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*In the beginning of creation, Brahma after generating all beings as a result of the performance of sacrifice unto the Supreme Lord said : by the performance of sacrifice may you evolve and prosper; let sacrifice bestow all that is desirable for you.*

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 10)

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“India's software will move hardware across the world. India's talent will master technology & our market will motivate manufacturing.”

-Narendra Modi

“Crime and corruption don't go hand-in-hand with development. Bihar would get 'jungle raj - 2' if the 'Grand Secular Alliance' got the mandate at the hustings.”

-Amit Shah

## Vijayadashami : 22 October, 2015

Vijayadashami also known as Dussehra or Tenth day of Navratri is one of the most important Hindu festivals celebrated in various forms, across India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. The name Dussehra is derived from Sanskrit Dasha-hara literally means Dashanan Ravan (Dasha is the name of Ravana and Hara (defeat)) referring to Lord Rama's victory over the ten-headed demon king Ravana.

The day also marks the victory of Goddess Durga over the demon Mahishasur. The name Vijayadashami is also derived from the Sanskrit words “Vijaya-dashami” literally meaning the victory on the dashami. Vijayadashami is celebrated on the tenth day of the month of Ashwin according to the Hindu luni-solar calendar which corresponds to October of the Gregorian calendar. The first nine days are celebrated as Maha Navratri and culminates on the tenth day as Dussehra. As per Hindu religious texts, on this day in the Treta Yug, Lord Rama, killed Ravana who had abducted Goddess Sita to Lanka. Lord Rama had performed Chandi Homa and invoked the blessings of Goddess Durga, who blessed Rama with secret knowledge of the way to kill Ravana. On the day of Ashvin Shukla Dashami, Rama defeated Ravana and rescued Sita. Thus it is termed as Vijaya Dashami.



As per the religious texts the world was crushed under Mahishasura's tyranny, the Devas joined their energies into Shakti, a single mass of incandescent energy, to kill Mahishasura. A very powerful band of lightning emerged from the mouths of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and Goddesses Durga a female virgin with ten hands appeared. All the Gods gave their special weapons to her. Riding on a lion Durga fought Mahishasura. The battle raged for nine days and nights. Finally on the tenth day of Ashvin shukla paksha, Mahishasura was defeated and killed by Durga. Hence Dasha-Hara is also known as Navratri or Durgotsav and is a celebration of Durga's victory.

In most of northern India and some parts of Maharashtra, Dashahara is celebrated more in honour of Lord Rama. During these 10 days many plays and dramas based on Ramayana are performed. These are called Ramlila. In Jharkhand, Bengal, Assam and Odisha, the goddess Durga, is worshipped for ten days. In major Shakti Peethas Puja is observed with rituals for a period of 16 days, known as Shodasa Upachara. In Tamilnadu & Kerala the ninth day of the Navratri festival is celebrated as Saraswati Puja. ■



## Lotus blooms, 'Mahagathbandhan flops

**B**ihar politics is charged up. The state assembly election will determine the course of politics in the country. The responsibility to stabilize the unstable politics of Bihar has come on the people of Bihar. People have tested everyone in Bihar. People have seen Lalu raj for fifteen years and also seen the BJP supported JDU rule under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. Nitish Kumar was made leader on the shoulders of thousands of Karyakartas of BJP but he got the illusion that he was there on the strength of his own which was not true. Bihar BJP wanted to liberate people from the Jungle raj. The situation in Bihar is such that the Jungle raj against which Nitish Kumar and BJP had led a campaign, today the same Nitish Kumar has ditched BJP and joined hands with Lalu Yadav. The power has so much degraded Nitish Kumar that people had never hoped for. To remain in power Nitish Kumar apart from Lalu Yadav has taken support of the Congress whom he used to oppose right from his early days in politics. The people of Bihar are clearly unhappy with Nitish Kumar. People say that while Nitish has ditched BJP, he has also ditched the people of Bihar by joining hands with Lalu Yadav. People had supported Nitish Kumar in 2010 because he was with BJP and opposed to Lalu and Congress. JDU leader consider people fool. JDU has stooped so low for power. In Bihar people want to give BJP chance to form the government. People know that BJP has never led the government. Common people want to give NDA a chance. In the last Lok Sabha elections people while breaking the caste barriers had voted for Narendra Modi. That is why NDA got maximum number of seats in Lok Sabha. The ego of Nitish Kumar has badly upset the people of Bihar but he has not yet given up his ego. He tried to play Dalit card and show his 'sacrifice' to the people. But his attachment to power led him to throw away Jitan Ram Manjhi. The so called love for Dalit was exposed. Lalu ji while supporting Nitish Kumar has shown his anti-Dalit face to the people of Bihar.

Today Lalu and Nitish are fighting for their survival in Bihar. Having got defeated in all the surveys the 'Mahagathbandhan' leaders have lost their patience. The kind of language the leaders of the 'mahagathabandhan' are using is not only shameful but points to the fact that they have accepted their defeat even before the results have been declared. The people of Bihar have complete faith in the Prime Minister and BJP. Only one voice is coming from the land of Bihar - Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Bihar is above caste like factors now. The young people of Bihar have clearly indicated that this time there will be BJP-led NDA government. The people of Bihar have earlier also shown the country the way to move forward. The five-phase elections taking place in Bihar will definitely uproot the Mahagathbandhan. As the 'Mahagathbandhan' has flopped, the Lotus is blooming everywhere in Bihar. ■

# NDA rally in Bihar

BANKA

## 'Bihar's poor would have homes and electricity by 2022'

In his first rally in Bihar since elections were announced, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made a strong pitch for development in Banka on 02 October, pointing



to how neighbour Jharkhand, ruled by the BJP, had jumped many places to now be ranked number 3 among Indian states in a World Bank survey.

"15 years ago Jharkhand was a part of Bihar. After Jharkhand chose a BJP-led NDA government, it has progressed much. In the last World Bank economic survey Jharkhand was ranked 29th, Bihar 27th. This time, Bihar is still no 27, Jharkhand is 3," PM Shri Modi said.

The PM was speaking in Bihar's Naxal-affected Banka, which he said no Prime Minister had visited for as long as anyone can remember. "I appeal to the youth who have taken to the gun for Naxalism - the bullet brings only destruction. The ballot brings development," the Prime Minister said, adding, "Bihar has seen feudalism, casteism, capitalism, and nepotism...everything. For once, vote for development."

Even his customary attack on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar - who is leading a

three-party coalition against the BJP - was for what he called cheating Bihar's people by not bringing them the development they need.

"In the last elections had the current Chief Minister not promised you electricity? Did he give you electricity? Did he not cheat you?" asked the PM. The crowd roared a, "Yes."

Prime Minister said a BJP win in the elections, which will be held in five phases

from October 12, will mean two Diwalis for Bihar, the, "First, when election results are declared and the second, on the day of Diwali." Votes will be counted on November 8, three days before the festival of lights.

The PM has promised Bihar plenty of light. He said all the state's poor

would have homes and electricity by 2022, underscoring that he had mentioned in his very first speech in Parliament that his government would work for the poor. ■

MUNGER

## 'This assembly poll is being fought on a "Jungle Raj Vs Development Raj" basis'

Campaigning for polls set to begin next week in Bihar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Munger on 8 October, 2015 took a dig at RJD chief Lalu Prasad over his controversial beef eating comment, while invoking youth power to change government in Bihar.

In Gujarat yaduvanshis (people of yadav caste) have brought white revolution while rearing cows and Amul has been possible only because of the yaduvanshis. But, here (in Bihar) we don't know what he (Lalu Prasad) has eaten up...he has derogated yaduvanshis.

Don't forget that it was the yaduvanshis who had supported you and took to the power, Shri Modi said while addressing his first among four rallies on Thursday at Munger.

Insisting that Lalu Prasad

Shri Narendra Modi tried to make a connection with the youth force and appealed to them to throw the present government out of power for the "development of the State". "It is only you who can change the fate of Bihar",

days the Congress party is coming in the battle field only through the back-door (with the support of regional parties)."

He also reiterated how Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had cheated the people of the State after promising 24-hour electricity to the State during the 2010 assembly poll but "not fulfilling them yet". But my government has taken a pledge to provide electricity to every village by 2022, he said.

