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PARLIAMENT IS FULLY ENTITLED TO TAKE ANY DECISION WITHIN THE INDIAN TERRITORY



Article 370 & 35A Revoked TOWARDS A NEW INDIA - A NEW JAMMU-KASHMIR AND LADAKH...

SUSHMA SWARAJ

(14 Feb, 1952 - 6 Aug, 2019)

SHAT SHAT NAMAN !





Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying his last respects to the former Union Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj at the funeral ceremony in New Delhi



BJP National President & Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah paying his last respects to Smt. Sushma Swaraj at the funeral ceremony in New Delhi



BJP Working President Shri JP Nadda, Union Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and others paying last respects to Smt. Sushma Swaraj at Party Headquarters in New Delhi



Huge crowd at Smt. Sushma Swaraj's last journey in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi flanked by BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Senior Leader Shri LK Advani and others at funeral ground in New Delhi

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MODI GOVERNMENT CREATES HISTORY!

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Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj passed...



twitter

@narendramodi



I thank all parties and MPs who have supported the passage of The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 in both Houses of Parliament. They have risen to the occasion and this step of theirs will forever be remembered in India's history. This is an occasion to salute the remarkable courage of those Muslim women who have suffered great wrongs just due to the practice of Triple Talaq. The abolition of Triple Talaq will contribute to women empowerment and give women the dignity they deserve in our society.

@nitin_gadkari



Congratulating every citizen on passing of 'The motor vehicle amendment bill' which will pave way to safer roads. I am thankful to the members of the house who realised the gravity of the subject and voted in the favour of the bill. #Motorvechiclesbill

@nsitharaman

The 36th GST council decided to reduce GST rate on all EVs from 12% to 5%.. Traditional manufacturers, startups cheer reduction in GST on electric vehicles.



facebook

Today is a great day for India's democracy. I congratulate PM @narendramodi ji for fulfilling his commitment and ensuring a law to ban Triple Talaq, which will free Muslim women from the curse of this regressive practice. I thank all parties who supported this historic bill.



— **Amit Shah**

It is another achievement of Modi Government that India has registered highest ever FDI inflow of USD 64.37 billion in the year 2018-19. This will boost economic growth on to a higher trajectory and generate employment in the country.



— **Jagat Prakash Nadda**

Rajyasabha passes J&K reorganisation bill by 125 - 61 votes ...A historic moment for our generation & a news sunrise moment for people of J&K and Ladakh #BharatEkHai.



— **B L Santhosh**

KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR

pays its heartfelt tribute on the untimely demise of the former External Affairs Minister and Senior BJP Leader

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ

SHAT SHAT NAMAN !



SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ
(14 FEBRUARY 1952 - 6 AUGUST 2019)

A NEW DAWN IN JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH

Seldom in the life of a nation a decision is taken which changes the course of its history. A nation awaits such glorious moments when it feels empowered to write its own history through bold and courageous decisions in its journey. A time comes but rarely when a nation stands united to rescue itself from the clutches of long held beliefs in inane ideas and embraces something new which is promising and pregnant with possibilities for future. It requires a strong willed leadership, determined and confident to challenge a system - useless and obsolete, and create opportunities through prudence and resolve. Such moments leave indelible marks on the pages of history setting examples for the generations to come while imbuing the national life with a newfound confidence and resolve. Among those moments, a moment has now been registered – the moment when the parliament discussed and passed resolutions and bills on Jammu & Kashmir with overwhelming majority in both houses. It was a historical moment.

The question of Jammu & Kashmir has long engaged the attention of the nation. That Article 370 was considered the root cause of all the problems faced by the state on all fronts. But certain vested interests

had made Article 370 sacrosanct through a continuous propaganda in its favour. It was an irony that although it was included in constitution as temporary and transient provision, it was treated as permanent by Congress and its allies. It was a huge blunder as the continuance of this provision helped shape separatist mindset among a section of Kashmiri youth who were misled into separatist-terrorist activities by the Pakistan backed terror groups. There was no doubt that it became the biggest obstacle in the path of complete integration of the state with the rest of India. The country had to pay for it with the martyrdom of its brave soldiers fighting against Pak sponsored terrorism in the valley for decades. At the same time Article 370 could not benefit the people of the state, pushing them back on development. It was the strong political will of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah that the Article 370 now stands a dead letter and a dark chapter in country's history has been closed. The nation stands united with the decision and people are celebrating such a historical moment in every nook and corner of the country.

