people in democratic institutions. While the debate was initiated by Home Minister Rajnath Singh who raised many pertinent issues, it concluded with the reply of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The idea of India as presented by the Prime Minister will go down into the pages of history as a comprehensive exposition of thinking which is rooted in India's ethos and philosophy. It has outlined the great civilizational values which is enshrined in our constitution and upheld by our democratic polity.

The BJP led NDA government has taken many new initiatives among which observing occasions on some special days has been welcomed by all sections of the society. The decision to observe 25th December, the birthday of our former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as 'Good Governance Day' has created an awareness about governance in the country. Who can forget the initiatives towards good governance and development taken under the leadership of Atal ji. The celebration of his birthday as good governance day represents the aspiration of our people who are keen to see that good governance is delivered by the government. The government has responded by resolving to rededicate itself towards the goals of good governance in the country.

The other important achievement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to get 21st June observed as 'Yoga Day' internationally. It was the result of the personal efforts of Narendra Modi and relentless pursuance of his proposal in the UN by his government that a resolution to this effect was passed with overwhelming majority and 21st June has been earmarked as 'International Yoga Day' by the UN. It is in fact acceptance of India's genius and its civilizational achievement which is becoming more and more relevant with every passing

day. It not only represents the emergence of a health conscious world but also that people need ways and means to face the challenges of chaos and disorder which is haunting everyone both at individual and collective level and Yoga, an ancient system is capable of providing that soothing and caring world.

The BJP led NDA government should be congratulated for creating an atmosphere of hope and confidence in the country. By observing these special occasions the nation has not only reaffirmed its faith in the high ideals of our civilization and the dreams of the founding fathers of our parliamentary democracy but a sense of duty towards these ideals has been inculcated in the common people. Constitution Day, Good Governance Day and Yoga Day are positive initiatives which will herald an era of deeper understanding of our constitution, need of governance and development, our ancient knowledge system and the kind of society which we want to build in India. The people have rightly welcomed these initiatives and participated in the celebrations paving path for a more aware and confident India. ■

Heavy rains kill above 300, displace millions in Tamil Nadu

PM releases ₹1,940 cr from Disaster Response Fund

From Our Correspondent

Chennai the capital city of Tamil Nadu has been marooned with 101.8 cm of rainfall in November, the second highest rainfall recorded since 1918. Rains continued to lash the city in the first two days of December and more rainfall has been forecast.

The extremely heavy torrential rains caused severe damage of life, property and misery in Chennai city and nearby districts.

With the help of Indian Army, Navy and Air force, National Disaster Response Force and other voluntary organizations in the four rain devastated districts of Chennai, Cuddalore, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram around 3.25 lakh persons have been rescued and evacuated; 300 boats have been mobilised; 4,327 relief centres have been opened; 9.39 lakh persons have been accommodated in the relief centres and 44 lakh food packets have been distributed.

The Chennai International Air Port was submerged under water therefore, the Minister of State for Civil Aviation Shri Mahesh Sharma has arranged seven flights from Naval base Rajali at Arakkonam, about 40 km from Chennai for the evacuation of stranded people. The fare has been reduced and set at ₹ 1000 per ticket for travel in the South and ₹ 2,000 per ticket for those travelling North.

The Government of India stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Tamil Nadu in their hour of need. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has released ₹ 1,000 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund to Tamil Nadu for flood relief after undertaking an aerial survey of the flood affected areas in and around Chennai. This is over and above the ₹ 940 crore that was released on November 23.

He also agreed to deploy 10 additional army columns and 20 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and instructed his officials to ensure that the personnel are deployed immediately. After the survey, Shri Modi met Tamil Nadu chief minister Ms. J Jayalalithaa and Governor Shri K Rosaiah in Chennai and promised all help to Tamil Nadu.

According to Home Ministry sources in this unprecedented calamity a total of 269 people have died since torrential rains first began lashing the coastal city about a month ago and about 60 others have lost their lives in other parts of the country's south". According to media reports around a million people have also been displaced from their homes. ■

Terrorism is the “biggest threat” to the world, and it needs to be “delinked” from religion : PM

From Our Correspondent

Terrorism is the “biggest threat” to the world, and it needs to be “delinked” from religion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Malaysia visit. He pressed for a united global effort to ensure that

people to its cause but kills people of all faiths.

“We have to delink religion from terror,” he said. “The only distinction is between those who believe in humanity and who do not... We also have to work within

cooperation, we can use military force, we can make international legal systems for making cooperation stronger,” he told the audience at his 45-minute speech at the Malaysia International Exhibition and



no country provides sanctuary to terror. Shri Narendra Modi was on his three-day visit (from 21 November to 23 November) to Malaysia to attend the ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits.

Shri Modi said in an address to the Indian diaspora on the second day of his visit that terrorism knows no boundaries. It uses the name of religion to draw

the society, especially the youth.”

The Prime Minister pushed for enhanced intelligence cooperation among nations, so that the “Internet does not become a recruiting ground” for terrorism. “I have said it earlier, I will say it again. The world must come together to combat the biggest challenge of our times... We can strengthen intelligence

Convention Centre at Kuala Lumpur.

“India is not confined to its territory. India exists in every Indian in every part of the world,” he said as he made his by-now trademark address to the Indian diaspora.

As over 15,000 people of Indian origin chanted “Modi, Modi” at the Malaysian International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Kuala

Lumpur, the Prime Minister acknowledged the large proportion of people of Tamil majority among the Indian diaspora in this southeast Asian nation by starting with the greeting, "Vanakkam". "Love and friendship of Malay Indians has always had a special place in my heart," he said.

Earlier, in his remarks to leaders of 18 countries at the East Asia Summit, the Prime Minister said, "We often thought of terrorism as a

societies and with our youth," Modi said.

The East Asia Summit is the key forum to shape the region's future, Shri Modi said, adding that no region had seen greater engagement from his government than the Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean region.

"This reflects a long standing national consensus in India on the importance of this region for India and the world," Shri Modi said. During the upcoming climate

India, the PM said, is the fastest growing major economy in the world today. "I know you feel proud about it. We are running at 7.5 per cent per year, but will grow even faster in the coming years." Every major global institution has "placed its bets on India growing strongly," Modi said. "This is at a time when the rest of the world, including parts of this region, is experiencing a slowdown."

peripheral problem for this region. The barbaric terrorist strikes in Paris, Ankara, Beirut, Mali and on the Russian aircraft is a stark reminder that its shadow stretches across our societies and our world, both in recruitment and choice of targets."

He called for a new global resolve and new strategies to combat terrorism, without balancing it against political considerations. "There is no distinction between groups. There are no sanctuaries. There are no funds. There is no access to arms. But, we also have to work within our

talks in Paris, the PM said, "we must not only come together to craft a balanced and concrete outcome on climate change, but we must also stand together to send a clear message that we will not retreat in the face of terror."

On the tensions in the South China Sea, where China's claims of sovereignty over the waters are contested by several countries including Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan, the PM said, "India hopes that all parties to the disputes in the South China Sea will abide by the Declaration on the Conduct on South China Sea

and the guidelines on the implementation... Parties must also redouble efforts for early adoption of a Code of Conduct on the basis of consensus." He did not name any country.

In his address to the Indian community, Shri Modi said India draws strength from its diversity, and that his government is working to create an environment where enterprise flourishes and everybody's basic needs like shelter, sanitation, water, healthcare and education are met.

"The wheels of change have begun to move" in India, he said. "And, they are gathering speed now. And, it is showing in numbers."

India, the PM said, is the fastest growing major economy in the world today. "I know you feel proud about it. We are running at 7.5 per cent per year, but will grow even faster in the coming years." Every major global institution has "placed its bets on India growing strongly," Modi said. "This is at a time when the rest of the world, including parts of this region, is experiencing a slowdown."

Shri Modi announced a grant of US \$ 1 million to the India-students Trust Fund as financial assistance to Malay-Indian students, and the naming of India's cultural centre in Kuala Lumpur after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He said a bust of Mahatma Gandhi would be installed at the Gandhi Memorial Hall in

Kuala Lumpur, and India would work with Malaysian government to set up a war memorial for Indian soldiers at the site of the Battle of Kampar in Perak in Malaysia.

