



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Courtesy : The Hindu



यत्कदाचिदुक्तं भवति किं चैतन्न
कुरु; कुरु इति; कुरु देव; कुरु; कुरुके- AA३AA

Lord Krishna said, O sinless one, in this world, two kinds of faith were just previously declared by Me; the science of the individual consciousness attaining communion with the Ultimate consciousness by the path of knowledge for the empire philosophers and the science of the individual consciousness attaining communion with the Ultimate Consciousness by the path of action for the yogis.

— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 3)

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“Yoga is a way to achieve harmony with oneself, one's body, surroundings & nature.”

-Narendra Modi

“Yoga is precious gift of Indian cultural heritage to the world.”

-Amit Shah

Padmini Ekadashi : 28th June 2015

In year 2015 Padmini Ekadashi falls during leaped Ashadha month. Leaped month is also known as Adhika Masa and Ekadashi which falls during Shukla Paksha of Adhika Masam is known as Padmini Ekadashi. Hence no Lunar month is fixed to observe Padmini Ekadashi fasting and it is decided based on leaped month. This Ekadashi is also known as Ashadha Adhika Masa Ekadashi

Parana means breaking the fast. Ekadashi Parana is done after sunrise on next day of Ekadashi fast. It is necessary to do Parana within Dvadashi Tithi unless Dvadashi is over before sunrise. Not doing Parana within Dvadashi is similar to an offence.

Parana should not be done during Hari Vasara. One should wait for Hari Vasara to get over before breaking the fast. Hari Vasara is first one fourth duration of Dvadashi Tithi. The most preferred time to break the fast is Pratahkal. One should avoid breaking the fast during Madhyahna. If due to some reasons one is not able to break the fast during Pratahkal then one should do it after Madhyahna.

At times Ekadashi fasting is suggested on two consecutive days. It is advised that Smartha with family should observe fasting on first day only. The alternate Ekadashi fasting, which is the second one, is suggested for Sanyasis, widows and for those who want Moksha. When alternate Ekadashi fasting is suggested for Smartha it coincides with Vaishnava Ekadashi fasting day. ■





World welcomes Yoga Day with open arms!

A history was created on 21st June 2015. A large number of people across the globe participated to celebrate the event having deep significance for humanity. On the day people joined to welcome the decision of the United Nations which has declare 21st June as International Yoga Day to be celebrated every year henceforth. 21st June 2015 was the inaugural year of the declaration and it was greeted with enthusiasm by the people across the world. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself participated in the Yoga session organized on the Rajpath in New Delhi while BJP National President Amit Shah, union ministers and chief ministers along with a large number of dignitaries and yoga practitioners participated in the event to mark this historic occasion.

In December 2014 a UN General Assembly resolution co-sponsored by 177 countries, an unprecedented number for such resolution, was passed to declare 21 June as International Yoga Day. It was mainly due to the efforts of PM Narendra Modi that the resolution was introduced and received such a huge support at UNGA. While addressing 69th UNGA on 27 September 2014 the Prime Minister emphasized the uniqueness of India's philosophy which believes in establishing a bond with the nature. As he highlighted India as a country having immense potential of opportunity and prosperity he said that it has also embraced universal justice and dignity as its core values and suggested that the United Nations work towards an International Yoga Day. His appeal was instantly welcomed by the world community and Yoga was given its deserved recognition at the international level.

It is an irony that while the entire world community has welcomed Yoga with open arms, there are some divisive voices in the country who seek to mislead the nation on almost every issue of national interest. While Yoga means "to join", some people are trying to create wedge in the society. The people across India and throughout the world have given them befitting reply by turning out in large numbers to participate in this international event. Yoga has gained popularity across the globe and across different communities just because it has a holistic healthcare system having potential to improve mental, physical and spiritual health of the practitioner. Any attempt to criticize Yoga Day just because Yoga originated in India and its roots rooted in Indian civilization should be strongly condemned. People of the world have shown that they can rise above petty considerations to welcome something which is a boon to humanity.

India has contributed to the rise of humanity from ancient times through its unique knowledge system in almost every field of human progress. Many of its achievements still enthrall the world and its genius engages the best minds of today. Many of its findings still await to be unraveled from the mystery that surrounds them. Many of ancient Indian ideas keep inspiring today's generation who seek guidance from the formulations of the sages and seers of yore. India's civilizational knowledge system still remains unfathomed, untapped and unused. Yet, it's limitless, vast, sometime incomprehensible and without borders. Yoga

is one of jewel from that vast treasure which India has for humanity. There is science and there is spirituality - and this is what the world needs. This is the way forward for the humanity which is restive and anguished - where there are different extremes in world seeking to torn humanity within their continuum. Yoga can bring relief to them - make them calm and satisfy their hollowness with its inwardly spirituality. The world has realized this - therefore Yoga is winning hearts across the world. Prime Minister has rightly said that Yoga is a way to check greed, violence and healthcare costs. It may infuse a sense of spirituality to the restive mind along with physical fitness and soothing mind. Let's welcome Yoga! Let's get ready for new age! ■

4,300 Hindu, Sikh refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan get Indian citizenship

According to a report published in *The Hindu* the NDA government has granted citizenship to nearly 4,300 Hindu and Sikh refugees from Pakistan and Afghanistan in its one year of being in power, nearly four times the number granted to such persons in the preceding five years under UPA-II. BJP in its manifesto 2014 clearly states that India shall remain a natural home for persecuted Hindus and they shall be welcome to seek refuge here.

According to officials in the government, this rapid increase in granting citizenships is in keeping with the BJP's stated aim of positioning India as a 'natural home' for Hindus fleeing persecution anywhere in the world, a policy similar to Israel's Law of Return that grants only Jews the right to return and settle there. This policy was outlined in the BJP's election manifesto for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

According to report published in the newspaper the Centre had decided to grant citizenship to Hindu immigrants from Bangladesh. There are about 400 Pakistani Hindu refugee settlements in cities across Rajasthan.

Since May 2014, nearly 19,000 refugees in M.P. have got long-term visas. 11,000 such visas were given in Rajasthan and 4,000 in Gujarat. Officials say there are about two lakh Hindu and Sikh refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan living in India. During the entire tenure of UPA-II, they said the total number of citizenships granted to such persons was only 1,023.

Ever since the Modi government assumed charge in May 2014, nearly 19,000 refugees have been given long-term visas in Madhya Pradesh, around 11,000 in Rajasthan and 4,000 in Gujarat, official sources said.

In April, the Home Ministry had rolled out an online system for Long Term Visa applications and for their processing by various agencies. The decision was taken to address the difficulty being faced by Hindu and Sikh minorities of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who had come with the intention of settling permanently in India. There are 400 Pakistani Hindu refugee settlements in cities such as Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jaipur. Hindu refugees from Bangladesh mostly live in West Bengal and the northeastern States. ■

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Rajpath turns into Yogpath

'Yoga is a programme for love, peace, unity and harmony'- Narendra Modi



It was an unprecedented demonstration of India's soft power as millions of people across the world, besides crores in India, performed yoga on 21 June, 2015 to mark the inaugural International Yoga Day. A record-breaking 37,000 people, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, took part in the main early morning event at Rajpath in the heart of New Delhi.

Yoga was performed at events across the world – from New York to Trinidad and Tobago, from the Maldives to Australia, from Tel Aviv to Moscow, from on board Indian naval ships to the high Siachen glacier, at schools and at innumerable residential localities ; all to mark the International Yoga Day on June 21.

The mega event at Rajpath was replicated across state capitals, cities, towns and rural areas in the country. Shri Modi described the event as the start of a new era for training the human mind for mind-body balance, peace and harmony.

Shri Modi, who himself did the

Asanas among the crowd of yoga performers at Rajpath, said yoga was not only an exercise to make the body flexible but a path for inner development. Remarking at the sea of people, the PM said, "Did anybody ever think that Rajpath can become Yogpath?"

Addressing the gathering Shri Narendra Modi asked people to embrace yoga for highest divine perfection and to combat greed and violence.