Mentioning the Rs 1.65 lakh crore package announced by him earlier, the PM said he announced the package with all "details, sincerity



cannot absolve himself of his beef remarks by claiming that it was the devil (shaitan) on his tongue which made him say it, Shri Modi said, "I want to know how the shaitan got the address (of Lalu)...he recognizes that it was the shaitan in a similar manner as people recognise their relatives."

Ridiculing Prasad's remarks that it was the "devil under whose influence" he made the beef remarks, Shri Modi said "so far we were fighting (political rivals) human beings. Now a shaitan has entered a human body which is after us.

he said.

He also invoked the fear of the "jungle Raj" of the previous RJD regime in Bihar and said this assembly poll is being fought on a "Jungle Raj Vs Development raj" basis.

He also said that during "jungle raj" the biggest industry in Bihar was "kidnapping". "According to a Bihar government report between January to July this year there were 4,000 cases of kidnapping in Bihar," the PM said.

He also slammed the Congress party saying the party has lost its force and potential in the State. "These

and responsibility". He also recalled how both Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad, being the railway ministers had failed to get the local Munger Bridge completed and how they failed to utilise the money given from the Central government to the state for development.

On the death anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan Shri Modi also criticized Mr. Kumar and Mr. Prasad saying those who once sang paeans of the socialist leader have now joined hands with Congress which had sent JP behind bars during Emergency. ■

## BJP releases vision document, promises 'much-awaited' development

The Bhartiya Janata Party released its vision document for the upcoming Bihar assembly elections in Patna on 1 Oct, 2015. Releasing the party's vision document, Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley slammed the Nitish-Kumar led 'Grand Alliance', saying it's time to end the 'jungle raj' in Bihar.

Terming the Congress-JD(U)-RJD alliance opportunistic, Shri Jaitley said that "political consistency" is not the virtue of any of the participants of this alliance.

He said all these three parties had failed the people of Bihar. "We need to rescue Bihar from backwardness. Congress, JD(U) and RJD have ruled Bihar for 68 years but have not done much for it. Our vision document is a charter for development," Shri Jaitley said.

He further said, "Youths from Bihar move to other states looking for jobs. We want to bring an end to it".

Citing BJP's development credentials, the Union Finance Minister said "Madhya Pradesh was among BIMARU states - there were no roads, no electricity. But the BJP government changed it in the last 15 years."

Finance Minister Shri

Arun Jaitley said, "The vision document has a clear-cut plan to develop Bihar in the next five years if the BJP-led National

Democratic Alliance (NDA) wins the polls and forms the next government."



### Highlights of Bihar Vision Document

- Dhoti and Saree will be provided to every poor family.
- 5000 Scooty will be given to meritorious girl students.
- Free color TV will be given to every Mahadalit and Dalit family.
- From block to district level, national level medical, engineering, polytechnic, ITI colleges will be established.
- By 2022, homeless will be provided with clean drinking water, toilet and electricity.
- 500 crore venture capital fund will be set for promoting local entrepreneurship.
- Health cards to every student will be given. Interest free loan to farmers.
- Every village will be linked with roads.
- Accidental life insurance of every head of family will be done.
- Landless persons will be given 5 decimal land.
- 50000 laptops to meritorious students.
- Special budget for agriculture will be allocated.
- Providing electricity to every village in next one year.
- New Agriculture University and veterinary university will be set up.
- Setting up of new vigilance courts to crack on corruption.
- Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur will be developed as coaching hub.
- Setting up of 24 hour control room for women.
- Minimum 12 hours electricity to farmers. ■

## President's Bihar Pravas

*Bihar assembly election are setting a trend in favour of development and good governance in the country. People in Bihar want change and expressing desire to march forward with the entire country. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah is leading the intense campaign in Bihar which has proved to be highly encouraging for the people who are looking forward for a bright future. We are publishing a report of BJP National President's pravas in Bihar for our esteemed readers :*

BJP workers' conference at Begusarai, Bihar

### Nitish Kumar a "backstabber"

BJP National President Amit Shah on 30 September 2015 said that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has backstabbed the NDA by



snapping ties and it was in line with his habit of deceit to grab power. "Nitish Kumar betrayed George Fernandes, who gave him a national identity, and more recently, Jitan Ram

Manjhi. Where is George Fernandes today? He has been forced to spend 'gumnaami ki zindagi' (a life of obscurity)?" he said.

Shri Shah said the BJP had given a leadership role to Nitish Kumar in the NDA and assisted him throughout, even at the cost of insult to BJP workers to prevent return of 'jungle raj' in Bihar. "But, in tune with his behaviour he stabbed BJP in the back and joined hands with Lalu Prasad for the sake of power," he said, and asked BJP workers to spread the truth among voters.

Shri Shah also targeted RJD supremo Lalu Prasad for trying to create a controversy over reservations for backward castes and dalits and asserted BJP was not against quotas for

them. "Lalu Prasad is nowadays talking about reservation for backwards and dalits and accusing the BJP of intending to end reservation which is not true. BJP has been in favour of reservation for backwards and dalits since the promulgation of Constitution and is not in favour of any review," he said. The BJP President accused Prasad of harping on the issue to "divert the attention of voters from the issue of jungle raj."

Addressing a BJP workers' conference at Begusarai, the BJP President said the Modi government attached great importance to national security, which will never be compromised. "Rahul Baba - no one dares to slaughter our soldiers. If anybody engages in a misadventure, we enter Burma's borders and our forces take them out, that's what Narendra Modi's government is all about. "You wouldn't understand this because you have got your standpoint from your mother's side of the family," he said, apparently referring to the army's counteroffensive against insurgents along the Myanmar border in June following the killing of 18 soldiers in an ambush in Manipur.

Shri Shah said development topped BJP's poll agenda in Bihar and lauded the progress made by BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh. He promised if the NDA was voted to power in the state, its government would ensure 24-hour electricity and huge investment in Bihar so youth do not have to go to other states in search of livelihood.

BJP workers from 11 districts participated in the conference which was also attended by Union Minister Shri Ananth Kumar and other senior leaders.

Muzaffarpur, Bihar

## Nitish can't develop Bihar by carrying Lalu and Congress



Addressing the BJP workers' conference in Muzaffarpur, on 04 October BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said chief minister Nitish Kumar won't be able to bring development to Bihar by carrying two allies, Congress and RJD, on his shoulders. "The Congress had presided over scam to the tune of Rs 12 lakh crore during the UPA rule at the Centre and the RJD had presided over 'jungle raj' during its 15-year rule... how can Nitish Kumar bring development to Bihar by carrying these two allies on his shoulders," Shri Shah told party workers at Nehru Stadium in Muzaffarpur town.

Urging the electorate of Bihar not to get swayed by the bluff of senior JD(U) leader, he warned that Bihar would end up with 'jungle raj - 2' in the event of the grand secular alliance coming to power.

In an attack at the JD(U) leader, the BJP National President accused him of being a master of 'politics of betrayal' saying that he will not remain faithful to Bihar and its people given his penchant of betraying the socialist icons, namely Ram Manohar Lohia and Jai Prakash Narayan, BJP and lastly Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Kumar broke alliance with the BJP and betrayed the mandate from the people for his sheer greed for the post of prime minister and joined hands with the RJD supremo against whom he had fought all his life and later had no remorse in co-opting Congress against whom the socialist icons, Ram

Manohar Lohia and Jai Prakash Narayan, had stood for all their lives, Shri Shah said.

Describing Kumar as a habitual betrayer, Shri Shah said the former took no time in becoming chief minister on the shoulders of the RJD supremo after junking the BJP despite the fact that the BJP workers had toiled hard against the RJD's 'jungle raj' and made him the chief minister of Bihar in 2005.

He held the RJD supremo and the JD(U) leader collectively responsible for backwardness of Bihar by ignoring development in pursuit of caste politics and dynasty rule and promised that the BJP-led coalition will retrieve old glories of the state in the event of being elected to power at the hustings.