At a separate ceremony at the Ramakrishna Mission, Modi unveiled a 12-foot bronze statue of Swami Vivekananda, who he said personified the 1,000-year-old Indian culture. It was Swami Vivekananda who first gave the concept of 'One Asia' that ASEAN and the East Asia Summits were talking about, he said.

On the sideline of the summits PM Modi met his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang who insisted that the world's two largest developing countries have more common interests than divergences, as the two leaders discussed bilateral ties and global issues of mutual concern. Shri Modi also met Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Japan Shri Nawaz Sharif, Shinzo Abe respectively. ■

After attending the ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits in Malaysia, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi spent two days in Singapore where the two nations signed a 'India-Singapore Strategic Partnership,' a declaration of deepened ties in areas such as skills development as well as economic and cultural cooperation.

Highlights of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore

- India Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was on his two-day(23-24 November) visit to Singapore .The visit marked 50 years of formal ties between Singapore and India. India was the second nation to recognise Singapore after its independence in 1965.
- A special gift of the front page of Tamil Murasu dated Aug 11, 1965, that carried the news of the recognition was presented to Mr Modi during his visit to Singapore.
- When Shri Modi delivered the Singapore Lecture on Monday (Nov 23), he began by saying how Singapore and former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew have inspired him.
- Shri Modi made his first trip here in 2006 while he was the chief minister of Gujarat. Singapore leaders have also regularly visited him in Gujarat and taken part in the Vibrant Gujarat Summits organised by Mr Modi.
- Shri Modi was also present at the State Funeral Service for the late Mr Lee in March, and he ordered flags in India to be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to Mr Lee.
- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife Ho Ching hosted Shri Modi to a vegetarian meal at popular Indian vegetarian restaurant Komala Vilas.
- Shri Modi and Shri Lee witnessed the signing of nine bilateral documents on November 24. The highlight was the India-Singapore Strategic Partnership, which elevates the ties between the two countries. It will broaden and deepen ties across various sectors including defence relations, economic and cultural cooperation, skills development and capacity building.
- Shri Modi received a rousing welcome from about 18,000 people, mainly Indian expatriates, at the Singapore Expo on November 24 evening. Singapore NRI Forum, which organised the event, said it was inundated with requests for seats.
- Shri Modi also took a moment to take a photo with construction workers at the Indian National Army memorial at Esplanade Park, and posted the snap on Facebook.
- Shri Narendra Modi declined to have a Singapore orchid named after him on this trip due to paucity of time.
- But he launched a commemorative Singapore-India stamp set comprising two stamps that depict the presidential residences of both countries.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given a tour of the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) headquarters in Ang Mo Kio with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. Both Prime Ministers were given a rousing welcome by the students before proceeding to tour ITE College Central's Maritime Training Centre, its Aerospace Hub - where they watched students perform engine inspection and maintenance training on various aircrafts - and its Precision Engineering Hub. At the last stop, both Prime Ministers helped complete two pairs of bookends.

Idea of India is “Satyameva Jayate” & “Sarva Panth Sambhav” : PM Constitution Day observed in Parliament

The winter session of Parliament began on 26 November with a two day special sitting to celebrate ‘Commitment to the India’s Constitution’ to pay tribute to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar as a part of celebration of his 125th birth anniversary. On the occasion the leaders in both houses spoke on contribution of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in drafting such an elegant constitution.

Concluding the debate on ‘Commitment to the Constitution’ in the wake of the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in the Lok Sabha on November 27, 2015 Prime Minister Narendra Modi described “Idea of India” as “Satyameva Jayate” and “Sarva Panth Sambhav.” In his speech he said ‘India first’ is the only religion of his government and Constitution is the only holy book.

He said, “If Constitution simply becomes a document to be followed by the Govt then democracy will suffer, that’s why it needs to reach the roots. Don’t remember any PM saying from the Red Fort that this nation is what it is due to contribution of all Govts & PMs.”

He added, it is important to strengthen rights and it is as important to strengthen duties. Dignity for Indians and unity for India...this is what our Constitution is about.

He said, “In a democracy, consensus is what gives the greatest strength. When Lohia told Nehru that his policies weren’t working, Nehru stood up & said “I cant deny those facts. That was his maturity.”

Dr. Ambedkar’s thoughts & teachings have been valid, true, & applicable to all

generations, of any given time, PM added.

Shri Modi said, it must have been difficult to form a Constitution for a nation as diverse as India.

The spirit of this debate is not “you” or “I”, it is “We”. The PM ruled out any review of the Constitution and reached out to the Opposition, saying the ruling side does not believe in forcing decisions through majority but believes in working through consensus.

The country will be run by the Constitution and it should be run only by the Constitution. India has fundamentally grown on this ideology, said the PM.

It was the height of Dr. Ambedkar’s personality that he bore all humiliation but there was no sense of revenge

in him; no sense of revenge is reflected in the Constitution.

No section of the society should lag behind. If any part of the body is paralysed, the body cannot be called healthy. We have to empower people from all sections, be it any community, region or language.

Shri Narendra Modi said the Constitution of India had ensured “dignity of Indians, and unity of India.”

The Prime Minister said that in a diverse country such as India, we need to actively take the provisions of the Constitution to the people.

The observance of 26th November as Constitution Day reflects the Union government’s thinking in that light, he said, adding that the concept will evolve over time.

The Prime Minister said that no praise is enough for the people who created our Constitution, and added that Dr. Ambedkar’s



contributions can never be denied. Dr. BR Ambedkar's thoughts and teachings have been valid, true, and applicable to all generations, the Prime Minister said. He urged the citizens to pay equal attention to their rights and duties.

Central Government has been drawing inspiration from the vision and philosophy of

Dr. Ambedkar : Rajnath Singh

Observing the constitution day in Lok Sabha as part of celebration of 125th birth anniversary Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said, while highlighting the contribution of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in making the constitution, "After the unification of India by Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, there was a challenge of upholding its integrity and the Constitution of India turned into a sacred scripture that provided a binding force and substance necessary for our integration." He added, "Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the true son of the soil never thought of leaving the country despite the fact that he was neglected, humiliated and tormented from time to time. He said " Dr. Ambedkar made a significant contribution in evolving the concepts of workers' rights and their welfare besides visualizing and outlining policies for their social security, minimum wages to the workers and their provident fund. Besides an inventory of projects like Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission, the Damodar Valley project, Hirakund project, Sone River Valley project and many other water projects were the brain child of Baba Saheb Ambedkar".

"Dr. Ambedkar's suggestions given before the Hilton Young Commission formed the basis of setting up of the Reserve Bank of India. Besides the RBI, he was also the architect of the Finance Commission of India."



He said "Dr. Ambedkar borrowed three defining words-liberty, equality and fraternity- from the French revolution and these words left such an indelible impression on his social and political philosophy that he carved a place for these words in the Constitution of India. Preamble forms the soul of constitution and it should not be amended in any way. Yet 42nd amendment was made to change the spirit of the preamble by incorporating the words 'socialist' and 'secular' therein. Baba Saheb Ambedkar did not insert these two words in the preamble on the premise that these were inherent in the basic nature of the people of India as also in the Indian mindset and thus there was no need to make a mention of these in the preamble. The

first word in the preamble is - sovereign. We can say with full assertion at our command that India can boast of being the most ancient sovereign civilization of the world. The second word used in the preamble is - democracy and there can be no denial of the fact that democracy is deep seated in the very configuration of the Indian society. In today's Indian polity, the most misused and misinterpreted word is surely the word, secular. There should be surely a check on its misinterpretation. The formal connotation and transliteration of the word secular in the India sense is 'Panth Nirpeksha' and not 'Dharma Nirpeksha'. Dr. Saheb was fully aware of this fact and that is why he did not insert the word secular in the preamble to the constitution. It is because of the political misinterpretation of such words which create a great scope of denting the social harmony and communal harmony of this country.

