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Courtesy : The Hindu



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But one who remains ecstatic within the self; self illuminated and fully satisfied within the self only; activities do not exist for him

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 17)

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“Congratulations to Shri Amit Shah on being elected BJP president. I am confident the Party will scale newer heights under his leadership. Amit Bhai combines grassroot-level work & rich organisational experience which will benefit the Party immensely.”

-Narendra Modi

“I am thankful to the crores of the BJP’s Karykertas ,Parliamentary Board and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for reposing faith in me while unanimously re-elected as BJP National President.”

-Amit Shah

Vasant Panchami : 12th February, 2016

Vasant Panchami day is dedicated to Goddesses Saraswati. Vasant Panchami, also known as Saraswati Puja, Shree Panchami is a major Hindu festival celebrated on the fifth day of the bright half of the Indian month of Magha marking the start of spring season. On this day Hindus worship Devi Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music, art and culture.

For Sikhs, in the Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar, on the day of Vasant Panchmi, musicians start the music by singing Basant Raga. This practice continues up until the first day of Vaisakh. Vasant Panchami is the first spring themed festivals in Hindu culture. It initiates the spring festive cycle and heralds its summation that occurs with Holi. The seasonal aspects of the festival are more significant in Northern India due to the sharper contrast between the winter and the spring, however the festival’s religious and cultural significance are emphasized across all regions of the country.

In ancient Indian literature, Vasant Panchami is associated with Shringar Ras and the festival was celebrated in this tradition. Celebrations today still honor Kamadeva, his wife Rati and his friend Vasant (the personification of spring).

In modern times, however, Vasant Panchami is more commonly associated with Maa Saraswati, the goddess of learning, wisdom, knowledge, fine arts, refinement, science and technology. People worship Goddess Saraswati to attain enlightenment through knowledge and to rid themselves of lethargy, sluggishness and ignorance.

It is celebrated as Saraswati Puja primarily over eastern parts of India like Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar & Assam, Chhattisgarh, as Sri Panchami in Bengal and as the Festival of Kites in Punjab and Haryana. ■





Amit Shah's re-election reinforces organisational momentum

Shri Amit Shah has been re-elected unanimously as BJP national president. As the people were watching as to how the world's largest political party was electing its president, it was the unanimity and unity of the party which left an indelible imprint in the history of Indian politics. Many were amazed to see that a political party can create a culture of internal democracy where decisions are taken with wonderful unity and unanimity. While India has been witness to discord and disunity in different political parties which keeps on splitting from time to time and getting reduced to family dispensation, Bharatiya Janata Party has set a unique model of politics based on ideology and commitment. While other political parties remain riven with dissensions and internal turmoil, BJP presents a model of lively internal democracy where harmony and unity of purpose remain the driving force for the party.

The internal democracy of BJP is based on internal elections which take place right from ground level to the top. It's a huge exercise and witnesses large scale participation of the committed activists of the party. It has gained a gigantic proportion with its expansion in almost every area of the country and more particularly after the highly successful membership drive which saw the party emerging the largest political party of the world with more than 11 crore members. Such a huge exercise taking place so smoothly proves the fact that BJP is a party with difference. It is a party of dedicated soldiers of Maa Bharati who have committed themselves in ensuring a glorious future of India. It is only selfless commitment of the dedicated karyakartas of the party that there is no fight for posts and power. It is not power but struggle for glory of Maa Bharati that BJP activists have in their heart. Every time when organizational elections take place this point is reinforced indicating the single minded devotion of BJP karyakartas.

In the last 18 months Shri Amit Shah as national president of the party has given a new directions and momentum to the organization. Apart from huge electoral successes in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir, BJP has gained its organizational momentum through massive membership drive and Mahasampark Abhiyan. These programmes are being followed by Prashikshan Mahabhayan (Training Programme) for the party activists. These programmes have energized the activists at the ground level and reinforced the ideological commitment of the party. The party will be able to play a positive role and fulfill its commitments only when its activists at the ground level find a synergy with the top level of the organization. It requires machinery which is well versed in ensuring the functioning of organizational mechanism and gets periodic training focused on new and emerging facets of politics. While envisioning a well structured organization ready to meet new challenges Shri Amit Shah has ensured the success of organizational programmes through his continuous tours and meetings with party office-bearers and activists. His untiring efforts have started showing results as BJP is now the largest political

party in the world with a huge training programme for its activists and leaders.

Today BJP has not only formed government at the centre but it has got opportunities to serve people in many states in the country. It is time for the party to accept the challenges of governance too and with this point in view the party needs to create new set-ups to meet the expectations of the people. Shri Amit Shah has already created departments and prakalps while expanding it to the newer areas to make it a party of good governance also. BJP today needs to aim towards multidimensional progress with a futuristic vision. It also requires bold decisions and foresightedness if BJP has to become a party of the future and harbinger of a strong, developed and prosperous India.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is working with that vision as Indians across the world look at him with hope and confidence. Shri Amit Shah as BJP National President is committed to build the organization on the lines of expectations and trust reposed on the party by the people of India. His unanimous re-election will help the organization to reinforce the momentum and new enthusiasm in the party. ■

NDA government declassifies first set of 100 files pertaining to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



The Union Government has declassified the first set of 100 files pertaining to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on January 23 visited the National Archives for the launch of the digitized files. He also met family members of Netaji, including Prof. Chitra Ghosh, Shri Chandra Bose, and Shri Surya Kumar Bose.

The Prime Minister of India, in his meeting with the members of Netaji's family at his residence in New Delhi on 14 October 2015, had announced that the Government of India would declassify the files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a phased manner, and make them accessible to the public.

Accordingly, the first lot of 33 files were declassified by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and handed over to the National Archives of India on 4th December 2015.

Subsequently, the Ministries of Home Affairs, and External Affairs too initiated the process of declassification of files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in their respective collection which were then transferred to the National Archives of India.

As a first step, the National Archives of India is placing 100 files relating to Netaji in public domain after preliminary conservation treatment and digitization. The remaining files too shall be placed in public domain after their conservation treatment and digitisation.

The digitized files are being put on a website, specially designed by NIC -www.netajipapers.gov.in ■

Amit Shah unanimously re-elected BJP National President

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah was re-elected unanimously to the post on January 24. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Nitin Gadkari besides BJP Chief Ministers among others proposed Shri Shah's name during the nomination process in which no other leader joined the fray.

Seventeen sets of nomination papers were filed with the party's returning officer, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, including on behalf of the Parliamentary Board, the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States and State units. With the announcement of the name of Shri Amit Shah for the party president, Karykarts gathered at 11 Ashoka road started celebration by bursting crackers & beating drums.

In his tweet, Shri Modi congratulated Shah on his re-election and voiced confidence that the party will scale newer heights under his

leadership.

"Congratulations to Shri @AmitShah on being elected BJP president. I am confident the Party will scale newer heights under his leadership," Shri Modi tweeted.

"Amit Bhai combines

been an extremely successful party president. I am confident that the BJP will continue its forward march under Shri Amit Shah's stewardship and reach to newer heights of success and glory."



Congratulating the new party's president Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Parliamentary Affairs Shri M. Venkaiah said "Amit Shah is the most capable person and a good strategist. He has a commitment to our ideology. In coming years, the party will reach out to those areas

grassroot-level work & rich organisational experience which will benefit the Party immensely," Modi said in another post.

Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh congratulating the newly elected President said, "Heartiest congratulations to Shri Amit Shah on his re-election as BJP National President. He has

where BJP did not have presence.

A combination of PM Modi and party chief Amit Shah will do wonders for the country."