Supaul, Bihar

## Shah likens Nitish to Mungerilal, accuses him of betraying BJP



Likening Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to popular comedy show character 'Mungerilal' known for day-dreaming, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 05 October 2015 alleged that he betrayed the BJP and snapped ties with it over his greed for the Prime Minister's post.

Claiming that Kumar was the first leader to describe the RJD-led government of 15 years as 'jungle raj', Shri Shah in an open attack against Kumar said he had no doubts in going back to Lalu Prasad to hang on to the chief minister's post.

"Nitish Kumar betrayed us two years ago



and broke alliance with the BJP in 2013 as he had become greedy for the Prime Minister's post," he told party workers.

"We could have made him the PM candidate, but did not do so as his party had presence in only one state— Bihar— and nowhere else," the BJP President said and alleged that Kumar was fantasizing like 'Mungeri Lal', a character of a television serial of the 1990s who was known for day dreaming.

He also flayed Kumar for betrayal of the decisive mandate in 2010 Assembly polls saying that the latter did not stop at betraying the BJP, but went on to backstab the electorate by going back to the Prasad, the RJD supremo, whom the voters had rejected in successive Assembly polls. Kumar also abandoned 'anti-congress' plank of the great socialist leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan and Karpooori Thakur by joining forces with the Congress not only for survival of his government, but to seek a fresh term under the banner of 'Grand Secular Alliance', the BJP President said.

The BJP President said Kumar cannot bring development to Bihar with Lalu Prasad, the architect of 'jungle raj' and Congress, which was rocked by allegations of corruption during UPA rule at the Centre - on either side of his shoulders.

The backwardness of Bihar could be gauged from the fact that the people had to go outside for 'padhai' (education), 'kamai' (livelihood) and 'dawai' (medical treatment) as the state lacked higher education institutions, employment opportunities and quality health services, he said. Claiming that Bihar has been ruined and pushed into backwardness in post-independence era in which

the Congress ruled for 40 years, RJD for 15 years and JD(U) for 10 years, Shah appealed to the electorate to give the BJP-led coalition one chance to rule the state and promised to make it 'Number One' state of the country.

Stating that crime and corruption don't go hand-in-hand with development, Shah claimed that Bihar would get 'jungle raj - 2' if the 'Grand Secular Alliance' got the mandate at the hustings. ■

## BJP-led alliance to register comfortable victory in Bihar : Survey

A clear victory is predicted for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the Bihar assembly polls, with it set to win 147 seats in the 243-member house, according to a survey by Zee News and "Janta Ka Mood".

The grand alliance of Janata Dal-United, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Congress is predicted to lag with just 64 seats. There were 32 seats where fight would be very close, said the survey. According to the survey, the NDA is predicted to get 53.8 percent votes and the grand alliance 40.2 percent votes. Others are expected to get six percent votes.

The survey said that NDA would do well in the election for 49 seats on October 12 and is expected to get 53.8 percent of votes while the grand alliance is expected to get 40.1 percent of votes. It said that the NDA has a clear lead over the grand alliance in the other four phases also, and is also likely to win maximum seats in the Maoist-affected areas.

"From Arrah to Sitamarhi, the NDA is likely to get 54.6 percent votes while the grand alliance 39.7 percent of votes," the survey said. It said that in Nalanda, the home district of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, there is very close fight but NDA with an expected 48 percent votes has a slight edge over the grand alliance which is predicted to get 44 percent votes. The release said that the survey was conducted in all 243 assembly segments on September 29 and 30.

Polling will be held in Bihar in five phases between October 12 and November 5. The counting will take place on November 8. ■

## Black Money disclosure : Union Govt collects Rs 4147cr from stash holders

**U**nion Government collected Rs 4,147 crore during the 90-day black money disclosure compliance window, which is higher than the previously announced amount of Rs 3,770 crore, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said on 05 October 2015 in New Delhi.

He said while the total number of disclosures is 638 as stated last week, the total illegal foreign assets brought to book stands at Rs 4,147 crore.

The government's total tax receipt from the black money declared during the window will be Rs 2,488.20 crore.

The government had on October 1 declared that a total of Rs 3,770 crore of black money was declared during the compliance window. This, was based on preliminary count of the declarations made.

After taking into account the declarations that came in envelopes, the total number comes to Rs 4,147 crore, the envelopes had been counted but the declarations in them were not reflected in the October 1 figure.

The one-time 90-day compliance window provided to holders of undeclared foreign assets ended September 30. It provided an opportunity to foreign assets



**“Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (the Act) has been enacted to deal with the menace of black money stashed abroad. “The Act also provided for a compliance window for a limited period to persons who have undisclosed foreign assets which they had not disclosed for the purposes of Income-tax so far”.**



holders to declared assets, pay a total of 60 per cent tax and penalty and escape stringent provisions of the new black money law.

He said under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), signed with the US, India has already started getting information. “Wealth of information has come from US,” he said. He said as many as 132 prosecutions in 43 cases out of the HSBC Swiss list have been filed.

Noteworthy, the window, created under the new anti-Black money Act, saw a hectic rush on the last day as declarants made a beeline to meet the deadline at the only I-T office designated here for the task.

“Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (the Act) has been enacted to deal with the menace of black money stashed abroad. “The Act also provided for a compliance window for a limited period to persons who have undisclosed foreign assets which they had not disclosed for the purposes of Income-tax so far,” the statement added.

The compliance window opened on 1st July, 2015 and was till 30th of September 2015. Sources said the officer designated to receive declarations worked till midnight even as the e-filing portal was also open till midnight to receive the declarations.

## India emerged as No. 1 Foreign Direct Investment destination, overtaking China & US

India has emerged on top of the foreign direct investment league table, overtaking China and the United States, according to the FT data service. A ranking of the top destinations for greenfield investment (measured by estimated capital expenditure) in the first half of 2015 shows India at number one, having attracted roughly \$3 billion more than China and \$4 billion more than the US, according to the Financial Times newspaper. "With midyear data on greenfield FDI now in, 2015 looks to be a milestone year for India following its impressive performance in 2014," the article in FT said quoting FDI Markets, a data service of the FT.

The news comes as a shot in the arm for the Narendra Modi government which has taken several steps to attract foreign investment and has helped revive mood of investors since it came to power in May 2014. While there has been a demand for accelerating the reforms drive, the government has unveiled several initiatives such as 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' to lure investors. It has moved to ensure that the country moves up the ranking on the World



Bank's Ease of Doing Business and states have started their clean-up act on this parameter. But experts say there are several areas where the government needs to step up reforms. The areas where investors want more reforms include tax policy, labour laws, cutting red tape and issues linked to land acquisition.

Investors have started taking interest in the India growth story and the recent visit of Modi to Silicon Valley triggered enormous interest from software and technology czars. Growth is expected to be one of the fastest in the world and several multilateral agencies have said that India remains the bright spot among emerging economies.

Experts say India is expected to benefit from the slowdown in China and the

overall sluggishness in global commodity prices including crude oil is expected to provide a cushion to the growth fortunes of Asia's third largest economy. The government is confident of achieving close to 8% growth in the current fiscal year.

For the past several years, China and the US have vied for FDI supremacy and fought each other nearly to a draw last year, with the US ranking as the number one Greenfield destination by number of projects and China coming in first by capital expenditure.

It said India ranked fifth last year for capital investment, after China, the US, the UK and Mexico. In a year when many other major FDI destinations posted declines, India experienced one of 2014's best FDI growth rates, increasing its number of projects by 47%, the article said.

"India is tracking well ahead of where it was at this time last year: it has more than doubled its midyear investment levels, attracting \$30 billion by the end of June 2015 compared with \$12 billion in the first half of last year," the newspaper said, adding that the news comes at a time when FDI into emerging markets as a group is falling off a cliff. (FOC)■

## India's deadliest naval warship INS Kochi commissioned

**N**aval warship INS Kochi, the stealth guided missile destroyers, was commissioned by Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on 30 September, 2015.

INS Kochi is the second ship of the Kolkata-class (Project 15A) Guided Missile Destroyers. The contract for three ships of Kolkata class was signed as follow-on of the



legendary Delhi-class Destroyers, which were commissioned into the Navy more than a decade ago, a defence spokesperson said.