He said that while yoga may have originated in India, it draws energy from the millions who practice it around the world. Doing yoga regularly helps to reduce greed, violence, cost of healthcare and conflicts

Yoga Day held in 192 countries

Over 200 million people across India would mark the day at official events, AYUSH Minister Shri Shripad Naik said. Events were held in the morning hours in 192 countries, organized by the Indian missions and yoga centres. As the sun rose on the globe, the yoga events began kicking off, with the eastern most countries sending in their pictures.

within communities and between nations.

As a knowledge system, Shri Modi said, yoga has been enriched by contributions from different quarters across the globe. It was more than physical exercise; rather a way to achieve a stress-free life. "Yoga isn't about bending your body. If this was true, even kids working in a circus would be called yogis. It is more like tuning instruments before a concert. In the ecosystem of yoga, *Asanas* are like that. The real journey is much longer. And we are trying to move in that direction."

He added, "Yoga is for the welfare of humankind, for a stress-free world. It is a programme for love, peace, unity and harmony."

Shri Modi did all the 35 *Asanas* listed in the Common Yoga Protocol. A group of yoga experts did the yoga exercises on a stage, beamed to the crowd via around 25 large screens, with instructions in Hindi and English. The one-and-a-half-hour event, which began at 6.45am after Shri Modi's arrival, ended at 8am.

Over 1,400 women training to join Delhi Police did the yoga *asanas* as did senior citizens. Despite the month of Ramzan having begun and many of them being on fast Muslims, took part in huge numbers with enthusiasm.

Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa hailed Shri Modi. "As a practitioner of yoga, I commend PM for his efforts at the UN," he tweeted.

Indian soldiers did yoga at the Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield at 5,400 metres altitude, and in Ladakh and Kargil, besides at all major stations.

The Art of Living said some 50 million people across 132 countries did yoga with the spiritual group.

On 21 June, it was a concourse brimming with thousands of school kids, college students and practitioners from different yoga institutes. The lawns too were packed. An overwhelming majority wore white T-shirts and dark track pants. Watching them perform on the giant LED screens spread across the

BJP President inaugurates Yoga Day function in Patna

'Yoga Day would emerge as a big global movement'- Amit Shah



Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah attended the International Yoga Day celebration in Patna on 21 June where he lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for getting a resolution passed by the United Nations to accord recognition to yoga.

Shri Shah delivered a brief speech at the event marking the International Yoga Day and performed light breathing and neck exercises.

Describing June 21 as a big day, the BJP President said, "The proposal of Narendra Modi to celebrate International Day of Yoga got endorsement from over 175 nations and I hope it would emerge as a big global movement."

Coinciding with the arrival of Shri Shah to the venue, thousands of Yoga supporters thronged the ground, shouting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans.

Former Union Minister Dr. CP Thakur said there was no need to see yoga from any religious or political prism. "I am a doctor and know the importance of staying healthy. Yoga is the best way of achieving good health. It has benefits and so it cannot be opposed in any way," he said.

State leaders such as Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, state President Shri Mangal Pandey and all other BJP leaders participated on the occasion.

From Siachen to Sikkim, Armed forces mark Yoga Day



On June 21 the Indian Army soldiers stretched their hands in freezing temperatures at 18,800 feet in the North; their counterpart in the Navy contorted their bodies in the hot, humid sea down south. Far East, as Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) men bent their backs at 18,700 feet in Sikkim, CRPF men fighting the Maoists stretched in a Surya Namaskar under the scorching sun in Chhattisgarh. Nearly three lakh soldiers from the armed forces and the paramilitary participated in the mega event.

While yoga sessions were carried out by Army units across the country including Kargil and Ladakh, similar camps were conducted across naval installations. The Indian Navy declared 'Yoga across the Oceans' as its theme for the first International Yoga Day and yoga sessions were conducted onboard all naval ships deployed from the South China Sea in the east to the Mediterranean Sea. The IAF too carried out yoga sessions across the country which included not just the airmen but also their families.

area was like witnessing a spectacular synchronicity.

It wasn't just Delhi. The event spread across India from the silver stretches of the Rann of Kutch to INS Virat on the high seas, to passengers in mid-air on morning flights. Abroad, enthusiasts spread themselves below

the towering irons of Eiffel Tower and the phlegmatic temples of Cambodia.

It is noteworthy; Shri Narendra Modi is a keen yoga enthusiast and he gave a proposal last year to UN to reserve a day as 'International Yoga Day'. The PM's last year UN speech was pivotal to the announcement of June 21 as International Yoga day.

After the routine, the PM suddenly moved towards a group of children, sending security men into a tizzy. He shook hands with a few and was encircled by the students.

Sushma Swaraj participated in International Day of Yoga event in New York



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 21 June and participated in the International Day of Yoga event organized by the UN.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj said I am confident that Yoga can also become a potent tool for the United Nations to promote the message of brotherhood and amity in the finest Indian tradition of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. At a time when ethnic conflicts and extremist violence are threatening to destabilize society, Yoga can serve as a perfect antidote she said. She added Yoga is a science of well-being, she said.

Yoga is neither a religion, nor should it be seen as belonging to any religion. In a world increasingly divided by what the great poet

Rabindranath Tagore called “narrow domestic walls”, PM Modi had a vision of India’s ancient treasure that would do the opposite. And this is the place where it all began. On 27th Sept PM Modi first made the proposal of a Yoga Day at UN General Assembly, she said.

Appreciating the UN effort she said, Yoga began in India some 5000 years ago but it was given International acclaim only last year by the UN.

President of India inaugurates International Yoga Day



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a mass Yoga event at Rashtrapati Bhavan to commemorate the International Yoga Day on June 21, 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the President conveyed his best wishes to all on International Yoga Day. He said that India is the home of Yoga where it was practiced over centuries. One of the most important teachers of Yoga was Yoga Guru Patanjali. He stated that Yoga is both an art as well as a science. It has amazing curative as well as preventive powers for the well-being of humanity and for the management of many modern lifestyle related disorders.

India sets two world records



On the evening of 21 June, it was announced that the Union ministry of Ayush had set two records – for the largest yoga session ever with 35,985 participants and for most nationalities, 84, taking part at a single venue. The earlier record on the first count was held by Vivekananda Kendra, a Gwalior-based institute, with 29,973 participants.

“It is a matter of pride for India that we have broken two records on one day,” minister of AYUSH, Shri Shripad Naik, later told reporters, saying Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated all for the successful record event. The awards were received by Ayush Minister Shri Shripad Yesso Naik from representatives of Guinness World Records – Victoria from Britain and Marco Frigatti from Italy.

Union Ministers kicked off Yoga Day celebration in States

On 21 June, IT and communications minister Ravi Shankar Prasad kicked off the Yoga Day celebrations at the Sports Authority of India complex in Kolkata, while Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar was in Meerut for the celebrations. Science and technology minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan observed it in Kharagpur and minister of state for urban development Shri Babul Supriyo participated in a camp in Burnpur in West Bengal.

Law minister Shri D V Sadananda Gowda inaugurated yoga classes in Thiruvananthapuram, while railway minister Suresh Prabhu participated in a session in Kochi and his minister of state Shri Manoj

Sinha attended a camp in Gaya.

Civil aviation minister Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju performed several Asanas at Visakhapatnam, while his minister of state Shri Mahesh Sharma took part in a yoga function in Noida.

Health minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda and minister of state for labour and employment Shri Bandaru Dattatreya took part in yoga exercises in Hyderabad. Minister of state for youth affairs and sports Shri Sarbananda Sonowal presided over a yoga session in Guwahati, while agriculture minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh took part in a mass exercise at Motihari in Bihar.

HRD minister Smt. Smriti Irani joined yoga day celebrations in Shimla even as minister of state for minority affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi addressed a yoga event in Faridabad. ■

PM greets people around the world, on 1st International Yoga Day

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted the people around the world, on 1st International Day of Yoga. "Greetings to people around the world on 1st International Day of Yoga! Lets pledge to make Yoga an integral part of our daily lives.