He said "The present central Government has been working in different spheres by drawing inspiration from the vision and philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar. The Government has initiated various social security schemes with a view to provide

maximum benefits to the deprived, dalit, backward and neglected sections of the society. The Government has started Deen Dayal Gramin Kaushal Yojana for the skill development of the most backward people in the rural areas."

He added " Hon. Ambedkar wanted equality for all. It is with a view to achieve this objective that our Prime Minister has been working with his full commitment to Sab ka

Saath sabka Vikas. Lastly, I would like to say that our government is fully committed to the Constitution of India and is fully alive to fulfill its Constitutional morality".

Dr. Ambedkar is not only constitution framer but also a social reformer : Jaitley

Participating in the debate on 'Commitment to India's Constitution' as Part of the 125th Birth anniversary celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said in Rajya Sabha on 26 November 2015, "The contribution of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar not only as constitution framer but also as a social reformer is not less than others in the country. He was the President of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution which completed its proceeding in a very short period.

"Democracy was displaced in many countries, but not in India. The inspiration of my party, Syama Prasad Mookerji was a member of constituent assembly. His contribution was also there.

He added "During emergency, govt convinced Supreme Court that in an emergency, people have lost right to life and liberty under article 21.

He added "The constitution require improvement many a time. The Constitution Assembly had mentioned that the fundamental rights can be suspended in the hour of crisis in the country. The country had

to pay a heavy price for that. The Morarji Government came into power in 1977 ensured that Article 21 will not be suspended at any cost. The separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary was one of the core ideas Dr. Ambedkar gave to us. Independence of Judiciary as part of the basic structure is absolutely essential. If there is a dilution of separation of powers which is taking place, the dilution is not coming from either the Executive or the Legislature; Well you have a power to direct, but power to assume the function of the Legislature or the Executive, I think, is something which goes beyond the concept of what Dr. Ambedkar in the separation of powers envisaged.

It is an element of self-disciplining which is required to maintain this balance because once this delicate balance is upset, the constitutional balance itself will be upset.

"Today if someone says something on TV screen, we condemn as intolerance. At that time, right to life was suspended.

Those who now claim to swear by it supported it. Excessive use of money in elections is matter of concern and a challenge before Election Commission." Shri Jaitley asked, "Would today's Parliament accept if Dr. Ambedkar had suggested uniform civil code and ban on slaughter of cattle? How would members react if Dr. Ambedkar had proposed article 44 and article 48 today?" He said "Article 13 says no law can violate Fundamental Rights. Personal laws across religions still violate Fundamental Rights."

He said 'When we re-affirm our faith in the Constitution and in the great document that Dr. Ambedkar had prepared, we must all be prepared to strengthen each of the institutions that have been created.

And, this Government is committed to the constitution he drafted. ■



Assam will be the first state in eastern India where BJP will form the government : Amit Shah

The Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah addressed a massive party workers' rally in Dibrugarh in Upper Assam on 27 November, 2015.

and RJD in Bihar, Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi floated the idea of 'Maha-understanding' among 'secular forces' to defeat the BJP in the upcoming poll. The Congress for the first time is

The party is hopeful of forming the next government in Assam and knows that for this to happen, Upper Assam holds the key. If the party can sweep Upper Assam, as it did in 2014, chances are it would emerge as a frontrunner for staking claim in Dispur.



Dibrugarh Lok Sabha constituency in Upper Assam, the venue for BJP rally, had been a stronghold of the Congress party till the BJP snatched it in 2014 where party candidate Rameshwar Teli defeated veteran Congressman Paban Singh Ghatowar amidst 'Modi wave'. The party choosing Dibrugarh as the rally venue was probably aimed at further consolidating its base in the Congress' stronghold.

Addressing the rally Shri Amit Shah said, "Assam will be the first state in eastern India where the BJP will form the government". He also charged the ruling Congress party of holding closed door talks with All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), headed by cleric Maulana Badaruddin Ajmal, for a pre-poll understanding.

"Why is the Congress holding closed door talks with AIUDF? If it has courage, let it hold talks in open. Both Congress and AIUDF have secret plans to make Assam an extended part of Bangladesh," said Shri Shah.

Noteworthy, following the victory of 'Mahagathbandhan' of JD(U)

facing a tough challenge from BJP in Assam, particularly in Upper Assam constituencies. The Congress had a dismal performance in 2014, where it could just manage to win three Lok Sabha seats. However, its idea of 'Maha-understanding' is yet to take any shape on the ground in the desired way as political parties like the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and AIUDF haven't reciprocated well to Gogoi's idea.

Poll Pandits believe that the BJP which had displayed spectacular performance in 2014 general election by winning seven of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in the state, is hoping for a repeat of the performance again in 2016.

In preparation for the polls, BJP had few days back made a major change in its state leadership. It brought back Shri Sarbananda Sonwal as state president, replacing incumbent Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharjee. It was under Sonwal's leadership that the party fought the 2014 election in Assam. The move too is seen as a strategic one by the party to garner votes in Upper Assam, as Sonwal has good following in that area.

Earlier, Assam BJP President Shri Sarbanada Sonwal, received Shri Shah

at Guwahati airport and escorted the party president to Dibrugarh. Many central leaders apart from all MPs and MLAs attended the rally. ■

Prem Kumar elected as the new Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly

The Bihar unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on 29 November elected senior party leader and seven-time MLA from Gaya Town Shri Prem Kumar as its legislature party leader. Shri Kumar will be the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly.

In a late evening meeting, BJP legislators unanimously elected Shri Kumar as party leader in Assembly after former Opposition leader Shri Nand Kishore Yadav proposed his name for the post. "I've been holding several posts in the party for several years and now others too should be given opportunity," said Shri Yadav."

Of the total 243 seats, the BJP has won 53 seats in the Assembly elections. Shri Kumar won the poll from Gaya Town seat for the record seventh time.

Shri Prem Kumar, who belongs to the Extreme Backward Caste (EBC), earlier, had been a Minister in the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government and is known for his soft demeanour. ■

BJP debuts in Manipur assembly, wins two seats in bypolls

The BJP opened its account in the Manipur assembly by winning by-elections in two assembly constituencies, polling for which were held on November 21.

Bharatiya Janata Party candidates Shri Thongam Biswajit Singh and Shri Khumukcham Joykishan won the Thongju and Thangmeiband seats respectively, defeating candidates of the ruling Congress.

The by-elections were necessitated after Assembly Speaker Th. Lokeshwar Singh disqualified All India Trinamool Congress legislators - Thongam Biswajit Singh, Khumukcham Joykishan and Lukhoi Singh - under the anti-defection law on May 28.

However, the Manipur High Court stayed the speaker's order on Lukhoi Singh, who represents Wangoi constituency.

In Thangmeiband, Joykishan defeated nearest rival Jyotin Waikhom by 1,907 votes. An 85% voter turnout was recorded in the segment.

The former Trinamool Congress legislator polled 12,104 votes while Waikhom secured 10,197 votes.

In Thongju, which recorded 92% voter turnout, Biswajit defeated nearest rival Bijoy Koijam of the Congress by 3,213 votes.

Biswajit secured 14,606 votes and Koijam 11,393 votes. Seventy-eight voters opted for 'None of The Above'.

"There has been no significant development in the state under Okram Ibobi Singh government. People in both assembly constituencies have rightly rejected the Congress through these by-elections," Manipur BJP president Shri Th. Chaoba Singh told to the media.

Shri Chaoba said BJP workers would now prepare a roadmap for the 2017 assembly elections in Manipur so as to ensure sustainable peace and development in the state bordering Myanmar, which is plagued by prolonged insurgency.

In the 60-member assembly, ruling Congress has 48 members, Trinamool Congress and Naga People's Front four members each, and Lok Janshakti Party and Nationalist Congress Party one member each. The BJP now has two members.

This is the second loss for the ruling Congress in a span of one month after it lost badly in the Garo tribal council elections held last month. ■

Gujarat local body polls

BJP wins in several Muslim-dominated areas

Over 200 Muslim BJP candidates victorious

In the recently completed local body polls in Gujarat, more than 200 BJP candidates from the Muslim community have won elections to municipalities, district panchayats and taluka panchayats. The party had fielded around 450 Muslim candidates in the local body polls.