Designed by the Navy's in-house organization, Directorate of Naval Design, and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd in Mumbai, the ship is christened after the vibrant port city of Kochi. Although conceived as follow-on of the earlier Delhi class, this ship is vastly superior and has major advancements in weapons and sensors. The ship incorporates new design concepts for improved survivability, stealth, sea-keeping and maneuverability.

INS Kochi is packed with an array of state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, with a significant indigenous component. The ship has many lethal weapons to her credit which include the successful fitment of vertically launched missile system for long distance engagement of shore and sea-based targets. The ship is one of the few warships of the world and the second in the Indian Navy to have Multi-Function Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar to provide target data to Long Range Surface to Air Missile system. ■

## India successfully launches Multi Wavelength Space Observatory ASTROSAT

**P**hile Minister Shri Narendra Modi praised ISRO for its successful launch of ASTROSAT. "Well done @isro. This is one more grand accomplishment for Indian science & our scientists," Shri Modi said in a



post on the micro-blogging website Twitter.

Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan tweeted, "Congratulations to the entire nation for the successful launch of India's first astronomy satellite ASTROSAT".

Noteworthy, India successfully launched ASTROSAT, its maiden dedicated space observatory aimed at undertaking a detailed understanding of the universe, and six foreign satellites, including four from the US, onboard PSLV-C30 from the spaceport at Sriharikota, on September 28, 2015. PSLV was launched in its heaviest 'XL' version with six strap-on motors of the first stage.

Through 30 successful flights during 1994-2015 periods, PSLV has launched a total of 84 satellites including the seven satellites successfully launched this time. The vehicle has repeatedly proved its reliability and versatility by successfully launching satellites into a variety of orbits including polar Sun Synchronous, Geosynchronous Transfer and Low Earth orbits of small inclination thereby emerging as the workhorse launch vehicle of India. So far, 51 satellites have been launched by PSLV for customers from abroad. ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory. ■

# Concept of Indian secularism and its relevance

- H. M. Patel

*'Secularism' as a concept has invited debate on various occasions in almost every part of the world and continues to be differently interpreted by different people in India also. An article published in quarterly journal of Deendayal Research Institute "Manthan" in December 1979 discusses various aspects of the debate on 'Secularism'. We are publishing the last part of this article for our esteemed readers to apprise them of different aspects of the debate.*

Besides the Muslims who constitute a little

over 11 per cent of the population – and who formed just about 10 per cent of the population a decade earlier – there are other minorities, the Christians, the Sikhs, the Buddhists, the Parsis, the Jains and others. Except for the Muslims, none of these other religious minorities appear to have any sense of insecurity or of being unfairly treated; none at any rate has ever voiced any grievance on the score of a non-secular attitude being displayed towards it by the majority community. The Muslims who claim to have genuine grievances against the majority community and the Government, State and Central, have unfortunately never set out these grievances in precise terms. They have certainly not attempted to indicate clearly what they would like to be done. In other words they have no concrete solution to offer. It becomes incumbent, therefore, upon all of us to give sustained thought to this problem of winning the confidence of the Muslim minority.

In a plural society, the unity and integrity of a country can be ensured through a steady process

**In a plural society, the unity and integrity of a country can be ensured through a steady process of assimilation and integration. This process should be at the cultural and social levels, without affecting the individual's religious beliefs.**

of assimilation and integration. This process should be at the cultural and social levels, without affecting the individual's religious beliefs. If assimilation is not found to be feasible for any reason, the only alternative is to take steps to ensure the unity and integrity of the country through a conscious decision on the part of all concerned, the majority as also the minorities, to live amicably together, respecting, and indeed protecting, each other's religious and cultural values and practices. In India both processes are at work in respect of all the minorities. It is suggested that because Islam is a world religion, Muslims find themselves torn between two loyalties, loyalty to their country, and loyalty to their

religion to which people of many countries claim adherence. Christianity like Islam is also a world religion. This has never created any problem for Christians, of whatever denomination they may be, in acting as loyal citizens of the country of which they are citizens. There should be no reason for Indian Muslims to feel differently or experience any difficulty in doing likewise. It is for the Muslims to resist the efforts which it is well-known continue to be made, to sow seeds of dissatisfaction in their minds.

Away from the  
Mainstream

Secular India makes it possible for Indian Muslims to live in amity and cooperation as equals with the non-Muslim majority. Not only is all this assured through constitutional provisions, but the country's democratic system gives the Indian Muslim every opportunity of growing and developing. In spite of all these facts, it cannot be disputed that Muslims remain unconvinced and in justification of their distrust point to the occurrence of communal riots every now and again in different parts of the country, to their relatively

smaller representation in all Government services, including the police and the armed forces, to their relative backwardness in education and to their poverty. It cannot be asserted that any deliberate hurdles are placed in their path and yet backwardness among them persists. If we analyse this further, we discover that for some reason or the other many Muslims in the country choose to cut themselves off from the mainstream of social change and progress, they persist with Madrassah education to the neglect of general education for

themselves and the more advanced sections of Indian society. The Muslims must be encouraged to shed the various complexes engendered by historical circumstances and events that inhibit them and to realise that they too can enjoy all the social advantages of other communities and take their rightful place in our society. We must never forget to acknowledge that the partition of the country had the most serious psychological effect on the Muslims left behind. For one thing, apart from the Muslims

unable for several years after partition to join the mainstream of national activities. The majority community in turn neglected to compensate for the lacunae and considered this minority community's inactivity as suggestive of indifference to the country and its problems. Politicians Fanning Flame of Communalism

It is now 30 years since Independence and by now we ought to have found a satisfactory solution. If we have failed to do so, and the majority community and this minority community are still unable to repose faith in each other, it is surely incumbent on all of us to make still greater efforts to find out why this is the case. We are people of one country and have to live and work together for the greater prosperity of our country and ourselves. Still greater measures of tolerance and understanding are called for. In my view, there is nothing more important than a secular attitude to help this process. All concerned must sincerely accept the need for such an attitude towards each other and in the solution of our common problems. Communal incidents should not be made the occasion for mutual recriminations and exchange of diatribe but rather such incidents should be handled firmly and expeditiously, and all who are involved, whatever be their status, should be dealt with severely and in a salutary manner so that everyone may know that justice will be visited upon all who disrupt the peace regardless of caste or creed. Most communal incidents are not

**It is now 30 years since Independence and by now we ought to have found a satisfactory solution. If we have failed to do so, and the majority community and this minority community are still unable to repose faith in each other, it is surely incumbent on all of us to make still greater efforts to find out why this is the case.**

their children, they discourage female education and generally pursue methods which cannot but act as a hindrance in their march towards social advancement. It is time the Muslims did some searching of the heart and sought honestly for a policy, a course of action which would take them forward in step with the rest of their fellow citizens.

It is indeed necessary for all concerned to analyse in depth what concerted and sustained steps should be taken to help Muslims effectively and to ensure the community's rapid progress. The question that must be asked is why it is that the Muslims themselves are unable to see that they are pursuing a course which can only lead to widening the gap between

residing in the areas which became Pakistan, large number of Muslims from other parts of India also chose to migrate to Pakistan and these happened in the main to be the most advanced members of the community who had held high positions in civil and military services, in academic institutions and who had been successful in trade and industry. This meant that a major qualitative depletion in the strength of the community was created immediately on partition and this constituted a serious problem not only for the Muslims who remained behind but also for the country as a whole. Left with a fraction of its former imaginative and able leadership, and with no similarly able leadership thrown up the Indian Muslims unfortunately were

planned but originate from some small or trivial incident, which, if not dealt with immediately, escalates rapidly, because of the underlying mutual distrust, and the tendency to jump to the conclusion, without inquiry, that a communal riot has started. Rumour and panic take a firm hold in such a situation and before one realises what is happening, a major disturbance is underway. If we could only succeed in removing distrust and implant in our people instead a genuine secular feeling and attitude, there would be much less readiness to jump to conclusions and discredit the other community. Secularism is something that requires to be sedulously nourished. Instead of fanning the flame of communalism, which our political leaders in particular have no hesitation in doing and that too in the name of secularism, they must, with a greater sense of responsibility towards the weaker sections of our society, see that positive measures are taken to reduce and eliminate tension and distrust.