After his re-election Shri Amit Shah met senior leaders Shri L.K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi at their residence and sought the leaders' blessing. ■

Achievements of Shri Amit Shah as BJP National President

A saga of relentless efforts & dynamic leadership



Shri Amit Shah took over as National President of Bharatiya Janata Party in August 2014. In this short tenure of less than 18 months, Shri Shah has not only strengthened the party but also worked tirelessly to make BJP the world's largest political party in terms of active membership. It is the outcome of Shri Shah's dynamic leadership, relentless efforts and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity that BJP's membership rose from mere 3 crore to more than 11 crore members.

Besides strengthening the party and taking it to every nook and corner of the country, Shri Shah gave a new identity to the BJP on nation's

After Shri Shah took over as President, the BJP has fought assembly elections in six states and successfully formed government in four of them. It must be pointed out that the BJP did not have a government in any of these six states.

political platform. Under Shri Shah's guidance and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision, the hitherto Hindi heartland party has expanded its footprint and today holds sway practically across the nation.

After Shri Shah took over as President, the BJP has

fought assembly elections in six states and successfully formed government in four of them. It must be pointed out that the BJP did not have a government in any of these six states.

The party separated from Shiv Sena for the first time in Maharashtra, fought assembly elections on its own and succeeded in forming the government with a BJP CM. Similarly, the BJP formed a majority government in Jharkhand and brought an end to 10 years of political instability that had hurt development of the state. The party, which had failed to cross double digits in Haryana, won majority on its own and formed its first government in the state. The

BJP registered its best electoral performance in Jammu & Kashmir and forged a post poll alliance with PDP to form the government. The BJP also got the post of deputy CM in the state. The party may not have won in Delhi and Bihar but it retained its vote share in the capital city and significantly increased the same in Bihar.

It is a combination of Shri Shah's hard work and critical steps taken under directions from Prime Minister Narendra Modi that BJP has registered sizeable gains and covered considerable ground in this period. These achievements are a result of sharp focus, loads of energy and unending commitment. In the last 18 months, Shri Shah has travelled an average of more than 495 km every single day and covered 2,65,600 km across the length and breadth of the country.

As part of his efforts to strengthen the party's core structure, Shri Shah has constantly given top most priority to meetings, interactions and discussions with party workers, leaders and supporters.

To ensure discipline and simplicity among the party's rank and file, Shri Shah has led by example and has avoided, to the extent possible, use of private air craft for his travel. He also encouraged central party leadership, travelling to other towns and cities, to stay overnight and establish direct

contact and rapport with workers and supporters.

As part of his outreach programme, Shri Shah has toured various states 142 times and addressed 176 rallies. After taking charge in August 2014, Shri Shah immediately got down to the task of establishing contact with party leaders and workers. The first and third

In order to establish seamless connect between party and government, Shri Shah remained in constant touch with ministers and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at regular intervals and made relentless efforts to connect government's programmes and policies with hopes and aspirations of the general public.

Mondays of the month were designated for his Jan-Samwad where both workers and leaders could meet him without prior appointment.

He also started direct contact with party leaders at district level to listen to their issues, boost their morale and solve their problems. In the last 18 months, Shri Shah participated in over 16 such public interactions where he

met more than 6,000 people.

These meetings were also held when he visited various states in the country and special attention has been given to the North East states. While visiting various states, two hours were set aside for meeting those workers, who could not meet the Party President in Delhi. Under Shri Shah's tenure, training camps were held for workers the first time on a grand scale at national, state, district and block levels.

These camps have played an important role in expanding and strengthening the party. Earlier, only 3,500 workers on an average participated in such training camps annually. Thanks to Shri Shah's perseverance, more than 7,25,000 workers joined these camps in 2015.

In order to establish seamless connect between party and government, Shri Shah remained in constant touch with ministers and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at regular intervals and made relentless efforts to connect government's programmes and policies with hopes and aspirations of the general public.

As part of the programme to expand party's outreach, Shri Shah constituted 19 departments and launched 10 projects. A detailed schedule for these departments was drawn so that these departments drive party's ideology and goals. ■

New Crop Insurance Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana – A boost to the farming sector

Government's gift to the farmers on the occasion of festivals of Lohri, Pongal and Bihu, says PM

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 13 approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' - a path breaking scheme for farmers' welfare.

The highlights of this scheme are as under:

- ◆ There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%. The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.
- ◆ There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- ◆ Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers. This capping was done to limit Government outgo on the premium subsidy. This capping has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- ◆ The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones will be used to

capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers. Remote sensing will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments.

The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme. It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time, all previous shortcomings/weaknesses have been removed.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted an open letter written by him to the farmers of the country on the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, saying that the government has taken several steps to help farmers, one among which is the 'Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.

"The news of the Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana must have already reached you. Farmers in our country have often felt at risk-at times from crop losses due to natural disasters, at times by falling market prices. Over the last eighteen months,

we have taken several steps to help those of you who faced such difficulties," he wrote.

"There have been insurance schemes for farmers in the past as well. However, they were unsuccessful because of various reasons-ranging from high premium rates to low claim value and non-coverage of localized crop loss. As a result, not more than 20% of farmers opted for crop insurance; and those who did faced many difficulties to get

their due. Eventually, farmer's faith in insurance schemes eroded over time," he added.

Prime Minister Modi said that it was against this backdrop that the government engaged with states, farmers

and insurance companies following which, it came up with the "farmer-friendly" Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

In a series of tweets, he said it was government's gift to the farmers on the occasion of festivals of Lohri, Pongal and Bihu.

He expressed confidence that the new Crop Insurance Scheme will bring about a major transformation in the lives of farmers, saying it expands the definition of disaster and addresses whatever was lacking in the existing programmes. ■

PM launches Start-up India movement, unveils action plan for encouraging Start-ups

Creating manufacturing hub to create more employment Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 16 launched the Start-up India initiative in New Delhi. The launch by the Prime Minister on evening of

ups are usually created by those who are driven by an idea, or an urge to solve a problem that people face. He said making money is not the primary objective, but is often a by-product. He said Start-up innovators are often driven

ups.

He said Start-ups will be exempted from paying income tax on their profit for the first three years. He said the Government is working on a simple exit policy for Start-ups. He also said the

Government is working towards fast-tracking of Start-up patent applications.

He announced an eighty percent exemption in patent fee for Start-up businesses, and said a self-certification based compliance system for Start-ups would be introduced for 9 labour and



the day was preceded by a day-long workshop on various aspects of entrepreneurship.

The Prime Minister visited a virtual exhibition and interacted with Start-up entrepreneurs. 10 outstanding Start-up innovators shared their thoughts and experiences before the Prime Minister delivered his address. He said that when he had launched the Start-up India Initiative on 15th August, the announcement had virtually gone unnoticed, but today it had registered with people.

He said successful start-

ups are usually created by those who are driven by an idea, or an urge to solve a problem that people face. He said making money is not the primary objective, but is often a by-product. He said Start-up innovators are often driven

by a sense of compassion for others. The Prime Minister said he wishes to turn the youth of India from job-seekers to job-creators. He said if a Start-up can offer employment to even five people, it would be doing a great service to the nation. He mentioned some areas where youth innovators should focus, including crop wastage, and cyber security.

The Prime Minister unveiled the highlights of the Start-up Action Plan. He said a dedicated Start-up fund worth Rs. 10,000 crore will be created for funding of Start-

ups. He said Start-ups will be exempted from paying income tax on their profit for the first three years. He said the Government is working on a simple exit policy for Start-ups. He also said the Government is working towards fast-tracking of Start-up patent applications.

Main features of startups India:

Dedicated fund of Rs 10,000 crores to promote start-ups

For starters, the government will set up a fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 2,500 crore and a total corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of four years, which will be managed by a board with private professionals drawn from industry bodies, academia, and successful

startups. The fund will participate in the capital of SEBI registered venture funds, and invest in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, health, and education.

Single point of registration for startups

The government will launch a mobile app and a portal on April 1, which will enable startups to register their company in a day. The portal will also serve as a single point of contact for clearances, approvals and registrations, and for companies to apply for schemes under the Startup India Action Plan.