BJP candidates from the minority community wrested several seats which were earlier represented by Muslims from Congress. BJP has made a big political dent in the Muslim pockets, particularly in rural areas which were earlier considered by Congress as its impregnable political bastions. In 2010, as many as 160 Muslim candidates had won on BJP tickets.

Asif Zakaria, successful BJP candidates from Gondal Nagarpalika in Rajkot district said, "Almost 60-65 per cent of Muslims voted for BJP candidates in Gondal because they benefited a lot in business and other activities in Gondal and nearby areas.

Congress only used Muslims as a vote-bank and gave us nothing in return. Congress promises of sops for Muslims were only on paper and never translated into action," said Zakaria.

A total of 20 Muslim candidates from BJP have won in Gir-Somnath district – eight in Una Nagarpalika, eight in Kodinar taluka panchayat and four in Gir-Somnath taluka. Muslims comprise almost 50 per cent population of Somnath town, the victory of BJP candidates indicated growing acceptance for the party among the minorities. ■

BJP retains Dewas Assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh

In the recently concluded Assembly by poll in Madhya Pradesh the BJP retained the Dewas Assembly seat.

After the death of sitting BJP MLA Shri Tukoji Rao Puar, an erstwhile royal of Dewas, BJP retained Dewas Assembly seat where its candidate and Puar's wife Smt. Gayatri Raje Puar defeated Congress's Jai Prakash Shastri by a margin of 30,778 votes. ■

BJP got thumping majority in six municipal corporations in Gujarat

In the recently concluded Gujarat civic body elections the BJP won in all the six municipal corporations of the state.

Voting for six municipal corporations including



Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar and Vadodara was held on November 26, while that for 31 district panchayats, 230 taluka panchayats and 56 municipalities was held on November 29. Noteworthy, all the municipal corporations were earlier held by BJP.

Ahmedabad Mayor and BJP leader Smt. Meenakshi Ben Patel, who won the seat, said that BJP had fought the elections on the issue of development.

"This is the victory of the people and party workers. We fought the elections on the issue of development and that is what matters to the people," she told the media. According to State Election Commission the ruling BJP has also done well in the 56 municipalities. ■

Largest cash transfer programme in the world PAHAL, selected for Guinness Book of World record

Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan presented the certificate received from Guinness Book of World Records to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 05-December, 2015 in New Delhi. The certificate is in recognition of PAHAL as the largest cash transfer programme in the world.

Government of India launched the 'PAHAL' Scheme in 54 districts of the country on 15.11.2014 and in remaining districts of the country on 1st January, 2015. LPG consumers who join the PAHAL scheme will get the LPG cylinders at market price and receive LPG subsidy (as per their entitlement) directly into their bank accounts.

The "Pahal" scheme has been acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records for being the largest cash transfer program (households) with 12.57 crore households receiving cash transfer as of 30th June, 2015. As on 03rd Dec, 2015, 14.62 crore LPG consumers have joined the PAHAL scheme and are receiving the subsidy directly into their Bank Accounts.

This scheme has enabled substantive savings in subsidy on supply of LPG consumers to the households. As on 1st April, 2015, there were 18.19 crore registered LPG

Consumers and 14.85 crore active consumers implying a gap of 3.34 crore consumers



which are duplicate / fake / inactive accounts blocked under PAHAL Scheme and

related initiatives. If we take into account the quota of 12 cylinders per consumer and the average LPG subsidy of Rs.366 per cylinder for the year 2014-15, estimated savings in LPG subsidy due to the blocking of 3.34 crore accounts work out to Rs.14,672 crore, during that year.

Further, as of today, out of a total of 16.27 crore active consumers, 14.62 crore consumers are availing subsidy - resulting in further subsidy saving for 1.65 crore consumers. ■

India likely to be among Top 5 Manufacturing Nations By 2020

Over the next five years, India is expected to capture the top 5 position as the most competitive manufacturing nation, according to the upcoming 2016 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index report from Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited's (Deloitte Global) Global Consumer and Industrial Products Industry group and the US Council on Competitiveness (Council).

Meanwhile, the United States is expected to capture the top spot as the most competitive manufacturing nation in 2020, pushing current leader China into the second position. The prediction is based on an in-depth analysis of survey responses from more than 500 chief executive officers and senior leaders at manufacturing companies around the world.

According to Deloitte India the 2016 Global Manufacturing Competitiveness Index provides important insights on global innovation trends, and highlights the challenges faced by businesses in maintaining or improving their manufacturing competitiveness. India is, however, well positioned to take advantage of its younger population segment to make it to one of the world's most manufacturing competitive nation by 2020. ■

Union Government launches 'Accessible India Campaign' for differently-abled

Aiming to enable persons with disabilities to gain universal access, equal opportunity for development, independent living and participation in all aspects of life in an inclusive society, NDA government at Center on December 3 launched the "Accessible India Campaign" (*Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan*) which seeks to make at least 50 percent of all government buildings in the national capital and all state capitals "fully accessible" for the disabled by July 2018. Similar deadlines have been set to make airports and railway stations accessible to the disabled.

In his message on the occasion, Prime Minister Shri Modi said that the proposed smart cities should have the provisions for full accessibility for person with disabilities. He added that all central ministries and states should make all efforts to make "*Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan*" successful. Prime Minister said that "we should consider replacing 'Viklang' word with 'Divyang'" so as to bring about a change in the way we think about those with disabilities. The PM added that the slogan of 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' will not reach fruition until all sections of the society, including the differently-abled, are made part of it. As per campaign drafted by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, at least 10 percent of the of government owned public transport carriers in the country will be converted into fully accessible carriers for these persons by March 2018.

It will also be aimed that at least 50 percent of all public documents issued by the Central Government and the State Governments meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities by March 2018.

The government has taken a number of initiatives for the empowerment of persons with disabilities which include scholarships, separate institute for deaf and dumb persons and development of new braille language. The government has also decided to set up a special University for persons with disabilities with the cost of Rs 1,700 crore. It will start functioning with next academic year.

Cancer drugs will be made available with discount up to 90%

The NDA government has launched country's first AMRIT outlet at AIIMS in national capital to sell drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases at 60-90 per cent discount on market rates.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda informed that under the AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) programme, the government aims to provide medicines at an affordable cost.

"We have identified 202 drugs of cancer and cardio-vascular diseases where the price is going to be reduced on an average by 60 to 90 per cent," he said.

"In the same way, 148 cardiac implants will be given from the centre and sold here and their cost will be reduced by 50 to 60 per cent.

This is a pilot project which we have started at AIIMS. After 15 days, we are going to review the programme, and in the coming times, we will try to replicate it in all central government hospitals," he added.

The Government of India-owned HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL) will establish and run AMRIT pharmacy, which will sell both drugs and implants at significant discount on market rates, based on authentic prescriptions from doctors to patients not only from AIIMS but other hospitals also.

The government's move came amid disturbing statistics that peg Indians diagnosed with cancer at 7,00,000 every year.

An official report says 2.8 million people have cancer at any point of time and half a million die of the disease each year.

The annual figure of women being diagnosed with breast cancer in India is 1,45,000, according to the World Health Organization. ■

Indian Net users poised to overtake US

The number of Internet users in India is expected to reach 402 million by December 2015, registering a growth of 49% over last year, according to a report 'Internet in India 2015', jointly published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IMRB International on November 18.

In October 2015, there were 375 million internet users in India. Currently, India has the third largest internet users' base in the world but it is estimated that by December, India will overtake the US as the second largest Internet users' base in the world. China currently leads with more than 600 million internet users. This makes India the second largest internet user's base in the world behind China, but is ranked first as the largest internet users in a free market democratic setup.

According to the report, 71% male and 29% female are Internet users in India. The Internet usage among males has been growing at a rate of 50% while it is growing at 46% for female users. However, in Urban India, the ratio between male to female Internet users is 62:38. Significantly, Internet users among females are growing at a rate of 39% compared to 28% among males.