The Congress and its allies have committed a grave blunder in opposing the abrogation of Article 370. In doing so the Congress has not only gone against the national sentiment but tried to create hurdles in the way of finding a lasting solution for Jammu & Kashmir. It is very unfortunate that the Congress and its allies have chosen vote bank politics above the national interest. The people have taught Congress lessons time and again but this time it has touched a new low in the national politics. The people will never forget and forgive Congress and its allies for such a regressive approach and colossal betrayal.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created history by taking a solid stand for the future of the people of Jammu & Kashmir in particular and for the nation as a whole. The Home Minister Shri Amit Shah sound and reasoned defence in the parliament of the Modi government's decision to abrogate Article 370 and creation of two Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will be remembered for a long time to come. It has opened the door of a vast range of opportunities for the people of the state. Now no one can stop the people of Jammu & Kashmir from marching ahead along with the rest of India on the path of development and progress. The decision is not only going to benefit the people of Jammu & Kashmir in a big way but also slated to bring huge dividend to the people of Ladakh. It has created a win-win situation for people of both the regions and paved the path for complete integration with rest of India. As a new era of development, progress and peace is set to dawn in the region, it is a fitting tribute to the memory of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, struggle of crores of Janasangh-BJP Karyakartas, millions of countrymen and the sacrifices of our valiant soldiers. ■

AS A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS AND PEACE IS SET TO DAWN IN THE REGION, IT IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE, STRUGGLE OF CRORES OF JANASANGH-BJP KARYAKARTAS, MILLIONS OF COUNTRYMEN AND THE SACRIFICES OF OUR VALIANT SOLDIERS.

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org



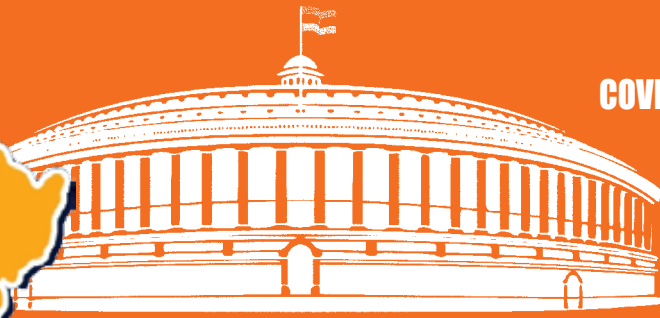
MODI GOVERNMENT CREATES HISTORY!

JAMMU & KASHMIR FULLY INTEGRATED, ARTICLE 370 & 35A REVOKED

The Union government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in a path breaking and historical decision revoked on August 5 Article 370 of the Constitution through Presidential notification that grants special status to Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP had been opposing the special status since the days of Jana Sangh. The revoked follows the Union Government introducing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill in Parliament.

In the Rajya Sabha Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah brought two resolutions and two bills regarding Jammu & Kashmir (J&K). One resolution of Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 2019 {Ref. Article 370(1) of Constitution of India} – issued by President of India to supersede the 1954 order related to Article 370. And second one was to revoke of Article 370 of the Constitution of India {Ref. Article 370

(3)}. Announcing the path breaking decision by the Government, Shri Shah said “The Government is moving a resolution which would repeal the provisions under Article 370 of the Constitution of India, which granted a special status to the state of J&K. The provisions of Article 370 would cease to exist from the date President of India issues a notification in this regard, after the recommendation of the Parliament. Consequently, the Constitution of India would get applicable to J&K, on par with other states/UTs of the country, the Minister added. Responding to apprehensions on the resolution and the future of J&K, Shri Shah said, “I would just say that the bill that the Government is bringing is historic. Article 370 has prevented J&K to merge with India rather than being a basis of its merger. The politics of vote bank has looted the youth of the state for over 70 years. I would call on the opposition members to



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

debate and discuss on why the benefits of development were not allowed to reach the common people of J&K till now. Politics of religion must be avoided at all costs. Article 370 is equally harmful for people of all religions”, the Minister said. Further, the Minister termed the provisions of Article 370 as discriminatory on the basis of gender, class, caste and place of origin. The youth is being taken for a ride by the political elite.