In some parts of the world, the 1st rays of the sun have already been welcomed by people practicing Yoga. This will continue across the world", the Prime Minister said. ■

African countries celebrate International Yoga Day

Thousands of enthusiastic people on 21 June turned up at various venues across South Africa to celebrate the first International Yoga Day, with the coastal city of Durban recording the maximum participation. The celebrations that mostly had Indians in attendance incorporated a variety of activities including talks on the benefits of yoga and ayurveda as well as a wide range Asanas. The biggest gathering was on the beach in the coastal city of Durban.

In Nigeria thousands come together to celebrate the first International Day of Yoga in Lagos, on June 21. Individuals came forth in all their diversity from all walks of life to perform graceful yogic postures, Surya Namaskar and meditation. The event themed as "Yoga for Happiness" was organized

by The Art of Living Foundation, Nigeria Olympic Committee, SEWA International and also supported by United Nations Nigeria Chapter.

Through this event, Nigeria became a part of over 192 countries where the International Day for Yoga is being celebrated globally. The chairman of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, Prince Henry Amike addressed the audience and remarked the numbers in which participants had voluntarily come to attend this workshop on health and wellness.

Likewise many other countries in Africa celebrated the first International Day of Yoga. ■



Country owes it to the brave Sikhs who gave up their lives for the sake of the nation : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on June 19 speaking on the final day of the 350th foundation day celebrations of Anandpur Sahib said that he wants to thank CM Badal from the core of his heart for having invited him on this historic day.

and martyrdom always infuse us with a new energy, consciousness, elation and a great inspiration. Shri Amit Shah described Sri Anandpur Sahib as the source of knowledge, consciousness and spirituality in the country in his address. He also visited

of the sacrifice made by Guru Gobind Singh.

"I bow before this holy land," Shri Shah said. The celebration was attended by BJP President Shri Amit Shah along with Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Yoga Guru Ramdev, Chhattisgarh Governor Hon'ble Shri Balram Das Tandon, Union Minister Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur and Punjab BJP President Shri Kamal Sharma. Rajnath Singh appeals to the youth to take a pledge against drug menace

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh appealed to the youth of Punjab to take a pledge against the drug menace.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Singh said, "I know the Punjab government is taking steps and trying its best to prevent it (the drug menace), but whenever I get this news, be it Punjab or neighbouring states, that youths are into drugs...I want the youths of Punjab to take a pledge on this historic day today that they will fight against drug menace wherever it exists."

He said while the SAD-BJP government was taking steps to fight the scourge, to completely root out the drug menace, it also needs whole-hearted cooperation from the



Notably, the holy city of Sri Anandpur Sahib was founded in 1665 by the ninth Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur and further carrying his legacy, Khalsa Panth was created here in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh.

Shri Shah said the country owes it to the brave Sikhs who gave up their lives for the sake of preserving the unity and integrity of this nation and will always remain indebted to them. The foundation laid by Shri Anandpur Sahib of the upmost tradition of martyrdom and sacrifice is always having a great impact on all of us. Their sacrifice

the Holy armaments of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji which he used to fight against the extreme injustice in the freedom struggle and paid tribute. He paid the tribute to Shri Anandpur Sahib on the behalf of the entire party and the party workers. He said that he got an indomitable courage and a sense of consciousness and going with an extra-terrestrial energy. He also recalled the sacrifice made by Guru Tegh Bahadur, who fought the Mughals against the forced conversion of the Hindus.

Shri Shah also said that even small children are aware

public.

“Badal sahib just said that some people charge that SAD bases its politics on communal agenda.

I want to tell you Badal sahib that whatever the world may say, but one thing is clear the sacrifices made by the Khalsa Panth and the Sikh community for the sake of this nation to preserve its integrity, history, culture cannot be belied,” he stated.

“In the entire world, there will be no other example where one finds such brave community (Sikhs) who not only sacrificed themselves, but also their children just to protect the integrity and culture of this nation,” he said.

He said that the Sikh Gurus gave this message and taught this lesson to fight against tyranny and give a befitting reply to those who violate country’s integrity and secular fabric.

The history has numerous examples of brave Sikhs and Punjabis sacrificing lives for the sake of this nation, he said.

Shri Singh said that Sher Shah Suri, Maharana Pratap, Chhatrapati Shivaji and tenth Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, had set examples of fighting against the tyrants.

“How can we forget the sacrifices made by Lala Lajpat Rai and Bhagat Singh, who happily accepted the gallows fighting for the sake of his nation’s freedom,” Shri Singh continued.

He also termed the Sikhs as “big brothers”, saying one does not become higher in stature by protecting an individual, but by protecting and preserving country’s culture.

The Home Minister also said that India is a land where people of different faiths including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and others have peacefully co-existed for centuries together and cited an example that when Parsi community was pushed out of Iran, this country became their home and one of its member even went on to become India’s Army chief.

Speaking about communal harmony, Singh said, “India is the only country where 71 sects of Islam exist in the entire world”.

“This is our rich history and culture, for which the Khalsa Panth and the Sikhs have given numerous sacrifices to protect and preserve,” he said, and referred to the secular rule which was established by the then Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

He also said that Sikh community from time to time has bravely stood against those inimical forces who

have tried to sow the seeds of hatred between communities in this country.

Shri Singh said that India was a land where people even worship the deadly snakes on the occasion of Nag Panchmi.

CM Prakash Singh Badal said that holy land of Anandpur Sahib was not simply a town, but a thought, a philosophy.

Shri Badal said there was a need to imbibe the message given by our Gurus to preserve the unity and integrity of this nation.

In his address, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that he bows before this holy land of the Gurus, which also remained associated with Haryana, which was then a part of joint Punjab.

Shri Khattar also said that both Haryana and Punjab were like brothers and they should sit together to resolve their outstanding issues.

In his speech, Sukhbir Singh Badal, who is also the President of SAD, said that the Sikh Gurus taught us to fight against any kind of oppression and raise voice against it.

Touching on the issue of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, he said that even after 30 years of the carnage, the Sikhs were till date fighting for justice.

Yoga Guru Ramdev said that Sikhs and the Gurus set an example of making sacrifices for the sake of protecting the Hindu faith. (With inputs from PTI). ■

BJP Maha Prashikshan Abhiyan to train 15 lakh party workers

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is all set to launch its ambitious *Maha Prashikshan Abhiyan* from June 30, 2015. This is the first of its kind leadership training programme undertaken by a political party in the country.

This is the third landmark organizational campaign the BJP has taken up since the party came to power at the centre with a massive mandate. The party first established a world record by making a quantum leap in its membership by enrolling 10.5 crore members. Then it took up a *Maha Sampark Abhiyan* to confirm and verify the three fold increase in party membership. In the third in the series a four-tier members' training programme is being taken up which will involve the entire gamut of the party's organizational structure.

In the first phase of the four month long workers' training programme is a three day national level trainer's training camp to be inaugurated in Delhi by the party National President Shri Amit Shah on July 1, 2015. This will be attended by about 250 persons consisting of national office bearers of the party, five representatives from each state who will train trainers in their respective

states and members of the all India training programme announced by the Party chief. Similar workshops for the trainers will be conducted in each state where the trainers will be apprised of the gigantic task that the party has taken up.

In this campaign the first segment to be covered is the mandal. There are nearly 11000 mandals in the country. Each mandal will hold a two day training programme for 150 selected workers. No camp will have more trainees. If a particular mandal has more than that number, such mandals will hold two separate camps. The second stage is the district level camps. Here also the same rule will apply as far as the number of participants is concerned. The state level camps are the third tier. Here also the camps will have only 150 delegates for each camp.

All the camps in states will progress simultaneously and in the end there will be a national level camp. The entire training programme is expected to be complete in four months. To make these training programmes more effective, all the available modern technology tools will be fully utilized. There will be separate sessions in each state to highlight the specific socio-political aspects of that particular state and also there will be session to update the active workers on the achievements of the central government and the BJP-ruled states where a number of path-breaking initiatives have been successfully implemented.