Among the Rural Internet users, 88% are males. The Internet users among females are growing at 61% and 79% among males. 75% of the rural internet users belong to the age group of 18-30 years. Another 11% are in the age group of <18 years, while 8% belong to 31-45 years age group. While Internet in India took more than a decade to move from 10 million to 100 million and 3 years from 100 to 200 million, it took only a year to move from 300 to 400 million users. ■

Govt received approximately Rs 88 crore as donations in CGF

With surface cleaning of River Ganga's mainstream set to begin next year, Central Government has urged public and NRIs to contribute towards the Clean Ganga Fund. The Government has until now received approximately Rs 88 crore in the form of donations in CGF and will require more money as the cleaning activity gets underway - most probably from January, 2016, according to Union Water Resources Ministry. As per the sources, Out of the total fund received until now, bigger chunk has come from private players (CSR), while donations from general public and NRIs have been less". The Release said the government has the action plan ready now and will share the details of how the works will be carried out will be put on the Ministry's website. The Government will carry out entry-level activities in four parts with surface cleaning being first of it. Three other activities include construction/repairing of ghats along the river stretch, construction/repairing crematoria and recycling sewage water flowing into the river from over 3000 villages on the banks of the river. ■

India becomes fastest growing large economy at 7.4% in third Quarter GDP Growth

India has reported that its economy grew at 7.4% in the third quarter. This makes it the fastest growing large economy on the planet: and more importantly to the Indian government, this means it is growing faster than the economy of China, their stated aim. The boost in growth came largely from manufacturing and services, an area where the country lags. The performance of the farming sector is still holding the country back though: that's an area which will need much more reform if India is to match Chinese performance in the medium term:

India's economy grew by 7.4% in the second quarter, official figures showed outperforming China and slightly ahead of analysts' expectations.

Growth in the three months to the end of September quickened to 7.4% year-on-year from 7% in the previous quarter, according to statistics ministry data.

The figures for the second quarter of the financial year were marginally higher than the median forecast of 7.3% in a survey of economists by Bloomberg News. ■

BJS & Kashmir's Constitutional Position

-Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

The problem of Jammu-Kashmir has been haunting India since independence. Bharatiya Jana Sangha was in the forefront of addressing the problem of Jammu-Kashmir and questioned separatist tendencies fueled by faulty policies and misdirected approach. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya tried to address this question from BJS perspective in an article published in Organiser in 1960. We are publishing his ideas under the title "BJS & Kashmir's Constitutional Position" in two parts for better understanding of BJS position on Jammu-Kashmir. The last part is published below for our esteemed readers:

These anomalies indicate that the Constitution does not represent the national and emotional unity of the people of the State with the rest of India. Unless these provisions are changed the problem of Kashmir will not be understood in its right perspective. If Kashmir is India, the Indian Constitution must apply in its entirety to that State and the people residing there should be afforded all opportunities to participate with their compatriots in the country in making and moulding national policies and their direct association with the parliament representing the sovereignty of the Indian people as a whole. The right to elect representatives to the Lok Sabha is a basic right of an Indian citizen and its denial only indicates a wedge between the mother country and the particular unit.

There are also similar provisions in a number of places where the parliament or the president does not enjoy powers that they do either regard to all other states. The Government of J & K comes in between. The

party in power has developed a vested interest. The President of parliament is powerless. They cannot safeguard the interests of the people and the country, if the State Government disregards them. The president cannot act as he did in the case of Kerala under similar, or even worse, circumstances in J & K. The whole thing has to be changed.

This attitude of the J & K Government is also visible in provisions concerning elections in the State. The jurisdiction of the Election Commission has been extended only in a general way. Articles 325, 326, 327 and 328 are not applicable to that State. Therefore the peoples Representatives Act under which the various elections are held have no force in Jammu and Kashmir State. The Delimitation Commission will not be concerned with that State. The citizens of India outside the State cannot contest any election in the State, even from the legislative assembly constituency to be later nominated by the President to the Lok Sabha. Without

these articles full applying to the State, the purpose of extending the jurisdiction of the Election Commission will not be served. The same old malpractices may continue and the Election Commission may find itself as ineffective and powerless as the president is in other respects.

Bharatiya Jana Sangh has therefore at its Nagpur Session demanded that Article 370 of the Constitution which was of a temporary nature should be repealed. So long as this Article continues, normalcy in Kashmir in the matter of constitutional arrangements vis-a-vis Bharat will not be restored. The so-called special position of the State only grants certain powers to the State Government, to the exclusion of the people. The discriminatory treatment is being explained by anti-national elements to the disadvantage of India. We are losing both ways. It is therefore necessary that citizens of that State enjoy all those rights that we enjoy, and all discrimination is put an end to. ■

[Organiser, Political Diary,
29 February, 1960]

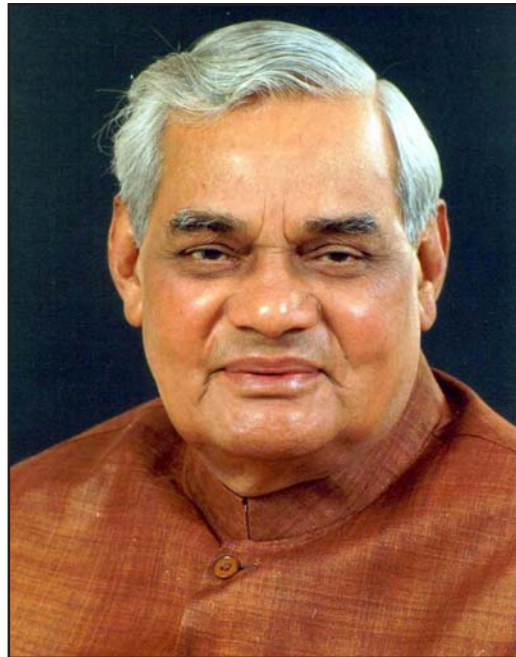
Atalji : A Unique Parliamentarian

By L.K. Advani

If I have to single out one person who has been an integral part of my political life almost from its inception till now, one who has remained my close ally in the party for well over fifty years, and whose leadership I have always unhesitatingly accepted, it would be Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Many political observers have noted that it is not only rare but, indeed, unparalleled in independent India's political history for two political personalities to have worked together in the same organisation for so long and with such a strong spirit of partnership. I regard this long comradeship with Atalji a proud and invaluable treasure of my political life.

Experience has taught me that long-lasting and fulfilling relationships in politics are possible only on the basis of mutual trust, respect and commitment to certain shared lofty goals. Politics driven by power play is, by its very nature, competitive and conflict-ridden. But politics driven by a common ideology and nurtured by common ideals and samskaras is a different matter altogether. When a higher purpose brings a set of people together, they

learn to overlook and sideline small matters and personality-related issues. Many people have asked me, 'How did your partnership with Atalji endure for over fifty years? Did you



never have any differences or problems with him?'

I can well understand the puzzlement in this question. But I can also say, in all honesty that, contrary to what some people have been speculating since decades now, the relationship between Atalji and me was never competitive, much less combative. I do not imply that we never had any difference of opinion. Yes, we have sometimes had divergent views. Our personalities are

different and, naturally, our judgements on individuals, events and issues have differed on many occasions. This is natural in any organisation that values internal democracy. However, what lent depth to our relationship were three factors. We both were strongly moored in the ideology, ideals and ethos of the Jana Sangh and the BJP, which commanded all its members to put Nation first, Party next, and Self last. We never allowed differences to undermine mutual trust and respect. But there was also a third and very important factor: I always implicitly and unquestioningly accepted Atalji to be my senior and my leader.

From the very early stages of our association, I always used to submit whatever Atalji decided with regard to organisational and political matters.

I would put forth my views but once I sensed that Atalji wanted, I would invariably go along with his viewpoint or preference. My responses were so predictable that sometimes my colleagues in the party, or leaders in the RSS, would express their displeasure over what they perceived as my inability or

unwillingness to disagree with Atalji's decisions. This, however, made no difference to my conviction that Atalji's must be the last word in all party-related—and, later, in government-related—matters. Dual or collective leadership is a poor substitute to unity in command. I used to tell my colleagues, 'No family can stay together without a mukhiya (head), whose authority is unquestionably accepted by all its members. After Deendayalji, Atalji is the mukhiya of our family.'