This provision was temporary in the first place and it has to go in the larger interest of the people of J&K, he added. Under article 370(3), there is a provision that President, on recommendation of the Parliament, has the power to amend or cease the implementation of article 370, through a public notification. This has already happened on a number of occasions in the past. The Home Minister pointed out to the opposition that everyone knows how the article 370 is hampering the development of the people of the state.

Shri Shah said that post the repeal of the Article 370, doors to private investment in J&K would be opened, which would in turn increase the potential for development there. Increased investments would lead to increased job creation and further betterment of socio-economic infrastructure in the state. Opening of buying of lands would bring in investments from private individuals and multinational companies and give a boost to the local economy, as opposed to the apprehensions raised by those opposing this historic step, he added. Home Minister remembered the martyrdom of civilians and soldiers who have lost their lives during 1989-2018. He said that had article 370 would not been there, these people wouldn't have lost their lives. Refugees who came from Pakistan after partition did not get citizenship till now. They cannot become councillors in the state. This has been a historical injustice to these

people. As opposed to this, in rest of India two Prime Ministers were elected from those refugees.

Shri Shah said because of article 370, democracy never took root in J&K, corruption flourished, widespread poverty took root and no socio-economic infrastructure could come up. It is the root cause of terrorism. Further, 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution could not be applied to J&K due to article 370. Panchayat and Nagar Palika elections could not be held. Who is responsible for taking away democratic rights of the people of J&K which were available to other citizens of India? It was Article 370. Panchayat elections recently held were conducted successfully and peacefully. The people want democracy and not bloodshed., the Minister said. Talking about economic



“ Thank you PM @narendramodi ji for the kind words. Your commitment and desire to improve lives of people in J&K and Ladakh cannot be put in words. This wouldn't have been possible without your resolve. I join millions of Indians to thank you on this historic day.

— AMIT SHAH ”



Narendra Modi @narendramodi

Our Home Minister @AmitShah Ji has been continuously working towards ensuring a better life for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. His commitment and diligence is clearly visible in the passage of these Bills. I would like to specially congratulate Amit Bhai! @HMOIndia

‘Passing of landmark Bills on Jammu and Kashmir a momentous occasion in Parliamentary Democracy’

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 6 welcomed the passing of bills pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir as “a momentous occasion in our Parliamentary democracy”.

In a series of tweets Prime Minister was hopeful that “Together we shall rise and together we fulfil the dreams of 130 Crore Indians!”

He Said, “I salute my sisters and brothers of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh for their courage and resilience.”

The Prime Minister further said “For years, vested interest groups who believed in emotional blackmail never cared for people’s empowerment. J&K is now free from their shackles. A new dawn, better tomorrow awaits!”

Shri Narendra Modi said, “The Bills pertaining to



Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will ensure integration and empowerment. These steps will bring the youth into the mainstream and give them innumerable



“It is a historic day for the country today when Parliament has abrogated the Article 370 and passed the bills empowering the people of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh. It marks a new beginning in our history. I congratulate PM Shri @narendramodi for his bold and courageous leadership.

— RAJNATH SINGH



“I am happy with the Government’s decision to revoke Article 370 and I believe that it is a bold step towards strengthening national integration. The scrapping of Article 370 has been a part of BJP’s core ideology since the days of Jan Sangh. I congratulate the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Shri Amit Shah for this historic initiative and pray for peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.



— L.K. ADVANI

backwardness in J&K.

Shri Shah said article 370 impedes people from outside the state to do business there. Absence of economic competition has prevented development and corruption flourished. Land prices are at a rock bottom because no one can buy land there. No industry, including tourism, is allowed to flourish there. People remain poor in perpetuity despite presence of abundant economic opportunities for the local populace. Rampant corruption is present, thus

preventing external investment in the state.

The Home Minister said, “I want to tell the Kashmiri youth that article 370 holds no benefits for them. It would only benefit a few elite people who want to keep the youth poor for ever and corner all benefits for themselves. Despite so much funds being provided by the Centre, where are the educational and health facilities? Those who support article 370 must know that this article prevents professionals from outside the state to settle down in the state and hence no one

opportunities to showcase their skills and talents. Local infrastructure will significantly improve.”

He specially congratulated the people of Ladakh. “It is a matter of great joy that their long-standing demand of being declared a Union Territory has been fulfilled. This decision will give impetus to the overall prosperity of the region and ensure better developmental facilities” he said.