On the completion of this intense training campaign which is expected to train 15 lakh workers on the core ideological mooring and political mission, the BJP would have set a new standard in political communication and workers training. No other party so far has taken up a task of this magnitude.

A team of experts under the party general secretary Shri Muralidhar Rao is busy preparing the content, literature and scheme of the training initiative which is being named after the party

icon Deendayal Upadhyaya. The team was announced at the Party's National Executive in Bangalore and following are its members: Shri V. Satish, Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Shri L. Ganeshan, Dr. R. Balashankar, Shri Rampyare Pandey and Shri Suresh Pujari. It is also significant that this leadership training programme is coinciding with the birth centenary of this great seer, who propounded the party ideology of Integral Humanism.

The format and the pattern for all these camps will be similar and designed at the national level. The content will also be similar but will have in-depth material for the higher level. ■

Mahila Morcha takes out *Nari Samman Yatra*



BJP's Mahila Morcha took out 8-day *Nari Samman Yatra* under the leadership of Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Vijaya Rahatkar. The yatra was part of party's Mahasampark Abhyan. During the yatra Mahila Morcha came into contact with new female members of the party. Main motto of the yatra was to make strong organization, spreading awareness about centre's programmes for the welfare of women and contacting with party karyakartas and newly members of the party. Through this yatra Mahila Morcha tried its best to convey message of *parivartan* brought by Modi led Government. 'Nari Samman Yatra' was flagged off by Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) President Shri Amit Shah on June 17 from BJP Headquarter, New Delhi and covering the seven states concluded at Kolkata in West West Bengal on June 24. ■

BJP National Office-bearers appointed

Hon'ble National President Shri Amit Shah ji has announced following office bearers on vacant post.

Vice Presidents

1. Shri Om Mathur
2. Shri Shyam Jaju
3. Shri Avinash Rai Khanna

General Secretaries

1. Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya
2. Shri Arun Singh
3. Dr. Anil Jain

Secretaries

1. Shri Suresh Pujari
2. Shri Mahendra Singh
3. Shri Mahesh Giri
4. Shri Farooq Khan

Amit Shah appoints election-in charge of Bihar

The BJP National President Shri Amit Shah appointed Union Ministers Shri Ananth Kumar as election in-charge of Bihar and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan as co-in-charge where assembly elections are likely to be held in Septmebr-October this year. As general secretaries of the party, both the leaders have worked in Bihar in the past. ■

PM meets sugarcane farmers from Uttar Pradesh

Government is working with a vision of making the farmers and the villages self-reliant and prosperous : PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on June 18 met sugarcane farmers from Uttar Pradesh. In the meeting he discussed the vision of making the farmers and the villages self-reliant and prosperous. Addressing a group of about 150 farmers from various districts of Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister said the Union Government had taken a number of steps with this vision in mind. The farmers called on him at his residence in the evening, to thank him for the Union Government's recent decision to provide Rs. 6000 crore to sugarcane farmers, and also for other recent pro-farmer steps taken by the Government in the sugar sector.

The Prime Minister explained at length, how his Government is working to provide 24x7 powers to all villages, and how this will change the lives of the people, and provide an opportunity for value addition to the crops. The Prime Minister said that the Government's decision to provide soil health cards to each farmer in the country, would help the farmers reduce input costs, and improve productivity.

Similarly, micro-irrigation would also help the farmer produce more crop, per drop. Shri Narendra Modi explained the benefits of the financial inclusion and social security schemes launched by his Government. He said direct transfer of benefits would eliminate leakages and

gratitude to the farmers for visiting him and blessing him to work for the progress of the country.

Earlier, felicitating the Prime Minister, farmers thanked him for the recent steps taken by the Government for the farmers' welfare. Shri Vijaypal Tomar,



middlemen from the system, so that the entire financial assistance that is sanctioned for the farmers is delivered to them. The Prime Minister also explained how the Government's decision to fix the support price of ethanol, and on ethanol-blending, would help the sugarcane farmers.

The Prime Minister expressed his deepest

Chaudhary Udhham Singh and Shri Harendra Singh were among the farmers who spoke on the occasion.

BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Sanjeev Balyan, UP State BJP President Laxmikant Bajpayee, and BJP -UP Organizing Secretary Shri Sunil Bansal, were present on the occasion. (FOC)■

NDA govt. increases MSP for Kharif Crops for 2015-16 season

Cabinet also cleared the 'Housing for all by 2022' scheme for urban areas

The cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) increased the minimum support price (MSP) for rice by Rs.50 per quintal in the 2015-16 season. This works out to a 3.6% increase over the MSP of Rs.1,360 declared last year. MSP is the price at which the centre procures foodgrain from farmers and supplies it to the public distribution system.

The government substantially raised the MSP for all pulses and gave Rs.200 per quintal as a bonus over the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices proposal.

While MSP for moong was raised by Rs.250 per quintal, tur (arhar) and urad support prices were raised by Rs.275 per quintal.

The Cabinet also directed that a credible procurement mechanism for pulses and oilseeds be put in place if the need arises. Last week, a decision to import pulses was taken. These measures are expected to complement efforts to keep a check on the price rise in pulses.

To give a boost to the technology needs of farmers, the cabinet also approved Rs.3,900 crore for

establishment of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and strengthening existing KVKs, telecom minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters.

KVKs are bodies that include experts and scientists at district level. These bodies look into transfer of latest technologies and farm research and serve as a link for overall rural development in the district.

The scheme includes new components, including use of information and communication technology, farm innovation and disaster management funds and mini seed-processing facilities.

CCEA also approved the inclusion of Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in the list of states to be covered under the National Dairy Plan Phase- I (NDP-1).

The programme is already being implemented in 15 states in the country, which between them account for more than 90% of the country's milk production, over 87% of the breedable cattle population and 98% of the country's fodder resources. However, coverage of NDP-I is across the country in terms of benefits accruing from the project.

The project is designed to improve productivity of milch animals and providing rural milk producers greater access to the organized milk processing market.

An official statement put out by the government said that Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have substantial milch animal population.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also cleared the 'Housing for all by 2022' scheme for urban areas, which aims to build more than 20 million homes, and revised India's solar power capacity target from 20,000 megawatts (MW) to 100,000MW by 2022, aiming to make India one of the world's largest green energy producers.

The housing scheme envisages rehabilitation of slum dwellers with the participation of private developers, using land as a resource, promotion of affordable housing for weaker section through credit-linked subsidy, affordable housing in partnership with public and private sectors and subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction or enhancement. It is mainly expected to benefit economically weaker sections

(EWS) and low-income groups (LIG).

Separately, the CCEA also approved setting up of over 2,000MW of grid connected solar PV power projects. It also signed off on a new Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) bill, 2015 to bring goods, services and systems, besides articles and processes under the standardization regime.

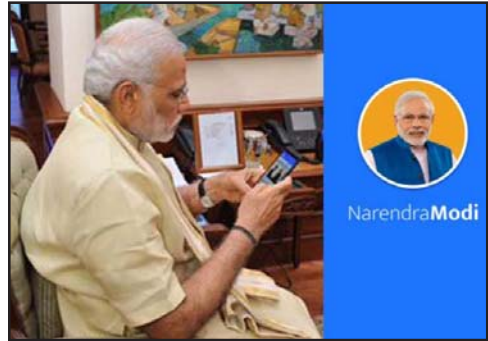
“Cabinet has approved the BIS Bill 2015 which will replace the BIS Act 1986. This will promote a culture of quality products and services,” said Union minister of consumer affairs, food and public distribution Ram Vilas Paswan. ■

PM launches ‘Narendra Modi Mobile App’

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on June 17 launched the ‘Narendra Modi Mobile App’. The application provides updates on the day-to-day activities of Shri Narendra Modi.

It presents an opportunity to

receive messages and emails directly from Shri Narendra Modi. There is also an option to contribute and earn ‘badges’ through to-do tasks. Using the app, one can tune-in and listen to the various ‘Mann ki Baat’ editions of Prime Minister Modi, read his blogs, and get to know more about him from the Biography section. The app provides comprehensive information on initiatives and achievements of the Union Government, including an ‘infographics’ section.