Here I must also add that Atalji had an accommodative approach towards me. If he knew what my thinking was on a certain issue, and if he did not have serious disagreements over it, he would readily say, Jo Advaniji kehte hain, voh theek hai. '(What Advani says is right) Thereafter, the matter under discussion would be immediately clinched.

Throughout the six years of the NDA government, speculation about the non-existent Atal-Advani conflict' was a favourite pastime for few in the media and political circles. Atalji refuted this speculation on numerous occasions, both within Parliament and outside. In an interview given to India Today, he was asked: 'How are your relations with Home Minister L.K. Advani? Is the BJP pulling in different directions?' His reply was forthright: 'I talk to Advaniji

In his nearly six decades of political life, Atalji has influenced his thoughts and ideologies not only on his Vichar-Parivar; but his wit, presence of mind, political foresight and strategy is respected in all political parties as well. His amazing oratory skills have left an impact not only in the Parliament, but on every platform of public life. His thunderous voice continues to reverberate in the Parliament. Atalji never hesitated to voice the opinion of the man standing on the lowest rung of the society.

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each day. We consult each other daily. Yet you people speculate. Like a record stuck in a groove. One more time, let me say there is no problem. When there is, I'll let you know'.

In his nearly six decades of political life, Atalji has influenced his thoughts and ideologies not only on his Vichar-Parivar; but his wit, presence of mind, political foresight and strategy is respected in all political parties as well. His amazing oratory skills have left an impact not only in the Parliament, but on every platform of public life. His thunderous voice continues to reverberate in the Parliament. Atalji never hesitated to voice the opinion of the man standing on the lowest rung of the society. He presented

many bills in the Parliament, for the welfare of this common man. It gives me great pleasure that the original forms of the bills presented by Atalji in the Parliament and the debate on them, after being edited by Appa Ghatate, are being published. With the publication of this edition, viewpoints of Atalji and his contemporary Parliamentarians will be available for generations to come.

Before I embarked upon Jana Chetna Yatra on 11 Oct, 2011, I met Atalji the previous evening and sought his blessings. In comparison to all of my previous Yatras, the thing I missed the most in this yatra was Atalji's active participation due to his bad health. But with his support and blessings, this yatra, aimed at eradicating corruption and bringing back the black money stashed in Swiss Banks and abroad, also received overwhelming response in every part of Bharat.

Atalji, I and my whole party have been against rampant corruption and black money; and other evils in the society. The bills presented by Atalji show his determination and willpower to go all out to support the cause of a common man.

My heartfelt good wishes to Atalji for a long and healthy life. ■

*(From the Foreword of the book 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee: A Constructive Parliamentarian')*

# Innovation is vital for combating climate change & ensuring climate justice : PM

From Our Correspondent

On November 30 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressing the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainable Innovation Forum 2015 at the Climate Change

Summit in Paris, said that Innovation is vital for combating climate change & ensuring climate justice. The Paris summit marked the 21<sup>st</sup> round of climate change negotiations.

age powered by fossil fuel. Access to energy and a better life is a universal aspiration. And, so are clean environment and healthy habitats."

He added ,We can make conventional energy cleaner.

And, we can develop newer sources of renewable energy.

"Our innovation initiative should be driven by public purpose, not just market incentives, including on intellectual property. That also means strong public commitment by suppliers to developing



countries. That will make clean energy technology available, accessible and affordable for all."

He suggested to build an international network of 30-40 universities and labs focusing for next ten years on renewable energy.

He added, Innovation must be backed by means to make it affordable and ensure adoption.

"We have a very successful models of public-private partnership with many

"A vast section of humanity lives at the edge of poverty and in darkness after the sun sets. They need energy to light up their homes and power their future." He added, "They are also the most vulnerable to the consequences of an industrial

He said , "As the world's majority works its way to prosperity on a planet left with very limited carbon space , we have to do many things."

"The advanced countries must leave enough room for developing countries to grow. And, we must strive for a lighter carbon footprint on our growth path."

He said "Innovation is vital for combating climate change and ensuring climate justice. We need research and

countries present here. India is also building renewable capacity in developing countries, including small island states. The progress on clean energy technology and costs is impressive. If we raise the level of our efforts, we can transform the world."

We will also lay the foundation of a new economy in new low carbon age, he added. He said "We will restore the balance between ecology and economy, and between our inheritance and obligation to the future. And, live up to Gandhiji's call to care for the world we shall not see."

### India reiterates CBDR principle in Climate Change Summit

In the COP21 (Conference of Parties) in Paris India Union Environment Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar has reiterated the stand to ensure that the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) is respected and that rich countries pay back their debt for overdraft on carbon space. Shri Javadekar said that for India, the question is of the present and future of 1.27 billion people and their aspirations to develop.

Dismissing Western media's criticism over its coal consumption to meet energy needs, India said that such reports will not deter the country from its stand at the crucial climate change conference. "Certain criticism

## PM Modi launches 'Global Solar Alliance of 120 Countries' at Paris Climate Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with the French President, François Hollande, launched an international solar alliance of over 120 countries at the Paris COP21 climate summit. The idea was firstly mooted by Shri Narendra Modi.

Shri Narendra Modi told a press conference that as fossil fuels put the planet in peril, hopes for future prosperity in the developing world now rest on bold initiatives.

"Solar technology is evolving, costs are coming down and grid connectivity is improving," he said. "The dream of universal access to clean energy is becoming more real. This will be the foundation of the new economy of the new century."

Shri Modi described the solar alliance as "the sunrise of new hope, not just for clean energy but for villages and homes still in darkness, for mornings and evening filled with a clear view of the glory of the sun".

A news website named Alternate reported, Earlier, France's climate change ambassador, Laurence Tubiana, had called the group "a true game-changer".

While signatory nations mostly hail from the tropics, several European countries are also on board with the initiative, including France. Hollande described the project as climate justice in action, mobilising public finance from richer states to help deliver universal energy access.

"What we are putting in place is an avant garde of countries that believe in renewable energies," he told a press conference in Paris. "What we are showing here is an illustration of the future Paris accord, as this initiative gives meaning to sharing technology and mobilising financial resources in an example of what we wish to do in the course of the climate conference."

The Indian government is investing an initial \$30m (£20m) in setting up the alliance's headquarters in India. The eventual goal is to raise \$400m from membership fees, and international agencies.

Companies involved in the project include Areva, Engie, Enel, HSBC France and Tata Steel.

"It is very, very exciting to see India nailing its colours to the mast and providing leadership on this issue," said James Watson, the director of SolarPower Europe, which represents the continents' solar photovoltaic industry. "It will mean more opportunities for solar across the world and that can only be positive for combating climate change."

India has repeatedly said that it wants to use cheap solar to connect citizens who are currently without access to the electricity grid in remote and rural areas.

The website reported, Modi's announcement on November 30 comes hot on the heels of a pledge by the US and 18 other countries to provide \$20bn for clean energy research by 2020, a doubling of current funding commitments. ■

without attributing any motive to them, I take it as compliment. It does not deter me from my positions," Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

His comments came after India was targeted by the Western media for its expansion plans for usage of coal to meet its energy needs.

India has said it was ready to reduce its reliance on coal if the developed nations provide it with finance and technology to switch to clean energy sources.

India in its climate action plan has announced its ambitious plans to have 40 per cent of its electricity from renewables by 2030.

"When we are increasing our renewable by seven fold, definitely our coal consumption comes down. In absolute terms, US and many other countries, are much more than us," the minister said.

"If we are third largest emitter, we might be third in sequence but the smallest. India is burning 1/7th of coal that the first two (emitters) are doing," Shri Javadekar said on the first day of ministerial-level talks at the summit. ■

## Modi inaugurates India's pavilion to showcase India commitment to climate change

On the first day of historic climate summit in Paris, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with his ministerial colleagues Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated India's pavilion.