The Prime Minister said, “The passage of key Bills pertaining to Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are a fitting tribute to the great Sardar Patel, who worked for India’s unity, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, whose views are well known and Dr. SP Mookerjee who devoted his life for India’s unity and integrity.”

He said, “In Parliament, political parties rose to the occasion, overcame ideological differences and took part in a rich debate that increased the pride of our Parliamentary democracy. For that, I congratulate all MPs, various political parties and their leaders.”

The Prime Minister in a separate tweet said “People of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh would be proud that MPs overcame differences and discussed the future of these regions as well as ensuring peace, progress and prosperity there. The widespread support can be clearly seen in the final numbers, 125:61 in RS and 370:70 in LS.”

He said, “India’s Vice President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, M Venkaiah Naidu Garu as well as Speaker Om Birla Kota Ji conducted proceedings of both Houses in an excellent manner, for which they deserve praise from the entire nation.”

He specially congratulated Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. “Our Home Minister Amit Shah Ji has been continuously working towards ensuring a better life for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. His commitment and diligence is clearly visible in the passage of these Bills. I would like to specially congratulate Amit Bhai!” ■

wants to go there. Now, the moment this resolution is passed and article 370 is removed, each child would get right of education and each patient would get free health care under Ayushman Bharat.”

Further addressing the Kashmiri youth, the Home Minister said, “We want to embrace the youth of J&K and give them flourishing opportunities of employment. Even the separate bill for reservation for economically backward classes would not be required if the resolution is passed in both houses as the provision will get automatically applied to J&K, as in rest of India”.

Talking about terrorism, Shri Shah said that the youth has been misguided to pursue jihad on Pakistan’s nefarious designs. Thousands of civilians have died. Why? It has been a stated policy of Pakistan to support article 370 and keep the youth away from getting into the mainstream of development and brain wash them into jihad. All the political parties with separatist ideology have vested interests to continue article 370. Their children do not get killed in the blood shed caused due to terrorism, hence support the article. Rebutting the apprehension that removing article 370



“NDA government under leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra has made new history. With making free Jammu & Kashmir from article 370 It has fulfilled dream of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. This decision reflects the willpower of making national unity strong.

— NITIN GADKARI

“The decision to reverse the situation created by Panditji needed clarity, vision and determination. It also needed political courage. The Prime Minister has created history through his absolute clarity and determination.

— ARUN JAITLEY

“The step taken by Honorable Prime minister has paved the way for development of the Kashmir. The four and five families was obstacle in development of Kashmir. With abrogation of article 370 the speed of development of Kashmir will take fast pace.

— YOGI ADITYANATH

JP NADDA CONGRATULATES PM AND HM

The BJP National Working President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda on August 5 congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah for the historic decision and achievement to abolish Article 370 and 35A of constitution. He heartily thanked all the Members of Parliament who supported it and expressed this as the golden day for the unity and integrity of India. He also congratulated the people of the country on the decision to repeal Articles 370 and 35A.

In a series of tweets with #BharatEkHai tagline Shri Nadda said that this day will be marked in golden words in the history of India repealing the Article 370 and 35A to restore the country's unity and integrity and connecting Kashmir with development



would destroy Kashmiri culture, Shri Shah said that all states have preserved their culture and language after becoming a part of the Union of India. How does article 370 protect J&K on this aspect, he asked. It is only and only a political propaganda that has blinded the youth of Kashmir into believing it for 70 years. "I assure the youth of J&K that give this government 5 year and it will become the most progressive region in the country", the Minister said. Daughters of the state marrying outside the state lose their rights to property. It is so discriminatory to the women and their children. SC and ST people have been discriminated against and have been deprived of reservation to political offices. Despite knowing this a few people have been perpetuating this article only for their political gains, the Minister said. Shri Shah assured the House that if the Union Territory model works well, our government would also consider giving J&K the status of state again. No constitutional amendment would be required.

J&K would become a true part of India in letter and spirit once article 370 is removed. The path to solution to all the problems of Kashmir goes through the repealing of article 370. This step would stand

strong and would pass the test of legal scrutiny. Article 370 was a temporary and transient provision, it had to go. It only required political will, which only the present government had. "I give a heartfelt appeal to all political parties to rise above political considerations to join hand with the government to remove article 370. The country wants this united as one", the Minister concluded, after which all the resolutions and bills relating to J&K were passed.