Simplified regulatory regime based on self-certification

To reduce the regulatory burden for startups, the government will allow startups to self-certify compliance on nine labour and environment laws through the startup mobile app. No inspections will be conducted in case of the labour laws for a period of three years.

Fast-track mechanism filing patent applications

Launched on a pilot basis for a year, the Central Government shall bear the cost of patents, trademarks and designs for a startup, with an 80 percent rebate to encourage the creation and protection of its intellectual property.

Credit guarantee fund for startups

A credit guarantee mechanism will help startups

raise debt funding through the formal banking system through National Credit Guarantee Trust Company (NCGTC)/SIDBI, which has an annual corpus of Rs. 500 crore for the next four years. Tax exemption for three years, and capital gains

Aimed at facilitating growth and help retain capital, startups will be exempted from income-tax for a period of three years.

- ▶ Self certification compliance
- ▶ No inspection for first 3 years
- ▶ No income tax on profit for first 3 years
- ▶ Mobile app for start-up registration in one day
- ▶ Start-up India hub as single point contact
- ▶ Exemption from capital gains tax on personal property sold to invest in startup
- ▶ 80% rebate patent filing fee
- ▶ Bankruptcy bill 2015-90 days to exit business
- ▶ 500 tinkering labs
- ▶ 35 public-private incubators
- ▶ 31 innovation centers at national institute
- ▶ Dedicated fund of Rs 10,000 crores to promote start-ups
- ▶ Credit guarantee scheme for loans
- ▶ 5 new bio clusters and 7 new research park
- ▶ Patent regime and IPR to be simplified

However, the exemption shall be available subject to non-distribution of dividend by the startup. To augment the funds available to various VCs and alternative investment funds, capital gains invested in SEBI registered venture funds will be exempt from tax as well.

Startup India Hub for collaboration

The Startup India Hub will serve as a single point of contact for startup ecosystem players, and will function in a hub and spoke model with central and state governments, Indian and foreign VCs, angel networks, banks, incubators, legal partners, consultants, universities and R&D institutions. The hub will assist startups in obtaining financing, and organise mentorship programs to encourage knowledge exchange.

Relaxed norms of public-procurement

The Central Government, State Government and PSUs will exempt startups in the manufacturing sector from the criteria of "prior experience/turnover" as long as they have their own manufacturing facility in India, and have the requisite capabilities and are able to fulfil the project requirements.

Bankruptcy bill 2015-90 days to exit business

Startups may be wound up within a period of 90 days from making of an application for winding up on a fast track

basis, as per the recently tabled Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill 2015, which has provisions for voluntary closure of businesses. This process will respect the concept of limited liability. Atal Innovation Mission to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation

The Atal Innovation Mission will establish sector specific incubators and 500 'Tinkering Labs' to promote entrepreneurship, provide pre-incubation training and a seed fund for high-growth startups. Three innovation awards will be given per state and union territory, along with three national awards,

as well as a Grand Innovation Challenge Award for finding ultra-low cost solutions for India.

Innovation focused programs for students

An innovation core program targeted at school kids aims to source 10 lakh innovations from five lakh schools, out of which the the best 100 would be shortlisted and showcased at an Annual Festival of Innovations, to be held in Rashtrapati Bhavan. A Grand Challenge program called NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) shall be instituted through Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Development Centres (IEDCs) to support and award INR 10 lakhs to 20 student innovations. Uchhattar Avishkar Yojana, a joint MHRD-DST scheme has earmarked Rs. 250 crore annually to foster "very high quality" research amongst IIT students.

Annual incubator grand challenge

The government will identify and select ten incubators, evaluated on pre-defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as having the the potential to become world class, and give them Rs.10 crore each as financial assistance to ramp up their infrastructure. ■

A huge step taken for farmer's welfare : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah termed 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' as among the the biggest steps taken for their welfare since Independence as they will draw "maximum benefit by paying minimal premium".

Speaking to the media soon after the government made the announcement about the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna', Shri Shah said the scheme will rid farmers of the web of complex rules of the earlier schemes and they can now avail maximum benefits.

"For years, farmers were caught in the complexities of existing insurance schemes and were not able to avail all benefits. Now the government has come out with a scheme under which they will be able to draw the

maximum benefits by paying minimal premium.

"I think this decision will rank among the biggest decisions taken for the welfare of farmers since Independence," he said.

Taking a swipe at the previous UPA government, Shri Shah said it had introduced "capping" due to which farmers were given "very less" compensation while their premium had risen by anywhere between 22-57 per cent. This has been abolished now, he said.

Speaking about the premium of 2 per cent for kharif crops, 1.5 per cent of rabi and 5 per cent for commercial crops, he said it will result in an increase of 500 per cent in the Centre's financial load while benefiting farmers.

In a statement later, Shah termed the decision a historic

step.

It is a positive and expansive move to implement "safe crops, prosperous farmers" policy, he said, noting that the "revolutionary decision" came on the auspicious occasion of festivals like Lohiri, Pongal and Bihu.

The new scheme covers all kinds of damages caused to crops by natural causes, including water stagnation in farms, and also covers them post-harvest as well, he added.

Giving an example of the difference between the scheme existing earlier and the new one, he said farmers used to get Rs 15,000 (for a hectare fixed at Rs 30,000) at a premium of Rs 900 earlier but they will now get full compensation for a premium of Rs 600. ■

Special on punyatithi of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay - 11 February

Profundity of vision was his great forte

By Devendra Swaroop

The first time I came in contact with Deendayalji was in an OTC camp before India won her independence. I was a *pracharak* in Ghazipur those days. Deendayalji was a man of frugal needs and desires. He possessed great intellect and foresight. His foresight

I had great respect for Gandhiji from the very beginning.

There were many reasons for my deep appreciation for him.

From my paternal and maternal side, many friends and relations were involved in the freedom struggle. My two maternal uncles and two uncles were sent to jail for taking part in the freedom movement. They used to wear Khadi. In 1942 when I was the student of class ten, I was rusticated from the school for participating in the freedom struggle.

When the country was partitioned, a very strong sentiment in the country grew up against this decision of the Congress.

Particularly it cost loss of peoples' love and affection for Gandhiji who had declared

that Pakistan will take birth at his dead body. I was worried about the growth of this sentiment in the country. I wondered what would this sentiment lead to if it continued to grow further like this.

Common traits of Gandhiji and Deendayalji

I had put this question to Deendayalji. He said this would not last long. "This feeling has developed in reaction against partition. It would die down with the passage of time", he told me. Gandhian philosophy and the RSS ideology share the same aspirations and beliefs. Gandhiji was a devout Hindu from the core of his heart.

Deendayalji also wrote in favour of *Sarvodya* movement. His thoughts were above partisan politics. He propagated the theories of *Chiti* and *Virat* based on the book "*Daishik Shastra* penned by Badri Shah Tuldhariya.

Deendayalji was inspired by Gandhiji and this reflected in his writings. The principles of trusteeship and the concept of development which he elaborated in his writings were manifestations of this similarity.

Deendayalji also wrote in favour of *Sarvodya* movement. His thoughts were above partisan politics. He propagated the theories of *Chiti* and *Virat* based on the book "*Daishik Shastra* penned by Badri Shah Tuldhariya. When a ban was imposed on the RSS for the first time, Bhaurau Deoras advised me to learn journalism from Deendayalji for 10-15 days. Nation before self

I got the opportunity to attend the BJS conclave in 1959 as a representative from the *Panchjanya*. Deendayalji was the General Secretary at that time. A section of BJS *karyakartas* shouted slogans like *Deendayalji Zindabad*.

Deendayalji asked them to shout slogans like *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* instead of shouting slogans in his praise. During the conclave he asked the *karyakartas* to organize study groups and asked the cadres to focus on studying and

reading.