Vote NDA to bring in development to Bihar : Ananth Kumar

Shri Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers who was recently appointed as Prabhari for Bihar for the forthcoming elections to the Bihar Legislative Assembly visited Begu Sarai and Patna in Bihar on 16th June, 2015.

Addressing the press, Shri Ananth Kumar said that to ensure development of the State, it is necessary to vote NDA to power. The Minister said that the State of Bihar has been in a mess for several years due to misrule of Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. He said that even Shri Nitish Kumar did not make any efforts to provide good governance as he was a tool in the hands of Shri Lalu Yadav. He



requested the people of Bihar to vote for the NDA to bring in development to the State and to ensure that they do not fall prey to those parties who were providing jungleraj during the last several years.

Shri Ananth Kumar said that the Central Government under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Bhai Modi has approved revival of the Barauni Fertilizer Unit of the

HFCL, which was closed in 1999. He said that the visionary Central Government has taken several initiatives for the development of the Country. The Barauni fertilizer Industry which is in possession of over 400 acres of land for factory and 280 acres of land for township. Considering the availability of fully developed land along with water & power connectivity, huge infrastructure in all the Units, apart from increase in domestic demand of urea and its large supply - demand gap and high cost of import to meet the domestic demand, Government of India has decided to revive the unit through bidding route, he said. ■

India inks landmark motor pact with Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal

India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh have inked a Motor Vehicles Agreement for the regulation of passenger, personnel and cargo vehicular traffic in Thimpu, Bhutan. The agreement, signed on June 15 by transport minister Nitin Gadkari on behalf of India, will enable seamless movement of people and goods across the borders for the economic benefit of the entire region. The road transport ministers of the three countries met in Thimpu and signed the motor vehicles agreement, or MVA, for the regulation of passenger, personal and cargo vehicular traffic.

"This would further need to be supplemented through building and upgrading roads, railways and waterways infrastructure, energy grids, communications and air links to ensure smooth cross-border flow of goods, services, capital, technology and people," said road-transport minister Shri Nitin Gadkari.

A similar framework has been finalized between India, Myanmar and Thailand, the minister said. Once it is signed India will get access to the larger ASEAN market through seamless passenger and cargo movement.

"Secretary level discussions were successfully concluded in Bengaluru this month and consensus has been reached on the text of the agreement," he added.

A joint statement released by the four countries said, "We recognise that the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal) agreement is a complementary instrument to the existing transport agreements or arrangements at the bilateral levels that the contracting parties will continue to honour. Implementation difficulties, if any, will be resolved based on provisions of the motor vehicle agreement."

The agreement is a good way to boost the economies of Northeastern states of India. Limited transportation access, at high cost through the Siliguri Corridor, or Chicken's Neck, that connects north-eastern states to the rest of the country, has held back economic progress in the region. Road and rail links, and waterways that cut across Bangladesh have been crucial for accessing the north-east.

For Bhutan and Nepal, the project assumes special significance. India is the largest trading partner for both. The absence of ports

limits the trading opportunities available to them; as such they are heavily dependent on India to access the coast. Better connectivity to India and Bangladesh will boost trade ties immensely. Nepal, which has suffered a severe blow following the earthquake in April, will be aided in rebuilding its economy.

It is well-known that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) has not lived up to its promise, largely because of Pakistan's obstinate behaviour in raising bilateral issues in that multilateral forum. At the Saarc summit held in Kathmandu in November, there was a move to finalize an agreement similar to the one signed on Monday.

Pakistan refused to sign that and two more agreements that would have boosted road transport and electricity sharing. The country cited "internal processes" as the reason for its refusal. Given the state of Pakistan's economy, especially the power problems it faces, the country's reluctance to sign these agreements was absurd. Now, four of the eight-member countries have decided to go ahead with the pact on their own. (FOC)■

Bharat's message to the world has been the doctrine of 'live and let live' : Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, founder President of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, was born in Calcutta on July 06, 1901. Dr. Mookerjee, the illustrious son of Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, "the Tiger of Bengal" and Smt. Jogmaya Debi was a statesman who fought not only against foreign rulers but also against Indian detractors. When Jansangh was formed on 21st October 1951, he was formally elected its national President. Addressing the delegates in the Jansangh convention in Delhi as its first national President Dr. Mookerjee touched upon many issues. We are publishing a few excerpts from his speech for our esteemed readers. He began:

"I rise to welcome you all to this historic convention which meets at a momentous period in the history of India. I am well aware of the fact that the task ahead of us is a difficult one... I am confident that if we all proceed unitedly with undaunted courage and vigour, not deviating from the right path, keeping to service of the people and the advancement of the honour and dignity of our beloved motherland as the principal

aim before us, we are bound ultimately to attain success... Four years have passed since the attainment of political independence and it is admitted on all hands that the country today is in a much



worse condition... Today, the country is in the grip of deep-rooted discontent and frustration and the faith of the people in the capacity of Government to run the administration smoothly, impartially and efficiently has been rudely shaken. Black-marketing, profiteering and corruption have demoralised our society...Government have been singularly intolerant of criticism and often tried to suppress the

legitimate expression of free opinion... One of the chief reasons for the manifestation of dictatorship in Congress rule is the absence of well-organised opposition parties which alone can act as a healthy check on the majority party and can hold out before the country the prospect of an alternative Government."

"The Bharatiya Jana Sangh, therefore, emerges today as an All India Political Party which will function as the principal party in opposition... Opposition does not mean senseless or destructive approach to all problems that confront a responsible Government... Our aim will be to approach all problems in a constructive spirit."

In this speech, Mookerjee addressed the issue of nationalism as well as minorityism in a very forthright manner. He said:

"We have thrown open our party to all citizens of Bharat irrespective of caste, creed or community. While we recognise that in the matter of customs, habits, religion and language, Bharat presents a unique diversity, the people must be united by a bond of fellowship and

understanding inspired by deep devotion and loyalty to the spirit of a common motherland. Our party will strive to work for that unity in diversity which has been the key-note of Bharat's culture and civilisation."

"While it will be dangerous to encourage the growth of political minorities based on caste and religion, it is obviously the duty of the vast majority of Bharat's population to assure all classes of people who are truly loyal to their motherland that they will be entitled to full protection under the law and to complete equality of treatment in all matters—social, economic and political. Our party gives this assurance unreservedly."

"The Congress in its anxiety to maintain the secular character of Bharat has continued a suicidal policy of appeasement of Muslims and some of its leaders; specially the Prime Minister taken, have special delight in outraging Hindu feelings and sentiments, and sometimes attacking Sikhs also. One may remain a good Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian or even Muslim and yet be a staunch Indian devoted to the highest national cause."

Mookerjee touched upon, in detail, the issues concerning foreign affairs, Pakistan and Kashmir:

"...We are against totalitarianism of any kind whatsoever. We recognise that every nation must have

"...We are against totalitarianism of any kind whatsoever. We recognise that every nation must have the liberty to shape its national policy and attitude towards life according to the genius and traditions of the people themselves. Bharat's message to the world has been the doctrine of 'live and let live'. So long as India's right to determine her own pattern is not interfered with, there is no reason why we should not maintain friendly relations with all other countries..."

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"We have very definite views regarding Pakistan. We hold the opinion that partition

of Bharat was a tragic folly. It has served no purpose and has not helped to solve any problem - economic, political or communal... The manner in which minorities have been and still are being treated in Pakistan proves conclusively that the agreement that minorities would be protected in both countries has been flagrantly violated... The present policy of appeasement followed by the Congress Government has weakened India and affected her honour and prestige... Kashmir is an integral part of India and should be treated as any other state. It is indeed tragic that one-third of Kashmir should be in the hands of the enemy and our Government should be unable to free the area from foreign occupation in spite of occasional outbursts of determination to fight any future penetration."