Shri Amit Shah introduced the Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019 making Jammu & Kashmir a Union territory with a Legislative Assembly, along with Union Territory status to Ladakh without a Legislative Assembly. Further, the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2019 to amend the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act 2004 was also introduced. This bill seeks to extend the 10% quota to economically weaker sections of society in J&K in jobs and educational institutions in addition to the existing reservation under the Act. Both bills were passed by Rajya Sabha. While 125 member voted in the favour of the Bill and only 61 voted against the Bill. The Reorganization bill was passed by Lok Sabha with thumping votes of 270 members on August 6. ■

by bringing this resolution. He said that this historic occasion of connecting the poor, the oppressed, the underprivileged, youth, women of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh will always be celebrated by the fellow countrymen. He said that it is clear from today's historic decision that two legislations, two heads and two marks will not be acceptable in the country. Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India, and will always remain so.

The Working President said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Center under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, removed Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir and paid a true tribute to our beloved Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangh. Mookerjee's supreme sacrifice has become successful today. Today, there will be no "two laws, two principal, two marks". Jai Hind! Jai Bharat! He said that today's decision has opened

the door for development of Jammu and Kashmir, on whose strength the foundation of a developed Jammu and Kashmir will be laid.

Today the Honorable Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, while presenting four resolutions simultaneously in the Upper House of Parliament, proposed to remove all the clauses of Article 370 except Article 370 (1) of the Constitution from the state of Jammu and Kashmir, he also proposed to bifurcation of entire state into two parts with Jammu & Kashmir as a Union territory with assembly and Ladakh as Union territory. The Jammu and Kashmir reorganization bill, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha, was passed by 125 votes in favor and 61 votes against the bill. The Bill contains provisions for the separation of Ladakh from Jammu Kashmir and granting Union Territory status to both. Apart from this, a bill for 10% reservation for the poor of the general class has also been passed in Jammu and Kashmir.

COVERAGE IN NATIONAL MEDIA



‘With Narendra Modi as the PM of India, the will to remove Article-370 strong in country’

The reply given by Shri Amit Shah on 5 August, 2019 in the Rajya Sabha in response to the debate on why Article 370 and 35A should be removed? Why two resolutions and two bills have been brought in the Parliament for solving the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) problem? We are publishing the highlights of the address:

The Parliament of India gave the right to education to all the children of the country in 2009 but the Government of J&K did not extend this right to education to people of J&K, now every child of J&K will get the right to education.

- Any citizen of the country who does not belong to J&K cannot invest in J&K because how can investment be made in a place where neither the land nor any property can be registered in the name of the owner. Now since this is allowed, investments will also pour in.
- The benefit of any law passed by both Houses of Parliament, never reached the people of J&K. The benefit will now be available to people of J&K also.
- Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad said that people of J&K are doing inter-state marriages, but the question is that if a girl from J&K marries a boy from another state, her right on the property is taken away, but now the Government of J&K will not be able to take away any fundamental rights of the people.
- Why were dalits, people from backward community- scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other sections of J&K not given any benefit of reservation till date? Now everyone will get the benefits from it. The poorer sections, the Gujjar Muslims, all the backward community and dalits in J&K will be able to benefit from this.
- Terrorism was born in J&K, reached the zenith and is now on the decline. It is as a result of Articles 370 and 35A, that the youth of J&K got brainwashed and Pakistan took advantage of it. Whose policy resulted in loss of more than 41,400 innocent lives? In 1988, Pakistan’s President General Zia-ul-Haq had said that till there is Article 370, the youth of Kashmir would never be united with the soul of India. The point is this, that the youth of other



states of the country are not misguided because there is no law to fuel separatism, but these laws are used in Kashmir only to provoke the youth and fuel separatism.

- Should we leave J&K at the mercy of the fundamentalists, who incite violence while their sons and daughters conveniently study abroad, who want to maintain Article 370 as they have made a lot of money in Kashmir and have even made and invested in properties abroad. They want to keep the common youth of Kashmir away from the path of development, while the youth years for good education. Development will be done and requires improving medical and tourism sectors. For increase employment, investment is needed. For doing this the thorn of Article 370, needed to be removed from the developmental path of J&K.
- Nehru ji said that Article 370 in due course of time will be worn out, will be eliminated and so it was made temporary in the Constitution. They said that Sardar Patel gave Article 370, it is plain wrong. Sardar united and integrated the whole country.