It was the year when China annexed Tibet. The entire country was outraged as it was facing a big crisis. Deendayalji was in Lucknow during those days. He was staying at the house of Lata Behanji keeping himself aloof from the world and other activities. A group of *karyakartas* went to him and asked, "When the country is facing such a crisis situation, why are you busy writing something?" He replied, "Balraj Madhokji has expressed his views in this regard in Delhi.

Another statement would do no good to this cause." He was never in panic even in the most adverse situations and his thought process remained very calm and serene.

Deendayalji was a dedicated RSS *swayamsewak*. He chalked out programmes and devised a political ideology deeply inspired by the Indian vision. Those were the days when the entire BJS cadre was composed of *swayamsewaks*.

BJS was nowhere in the line for power. Deendayalji commanded a great respect in the entire cadre. With his selfless service, ideological commitment and idealism he inspired many people and attracted them to BJS. Hated casteist politics

Jaunpur by-polls were held after the death of the sitting MP. Jaunpur was a BJS citadel. Bhaurau Deoras put the idea to send Deendayalji

We need to find out a viable system to implement the philosophy and idealism advocated by Deendayalji. His vision for development was holistic. If we could further strengthen his idealism by following his principles and finding out viable alternative, then alone could we claim that we are true followers of Deendayalji.

to Lok Sabha from this seat so that the country and the Party could benefit from his talent. But the ideals which Deendayalji advocated in politics did not allow him to reap instant electoral benefits. The Congress projected a *Kshatriya* candidate for the seat. Certain BJS leaders and *karyakartas* asked Deendayalji to publicly project himself as a Brahmin. Rejecting the idea Deendayalji said, "I am not a candidate of Brahmins but of the BJS."

During the election campaign a BJS *karyakarta* was shouting slogans like, *Congress Murdabad*. Deendayalji stopped him and said, "Are you a Congress worker?"

Deendayalji propagated a value based political system and the entire organisation stood firmly behind him.

During Deendayalji's political life feelings of nationalism inspired people to

jump into the freedom struggle and a zeal for this was very much alive in their hearts. A big chunk of Congress leadership at that time had emerged out of the freedom movement. Even in those days, caste was not a dominant factor.

This was again put to test in 1967 when United Legislature Party (ULP) governments were formed in many States of the country. BJS got an opportunity to taste power in States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The problems that arose in a party after it tastes power started cropping up in BJS too and this left Deendayalji a worried man. In February 1968 he died. The biggest question that the life of Deendayalji throws up is whether the kind of idealism he propagated could sustain itself in the present political situation in India.

A light house of Indian polity

We need to find out a viable system to implement the philosophy and idealism advocated by Deendayalji. His vision for development was holistic. If we could further strengthen his idealism by following his principles and finding out viable alternative, then alone could we claim that we are true followers of Deendayalji.

(The writer is a former History professor in Delhi university. He was also the Editor of Hindi weekly the Panchjanya and the Manthan.)

Former Sikkim Governor V. Rama Rao passes away

BJP President condoles the demise of V. Rama Rao

Former Governor of Sikkim and senior BJP leader Shri V. Rama Rao died in Hyderabad on January 17. He was 80 years. On his demise, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah expressed deep condolence and said the life of Shri Rao was devoted to the nationalist ideology. His political life began as Jana Sangh activist, he added. BJP President said, Shri Rao, till his last breath,



served the Bhartiya Janata Party, he added. Shri Rao's sudden demise is irreparable. Shri Shah prayed the god to give strength to the family of departed soul.

Survived by wife Vasantha Kumari and son

Srinivas, Rama Rao worked as the Governor of Sikkim from 2002 to 2005. A soft-spoken clean politician for 60 years, he joined Jana Sangh in 1956 as a member and went on to serve as a member of the National Executive of

Bharatiya Jana Sangh until it changed into Bharatiya Janata Party. He served as state BJP president for two consecutive terms from 1993 to 2001 and as party National Vice President between 2002 and 2007.

Born in Machilipatnam in Krishna district on December 12, 1935, Rama Rao was elected to Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Council from Hyderabad

Graduates' Constituency for four consecutive times in 1966, 1972, 1978 and 1984. He served as a party's Floor Leader in council during his last term. He also served as a senate member of Osmania University. ■

Condolence message by Shri L.K. Advani

He was a man of committed ideals : Advani

I am deeply grieved to learn about the demise of former Governor of Sikkim and senior BJP leader Shri V. Rama Rao. Only today morning I had rung up his son to inquire about his health.

He was one of the founders of Jana Sangh in Andhra Pradesh and was elected to Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Council from Hyderabad Graduates' Constituency for four consecutive terms from 1966.

He was a man of committed ideals. He made a mark as the party's floor leader and in debates on both political and issues of public concern. His speeches were marked with humour and wit and often helped in bringing down tensed moments.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of Shri Rama Rao. May the departed soul rest in peace. ■

Indian economy set to increase by 7.8% in 2016

India remains global growth champion : World Bank

India remains the global growth champion with its economy set to increase by 7.8 percent in the new year as per a World Bank report released on 08 January 2016 said.

Overall the bank's Global Economic Prospects Report painted a gloomy global outlook cutting the global growth by almost a half percent to 2.9 percent in 2016 from the 3.3 percent forecast last June.

In the growth race among the major economies, China remains the runner-up with its economy projected to grow by 6.7 percent this year and 6.5 percent next year. The growth projections for U.S. economy are 2.7 this year, 2.4 next year and 2.2 in 2018.

It kept India's economic growth as measured by increase in gross domestic product at 7.9 percent for 2017 and for 2018, it cut the projection from 8 percent made last June to 7.9 percent.

The report recognized India's resilience saying, "Compared to most other major developing countries, India is well positioned to withstand near-term headwinds and volatility in global financial markets due to reduced external vulnerabilities, a strengthening domestic business cycle, and a supportive policy environment."

However, it also drew attention to the dark clouds overhanging the reform process. "In India, progress in reforms is not assured as the upper house of parliament, which the ruling

In the growth race among the major economies, China remains the runner-up with its economy projected to grow by 6.7 percent this year and 6.5 percent next year. The growth projections for U.S. economy are 2.7 this year, 2.4 next year and 2.2 in 2018.

party does not control, has the power to block the government's legislative agenda," the report said. "A failure to pass the goods and services tax (GST) could hamper the government's ability to ramp up spending on infrastructure needs and preserve the status quo of fragmented domestic markets."

"Slow progress on land reforms could add to investment delays," it added. "And private investment growth may be unable to build further momentum. The financing of public-private partnerships also remains a challenge."

On the bright side, the report said, "The investment cycle is gradually picking up, led by a government efforts to boost investment in infrastructure, particularly roads, railways and urban infrastructure." It added that India's currency and stock markets weathered the volatility in the global financial markets last year. Sensex, a key Indian stock market index ended 2015 up 1.08 percent.

"Progress on infrastructure improvements and government efforts to boost investment are expected to offset the impact of any tightening of borrowing conditions resulting from tighter U.S. monetary policy," the report said. "Such investment will also lift potential growth over the medium term. Low international energy prices and domestic energy reforms will ease energy costs for Indian firms that tend to be energy intensive."

Other positives on India's report card that World Bank noted were:

- ▶ Sharp reduction in current account deficit, to about 1 percent of GDP in the second quarter of 2015 from about 5 percent in mid-2013 during the turmoil in the financial markets over U.S. Federal Reserve policy.
- ▶ The central bank rebuilding reserves while net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have stayed positive.
- ▶ Reduction in the central government's fiscal deficit close to 4 percent of the GDP, down from a peak of 7.6 percent in 2009 through fiscal consolidation.
- ▶ The recently announced salary increases for public sector employees and support for urban spending from lower inflation offsetting fall in rural incomes because of two successively weak monsoons. ■

'Antyodaya' and 'social harmony' are the principle and constitution of the Party : Amit Shah

Addressed the national meeting of the OBC Morcha held at the BJP Headquarters in New Delhi on 10 January 2016 BJP National President Shri Amit Shah called the party Karyakartas to deliver government's schemes and all

extensive and public-welfare. He said the goal of our OBC Morcha should be delivering rights enshrined in the constitution to the last person of the backward classes.