Syama Prasad Mookerjee passed away in Srinagar (J&K) on wee hours of June 23, 1953. That marked the end of his 52-years of vigorous life, last forty days of which were spent in imprisonment in a cottage near Srinagar's Nishat Bag while transgressing permit system for entry into Jammu & Kashmir. The conspiracy for Dr. Mookerjee's death deepens because no enquiry into his death was set up. His death still remains shrouded in mystery. The nation salutes its brave son on his birth anniversary! ■

## Yadavrao Deshmukh is no more

**V**eteran journalist and social activist Yadavrao Deshmukh passed away at a hospital in Ghaziabad on June 6. He was unwell for some time. He was 87. Since he had pledged to donate his body after death, his body was donated to the Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. His eyes were donated to Guru Nanak Eye Hospital, New Delhi. He was affectionately called Yadav Kaka.

His body was taken to the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) where he was paid tribute by DRI workers and senior Sangh leaders, Prominent among those who paid tribute included the RSS Sahsarkaryavah Shri V Bhagaiya, Kshetra Pracharak

Shri Prem Kumar, veteran journalist and former editor of *Panchjanya* Shri Devendra Swarup, senior journalist Shri Achyutananda Mishra, former editor of *Rashtradharm* Shri Vireshwar Dwivedi, former Rajasthan BJP President Dr Mahesh Chandra Sharma, former chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Dr Mahesh Sharma and Shri Ramdas Pandey from Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. The body was donated through Dadhichi Dehdan Samiti.

Born on May 27, 1928, Yadavraoji did graduation from the Banaras Hindu University in 1947. He was a



**27 May 1928 - 06 June 2015**

Pracharak in Varanasi, Mirzapur, Jaunpur, Gandhipur, Balia and Azamgarh. He edited *Panchjanya* Hindi weekly from Lucknow from 1958 to 1968. He was also managing editor of daily *Tarun Bharat* and *Rashtradharm* from 1968 to 1975. He was also editor of *Yug Vivek* weekly from 1977 to 1980. During Emergency, he was jailed. He was a member of the Akhil Bharatiya Samachar Patra Sampadak Sammelan from 1961 to 1970. Later, he joined Deendayal Research Institute and held the responsibility of its organising secretary and Principal Secretary from 1990 to 1998. He edited *Manthan*, the monthly magazine published by DRI. He was also member of DRI's central managing committee. He was member of CAPART from 2001 to 2003. He was vice president of Janshikshan Sansthan in Gonda from 2002 to 2004. Presently, he was patron of the Akhil Bharatiya

Ganga Mahasabha.

Yadav Kaka was a source of inspiration to hundreds of workers and the karyakartas. In the initial years of DRI in Chitrakoot, he worked shoulder to shoulder with Nanaji and helped him laying a strong foundation of the work, fine-tuning it with the philosophy of Integral Humanism. He also gave impetus to intellectual activities by *Shri Devendra Swarup* paying tribute the Institute when Nanaji was fully engaged in rural reconstruction work.

Yadavraoji as a motivator, inventor and the man with brilliant brain. When he was managing editor of *Rashtradharm*, Rajju Bhaiya was Director in-charge. In those days, *Panchjanya* used to be published from Lucknow and it was printed on a rotary press purchased from Russia. Yadavraoji made some amendments in the machine to print two colours-saffron and black. The saffron colour used in the masthead of *Panchjanya* began with the efforts of Yadavraoji. There are many incidents, which demonstrate the uniqueness of his personality.

During Emergency, he was arrested from Husainganj Crossing, where the statute of Maharana Pratap stands today, when he was returning after meeting Chaudhary Charan Singh. (FOC)■



# Central Grant to the Nine Congress Ruled States

By Arun Jaitley

The Congress Party today had a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the nine Congress ruled States. The Party leadership raised an issue that Congress ruled States have been discriminated against by the Centre. Facts however speak otherwise. The following two charts explicitly make this point. Chart 1 indicates the total tax devolution to the nine Congress ruled States during the period 2010-2015 and the proposed allocation pursuant to Fourteenth Finance Commission for the period 2015-2020. Chart 2 indicates how much the nine States received in the last year of the UPA Government i.e. 2013-14. It also shows the figure after the Fourteenth Finance Commission that

| Rs. in Crore                                                           |                          |                          |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>TAX DEVOLUTION in next 5 years compared to previous 5 years (*)</b> |                          |                          |                          |
|                                                                        |                          | <b>14th FC (2015-20)</b> | <b>13th FC (2010-15)</b> |
| <b>1</b>                                                               | <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b> | 53386                    | 4673                     |
| <b>2</b>                                                               | <b>Assam</b>             | 128945                   | 51712                    |
| <b>3</b>                                                               | <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>  | 27764                    | 11131                    |
| <b>4</b>                                                               | <b>Karnataka</b>         | 183566                   | 61691                    |
| <b>5</b>                                                               | <b>Kerala</b>            | 97344                    | 33368                    |
| <b>6</b>                                                               | <b>Manipur</b>           | 24024                    | 6428                     |
| <b>7</b>                                                               | <b>Meghalaya</b>         | 24999                    | 5816                     |
| <b>8</b>                                                               | <b>Mizoram</b>           | 17911                    | 3834                     |
| <b>9</b>                                                               | <b>Uttarakhand</b>       | 40967                    | 15965                    |

\* In addition, States will get Revenue Deficit Grants and other FC Grants

each of these States is likely to receive in the year 2015-16. As per the Budget estimates, in addition to the amounts mentioned for the period 2015-16, some of these States may also receive an amount from amongst the Rs.20,000 crores allotted to the NITI Aayog; Rs.15,000 crores surplus available with the Revenue as mentioned in para 55 of the Finance Minister's Budget

Speech. Further amounts would also be allotted to the States for Centrally supported projects of the Railways and the National Highways. A special provision would also be made for Uttarakhand on account of the restoration of the flood affected areas and the ArdhKumbh.

## CHART - II

| Rs. in Crore                 |                          |                       |          |                   |                        |               |          |                   |              |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>CONGRESS RULED STATES</b> |                          |                       |          |                   |                        |               |          |                   |              |
|                              |                          | 2013-14 (Actual)      |          |                   | 2015-16 (BE)           |               |          |                   |              |
|                              |                          | Last full year of UPA |          |                   | First full year of NDA |               |          |                   |              |
|                              |                          | FC Tax Devolution     | FC Grant | CSS Plan Transfer | Total                  | FC Devolution | FC Grant | CSS Plan Transfer | Total        |
| <b>1</b>                     | <b>Arunachal Pradesh</b> | 1032                  | 763      | 1249              | <b>3045</b>            | 7232          | 159      | 3245              | <b>10636</b> |
| <b>2</b>                     | <b>Assam</b>             | 11423                 | 508      | 7326              | <b>19257</b>           | 17401         | 3283     | 9391              | <b>30075</b> |
| <b>3</b>                     | <b>Himachal Pradesh</b>  | 2459                  | 1883     | 1736              | <b>6079</b>            | 3744          | 8436     | 4616              | <b>16796</b> |
| <b>4</b>                     | <b>Karnataka</b>         | 13628                 | 3203     | 8262              | <b>25093</b>           | 24790         | 1772     | 8906              | <b>35468</b> |
| <b>5</b>                     | <b>Kerala</b>            | 7371                  | 1568     | 3686              | <b>12625</b>           | 13122         | 5564     | 4674              | <b>23360</b> |
| <b>6</b>                     | <b>Manipur</b>           | 1420                  | 1741     | 1094              | <b>4255</b>            | 3238          | 2122     | 2817              | <b>8177</b>  |
| <b>7</b>                     | <b>Meghalaya</b>         | 1285                  | 883      | 1346              | <b>3514</b>            | 3371          | 643      | 2139              | <b>6153</b>  |
| <b>8</b>                     | <b>Mizoram</b>           | 847                   | 1083     | 977               | <b>2907</b>            | 2414          | 2166     | 2177              | <b>6757</b>  |
| <b>9</b>                     | <b>Uttarakhand</b>       | 3527                  | 521      | 1664              | <b>5712</b>            | 5526          | 471      | 4362              | <b>10359</b> |