Sardar Patel did not deal with J&K he handled Junagadh and Hyderabad, as a result of which they are both with us today. Pandit Nehru dealt with J&K, and so we are seeing the problem even today.

- Terrorism was born due to Article 370 in J&K, it is the creator of the terrorist problem in Kashmir. People say that Article 370 connects J&K with India, it is right only in expression, but not in reality. Article 370 came into existence in 1949 whereas India and J&K were merged in 1947 as a result of the letter of Maharaja Harisingh.
- Kashmir's culture is not safe not as a result of Article 370. When the local culture of every state including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu is safe in the country, so why can't the people of Kashmir be kept together. The culture of Kashmir can also be protected like it is being done for the rest of the states. There is no reason to maintain Article 370 for this.
- Ram Manohar Lohia ji had said that as long as there is Article 370, there cannot be uniformity between India and Kashmir. Lohia ji had said this in the Parliament. All the prominent leaders of the country have said this.
- Today is the right time to remove Article 370. It could not be removed earlier due to lack of political will. With Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India, the will to do this has arisen in the country and the Home Ministry has decided to remove it.
- Why has the reservation bill being brought for J&K? The reason behind this is if we pass it here then it will become easier as when a government is formed in the state, it will be applicable to J&K on its own, without the need to pass legislation.
- I would like to convey it to the people of J&K that J&K is India's crown-jewel. In J&K, if the situation remains under control, then we will also work towards normalising the situation.
- Many states have been divided after independence in the country and it has been done by both the BJP and the Congress. Opposition would clearly

remember the bifurcation of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and how the bill was passed in Parliament. Even the broadcasting was stopped and the process continued till late night in Parliament.

- The people of J&K have lived with Article 370 for 70 years. Now we urge to the youth of J&K to give us five years, we will show them how to make J&K the number one state in our country.
- This is the only way to resolve the J&K problem. We have to remove Article 370.
- I request this august house that we should try to bring normalcy in J&K. The way to solve the Kashmir problem will come from here only. We have to leave the politics of vote bank. We have to tell the reality to the people of Kashmir. Thanks to all those parties- AAP, BSP, BJD, & AIADMK who have



supported this historic step. Thanks to the people of the country who have welcomed this verdict in one voice. Seeing the resolve of the people, my faith has also been restored and increased.

- Today we have placed two resolutions, one bill and a reservation bill in Parliament. Everyone is being requested that we send a good message to the people of J&K. I propose that the House concur on both the proposals and that both bills be passed.
- Even before we started winning municipal elections, the issue of removing Article 370 had always been part of our manifesto because we believed that the path of Article 370 is wrong. Today when the people of India have given us majority in 2014 and 2019, we believe Article 370 should be removed. ■

‘PARLIAMENT IS FULLY ENTITLED TO TAKE ANY DECISION WITHIN THE INDIAN TERRITORY’

Home Minister Shri Amit Shah replying to the points raised during the discussion on the article 370 and 35 A in Lok Sabha said that the parliament is fully entitled to take any decision within the Indian territory. Here, we are publishing the synopsis of the reply for our esteemed reader:

For the past 70 years, every person in this country has been claiming that Kashmir is an integral part of India. Surprisingly none of us has ever made this claim in respect of Uttar Pradesh or Bengal or Tamil Nadu etc. It is because the Article 370 had raised a suspicion in the minds of our citizens and the people living abroad about the real status of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister that this blot on the face of our country is going to be erased today. A number of hon. Members have participated in this discussion and have raised a number of queries. One of them is whether the Union Territory etc., status given to the State is forever. I would like to make it categorically clear that the status of a full fledged State will be restored to the Jammu and Kashmir as soon as the circumstances permit. As far as the question of POK is concerned, our claim on that territory is as strong as ever. As far as the resolution passed by the United Nation Organization is concerned, it was abrogated on the day when the Pakistan Army had crossed the international border in the year 1965. This House, therefore, is fully entitled to take any decision within the Indian territory. I would like to further add that had Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru allowed the Indian Army, the entire POK would have merged into the Indian Union. A comparison has been made between the Article 370 and Article 371 during the discussion. I would like to make it clear that no comparison can be made between these two Articles and I would like to assure Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and all other States of the North-East that the Government of India has no intention to abrogate Article 371. The