Shri Shah applauded the mass movement led by Dr. Lohia for the welfare of

underprivileged classes and laid many plans and schemes for improving their lives. He said that the websites of BJP-ruled states are filled with plans for the welfare and social regeneration of the backward classes started by respective BJP Govt. He also



the rights enshrined in the constitution to the last person from the backward classes.

The BJP President said that we received many new heights last year, we crossed 11 crore membership and we have achieved the distinction of being the World's largest political party but now we have to be focused on durable structure of our organization so that we can work ceaselessly for the welfare of backward, oppressed and dispossessed classes of the society. He emphasized that the OBC Morcha has not been constituted for the fulfillment of vested political interests but it's purpose is far more

backward classes but he also added that their followers hijacked the movement and limited it for their respective castes and families.

BJP President said the concept of 'Antyodaya' laid by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya is enshrined itself at the core of the party's functioning. He said that 'Antyodaya' and 'social harmony' is the principle and the constitution of the Party. History testifies that whenever BJP Government came in power in the states or in country, we always worked for the economic growth and social welfare for the backward, oppressed and

emphasized that the party does not believe in lecturing but in work. He said, we do not show the dream but we transform dreams into reality.

Shri Shah said that Congress is solely responsible for the plight of the backward, oppressed and dispossessed classes because they neither implemented the economic development plans for these classes, nor they ever focus on their social welfare and upliftment. He said, I would again reiterate that BJP is the only party which has given most backward classes CMs to the country and made the son of a poor from the same

backward classes as the Prime Minister of India.

Addressing the party workers, Shri Shah said, our work must be based on social and fraternal harmony. He said, without any malevolence or incivility, our objective should be the welfare of oppressed and underprivileged classes under the guidelines of the Constitution. He said it is our responsibility to provide them the platform and give the responsibilities to add them to the mainstream society.

He said that all the schemes of the Modi Government at the Centre are dedicated to the welfare of the poor and underprivileged classes. Modi Govt. opened the doors of banks for the poor and added more than 19 cr people, not having a single bank account, even after 68 years of independence.

Shri Shah said that the Modi Government have taken a big step towards promoting self-employment for the welfare of backward and poor to make them self-determined through Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana which is now showing fruitful results.

Shri Shah termed Suraksha Bima Yojana at only Re.1 per month and Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana at Rs.330 per annum a great success towards social empowerment of the backward and poor. He also considered Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana as a major initiative started by the Modi Government for the benefit of farmers.

Shri Shah said, India is moving on the path to rapid growth under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's reputation and Indians honor has grown worldwide, now it is responsibility of the BJP that government schemes being implemented for the welfare of backward classes of the society and should be carried along with our ideas and values through OBC Morcha to the last person standing at the bitter end of the society and OBC Morcha should act as a link between backward class and the government. ■

Raosaheb Patil Danve re-elected as Maharashtra BJP President

Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve was re-elected as the BJP chief of Maharashtra on 18 January, 2016. Shri Danve's appointment was announced at a meeting of senior BJP



functionaries where Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and party's central observers were present. Shri Danve will have a three year term.

60-year-old Shri Danve had in January 2015 succeeded Shri Devendra Fadnavis as state unit President after the latter became the Chief Minister after the party's victory in the October 2014 Assembly elections.

Shri Danve is the MP from Jalna Parliamentary constituency in the state. He was Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. He quit as minister last year, months after becoming state BJP President.

Starting his political career from the panchayat level, Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve has been an MLA from Bhokardan Assembly constituency twice and has won the last four parliamentary elections in a row. He has been actively associated with the cooperative movement in the state and also been a former Vice- President of the party in Maharashtra. ■

Basanta Panda elected as new BJP Odisha President

BJP Legislature Party leader in the Odisha Assembly Shri Basanta Panda was unanimously elected as the new BJP President of Odisha. The two-time MLA from Nuapada replaced incumbent Odisha BJP President Shri K V Singhdeo for a three years term.

The firebrand leader from western Odisha Shri Panda's rise has been meteoric. Shri Panda, who belongs to a poor family and used to run a roadside Dhaba at his native place shot to prominence during the Ram temple movement. He was first elected Nuapada MLA in 2000 and again in 2014.

After elected as president Shri Panda promised to strengthen BJP's grass roots presence in the state. Interacting with media persons he said, my priorities would include spreading awareness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welfare programmes and exposing the ruling Biju Janata Dal's (BJD's) misrule.

Shri Basant Panda also demands probe into irregularities in ration card distribution. He said the BJP will take the agitations to villages to highlight inclusion of BJD workers' names in the National Food Security Act

(NFS) list. He also announced a four-point programme to strengthen the party in grassroots level and mobilize party cadres against ruling BJD Government. "We will work together to put an end to the dark chapter of BJD's misrule in the state. Congress



will also be countered effectively," said Shri Panda, who was congratulated by senior party leaders after being elected to the top post.

Collective efforts would be made to strengthen the party to come to power in the

state on our own, he said adding BJP would work hard to protect the interests of the poor, farmers and workers.

For the supervision of the election, the central party leadership has appointed BJP National General Secretary Ms. Saroj Pandey, who was present during the process.

BJP National General Secretary and in-charge of Odisha Shri Arun Singh, Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, outgoing state BJP President K V Singhdeo and all the senior leaders of the party were present. On the occasion Shri

Pradhan expressed the hope that the party would be strengthened in the state under the leadership of Shri Panda. Noteworthy, Shri Panda was the sole candidate to the top post as no one else filed nomination for it. ■

JP Nadda & Prakash Javadekar appointed as BJP Election-in charge for Kerala, Tamil Nadu

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 18 January, 2016 appointed Union Ministers Shri JP Nadda and Shri Prakash Javadekar as Bharatiya Janata Party's election in-charge for the poll-bound states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu respectively.

Union Ministers Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Shri Piyush Goyal, also, will be the co-in charge in the two states respectively, a party statement said.

Solution to all problems is in development : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 January, 2016 addressed a public meeting in Kokrajhar, Assam. Speaking at the BJP and Bodo People's Front Tribal Rally, PM Shri Modi said that his visit was at a very crucial moment amidst an atmosphere of Ekta and Sadbhavana referring to the new alliance



of the BJP and BPF and the merger of various BPF factions.

He stated that development was the only solution to all the problems faced by people in Assam. "My three point focus is - development, development and development. Solution to all problems is in development", said the Prime Minister. He highlighted that his Government was dedicated to development of infrastructure, be it roads, railways or waterways. The PM also cited the Government's 'Act East Policy'- to integrate the North-east region in the development journey.

Shri Narendra Modi said that India attained independence 68 years ago but around 18,000 villages were still un-electrified. Shri Modi stated that his aim is not only to provide electricity for a few hours but 24/7 availability of electricity to the people. "From Red Fort I said this will change. We will bring electricity to every village", said the PM.

Shri Modi said that every Indian must

have their own house and highlighted about 'Housing for All' scheme.

Taking a jibe at the previous Government, Shri Modi said that they made numerous promises but failed to deliver. "A party ruled the state for 15 years, gave a PM from Assam for 10 years, but still the state was not rid of

its problems! They have accepted it that despite a PM being from here, the list of problems and incomplete work is immense in Assam", said the Prime Minister.

PM thanked the people of Assam for attending the rally in huge numbers and

said that it inspired him to work even harder for the people.