How much has the West Bengal benefitted from the Fourteenth Finance Commission

Union Finance Minister in a press statement revealed the Central Assistance to West Bengal. He said in the statement that Some friends in West Bengal asked for greater central assistance to West Bengal. He added “ The impact of the Fourteenth Finance Commission on the finances of West Bengal has to be understood. In the last full year of the UPA Government (2013-14), West Bengal received a total amount of tax devolution, Finance Commission grants and planned transfers of Rs.42029.22 crores. In the first full year of the NDA Government i.e. 2015-16, this amount will be raised to

Rs.63578.00 crores. During the period 2010-15, West Bengal received a total tax devolution of Rs.103539 crores. Between 2015-20, this amount will increase to Rs.285200 crores.” According to the press statement the following chart indicates the total amount that West Bengal is receiving in the current year as compared to the previous two years:

Further, this year the Centre has some untied funds of Rs.20,000 crores with the NITI Aayog and Rs.15,000 crores which was referred to in para 55 of the Finance Minister’s Budget Speech. West Bengal is likely to get some of this amount. Despite a huge benefit to West Bengal under the Fourteenth Finance Commission, can it at all be said that West Bengal has not gained under the Fourteenth Finance Commission? ■

| Year    | FC Devolution | FC Grant | Plan transfer CASP | Total    |
|---------|---------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| 2013-14 | 23175.02      | 1985.49  | 16868              | 42029.22 |
| 2014-15 | 24595         | 2525     | 18644              | 45764.00 |
| 2015-16 | 38461         | 11005    | 14112              | 63578.00 |

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance and I&B)

## PM calls for greater synergy between the Digital India initiative & related programmes of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on June 22 called for each school in the country to plan its own targets, which it aims to achieve by 2022, India’s 75th year of independence. Reviewing the progress of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan at a high-level meeting, the Prime Minister reiterated his suggestion for Swachh Bharat – Swachh Vidyalaya competitions among various schools.

The Prime Minister asked concerned officials to explore the possibility of a twinning arrangement between one class of a school in an urban area, and one class of a school in a rural area. He said best teaching practices should be identified, and a repository of the same created, for wider dissemination.

The Prime Minister said basic data for all school teachers, such as Aadhaar numbers, email IDs and mobile numbers should be maintained in a database.

Shri Narendra Modi reiterated his call for an aptitude test to be conducted for all students. He also called for greater synergy between the Digital India initiative, and related programmes of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, and senior officials from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, NITI Aayog, and PMO were present on the occasion. (FOC)■

# A good year

By P. Muralidhar Rao

The NDA's first year in office has been a game-changer. A new paradigm of governance where growth and welfare go hand in hand has been introduced — investment aimed at double-digit growth is being planned in tandem with pro-poor initiatives. Transparency and probity, as evidenced by the coal and telecom auctions and the initiatives against black money, are the order of the day. The results are already visible, with the economy growing at 7.3 per cent in 2014-15. This, after inheriting a low growth rate due to 10 years of scams, indecisive governance, global recession, etc.

Acting on the premise that infrastructure-creation drives economic growth, the NDA has focused on this sector. A Rs 70,000 crore increase in infrastructure investment in 2015-16, over the last financial year, is on the cards. Five new power projects of 4,000 megawatts (MW) each, in plug-and-play mode, have been announced. Public investments in irrigation and rural infrastructure have been prioritised and government policy has been tailored to attract both public- and private-sector investment in infrastructure.

A transparent approach to

natural resources was vital, given that the biggest scams during the UPA years had to do with coal and spectrum allocation. The NDA thus opted for e-auctions. Revenue of more than Rs 2 lakh crore for coal-bearing states has been generated through this process (during the UPA regime, the states only received royalty from coal mining). The telecom

Commission's recommendation to increase the states' share of total federal tax revenues from 32 to 42 per cent.

The government and the BJP stand firm on curbing the growth of black money, a major handicap in resource-generation for the empowerment of the poor. Not only does it drain capital but also compromises international relations. The

**The government and the BJP stand firm on curbing the growth of black money, a major handicap in resource-generation for the empowerment of the poor. Not only does it drain capital but also compromises international relations. The PM has been successful in evolving a consensus among world leaders on the black money issue. Indeed, the NDA's first cabinet decision was the constitution of an SIT to investigate black money.**

spectrum auction fetched more than Rs 1 lakh crore.

Centre-state relations and India's global image have improved drastically. The prime minister has repeatedly emphasised the importance of Team India for progress. To help states focus on their development plans and strengthen the federal structure, the NDA swiftly implemented the 14th Finance

PM has been successful in evolving a consensus among world leaders on the black money issue. Indeed, the NDA's first cabinet decision was the constitution of an SIT to investigate black money. Two important pieces of legislation, the Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Bill and Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Bill, were



enacted to curb the generation of black money.

In terms of legislation, the past year has been fruitful thanks to the BJP's clear majority in the Lower House. The 2015 budget session was the most productive of the last 15 years. Lok Sabha productivity – the number of actual working hours as a percentage of the total scheduled hours – was 123 per cent. The Upper House was slightly behind, with productivity of 101 per cent.

Financial inclusion of the poor has been an immediate priority. Accordingly, three social security schemes providing insurance cover and pension have been launched. Dovetailed with the Jan Dhan Yojana, they are a

**Financial inclusion of the poor has been an immediate priority. Accordingly, three social security schemes providing insurance cover and pension have been launched. Dovetailed with the Jan Dhan Yojana, they are a decisive step towards institutionalised financial inclusion, rather than dole.**

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The launch of the Mudra Bank was another significant step towards the financial empowerment of citizens. India boasts some 5.7 crore small enterprises, which account for 90 per cent of the non-agricultural workforce and 40 per cent of the non-agricultural GDP. The majority, around 62 per cent, of these are run by individuals from SC, ST or OBC communities. Cut off from the banking system post-Independence, they have now been given access to minimal interest loans of Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh.

Interestingly, these small enterprises contributed to India's global economic dominance before the Industrial Revolution. Strengthening the traditional small-is-beautiful model could well help realise the dream of turning India into a global manufacturing hub.

Addressing the skills gap, which has thus far hampered efforts to take advantage of the demographic dividend and generate largescale employment, the NDA has created a special ministry for skilling 500 million youth by 2020. Nearly 1.5 crore youth enter the job market every year, but only a tiny fraction receive formal vocational training, as compared to 60-96 per cent in industrialised countries.

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demographic advantage with a billion people under 45 – in contrast to the increasing dependency ratio in the West. By 2020, the average Indian will be 29 years old, compared to 37 for China and 48 for Japan. Instinctively realising that a decisive leader is needed to make the most of this opportunity, the electorate has placed its faith in Narendra Modi. Judging from the first year, he has used that mandate to forge ahead with an innovative, even revolutionary, paradigm of equitable growth. ■

*(The writer is BJP National General Secretary)*

# Contours of a new architecture of governance

By Ajay Singh

**B**ureaucratic notings on files, if collated, compiled and studied as a subject, would give interesting insights into the culture of India's administration. One such series of notings is still recounted as an account of unfettered authority wielded by the district collector during the British raj. An outgoing district collector gave a terse instruction to his successor about an influential landlord: "Crush him." The successor dutifully followed the instruction and left two words in his noting for his successor: "Crushed him." The new incumbent just added one word and noted on the file: "Found him crushed."

This legacy of the British era civil servants still continues. In post-independent India, the bureaucracy stuck to its past and continues to assume an adversarial role when dealing with people. Unlike politicians, who are thrown out of power if they perform below par, the bureaucracy remains firmly ensconced in the power structure and cannot be dislodged. They thrive on opaqueness, secrecy and in an atmosphere of conspiracy. This is the precise reason why the bureaucracy often evokes more contempt than the political executive.

Thomas Paine, one of the founding fathers of the United States, described the state as a parasite and said that the government even in its best state is "but a necessary evil". Though the US nurtured bureaucracy and promoted free market at the same time, there have been successive US presidents who promised to de-bureaucratise the nation by reducing the state's role in the citizen's life. For instance, Ronald Regan used to say that

and rely more on the market?