way adopted by the Government of India to amend the Article 370 has no element of unconstitutionality in it as the previous Governments had also carried out amendments in the same Article by adopting the same route. Further, the decision to deploy the security forces in the valley is precautionary in nature so that no person should try to disturb the law and order situation by instigating the local public. Some



hon. Members have made suggestions to hold consultation. We have been holding consultation for the past 70 years and we are tired now. Further, we do not want to negotiate with the Hurriyat. We will definitely hold consultation with the general public living in the valley if they do have any concern. I would further like to make it clear that there is no parallels between the Naga accord and the Article 370. The House should rest assured. We will not commit any blunder there. An

argument has been given that terrorism in the Jammu and Kashmir drew its strength from the large scale unemployment. In my view, the feeling of alienation and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir have their roots in Article 370. Another argument is that Jammu and Kashmir is a big State and it cannot be governed by an Advisor. Let the House know that the Jammu and Kashmir will have its own public representatives. The State will have its own cabinet and it will be run by them. The Government does not have any communal agenda as not only Muslims but other communities like the Hindus, Jains, Buddhist and Sikhs etc also live in that State. Since the year 1989, about 41,500 persons have died in Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to ask the House whether we wish to tread on the beaten path or we should look other fresh avenues to defuse the situation. For how long we will be deaf to the aspirations of the people of Ladakh? Today, this House is going to correct a historic blunder. It is very surprising that not a single Member from the Opposition has enlightened the House about the possible benefit of the Article 370. How this Article can help the State? Because of this Article, the Government of India has not been able to apply 9 constitutional reforms and 106 Acts to the Jammu and Kashmir. The State does not have any Act to stop child marriage. It does not have Minority Commission. A number of other legislations like the Right to Education Act, the National Council for Teachers Education Act, the Land Acquisition Act, the Whistle Blower Protection Act, the Multiple Disability Act, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents Act, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis do not apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The delimitation exercise was held in the entire country but it was not allowed to be held in the Jammu

and Kashmir. The provision of reservation for the Tribals and Dalits is not a part of the State Statute. The 73rd and 74th amendments to the Constitution are not applicable there. All these provisions will

Modi Government
fulfills its promise of national
integration by revoking
Article 370

Article 370
revoked in
Jammu-Kashmir

Proposal to remove Article 370 giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir passed by a majority in both the Houses of Parliament

- Jammu-Kashmir now becomes the **Union Territory with State Assembly**
- Ladakh now become the **Union Territory without State Assembly**
- Constitution of India will be applicable in **Jammu and Kashmir**

be applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir with the abrogation of this Article. The industries will be set up. The educational institutions and public health institutions will come up there. The people will get employment opportunities and they will get rid of poverty. The value of their land will increase. A number of luminaries like Madhu Limaye, Ram Manohar Lohiya, Abdul Gani, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had supported the abrogation of Article 370. All of them were secular in their approach. I, therefore, would like to request the House to think afresh about this Article and grant the opportunities of development to the people of three region namely the valley, Laddakh and Jammu. Let them have an opportunity to integrate with the mainstream of India. ■

ARTICLE 370 & 35A

GAVE NOTHING BUT SECESSIONISM, TERRORISM, NEPOTISM AND WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION: PM

As a country and as a family, you and us, together we took a historic decision. A system which denied due rights to our brothers and sisters of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh; a system which was huge hurdle in their development has now been eradicated. A dream which Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel had, a dream which Babasaheb Ambedkar had, the dream shared by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Atalji and crores of citizens, has now been fulfilled.

A new age has begun in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh. Now the rights and accountabilities of all the citizens of the country are similar. I congratulate the people Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh and each and every citizen of the country.

Friends,

Sometimes certain things of the social life get so entangled with time that they are considered to be permanent. A sentiment of complacency develops and it is thought that nothing is ever going to change. A similar sentiment prevailed for Article 370. Because of this there was no debate or talk about the damage done to our brothers and sisters, our children in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh. Astonishingly, nobody was able to list the benefits that Article 370 delivered to the people of Jammu-Kashmir.

Brothers and sisters,

Article 370 and 35A have given nothing but secessionism, terrorism, nepotism and widespread corruption on a large scale to Jammu-Kashmir. Both these articles were used as a weapon by Pakistan to flare up the emotions of some people. Due to this about



42,000 people lost their lives in the last three decades. The development in Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh could not be done on levels which the region deserved. After the removal of this flaw from the system, the people of Jammu-Kashmir will not only have a better present but also a bright future ahead.