BJP Rally in Guwahati

India's north-east has immense possibilities of development

Addressing a huge youth rally in Guwahati, Assam, Shri Narendra Modi mentioned that people wanted the state to move ahead faster. He said that his Government's aim was for an Assam moving at fast pace where its youth was employed and the farmers had a bright future.

PM Shri Modi highlighted, that today India was among the fastest growing economies of the world. "Our FDI is increasing and this would create jobs for youth", he added.

He said that India's development should be all-round and not restricted to any one part of the country.

Shri Modi mentioned that India's north-

east had immense possibilities of development as the land was blessed with natural resources and raw material. Shri Modi stressed on organic farming in the north-eastern states and said that it could be strength of the region.

Adding further, the PM said, "Second green revolution will happen from here, in Assam. There is water; the farmer here is hard-working. What is needed is technology."

Shri Narendra Modi said that his Government would work for development of the state with the mantra of 'Aage Badhega Assam'. No force, he said, would be able to stop the development of Assam. He also took a dig at Congress party and said, "For us youth means the youngsters here in front of me. For the Congress it is the families of a select few."

He said that Government at centre would leave no stone unturned for the development of Assam. Among others Assam BJP President Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and other senior leaders were present. ■

Mamata led TMC government 'sheltering criminals' : Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari lashed out at the Mamata Banerjee government over the Malda attack, accusing it of not taking action against the perpetrators and "sheltering criminals". He also called for ousting the TMC dispensation in the coming assembly polls and replacing it with a BJP government for all-round development of the state.

"We want answers from you Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. When you had taken the oath as the Chief Minister, you had sworn to protect the poor civilians.

But you are not protecting the poor civilians. You are protecting the criminals, who are looting and burning police stations, creating violence," Shri Gadkari said addressing a rally in Buniadpur in South Dinajpur district on 18 January, 2016.



"Why no action has being taken against those who had burnt a police station? Who are criminals? who are infiltrators?" he demanded and accused the state's TMC government of engaging in "vote bank politics". "The government is pursuing appeasement politics with an eye on assembly polls," Shri Gadkari alleged.

The Union Minister also said if BJP is voted to power in the state, the party's government would take strong action against the "culprits and infiltrators".

"Don't worry; the Narendra Modi government is with you. And we are not a government which will bow before the criminals. We are a party which will take strong action against criminals," he said.

Addressing on the occasion BJP National General Secretary in-charge of West Bengal, Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya urged the Centre to take action against the culprits involved in the January 3 Malda violence. ■

BJP delegation meets the President

From Our Correspondent

Sudden violence erupted on 03 January, 2016 in Malda, West Bengal when a mob belonging to minority community went on the rampage, torched police stations, set dozens of vehicles, including a bus and a BSF jeep, on fire and blockaded National Highway 34 to protest against an remark made by Kamlesh Tewari in UP.

Sources said the crowd did not even spare the Block Development Officer's office and men in uniform were also beaten up. "Houses belonging to Hindus, who are in minority in that area, were burnt down and they were forced to leave the place. They had not returned since," the sources added.

As per police sources, the incidence might have been a pre-planned affair and the attack could have taken place in retaliation to stepped-up security measures along the Bangladesh border.

Sources said, there is no

doubt that it is an act of revenge against the security forces because joint actions by police and BSF have brought down significantly the rate of trans-border crimes like cow-smuggling, cross-border migration, smuggling of goods, fake notes and running of arm factories.

Though such anti-national activities take place across

Chief Minister says, "people had problems with BSF and that is why the violence took place", though it posed a threat to national security, the Mamata Banerjee and protecting the criminals those who involved in Malda violence.

On one hand, the TMC Government on the pretext to maintain communal harmony stopped the BJP delegation twice, whereas, on the other hand the State Government allowed a fundamentalist religious organisation Edara - e-Sharia to organise, on communal lines, a gathering of over two lakh people.

Raising the scale of its offensive against the M a m a t a

Mothbari, Danga, Sujapur-Kaliachak, parts of Gour, Adina and Old Malda, the people of Sujapur and Kaliachak are most affected as most of residents of these areas are involved in such rackets. Instead of preventing these anti national activities,

Banerjee Government over the Malda violence, a BJP delegation, led by party General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya and other Central and State leaders, met the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and submitted a memorandum. ■



BJP will create history in West Bengal : Kailash Vijayvargiya



BJP National General Secretary and West Bengal BJP In-Charge Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, who hails from Madhya Pradesh, is a six-time member of Madhya Pradesh State Legislative Assembly and a former Minister in the State. As Prabhari of Haryana he is credited to have run a successful campaign leading to a massive victory of BJP in the assembly elections.

In an Exclusive Interview for Kamal Sandesh with Editorial Board Member Ram Prasad Tripathy, Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya revealed the preparedness and plans of the party organization for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections and expressed his

confidence that BJP will give a tough fight and unseat the Mamata Banerjee led Trinamool Congress government from the State.

He said development of the State will be our main focus during and in the post election period. Excerpts:

In all probability the West Bengal Assembly elections will take place in the month of April or May. How do you view the current political scenario of the State? What is your assessment of BJP's chances in the upcoming elections?

There is growing perception that the Mamata Banerjee led Trinamool Congress government has comprehensively failed to fulfill the expectations of the people of the State. Thus, I will say, the political condition is gloomy in West Bengal. The present dispensation is providing shelter and protection to illegal Bangladeshi migrants to influence the vote bank of the State. As a result the demography of some of the districts of West Bengal has completely changed leading to social unrest.

Secondly, the State government is giving protection to fake currency makers, opium

cultivators and drug mafia. Mafia Raj is going on in various districts of the State. As a consequence, common people in these areas are living in a state of shock and fear. I believe these conditions are very much favorable for anti national activities and it's a threat to national security.

Thirdly, due to appeasement politics of Trinamool Congress government majority of the people are unhappy. Therefore, our main objective is to end the Gunda / Mafia Raj and to establish democracy and rule of law in the State.

Malda type unfortunate incidents have occurred in the State very recently. Instead of preventing such incidents the State government is accused to be shielding the rioters. Do you think the State is engineering such type of incidents for communal polarization and to get benefits during the upcoming elections?

In the first week of January, sudden violence erupted in Malda, when a mob went on the rampage, torched police stations, set dozens of vehicles on fire and blockaded National Highway. Houses belonging to Hindus, who are in minority in that area, were burnt down and they were forced to leave the place. They have not returned since the incident. It clearly reveals that it's a pre-planned affair and government is directly or indirectly involved in it. If they are not involved, why the government stopped the BJP delegation twice, to visit Malda and on the other hand allowed a fundamentalist religious organization to organize a gathering of over two lakh people?

What will be the major issues the BJP will raise during the election? Is there any specific agenda of the party for the upcoming elections in West Bengal?

Development will be the only agenda of BJP in Bengal. Mamata Banerjee led Trinamool Congress government was completely unsuccessful in development of the State, for which the unemployment crises and migration have grown alarmingly in Bengal. 500 units of industries closed down during the last 4 years, tea gardens are reducing, no initiatives taken to attract industries to the State.

Therefore, we will go to the people with development agenda of Modiji. Our government will create a healthy atmosphere for investment, create employment, and expedite development in the State. Apart from this, women's security, decriminalization of politics and

We will go to the people with development agenda of Modiji. Our government will create a healthy atmosphere for investment, create employment, and expedite development in the State. Apart from this, women's security, decriminalization of politics and to establish of rule of law will also be our prime focus.

to establish of rule of law will also be our prime focus.

During the last 4 years of Trinamool Congress rule several big scams like Sarada chit fund came to the fore. Are you going to highlight these mega scams in the elections?