India's pavilion at the U.N. Climate Change Conference, equipped with a waterfall with spelling patterns, an iPad village, and an



interactive display of its challenges to counter global warming, has created quite a buzz.

Many paused to click photographs of the India pavilion, which is a 360 degree projection around a tree. Its design has shied away from garlands and folks songs, and ventured into modern, chic and trendy.

India's pavilion showcased the past on how India has lived in harmony with nature, but not be frozen in the past and also showcased what India is today.

"There was not a single piece of printed information there. Everything was digital. to make it more interactive.

Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar said that India pavilion showed the country's diversity and give a correct impression of India to the world.

"We have just inaugurated wonderful India pavilion (India@COP21).

It showcases our commitment as far as climate change is concerned. It shows our efforts regarding everything and our innovative attitude," Shri Javadekar said. ■

## Relying on Ambedkar to create a prosperous and inclusive India : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that union government was doing everything to fulfill Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's dreams of "creating a prosperous and inclusive India". "Our government is leaving no stone unturned to fulfill the vision and dreams of Dr.



Ambedkar to create a prosperous and inclusive India," he said while paying

tributes to Dr. Ambedkar on his 60th death anniversary on 06 December, 2015 in New Delhi.

He also released two commemorative coins on the occasion which are of 10-rupee and 125-rupee denomination.

Shri Narendra Modi said, "I am honoured to release

commemorative coins on Ambedkar. It is because of great men like Babasaheb that India scaled heights of progress".

He said, "Ambedkar will always be remembered

as an original and profound thinker. His views on inclusiveness and harmony

continue to inspire us. "We are aware of Ambedkar's contributions towards social justice but Babasaheb's thoughts on economic issues are equally enlightening."

He also said that Ambedkar's vision on women empowerment, federalism and economy had their relevance today.

The PM said, "The more we recall Ambedkar's thought in the context of issues currently faced by India, the more we come to respect his vision and his approach to inclusiveness."

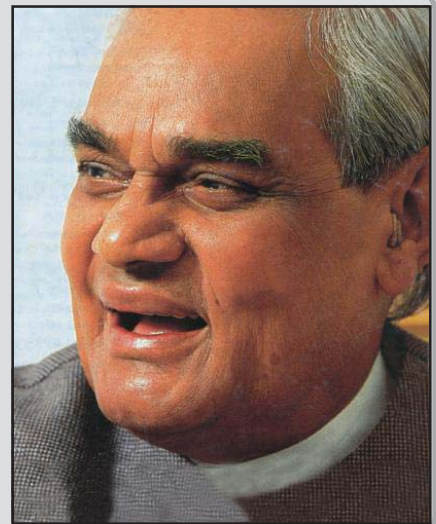
Shri Narendra Modi said Ambedkar and the constitution of India should always be discussed and talked about.

Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley was present on the occasion. ■

**"Jeevem Shardah Shatam"**

**Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Birthday :  
December 25**

*All the BJP leaders and Karyakartas led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, National President Shri Amit Shah, Senior BJP leaders Shri L.K Advani and Dr. M M Joshi, Union Ministers including Shri Rajnath Singh, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri Arun Jaitley, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Shri Nitin Gadkari, National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal and Kamal Sandesh Pariwar join the nation in wishing their Margdarshak and former Prime Minister Adarniya Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee a very happy birthday and pray for his health and long life to continue to guide the Party and the nation for long.*



# Ambedkar shaped the constitution in a way that it united the society : Amit Shah

**P**aying rich tributes to Dr. BR Ambedkar, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 06 December, 2015 said Dr. BR Ambedkar along with Sardar Patel was responsible for tackling the two biggest challenges facing India after independence and stated that the respect with which people look at the Constitution would be “impossible” had Ambedkar not been its drafting committee head.

Heaping praise on him at his 60th death anniversary, Shri Shah said Dr. Ambedkar shaped the Constitution in a way that it united the society and gave a sense of justice and equality to all religions and communities.

Speaking at a function organized at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, he said it was due to initiatives of the BJP government at the Centre that so many events related to the Dalit icon were happening and reminded about the two-day discussion in Parliament on the Constitution and other measures taken by the Narendra Modi dispensation to make his memory eternal.

Shri Amit Shah said the

government’s efforts have helped remind the new generation of Ambedkar’s works and mentioned that all the places linked to the Dalit icon including the house in London where he had stayed have been made a memorial.

It has also sent a message



to the deprived and backward sections that the man who made Constitution hailed from their community and rose through struggle and education, he said.

“Among the challenges faced by the country following independence, political pundits believe that two things stood out... How to unify the country divided into many small parts was one challenge and the second was how to make a new Constitution that unites all parts of society to make a

united India in which all of them had respect.

Shri Shah said, “Due to Sardar Patel and his indefatigable efforts, this country became one... And the second important work would have never finished had Baba Saheb Ambedkar been not there. It was a huge challenge to make a Constitution that gave hope to all communities and the feeling that they were parts of this country”.

The BJP National President said it was a very important decision to make him the chairman of the drafting committee, adding that he shaped the Constitution in a way that gave every community a sense of respect for it and that they all could progress together with equality.

He said, “I believe if Ambedkar was not made its (drafting committee) chairman, then the respect with which people attached to the Constitution would be impossible”.

BJP National President Shri Shah further said now it is the duty of BJP Karyakartas to work with harmony in the society and to help all sections of people to lift themselves from their present position. ■



# Legacy of JP

— P. Parameswaran

*Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Narayan is considered a towering figure in Indian political history who has inspired generations through his political commitment and steely resolve in bringing an end to the emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi on the country. He is remembered as a fearless freedom fighter, torch bearer of socialism and a Gandhian to the core. We are reproducing the IVth part of the article attempting to understand his political journey and his legacy from renowned journal Manthan published in December 1979 for our esteemed readers:*

**P**olitical decentralisation to be really effective presupposes economic decentralisation as well. Gandhiji had visualised village self-government where each village is a complete republic, independent of its neighbours for its vital wants. JP's conception was of a village economy with an agro-industrial base, which considers development of villages as agro-industrial committees in which there is a rational distribution of labour between agriculture and industry. This naturally led him to the complicated question of science and technology. JP believed that the immense potentialities of science and technology should be brought to bear upon the economic development of the vast numbers of villages in India. Technology to him was a means and not an end. It should be made to subserve "a definite human and social purpose and not become a new goal on whose altar man should be sacrificed. Technology should be such that it provides productive employment to the humblest member of society, and bars the concentration of economic structure and concentration of economic

**It has been seen that JP's quest for method of social transformation led him from communism to socialism and thence to Gandhism to Sarvoclaya. It was his intense desire to transform this vast Indian community which was stagnant from centuries on end into a modern society based on democracy and social and economic justice.**

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power. Technology should be such that work becomes a source of creative joy and development of human personality. Any technology which turns man into a cog does not place man at the centre nor consider him as an end. We believe that decentralisation, far from retarding technology, should give it great impetus. Nuclear energy, for instance, representing the highest development of science, is ideally suited to a decentralised technology."

It is needless to add that JP was an ardent advocate of rural industrialisation. He realized that "in India no amount of urban industrialisation is going to benefit appreciably the economic conditions in the countryside."

He also cautioned that rural industrialisation should not be confused with setting up a few large industries in rural areas. "It must mean", he clarified, "an even spread of industries throughout the countryside all over the country. Nor should it be limited to mean what at present are termed as 'rural industries' or to only agricultural industries. There can be and should be infinite variety of industries established in rural areas.""

Key to Change — the People

It has been seen that JP's quest for method of social transformation led him from communism to socialism and thence to Gandhism to Sarvoclaya. It was his intense desire to transform this vast Indian community which was stagnant from centuries on end into a modern society based on democracy and social and economic justice. Once he defined the picture of the society he had in mind, he said: "It is a democratic society where everyone is a worker and all men are equal including women; where there are equal opportunities for all. and wages do not differ so much as to create

distinctions of class; where all wealth is owned by the community; where progress is planned, where labour is joyful and life is richer, fuller and beautiful.”