Secularism is vital for India's development. This is accepted by all right-thinking people and every citizen feel he enjoys the rights and privileges of citizenship, no less than any other, regardless of his religious faith. What has not yet happened is that secularism has not yet come to be equated with nationalism which it must if it is to acquire the necessary emotional appeal. India has chosen the course of secularism – the only moral course open to it and despite the many minor lapses in the past in its attempts to steer true to this course, it has, by and large, progressed successfully. It will however, now depend upon the foresight and statesmanship of those who lead the country in future as to whether we can hold this course long enough to steer clear of the murky shallows of communalism into the clear bright waters of a truly egalitarian and secular society. ■

## Prof. Ram Kapse no more



Prof. Ram Kapse passed away on 29th Sept 2015 at the age of 82 years in Mumbai (Maharashtra). Popularly known as Rambhau he breathed his last at his native village Kalyan after a prolonged illness. He was the Lt. Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands during 2004- 2006, a turbulent time due to the devastating tsunami that hit the islands on 26

December 2004. Born on 1st December, 1933 in Nasik, he lost his parents at an early age and was brought up by his elder sister. After completing his MA and LL.B from Bombay University, he made his name as an educationist, writer, political and social worker. He worked as a lecturer in Sanskrit and Marathi in DG Ruparel College, Mumbai before joining politics.

He was a man of great compassion and worked for the welfare of the poor and downtrodden. He initiated the first de-addiction programme in Port Blair for alcoholics. It was during his time the Swatantra Jyot came up in the Cellular Jail and a new gallery on the First War of Indian Independence. With the sad demise of Prof Ram Kapse party has lost a great organizer-leader and an ideal elected representative. He was leader of BJP Legislative Party in 1990 in Maharashtra assembly and was also elected to parliament.

In a condolence message BJP National Vice President Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhhe has said, " Prof Kapse belonged to the old generation of politicians for whom politics was not a full-time vocation. He was one of those who painstakingly built the strong foundation for Jan Sangh and later the Bharatiya Janata Party. Both as Member of Parliament and also as Lt. Governor, he essentially remained an illustrious public servant. Through his herculean efforts as Lt. Governor of Andaman-Nicobar at the trying times of Tsunami in pro-actively handling relief and rehabilitation, he set new standards. For long, he will be remembered as a scholar-politician. Bharatiya Janata Party shares the grief of the family of the departed leader." ■

**PM's address at United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda**

## 'Elimination of poverty in all forms everywhere is at the top of our goals'

Addressing the United Nations Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda PM Shri Narendra Modi said, "Mahatma Gandhi had once said, "One must care about the world one will not see". Indeed, humanity has progressed when it has collectively risen to its obligation to the world and responsibility to the future. Seventy years after the end of a tragic war and birth of a new hope for our age, we are meeting to chart a course for our humanity and our planet. I consider this a very important summit and thank UN Secretary General for organizing it.

He said just as our vision behind the Agenda 2030 is lofty, our goals are comprehensive. It gives priority to the problems that have endured through the past decades. And, it reflects our evolving understanding of the social, economic and environmental linkages that define our lives.

He said we live in an age of unprecedented prosperity, but also unspeakable deprivation around the world. I am pleased that elimination of poverty in all forms everywhere is at the top of our goals. Addressing the needs of 1.3 billion poor people in the world is not merely a question of their survival and dignity or our moral responsibility. It is a vital necessity for ensuring peaceful, sustainable and just world.

He said a great Indian thinker, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, placed the welfare of the poorest at the centre of his thoughts. This is what we also see in the 2030 Agenda. It is a happy coincidence that we are beginning the celebration of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay's 100th anniversary today. The goals recognize that economic growth, industrialization, infrastructure, and access to energy provide the foundations of



development.

We welcome the prominence given to environmental goals, especially climate change and sustainable consumption. The distinct goal on ocean ecosystem reflects the unique character of its challenges and opportunities. Equally important, it focuses our attention on the future of the island states he said.

Shri Modi said I speak about Blue Revolution, which includes the prosperity, sustainable use of marine wealth and blue skies. Today, much of India's development agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals. Since Independence, we have pursued the dream of eliminating poverty from India. We have chosen the path of removing poverty by empowering the poor. We have placed priority on education and skill development. Our attack on poverty today includes expanded conventional schemes of development, but we have also launched a new era of inclusion and empowerment, turning distant dreams into immediate possibilities: new bank accounts for 180 million; direct transfer of benefits; funds to the unbanked; insurance within the reach of



all; and, pension for everyone's sunset years he added.

The world speaks of private sector and public sector. In India, we have defined a new personal sector of individual enterprise, micro enterprises and micro finance, drawing also on the strength of digital and mobile applications. We are focusing on the basics: housing, power, water and sanitation for all – important not just for welfare, but also human dignity.

These are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope. Our development is intrinsically linked to empowerment of women and it begins with a massive programme on educating the girl child that has become every family's mission. We are making our farms more productive and better connected to markets; and, farmers less vulnerable to the whims of nature. We are reviving our manufacturing, improving our services sector, investing on an unprecedented scale in infrastructure; and, making our cities smart, sustainable and engines of progress Shri Modi said.

He said we are committed to a sustainable path to prosperity. It comes from the natural instinct of our tradition and culture. But, it is also rooted firmly in our commitment to the future.

We represent a culture that calls our planet Mother Earth. As our ancient text say: "Keep pure! For the Earth is our mother! And we are her children!"

### Other important highlights of PM's speech

- Our national plans are ambitious and purposeful; new capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy over the next seven years; energy efficiency; a tax on coal; a huge afforestation programme; reforming our transportation; and, cleaning up our cities and rivers.
- Our success will give us more resources to share with our friends. As India's ancient saying goes, the wise look at the world as one family.
- Nations have a national responsibility for sustainable development. They also need policy space.
- When we speak only of climate change, there is a perception of our desire to secure the comforts of our lifestyle. When we speak of climate justice, we demonstrate our sensitivity and resolve to secure the future of the poor from the perils of natural disasters.
- It is equally critical to launch a global education programme that prepares our next generation to protect and conserve Nature.
- I hope that the Developed World will fulfill its financing commitments for development and climate change, without in any way putting both under the same head!
- We must also reform the United Nations, including its Security Council, so that it carries greater credibility and legitimacy and will be more representative and effective in achieving our goals.
- There is no cause greater than shaping a world, in which every life that enters it can look to a future of security, opportunity and dignity; and, where we leave our environment in better shape for the next generation.

### Meeting with Financial Sector CEOs in New York

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi chaired a roundtable meeting in New York on 24-September, 2015 with top American CEOs from the financial sector. The CEOs expressed appreciation for the steps taken by the



Prime Minister to improve ease of doing business, and his various initiatives including his push for infrastructure development and Digital India. Many CEOs expressed keen interest in the Indian start-up sector, and showed willingness to invest in entrepreneurial

ventures and innovative start-ups. The CEOs mentioned taxation issues and residual bureaucratic bottlenecks as some of the concerns that still existed with regard to investment in India.

Making a strong pitch for increased investment in various sectors in India, the Prime Minister outlined his vision for “Start-Up India, Stand-Up India.” He said that along with the public sector and private sector, he was laying emphasis to individual start-ups and entrepreneurs - whom he referred to as the “personal sector.” He said start-ups and innovation had been at the heart of the IT revolution.

Meeting with media, technology & communication CEOs



The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a roundtable meeting in New York on 24-September, 2015 with top American CEOs from the media and entertainment sector. The CEOs appreciated the Prime Minister for energetic and dynamic leadership, and expressed optimism about the future of India. Specifically, the CEOs were enthusiastic about the digital transformation that is taking place in India through the Digital India initiative. They said that the current strong trajectory of the Indian economy makes it at a unique moment to accelerate growth in this sector.

The Prime Minister and CEOs observed that the changes in technology and media in recent times have led to an enormous democratization of knowledge. The Prime Minister said that the world is now in a technology- driven era, where growth of

digital infrastructure is as important as growth of physical infrastructure. He spoke of his Government’s vision to connect 600,000 villages through broadband connectivity. The Prime Minister emphasized that he saw a key role for digital technology in further strengthening democracy, and in India’s development narrative.