The Trinamool Congress government has done only two major things during these last four years in office. These include mega Scams and corruptions, and appeasement politics. Some of the big scams like Sarada chit fund came to the light and the government has tried its best to cover up many more scams. Many new things about the chit fund scams are yet to come to the light. Because poor people from the villages are major victims of these scams, therefore, the BJP will definitely highlight these scams to expose the

government. We will put all these facts before the electorate as a responsible opposition and allow the public to decide the fate of this government. Alongside, BJP will promise to provide a corruption free and scam free government like Modiji's government at the centre.

Social equations played a big role in Bihar elections last year. Do you think the Social equations of West Bengal can also play any role in the upcoming elections or the people will opt for development agenda of BJP?

Social equations definitely played a big role in Bihar elections last year but people in West Bengal are conscious and development oriented. They wiped out many decades old Communist rule from the State last time and gave Mamata Banerjee a chance with the hope of development, peaceful atmosphere and a progressive State. But it did not happen.

Now they are dismayed and confused about their future under this govt.

At present the people want peaceful atmosphere, a corruption free government and the development of the State. BJP will save Bengal, Bengali culture, tradition and Bengali people. We are working to unseat the present government and bring development for the people. Therefore, the people will certainly give a chance to BJP.

As the Prabhari of West Bengal, you have toured widely in various parts of the State. Do you think the party organization is well prepared to take on the ruling party in the State?

After the Lok Sabha election victory in 2014

under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modiji, the popularity of BJP appeasers to have increased many folds in West Bengal. There is a stream of new entrants into our party in the State during the last one and half year. Our Karyakartas are also tirelessly working to strengthen the organization in every part of the State.

Secondly, the incumbent government has not done any visible developmental work. So, it is fast losing the confidence of the electorate. The BJP organization has become stronger in the State. Team West Bengal will fight the election and I strongly believe that we will win the confidence of the people of West Bengal and create history this time. ■

PM Narendra Modi flags off the “Mahamana Express”



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 23 flagged off the “Mahamana Express”, a thrice-a-week train running between New Delhi and Varanasi via Lucknow, which boasts of state-of-the-art amenities for passengers. PM Shri Modi launched the train during his fifth visit to his constituency. The train will cover the distance between Varanasi and New Delhi in less than 14 hours. Coaches of Mahamana Express are equipped with features like controlled discharged water tap, new toilet modules, exhaust fans, LED lights, snack tables for side berth passengers and use of fire retardation materials. Railways plans to introduce two more such trains in the future. The fare of unreserved second class in the newly launched Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Express will not be hiked and remain the same as normal Mail/Express service. ■

A journey from polling agent to party president

Amit Shah was born into an affluent Gujarati family in the year 1964 in Mumbai.

He lived and studied in his paternal village Maansa, Gujarat until the age of 16, when upon completion of his school education, his family shifted to Ahmedabad. As a young boy he was always inspired by the stories of the great patriots of the nation and dreamt of working for the progress of the motherland. He was especially inspired and influenced by the nationalist spirit and vision of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) and became its active member in Ahmedabad. This was one act that was to change his life forever and set him on a momentous journey towards the leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

After joining the RSS, Amit Bhai worked for the student's wing of the RSS - the Akhila Bharatiya Vidarthi Parishad for over four years. It was during this period that BJP emerged

as the political arm of RSS and Amit Bhai became a member of the party in 1984-85. His first assignment was that of a poll agent at Ahmedabad's Naranpura ward, followed by secretaryship of the Naranpura ward. Successful completion of these missions earned him the higher responsibilities as National

treasurer of BJYM and then as the State secretary and State Vice-President of Gujarat BJP. In these roles, he actively campaigned to expand the base of the young political party.

His abilities to keep his ear to the ground and establish deep and lasting connect with party workers enabled him to hone his organizational capabilities. These abilities came to fore and to the notice of people when as in

charge of the Amhedabad city; he successfully handled mass mobilization

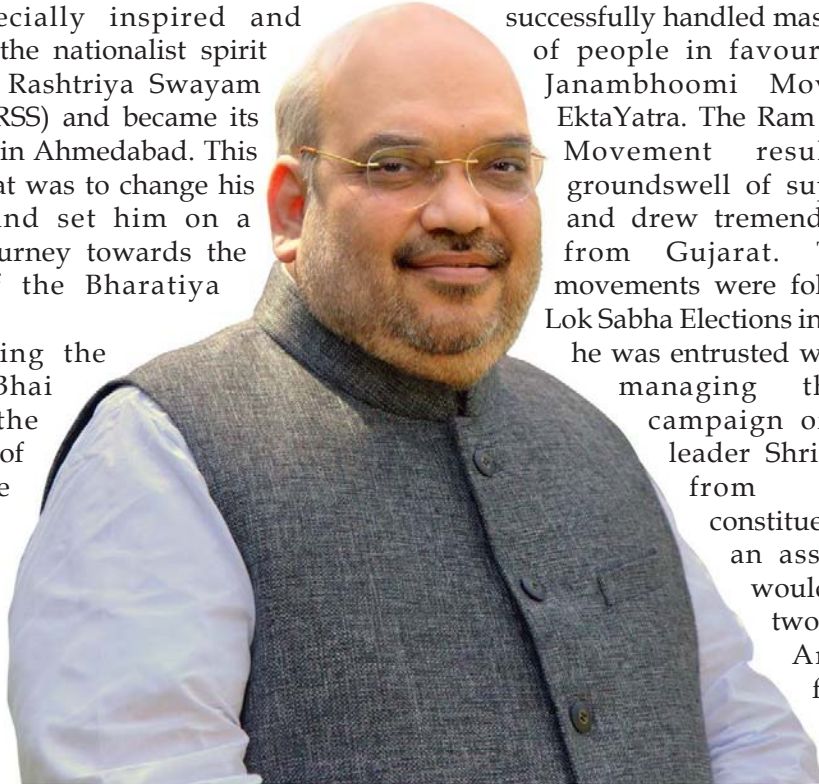
of people in favour of the Ram Janambhoomi Movement and EktaYatra. The Ram Janambhoomi Movement resulted in a groundswell of support for BJP and drew tremendous response from Gujarat. These mass movements were followed by the Lok Sabha Elections in 1989, wherein

he was entrusted with the task of managing the election campaign of BJP's mass leader Shri L.K. Advani from Ahmedabad constituency. This was

an association that would last for over two decades with Amit Bhai formulating electoral strategy for Shri Advani

till the 2009 Lok Sabha polls. He was also the election in-charge of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he contested from Gandhinagar. Amit Bhai had earned a reputation for himself as an astute election manager.

The political upheaval in Gujarat during



1990 overturned established fortunes and BJP emerged as the principal and only opposition party to the Congress in the state. During this time, Amit Bhai, under the able guidance of Shri Narendra Modi the then Gujarat BJP's Organisation Secretary, initiated and successfully completed the difficult but all important task of documenting party's primary members across the state. This was a critical first step to garner the party's strength and electoral prowess. The subsequent electoral victories of the BJP in the state demonstrated the efficacy of harnessing and motivating its party workers in the pursuit of state leadership.

BJP's first stint in political power in Gujarat was relatively short lived as the party that stormed into power in 1995 fell in 1997. Yet,

In 1998, barring a single Cooperative Bank, all other cooperative institutions were controlled by the Congress. This was set to change as thanks to Amit Bhai's political acumen and ability to carry people along, BJP started to win elections for cooperative banks, milk dairies, and agriculture market committees. These successive victories established BJP political strength and influence in rural and semi-rural areas.

during this short period, Amit Bhai, who was made the chairman of Gujarat State Financial Corporation, turned around the company and even got it listed on the Stock Exchanges. This was also Amit Bhai's first foray into the election arena, as in the by- election that followed the fall of BJP government; he successfully contested assembly polls from Sarkhej winning the seat by a margin of nearly 25,000 votes. Realizing the pressing need to regain the confidence of voters and mandate from the people, Amit Bhai dedicated himself to the task of strengthening the party in the state. At the same time, he continued to discharge his duties as a MLA and even won from the same seat by over 1.30 lakh votes in 1998.