While his goal remained more or less the same, the problem that haunted JP was how to bring about such an order of society. It was his quest that distinguished him from many other contemporary leaders. JP differed from most of them, because they seemed to believe that power was the answer to this question. But JP rejected the view held by such people that they must capture the state in order to be able to serve society and bring about the social transformation they desire. He also did not endorse the view that political parties could be depended upon to play a useful role in this regard, because they are busy either with the exercise or enjoyment of power or with the winning of power. They make the people more inert and dependent. On the other hand, JP believed that what really needs be done was to help the people to stand on their own legs and to do for themselves all that they possibly can with the available resources.

JP was not satisfied by the mass-mobilisation programme indulged in by various political parties for agitational and demonstrational purposes, because he felt that these again made people look up towards the government for improving their lot, what he wanted was to educate the people to give up their prejudices and to work cooperatively together. This could be done, according to him,

only by voluntary workers going to the people where they are, live with them and patiently teach and help them to do what needs to be done. He very deeply felt that this task of national reconstruction can brook no delay. He says:- “For this a vast army of voluntary workers is needed. Gandhiji wanted such a worker for every village – 600,000 Ink sevaks. Is it not possible,” JP feelingfully asks, “to get six lakh patriotic voluntary workers in a population of 40 crores? Are there not enough patriotic men and women in the country to recognise the need of the hour and come forward to offer their services to the country.”

JP was acutely conscious of the need for such village workers – the activists – who are driven by idealism and a sense of mission, without whom no plans however grandiose are going to succeed. Paid employees of the state or of any other organisation cannot normally have these qualities of idealism and the sense of mission.

Education and mobilisation of the people particularly in the rural areas were essential not only for the arduous task of rural reconstruction and implementation of the various plans. Even the successful day-to-day management of the democratic process in the country called for a vigilant people’s movement. Nobody was more conscious of the drawbacks of the parliamentary system as it functioned in India than JP but he realized that people were beginning to lose faith even in

that. He feared that the result of such a loss of faith will be the emergence of dictatorship. To prevent this calamity, he wanted a vigilant people’s movement to get the right sort of representatives elected, to bring the erring ones to book and to see that the democratic processes run from election to election. For this he wanted some sort of an institutionalised arrangement of the honest men, with substantial representation for the youths and the students. He could not spell out the exact shape of such an arrangement, though he has mentioned polling booths and constituency committees of people to supervise the electoral process. What emerges unmistakably from all these utterances of JP is his firm conviction that neither the power of the state nor the various political parties can be trusted to bring about any basic changes in the community, only the organised strength of dedicated people, fired by idealism and a sense of mission could achieve this much needed transformation.

The last phase of JP’s active public life was devoted to the movement for Total Revolution. The sure and steady erosion of the democratic system, the sudden and appalling collapse of all moral and ethical values, the deterioration in the law and order situation, the mounting discontent of the people with the prevailing political and economic conditions – all these led JP to the conclusion that the time had already come for an all out attempt to try to save the country. Hence he gave the call for Total Revolution.

To Continue...

Active citizens are the biggest asset for development : PM

Before his departure for Paris to attend the global climate summit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the nation on his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' on November 29, 2015. Addressing the nation he said, "Neither is our country is like this nor our people indifferent. Sometimes I feel the Nation is way ahead and the government is lacking behind. And from my personal experience I will say that the governments too needs to change their mindsets. And I say that because I can see tremendous sense of commitment in the Indian youth. They are very eager to do their bit and are just seeking an opportunity where they can do their bit. And they are making efforts at their own end."

Expressing satisfaction over cleanliness drive he said, "cleanliness can now be witnessed in two parts. One is those huge garbage piles which keep lying in the city; well the people in the government will work to remove those. It is a big challenge but you cannot run away from your responsibilities. All state governments and all municipalities will now have to take concrete actions due to the rising public pressure.



Media is playing a very positive role in this. But there is the second aspect which gives me immense pleasure, happiness and a sense of satisfaction that the general public has started feeling that leave what happened in the past, now they will not dirty their surroundings.

We will not add to the existing dirt. A gentleman Mr Bharat Gupta has sent me a mail on mygov.in from Satna, Madhya Pradesh. He has related his personal experience during his tour of the railways. He said that people eat on trains and usually litter around. He continues to say that he has been touring from the past many years but it is this time around no one was littering, rather they were looking for dustbins to throw their trash".

While mentioning HRD's

ministry special attention to specially abled children he said " I receive different kinds of letters. Last time I had mentioned about our specially abled children. Whom God has given some kind of deficiencies; I had expressed my feelings regarding those people. I see that people who work in this field are sending me their success stories. But I came to know about two things from my people in the government. The people from the HRD ministry after hearing my talk, felt the need to do something. And the officers came together to work out an action plan. This is an example of how changes are coming about in governance. One they have decided that those specially abled who want to pursue technical education, a thousand of them who are good will be selected for Special Scholarships, and a plan has been made. I congratulate the officials who could think in those lines. Another important decision is that all the Kendriya Vidyalaya's and all Central Universities will have a special infrastructure for the specially abled, for example if they can't climb stairs then there will be provision for ramps to facilitate movement by wheel chair. They need

different kinds of toilets. The HRD ministry has decided to allocate an additional Lakh rupees to the Kendriya Vidyalays and Central universities. This fund will be used by these institutions to create infrastructure for the specially abled. This is an auspicious beginning..... these things will lead us to change."

He added, I had the chance to visit Siachin a few days back. I spent Diwali with the Jawans who are ready to lay down their lives for the nation. When the nation was celebrating Diwali I was at Siachin. It is because of them that we were able to celebrate Diwali, so I wanted to be with them.

I experienced the difficulties in which they spent their time there. I salute all my Jawans. But I want to share another matter of great pride with you. Our Jawans work in the field of security. In calamities, they risk their lives to save our life. They also fetch medals for us in sporting events. You will be glad to know that these Jawans have won a gold medal in a very prestigious event in Britain called Cambrian Patrol, defeating contestants from 140 nations. I offer these Jawans my heartiest congratulations.

Raising the issue of Black money Shri Modi said "I would like to tell you something more and that too from my heart. I truly believe that people of my country

trust my words and my intentions. But, today one more time, I want to reiterate my commitment. As far as black money is concerned, my people, please trust your Prime Servant, for me this is the Article of Faith. This is my commitment that the hard-earned money of the poor people stashed abroad, every penny of that should be brought back. The ways and means to be followed can be different.

And this is very obvious in a democratic country, but on the basis of as much I understand and as much I know, I assure you that we are on the right track. Today, nobody, neither me, nor the government, nor you, nor even the previous government knew how much money is stashed abroad. Everyone gives estimate calculated in his/her own way.

I don't want to get lost in some such figures and estimates, its my commitment that, be it 2 rupees, or 5 rupees, or millions or even billions, this is the hard-earned money of the poor people of my country and it has to come back. And I assure you that I will keep trying till the end. No efforts will be spared. I want your blessings to be always with me. I assure you that I will do whatever and whenever something is required to be done for you. I give my commitment to you."

He said, Some people told

me " Modi ji you asked us to send you suggestions on Facebook, twitter or email. But a large section of the social class does not have access to these facilities, so what can they do. Your point is very valid. Everyone does not have this facility. Well then, if you have something to say related to Mann Ki Baat, that you hear on the radio even in the villages then do write into me.

Even if you send some suggestions through letters they will definitely reach me. And I will take them seriously as active citizens are the biggest asset for development. You write one letter, it indicates that you are very active. When you give your opinion, it means that you are concerned with national issues and this is strength of the nation. I welcome you.

For my Mann Ki Baat, your mann ki baat sould also reach me. Maybe you will definitely write a letter. I will try and interact with you again next month. I will try, that whenever I talk, it is Sunday, around 11 am. So I am getting closer to you.

Concluding his address to the nation he said "The weather is changing. Winters are slowly setting in. This is a good month for health. Some find it a good season for eating. Some find it good for wearing nice clothes. Besides food and clothes it is a good season for health. Don't let it go waste. Make the most of it." ■