Modi has had a unique experience of brush with bureaucracy as an ordinary citizen, as a chief minister and now as the prime minister. As an ordinary citizen, he would have certainly encountered a slothful, indifferent and even hostile bureaucracy which retains its colonial and feudal traits. As an administrator with formidable experience in Gujarat and now at the

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the most terrifying words in the English language are "I am from the government and I am here to help."

Indian prime minister Narendra Modi largely borrowed from these campaigns when he coined the slogan, "maximum governance with minimum government." The explicit meaning of the slogan is apparently to throw the monkey off your back and reduce the overbearing and intrusive nature of the bureaucracy. What exactly did Modi mean by his new formulation? Will he reduce the size of the government

national level, Modi knows it too well that the bureaucracy is the essential instrument of delivery of the government's schemes which cannot be done away with. In his stint as Gujarat chief minister Modi devised several innovative ways of disabusing the civil servants of the 'master of all they survey' notion and made them facilitators of the government's agenda. He organised events all over the state to make civil servants the government's interface with the people.

Modi seems to have carried this experiment at the national level too. He has

been holding a series of review meetings with civil servants to gauge the progress of central schemes and projects. These meetings have 140-odd officers including top bureaucrats across the country linked through video-conferencing and the PM can easily interact with everyone. In one such monthly meeting, the Bihar chief secretary was ticked off by Modi for giving wrong information about a railway bridge project in Patna. There have been several instances in which the PM has intervened to inquire about the delay in certain projects and asked officials from different departments to coordinate and clear hurdles at the earliest.

What is peculiar about this monitoring method is that the agenda for the review is prepared well in advance and civil servants are asked to come to the meeting with detailed preparations. A senior official who participated in the meeting pointed out that since officials entrusted with the task of carrying out the government's projects are under constant scrutiny, they cannot get away by flimsy excuses. This is the first time that such monitoring of government schemes and projects is being undertaken at the highest level. Though it may not appear to be a major breakthrough at first glance, yet the entire exercise has broken the silos and the

comfort zone in which civil servants tend to work.

**Apparently Modi's "minimum government" does not mean either reducing the size of the government or bypassing the established structure. Far from it, there are all indications that the PM has been placing excessive reliance on civil servants and persuading them to deliver the government's agenda. At the same time, he has been relying on technology to hold civil servants accountable to their jobs and make them responsive to people's needs. Given Modi's penchant for declaring welfare schemes one after another, the role of the state in the citizen's life will only expand significantly. He has not shown any inclination to let market forces play the role of the state. On the contrary, there is a determined attempt to regulate the market and attune it to the concept of fair play.**

For a section of pro-market liberals, Modi's politics seems contrary to his utterances which are construed as his preference for letting the free market replace the bureaucracy. Modi instead has shown a tendency to consolidate his position, reorient the bureaucracy to his own agenda and regulate the market firmly. There is a strong possibility that Modi's rhetorical slogan of "maximum governance with

minimum government" is grossly misunderstood.

In his 2015 book, 'The Utopia of Rules: On Technology, Stupidity and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy', American anthropologist and LSE professor David Graeber summed up this phenomenon as the "iron law of liberalism". In his view, "the iron law of liberalism states that any market reform, any government initiative intended to reduce red tape and promote market forces will have the ultimate effect of increasing the total number of regulations, the total amount of paperwork, and the total number of bureaucrats the government employs."

In Modi's case, there is a strong likelihood that the state would expand and assume the role of the facilitator and regulator of market forces and ever expanding opportunities. The increasing technological intervention is expected to ensure transparency in the functioning of the civil servants. That will be a transformative image makeover for the Indian administration which will ultimately cast off its colonial legacy and the adversarial role.

The culture of the Indian civil services will then distinctly change for the better. The bureaucratic notings on the file will be much less intimidating than they usually are. ■

*(The writer is editor of Governance Now.)*

*(Courtesy: Governance Now))*



## Yoga : A journey from "Aham to Vayam; Sva to Samasti." ( I to we; Self to Universe ) : Narendra Modi



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on June 21 described Yoga as a journey from "Aham to Vayam; Sva to Samasti." (I to we; Self to Universe). He said that if we perceive our human body to be a unique creation, then Yoga is similar to a "user manual" that made one aware of the immense capabilities of that creation.

In his remarks at the International Conference on Yoga for holistic health, on the occasion of the first International Day of Yoga, the Prime Minister described Yoga as a "state of mind," (avasthaa), as opposed to being a commodity or a system (vyavasthaa). He said that the solidarity being expressed through Yoga, in the coming together with brothers and sisters in other countries, brings our hearts and minds closer.

This support is not just for India, but for the great tradition of Yoga, the Prime

Minister noted. He described Yoga as a means to achieve harmony with oneself, one's body, surroundings and nature. He said that when practised correctly and with discipline, Yoga leads to greater fulfilment in life.

The Prime Minister said that as the world united in celebrating the International Day of Yoga, there would be

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a lot of expectations, regarding Yoga, and India stands ready to the shoulder the responsibility of these expectations, for the greater good of the world.

He said Yoga is a collective gift to humanity. He added that it may have originated in India, but it draws its energies from the millions who practice it around the world. He reiterated India's resolve to reach out and foster a culture of inclusiveness, of fraternity, of one global family - Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

The Prime Minister also released commemorative coins and a stamp, to mark the occasion of the first International Day of Yoga.

The Minister for AYUSH (I/C) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, the Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha, and Yoga exponents Baba Ramdev, Dr Nagendra and Dr. Veerendra Heggade were present on the occasion.(FOC)■

# God Exists

By Swami Sivananda

..... Some people die when they are eighty years old; some die when they are in the womb; some die at twenty; some at forty. What is the cause for the variation? Who has fixed the span of life for all? This clearly proves that there is the theory of Karma, that there is one Omniscient Lord who is the dispenser of the fruits of the actions of the Jivas (individual souls), who fixes the span of life of the Jivas in accordance with their nature of Karmas or actions, who knows the exact relation between Karmas and their fruits. As Karma is Jada or insentient, it cannot dispense with the fruits of their actions.

Whether the owl accepts the presence of light or not, there is always light. Whether you accept the existence of God or not, He always exists. He is ever shining in the 'three periods of time.' He exists before you begin to search for Him. He is closer to you than your breath and nearer to you than your hands and feet.

Do you exist or not? This is my question. If you say 'No', I see before my eyes your figure with sinewy arms, a broad forehead and big eyes. If you say, 'Yes', this gives the clue to prove the existence of God. The very question whether God exists or not clearly proves that God



exists.

Whatever you see is God. Whatever you hear is God. Whatever you taste is God. Whatever you smell is God. Whatever you feel is God. This is the manifested aspect. The physical body belongs to the Virat (Cosmos). The astral body belongs to Hiranyagarbha (Cosmic intelligence). The causal body belongs to Ishvara (Reality with its veiling power). Where is this 'I' now?

Emerson says: "A little consideration of what takes place around us every day would show us that a higher law than that of our will, regulates events: that our painful labours are very unnecessary and altogether fruitless: that only in our easy, simple, spontaneous action are we strong, and by contending ourselves with obedience we become divine.

Belief and love will relieve us of a vast load of care. O my brothers! God exists. There is a soul at the centre of nature and over the will of every man, so that none of us can wrong the universe. It has so infused its strong enchantment into nature that we prosper when we accept its advice; and when we struggle to wound its creatures, our hands are glued to our sites, or they beat our own breasts. The whole course of things goes to teach us faith."

Can you tell me, friends: Is there any one on the face of the earth who is not afraid of death? Is there any one who is not uttering the name of the Lord when he is in serious difficulty, when his life is trembling in the balance or when he is in acute agony? Why then do you deny the existence of God? You yourself admit His existence when you are in trouble. On account of perverted intellect and worldly intoxication you have turned out to be an atheist, though to be sure, you cannot prove His non-existence by any means. Is this not a great folly? Think seriously. Give up arguing. Remember Him and attain immortality and eternal peace.

*Courtesy: The Divine Life Society*