A key achievement of Amit Bhai's political career was breaking the stranglehold of the

Congress over Gujarat's cooperative movement, which was a source of electoral strength and influence. In 1998, barring a single Cooperative Bank, all other cooperative institutions were controlled by the Congress. This was set to change as thanks to Amit Bhai's political acumen and ability to carry people along, BJP started to win elections for cooperative banks, milk dairies, and agriculture market committees. These successive victories established BJP political strength and influence in rural and semi-rural areas. His success though was not limited to electoral affairs. Under his Chairmanship, the Ahmedabad District Cooperative Bank, the largest district cooperative bank in Asia - turned profitable in just one year. The bank also declared a dividend for the first time in a decade. Given his wide experience, and commendable success, Amit Bhai was made the national convener of BJP's cooperative committee in 2001.

In 2002, as a prelude to the assembly elections, Amit Bhai was made the co-organiser of the 'Gaurav Yatra'. The party stormed into power in the state under Chief Minister

Shri. Narendra Modi. This time too, Amit Bhai won his seat from the Sarkhej constituency for the third time in a row. This time, the margin of victory was even bigger at 1,58,036 votes. Amit Bhai was given the key ministries of Home, Transport, and Prohibition and his work as Gujarat Home Minister was much appreciated. His popularity and connect with people increased with time. In 2007, Sarkhej electorate again showered its blessings on Amit Bhai with a victory margin of a massive 2,32,832 votes. He returned to the state cabinet and was given responsibility of a number of key portfolios including Home, Transport, Prohibition, Parliamentary Affairs, Law, and Excise.

His policies were appreciated by many as going beyond the norms. An avid chess player himself, Amit Bhai became Chairman of Gujarat

State Chess Association and introduced chess on a pilot project basis in Ahmedabad's government schools. This resulted in making students more alert, raised their concentration levels and improved their problem solving abilities. In 2007, Shri Narendra Modi and AmitBhai became Chairman and Vice Chairman of Gujarat State Cricket Association, respectively and ended the 16-year old Congress domination. During this period, he was also Chairman of Ahmedabad Central Board of Cricket.

The year 2010 was one of unprecedented challenges. The UPA government under Congress slapped charges of a fake encounter against Amit Bhai and he was imprisoned. His innocence was vindicated later when the Gujarat High Court observed that there was no prima facie case against Amit Shah. The Congress conspiracy met the same fate, as did earlier electoral encounters with Amit Bhai. He was released on bail within 90 days and the politics of vendetta was badly defeated. Later, a special CBI Court also absolved AmitBhai of all charges on the ground that the case was "politically motivated".

Amit Bhai's electoral victories continued unabated. In 2012, he won his fifth straight victory from the newly carved Narayanpura assembly segment. This time he won by over 60,000 votes despite the delimitation reducing the number of voters to a mere one fourth of the original number. The party recognized his electoral talent and in 2013 when he was made General Secretary of the BJP ahead of the crucial Lok Sabha polls in 2014. This was a high point in his long and arduous political journey. There was little time for celebrations though as Amit Bhai realized that he had the huge task of leading BJP to a comprehensive victory in the general elections. As one who was known as a master of electoral mathematics with an eye for smallest of data points, AmitBhai knew that a win in Uttar Pradesh was the key to taking power at the Centre. He spent the next year visiting every

nook and corner of the state, energizing and motivating party workers, and pushing BJP's development agenda along with BJP's PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi's vision. The results were spectacular with BJP and its allies winning 73 of the 80 seats in the state. With this big push from Uttar Pradesh, BJP crossed the 272-mark in Lok Sabha with a majority on their own strength.

The BJP recognized the commitment, hard work and organizational capabilities of Amit Bhai and made him the President of the party in 2014. With more power comes more responsibility. In less than one year of taking over as BJP's National President, Amit Bhai travelled to each and every state in the country to push the party's ideology and enlarge party

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membership. The results of this drive were startling. He made BJP world's largest political party with over 10 crore members. His resolve to strengthen BJP did not end at making it world's largest party as he initiated number of programs to spread party ideology and its mass connect. One of such programs was "Mahasampark Abhiyan" aimed at engaging newly acquired members in party's programs.

The combination of PM Modi's leadership and Amit Bhai's well-crafted election strategies resulted in BJP winning four of the five assembly elections held during first year of his tenure as party president. While the party had its chief ministers in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana, it formed coalition government in Jammu & Kashmir.

Despite his hectic schedule and numerous public engagements, Amit Bhai loves to unwind by listening to classical music, playing chess and watching a game of cricket. He has keen interest in "stage performances" also as he himself performed on several occasions during his student life. ■

HAPPINESS

By Sri Swami Sivananda

A doctor thinks that the advocate is very happy. The advocate thinks that the businessman is more happy. The businessman thinks that the judge is more happy. The judge thinks that the professor is more happy. No one is happy in this world. An emperor is not happy. A dictator is not happy. A president of a state is not happy. God Indra is not happy. Who is happy then? A sage is happy. A Yogi is happy. He who has controlled his mind is happy.

Happiness comes from peace of mind. Peace of mind comes from a state of mind wherein there are no desires, no Moha, no Vishaya, no thoughts of objects. You should forget all ideas of pleasure before you enter the domain of peace. Pleasure is mixed with pain

You cannot have pleasure without pain. Wherever there is pleasure, there is pain. You vainly seek pleasure in gold, in women (or men in the case of women), in this mundane existence. You cannot have absolute happiness in a relative physical plane of pairs of opposites. The pairs of opposites rotate in their turn. Death follows life. Night follows day. Light follows darkness. Pain follows pleasure.

One part of pleasure is mixed with fifteen parts of pain. Pleasure that is mixed with pain, fear and worry is no pleasure at



all. If you carefully begin to analyze this one part of pleasure also, it will dwindle into an airy nothing. You will find that it is mere play of the mind.

Pleasure and pain are relative terms only. They are not two entities. They are obverse and reverse sides of the same coin. The difference is not in kind, but in degree only. Pleasure and pain are two names for one thing. They are two aspects of one thing. For a worldly man without philosophical knowledge, they appear as two different entities. Pleasure and pain lie in the mind

What is pleasure for you is pain for another. What is pleasure for you now is pain after some time. The first two cups of milk gives you pleasure. The third cup induces disgust, nausea and retching. Milk does not give pleasure during fever. Therefore, pleasure is not in the objects, but in the imagination or inclination of the mind.

Pleasure and pain, beauty and ugliness, are all false imaginations of the mind. Mind is a false, illusory product.

Conceptions of the mind also must, therefore, be false.

Pleasure and pain are in the mind only. It is subjective. Things, when longed for, are pleasant; but are bitter if not longed for. Desires are the cause for pleasures.

You can convert pleasure into pain and pain into pleasure by thinking, by Bhavana, by imagination. Many vegetarian students who have gone to England to prosecute their studies have become inveterate meat-eaters. Meat was very repulsive to them when they were in India. Mere sight used to induce vomiting. How is it they are able to relish meat with avidity, cupidity and stupidity now? By simple change in thinking.

Ignorant persons attribute their pleasure to external objects. That is a serious blunder, indeed. Really, there is no pleasure in objects. There is neither pleasure nor pain in objects. It is all mental creation, mental perception, mental jugglery. It is only the mental attitude or a certain kind of mental behaviour towards objects that bring joy or grief, pleasure or pain. Maya has her powerful seat in the imagination of the mind.

When you are in acute agony, a cup of coffee, milk or tea does not give you any pleasure. When you are in acute agony, the whole world which appeared to you to be full of bliss while in good health, appears quite dreary. The world loses all its charms while you are seriously ailing. A real thing must give pleasure for everybody at all times. Is it not?

To be continued.....

Courtesy: The Divine Life Society