PM meets UN Secretary General and World Bank President

*The Prime Minister met the President of the World Bank Mr. Jim Yong Kim, in New York on 25 September, 2015 who praised the*



*Prime Minister’s initiative of Swachh Bharat, and said the Prime Minister’s leadership has led to a positive change in the way the world sees India. The Prime Minister spoke of his Government’s commitments in the areas of renewable energy, Ganga cleaning and construction of toilets. The Prime Minister also met UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. UN peacekeeping operations and reform of the United Nations Security Council came up for discussion. On the subject of climate change, the Prime Minister said there is currently a trust deficit between developed and developing countries. He also said focus should be on positive goals, and not just on reducing emissions.*

PM at the G4 Summit in New York  
Reform of Security Council has become an urgent & important task

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended the G-4 Summit in New York City on September 26, 2015. President of Brazil Ms. Dilma Rousseff, Chancellor of Germany Ms. Angela Merkel and Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe were also present.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, the Prime Minister said, "We live in a digital age. The global economy is changed, with new engines of growth, more widely dispersed economic power and widening wealth gap.

#### Meeting with IT CEOs



*The Prime Minister met Mr. Tim Cook, the CEO of Apple Inc., who mentioned that India has a special place for the company, as Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Inc., went to India for inspiration. Discussions also focused on how Apple Inc. could be a partner in the Digital India initiative. The Prime Minister met Mr. Satya Nadella (Microsoft), Mr. Sundar Pichai (Google), Mr. Shantanu Narayen (Adobe), Mr. Paul Jacobs (Qualcomm), and Mr. John Chambers (CISCO), who later joined him on stage for the Digital India Dinner. The Prime Minister, in his address at this event, outlined his vision for Digital India. During his address, he said: "... in this digital age, we have an opportunity to transform lives of people in ways that was hard to imagine just a couple of decades ago.*

Trends in demography, urbanization and migrations are posing new challenges. Climate change and terrorism are new concerns. Cyber and Space are entirely new frontiers of opportunities and challenges. Yet, our institutions, approaches, and often mindsets, reflect the wisdom of the century we have left behind, not the century we live in. This is especially true of the United Nations Security Council. The reform of the Security Council within a fixed time frame has become an urgent and important task."

The Joint Statement issued at the end of the meeting stated: "The G-4 leaders stressed that a more representative, legitimate and effective Security Council is needed more than ever to address the global conflicts and crises, which had spiralled in recent years. They shared the view that this can be achieved by reflecting the realities of the international community in the 21st century, where more Member States have the capacity and willingness to take on major responsibilities with regard to maintenance of international peace and security."

#### PM visits the Facebook & Google Headquarters in California

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited the Facebook Headquarters in California and with CEO Facebook Mr. Mark Zuckerberg participated in a town hall Q&A session. During the event, the Prime Minister answered questions on a diverse range of



issues. He explained why the world should be optimistic about India and his dream of making India a 20 trillion dollar economy. The Prime Minister responded to Mr. Mark Zuckerberg's statement that Steve Jobs had asked him to visit a temple in India, to reconnect with his vision. He said this was a unique link between science and spirituality. He said that over the last 15 months, the world had changed its attitude of looking at India.

In response to a question on whether social media and the internet could become a tool for governance and citizen engagement, he



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feedback on its actions. He spoke of his engagement on the Chinese social media platform Weibo, and how he had tweeted greetings to the people of Israel, on the occasion of Hanukkah, in Hebrew, on Twitter, and how Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had replied in Hindi. The Prime Minister said this was a new dimension in diplomacy.

In a voice that choked repeatedly with emotion, the Prime Minister spoke of his parents, especially his mother, and how she had struggled to bring up her children. He said that this story of struggle is not just of his mother alone, but many other mothers in India as well. He spoke of his commitment to involve women in the decision making process of governance.

Later the Prime Minister visited the Google Headquarters, where he was received by Mr. Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google. He was given an overview of some of Google's innovations and future plans. Mr. Eric Schmidt and Mr. Larry Page were present. During a demonstration of Google Streetview, the Prime Minister asked for Khagaul to be pinpointed on Google Earth. Khagaul near Patna is where the great ancient astronomer Aryabhatta had an observatory.

PM at the Start-Up Konnect

## India's own ecosystem of startups is evolving rapidly

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Start-Up Konnect event, which was a platform for Indian Start-Ups to showcase their innovations.

Speaking of his vision for Start-Ups in India Shri Modi said, the convergence of technology, integration across diverse fields, distributed architecture and people willing to back an idea, have opened a new world for enterprise. This ecosystem was born in the Silicon Valley. No community is shaping our world as much as the one on this Californian Coast. It isn't just big names, but small firms that are fashioning every day new ways to enrich human life with the joy of artists and creators. That underlines America's success and inspires the world. So, I see Startups, technology and innovation as exciting and effective instruments for India's transformation, and for creating jobs for our youth.

We are a nation of 800 million youth below the age of 35 years. They are eager for change; have the energy and drive to pursue it; and, the confidence to achieve it. When each of the five hundred odd towns produces ten Startups and each of our six hundred thousand villages produce six small businesses, on a regular basis, we will create an enormous economic momentum and generate a huge number of jobs in our country. India's own ecosystem of startups is evolving rapidly. It is driven by the energy, enterprise and innovation of our youth."

PM addresses Indian diaspora at SAP arena, San Jose

## The world now accepts that this century will be India's century



Addressing the Indian diaspora at the SAP arena in San Jose Pm Shri Narendra Modi, recalled his last visit to California and said

much has changed in the state. "I am coming here after almost 25 years and I am seeing a lot of changes including new faces."

Shri Modi said the world should stop differentiating between "good terrorism and bad terrorism". "The UN is celebrating its 70th anniversary but till now it has not been able to arrive at a definition for terrorism. If defining it takes so much time, how many years will it take to tackle terrorism," he said.

"Humanist forces in the world will have to put pressure so that it is decided in black and white what is terrorism. Since there is no definition, talk about good terrorism and bad terrorism is going on. We cannot protect humanity with this good and bad terrorism," Shri Modi said, adding that "terrorism is terrorism". He said terror and global warming were the two big threats the world was facing.

Addressing thousands of Indian-Americans at the SAP Centre in San Jose, Shri Modi made remarks against corruption and said corruption during the previous government's time had triggered anger among people, Shri Modi said, "In our country it doesn't take much for allegations to come up against politicians. Someone made Rs 50 crore, someone's son made Rs 250 crore, daughter made Rs 500 crore; damaad (son-in-law) made Rs 1,000 crore."

Highlighting how he had opened a new silent front against corruption, he said Aadhaar cards had helped weed out five crore fake gas connections and subsidy was now being given only for 13 crore units. This, he said, led to a saving of at least Rs 19,000 crore. He added that 30 lakh people had given up their gas subsidy under the Give It Up campaign.

Recalling the Ghadar movement in the US by Sikh migrants in the early 20th century, he said, "If those who came to work on the farms then wanted to do something for the Independence movement, the youth of today want to work for alleviating poverty back home." The speech also mentioned the first Indians who made a mark in West Coast,

including Jayaprakash Narayan, who studied in California.

"The world now accepts that this century will be India's. And this has happened not because of me, but the 1.25 billion Indians," he said, adding that India has now moved from the fringes to become the focal point. Often having to pause for the cheering crowd to settle down, Modi said his confidence in the country stemmed from the fact that India was young. "A country with 800 million youth and 1.6 billion young arms cannot be held back," he said.

Joint Press Briefing with US President  
India & US achieved significant  
progress in our bilateral cooperation  
and international partnership



PM Shri Narendra Modi said it is a great pleasure to meet President Obama in New York. Thank you for hosting this meeting. I deeply value your friendship and your vision and commitment for the relationship between our two countries. We have achieved significant progress in our bilateral cooperation and international partnership.

I was in Silicon Valley over the weekend. I experienced the strength of American innovation and enterprise that provide the

foundation of American success. I also saw the driving force of our relationship - youth, technology and innovation; and, the natural partnerships of Indian and Americans in advancing human progress. California also reminds us that India and the United States are part of the dynamic Asia Pacific Region.

He said I also thank President Obama for his positive response to my call for a global public partnership for developing affordable clean energy sources that will enable faster adoption of clean energy across the world. We should work together to advance that goal. And, it is equally important to develop mechanisms to ensure that the affordable also become accessible to those who need it the most.

We look forward to comprehensive and concrete outcome in Paris with a positive agenda on combating climate change, which also focuses on access to finance and technology for the developing world, especially the poor countries and small island states.

I thanked President Obama for U.S. support for India's permanent membership of a reformed UN Security Council. I also sought U.S. support to complete the reform process within a fixed time frame. I expressed our appreciation for continued U.S. support for India's membership of the international export control regimes within our targeted time frame.

He said our meeting today was very productive in advancing some of our immediate priorities as also our broader strategic partnership.

PM at the Summit on Peace Operations

## India's commitment to UN Peacekeeping remains strong

Addressing the UN Summit on Peace Operations PM Shri Narendra Modi said the foundations of the United Nations were laid by the brave soldiers on the battlefields of Second World War. By 1945, they included 2.5 million men of the Indian Army, the largest volunteer force in history. More than 24000 lost their lives and nearly half of that went missing. The legacy of that sacrifice is shared by three countries present here. They remain today among the largest contributors to the United



Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

Over 1,80,000 Indian troops have participated in UN peacekeeping missions - more than from any other country. India has participated in 48 of the 69 UN peacekeeping missions so far. 161 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions.

He said India was the first country to contribute a Female Formed Police Unit to UN Mission in Liberia. India has been providing training to peacekeeping officers from a large number of countries. Till date, we have trained nearly 800 officers from 82 countries.

He said India's commitment to UN Peacekeeping remains strong and will grow. We have announced new intended contributions that to the UN Peacekeeping Operations. These include additional battalion of up to 850 troops in existing or new operations; additional 03 Police units with higher representation of female peacekeepers; commitment to provide critical enablers; deployment of technical personnel in UN missions; and, additional training for peacekeepers at our facilities in India and in the field. ■

# There are vast shared values and common heritage between India & Ireland : Modi

From Our Correspondent

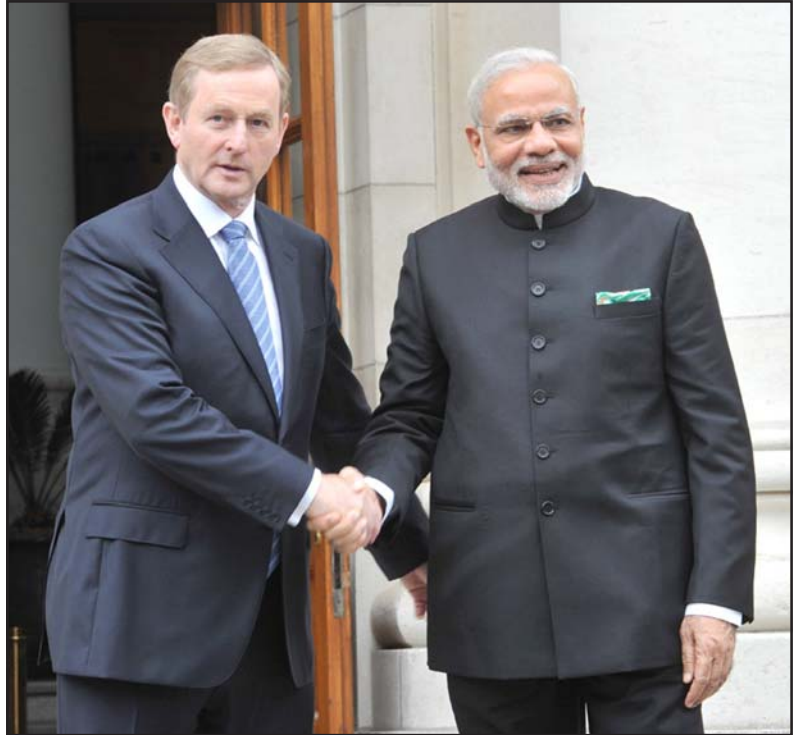
The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, visited Ireland on September 23rd, 2015, and held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mr. Enda Kenny. Shri Narendra Modi was received on arrival at Dublin Airport by Mr. Leo Varadkar, the Irish Minister for Health. He was later warmly received by the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mr. Enda Kenny, at the Government Buildings in Dublin.

The Prime Minister presented to Mr. Kenny, reproductions of a selection of manuscripts and papers pertaining to two Irish officials, Thomas Oldham and Sir George Abraham Grierson, in recognition of their contributions in India. The Irish Prime Minister presented to Shri Narendra Modi, an Ireland cricket jersey, and a "hurling" kit. Hurling is one of the major sports in Ireland.

In their opening remarks during the working luncheon, both leaders noted that an Indian Prime Minister was visiting Ireland after nearly 60 years.

Shri Modi referred to the common shared values between the two countries. He mentioned the friendship between Rabindranath Tagore and W.B. Yeats.

Shri Modi made a strong pitch for closer partnership and cooperation between the two countries. The two sides exchanged views on a broad range of international challenges, including terrorism, radicalization, and the



situation in Europe and Asia. The Prime Minister sought Ireland's support for the reforms of the UN Security Council within a fixed time frame.

He also sought Ireland's support for India's membership of the NSG and other international export control regimes.

The Prime Minister later interacted with members of the Indian community in Ireland. 20 Irish students of the John Scottus school, a local school which teaches Sanskrit, recited Sanskrit shlokas to welcome the Prime Minister. In his remarks, the Prime Minister expressed profound admiration for the teachers of these students, as well as for the students, for the high quality of their recitation. ■

# The Mudra Yojna

By Arun Jaitley

Earlier this year the Prime Minister had launched the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) to fund the unfunded section of the society. There are 5.7 crores entrepreneurs in the unorganised sector who are responsible for creating 11 crore jobs. There are estimated 24 crore families in India. Thus at the bottom of the economic structure were these unfunded sections of the society. They were dependent upon money lenders for loan on an exploitative rate of interest (24% to 36%). India's industrial, service and agricultural sector are still not strong enough to absorb them in the employment.

Mudra Yojna has now been launched. There are 120 partners which includes public sector banks, private sector commercial banks, regional rural banks, NBFCs and MFIs. In the current financial year 2015-16; a total amount of Rs.1.22 lakh crores will be given to these unfunded sections of the Indian society. The three categories of loans are; Shishu - upto Rs. 50,000, Kishore - Rs. 5,00,000 and Tarun - Rs. 10,00,000. This Yojna will continue for the next few years. The targeted beneficiaries are six crore people who need to be

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developed into India's small entrepreneurs. They will all be issued Debit Cards, which will allow them withdrawal of money through ATMs.

These people cannot afford securities and hence the requirement of furnishing securities will not applicable for loans to them. These loans will not be given on the strength of personal and political connections but linked to the business proposals of these potential entrepreneurs. At a function

in rural Delhi I launched a campaign on the 25th September, 2015 in support of the Mudra Yojna. This was organised by the Punjab National Bank. Vegetable vendors, small shop-keepers, women associated with Beauty Parlours & Boutiques, Mechanics, Electricians, and Plumbers etc. were among the beneficiaries.

Already Rs. 24,000 crores of loans have been distributed. There are 37 lakh beneficiaries as of today. I anticipate that this year the number of beneficiaries crossing 1.5 crores. This number will increase year after year. Past experience has indicated that the recovery rate for such micro finance and similar loans is exceedingly high and the defaulter are few.

India may not be able to provide employment to all but our economy will strong enough to provide resources to the weakest to enable them to be self-employed and self-dependent. The model of the present Government is not to give "Bukhsheesh" but to enable people to make them economically self-sufficient and live a life of dignity. MUDRA scheme will be a game changer over the next few years. ■

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



## Narendra Modi kicks off MUDRA Yojana, free LPG connections and many other schemes

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 3 October inaugurated a 180 KW capacity rooftop solar power plant for the District Court in Khunti, Jharkhand. Addressing a large gathering, which included large numbers

been won when Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Prime Minister. He also recalled his recent visit to Tashkent, where he had unveiled a statue of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

The Prime Minister

He announced that 42 lakh people have been given loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana so far, and a total of Rs. 26,000 crore have been disbursed. He said this will help small entrepreneurs expand their businesses, and escape the clutches of moneylenders. He said there were 20 lakh women among the beneficiaries.

Shri Modi said 31 lakh people had surrendered their LPG subsidy so far, under the "Give it Up" campaign.

Handing over new LPG connections to 3 BPL families, the Prime Minister thanked all those who had given up LPG subsidy, so that it could be given to the poor who needed it the most.

The Prime Minister also launched online, a project for the conservation and development of historic Maluti temple complex in Dumka district.

Among others, the Governor of Jharkhand Smt. Draupadi Murmu, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Raghubar Das, the Minister of State for Petroleum (Independent Charge) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, the Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha and all the senior leaders of BJP were present. ■

of tribal women, the Prime Minister said that it was quite appropriate that a solar energy project was being inaugurated on Gandhi Jayanti. He said Mahatma Gandhi had always showed how to live in harmony with nature through his thoughts and deeds.

Shri Narendra Modi paid homage to former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary, and noted that the country had recently celebrated the Golden Jubilee of India's victory in the 1965 India-Pak war, which had

inaugurated a mega credit camp for Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana at Dumka, and handed over loan documents and Mudra cards to 5 beneficiaries. He expressed happiness at the large gathering of people both in Khunti and in Dumka, and said this shows how keen the people of Jharkhand are for development. The Prime Minister complimented the State Government and people of Jharkhand, for the remarkable progress made by the State in "ease of doing business," as reflected by the World Bank in a recent report.



## Merkel Pledges \$1.5 Bn for Solar Power in India

**A**long with the idol of Goddess Durga, which is linked to bringing good fortune, German Chancellor Ms Angela Merkel brought to India huge investment commitments, business pacts

and have agreed on India-German Climate and Renewable Alliance with a long-term vision and a comprehensive agenda of cooperation. I place great value on Germany's assistance of over one billion Euros for India's Green

and for the economic build-up and Germany is fully interested to be your partner and supporter," Merkel said.

Germany also hoped that India will soon start negotiations with European Union of the Free Trade Agreement. In this regard, Shri Narendra Modi expressed concerns over restrictions on 700 Indian drugs in international market and the impact of this on Indian pharmaceutical sector.

He urged Merkel to use her influence to see India is not unnecessary penalised by the regulatory bodies. "We see Germany as a natural partner in achieving our vision of India's economic transformation. German strengths and India's priorities are aligned. Our focus tends to be on economic ties. But, I believe that in a world of seamless challenges and opportunities, India and Germany can also be strong partners in advancing a more human, peaceful, just and sustainable future for the world," Shri Modi said.

The two sides signed 18 pacts for cooperation in various fields including higher education, civil aviation, railways, agriculture, security and food safety. Putting an end the dispute over teaching of German language in Central Schools, the two sides also settled for an agreement for



and co-operation agreements. During the third Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGCs) with India on 05 October 2015, Germany committed an investment of over 1.4 billion Euros (approximately \$1.5 billion) in Indian solar power projects while India promised an atmosphere conducive to investment by German companies.

The new investment commitment announced by Germany is in addition to more than 1 billion Euros that it has committed to a green-corridor project in India. "We

Energy Corridor and a new assistance package of over a billion Euros for solar projects in India. We also intend to deepen research cooperation in clean and renewable energy, and energy efficiency. To contain temperature rise, we must also change our temperament," said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi after the talks.

Ms Merkel complimented Shri Modi for the "speed" in which he is pushing various initiatives. "We honour that your Prime Minister has ambitious programmes for the development of your country

teaching of languages. In defence sector, Germany has shown interest in material technology and Navy-to Navy cooperation. German companies will be participating in the tenders for submarines for Indian Navy. German defence companies also have great interest in investing in India under Make in India programme. India finds Germany as an important partner for its development initiatives, like Skill India, Make in India, Digital India, Clean Ganga, etc.

On global issues, Germany too has a strong say particularly and India is looking for its support on every forum including climate change. The talks between PM Shri Modi and Ms Merkel also encompassed discussion on Pakistan and terrorism concern for India, situation in Afghanistan, West Asia, Syria, Ukraine, Indian Ocean and South China Sea. They also discussed issues of climate change.

“This is an area where we have convergence of views and rapidly growing cooperation...We look forward to a concrete outcome at COP21 in Paris that strengthens the commitment and ability of the world, especially of poor and vulnerable countries to transition to a more sustainable growth path,” Shri Modi said.

On 06 October, PM Shri Narendra Modi accompanied Ms Merkel to Bangalore where they have attended meeting of a business forum and visit factory of Bosch. ■

## Green Highway Policy will help in making India pollution free : Nitin Gadkari

**U**nion Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari launched the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 at a function organized in New Delhi on 29 September 2015. The aim of the policy is to promote greening of Highway corridors with participation of the community, farmers, private sector, NGOs, and government institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that 1% of the total project cost of all highways projects will be kept aside for the highway plantation and its maintenance. He



said that about Rs. 1000 crore per year will be available for plantation purpose. He also said that this policy will generate employment opportunities for about five lakh people from rural areas.

He added that there will be strong monitoring mechanism in place by using ISRO's Bhuvan and GAGAN satellite systems. Every planted tree will be counted and auditing will be done. The agencies performing good will be awarded. He called for suggestions from people for smooth implementation of the policy. He also asked the state governments to start programmes on similar lines. Shri Gadkari said that 1200 road side amenities will also be established. The Green Highway Policy will help in making India pollution free, the minister added. It will also help in curtailing the number of road accidents in India. He said that the vision of the policy is to provide dignified employment to local people and communities. ■

# Caste problem in India

By Swami Vivekananda

**I**t is true that he was the earliest preacher to the Indian races, he was the first to renounce everything in order to attain to the higher realization of life, before others could reach to the idea. It was not his fault that he marched ahead of the other castes. Why did not the other castes so understand and do as they did? Why did they sit down and be lazy, and let the Brahmanas win the race?

But it is one thing to gain an advantage, and another thing to preserve it for evil use. Whenever power is used for evil it becomes diabolical; it must be used for good only. So this accumulated culture of ages of which the Brahmana has been the trustee, he must now give to the people, and it was because he did not open this treasury to the people, that the Muslims invasion was possible.

It was because he did not open this treasury to the people from the beginning, that for a thousand years we have been trodden under the heels of everyone who chose to come to India; it was through that we have become degraded, and the first task must be to break open the cells that hide the wonderful treasures which our common ancestors accumulated; bring

them out, and give them to everybody, and the Brahmana must be the first to do it. There is an old superstition in Bengal that if the cobra that bites,



sucks out his own poison from the patient, the man must survive. Well then, the Brahmana must suck out his own poison.

To the non-Brahmana castes I say, wait, be not in a hurry. Do not seize every opportunity of fighting the Brahmana, because as I have shown; you are suffering from your own fault. Who told you to neglect spirituality and Sanskrit learning? What have you been doing all this time? Why have you been indifferent? Why do you now fret and fume because

somebody else had more brains, more energy, more pluck and go than you? Instead of wasting your energies in vain discussions and quarrels in the newspapers, instead of fighting and quarreling in your own homes - which is sinful - use all your energies in acquiring the culture which the Brahmana has, and the thing is done.

Why do you not become Sanskrit scholars? Why do you not spend millions to bring Sanskrit education to all the castes of India? That is the question. The moment you do these things, you are equal to the Brahmana! That is the secret power in India.

The only safety, I tell you men who belong to the lower castes, the only way to raise your condition is to study Sanskrit, and this fighting and writing and frothing against the higher castes is in vain, it does no good, and it creates fight and quarrel, and this race, unfortunately already divided, is going to be divided more and more. The only way to bring about the leveling of castes is to appropriate the culture, the education which is the strength of the higher castes. ■

*Courtesy: The Divine Life Society*