Whichever government comes to power, it works for the betterment of the country by enacting laws in the Parliament. No matter which party or coalition is in power, this work never stops. There is a lot of debate both inside and outside the Parliament when laws are enacted and made, a lot of debate and brainstorming occurs and serious arguments are put up over its importance and effect. The laws that are enacted after undergoing

this process are beneficial for the people of the nation. However, it's unfathomable that so many laws are enacted in the Parliament but are not implemented in a particular region of the country. Even previous governments who were hailed after enacting a law couldn't claim that the same law would be implemented in the Jammu & Kashmir region.

More than 1.5 crore people of Jammu & Kashmir were deprived of the benefits of laws that were enacted for the benefit of the people of India. Imagine children in rest of the country have a right to education while children in Jammu & Kashmir were deprived of this right. The daughters of Jammu & Kashmir were deprived of the right that our daughters had in rest of the states. In all the other states, Safai Karamchari Act was enacted for hygiene workers but the workers of Jammu & Kashmir were deprived of this. In other states, strict laws were enacted to stop atrocities on Dalits but no such laws could be implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. To protect the rights of blue-collar workforce, Minimum Wages Act was enacted and implemented in all the other states while such a law is only found on papers in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. In all other states, (our) brothers and sisters from Scheduled Tribes got reservation while contesting elections, but such a thing is unheard of in the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

I am fully confident that, following abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A, Jammu and Kashmir would soon come out of its negative effects.

Brothers and sisters, in the new system, the priority of the central government would be to keep state government employees and Jammu and Kashmir police personnel at par with the state government employees and police personnel of other states in terms of facilities. In Union Territories, the government provides many such financial facilities like LTC, House Rent Allowance, Education Allowance for children, Health Schemes etc., most of which are not provided to the employees of Jammu and Kashmir government. Such facilities would soon be provided to the employees of Jammu and Kashmir government and state police personnel following a review.

Friends, very soon the process to fill in the vacancies of central and state government will be initiated in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. This would provide adequate employment opportunities to the local youth. Besides, public sector units of the central government and big

private sector companies would also be encouraged to provide new employment opportunities. Apart from the above, Army and para military forces would organize rallies to recruit local youths. The government would also expand Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme so that more and more students can get its benefit. Jammu and Kashmir also suffers huge revenue loss. The central government will ensure to minimize its impact.

Brothers and sisters, after abrogation of Article 370, the central government has decided to keep the state of Jammu and Kashmir under its administration after putting in a lot of thought process it. It is essential for you to understand the reasons behind the decision. Ever since the state has been under governor's rule, the administration of Jammu and Kashmir is directly under the central government. As a result the positive effect of Good Governance and Development have been observed on the ground. The schemes which earlier remained only in files, have been implemented on ground. Projects pending from decades have been speeded up. We have tried to bring transparency and a new work culture in the Jammu and Kashmir administration. As a result, be it IIT, IIM, AIIMS, various irrigation projects or power projects or the Anti-Corruption Bureau, we have been able to expedite the work on these projects. Besides, be it the projects of connectivity, roads or new rail lines, modernization of the airport, everything is being accelerated.

The democracy in our country is very strong; but you will be surprised to know that there have been thousands of brother and sisters living for decades in Jammu and Kashmir who had the right to cast their vote in Lok Sabha polls but were not allowed to cast vote in assembly and local body elections. They are the ones who had come to India following partition in 1947. Should we have allowed the injustice to continue in the same way?

I would also like to clarify another important point to my brothers and sisters of Jammu and Kashmir. Your political representative will be elected by you, He will be one of you. The MLAs would be elected just as they used to be elected earlier. The forthcoming cabinet would just be as it used to be earlier. The chief ministers would just be as they were before.

Friends, I am fully confident that, under the new system, we would collectively be able to keep the state of Jammu and Kashmir free from terrorism and secessionism. When our Jammu and Kashmir- the paradise on earth, after achieving new heights of development, attract the

whole world, and when there will be greater Ease of Living in the lives of citizens; when they would ceaselessly get their rights, when all the tools of governance would speed up the work in favor of the masses, then I don't think there would be any need to continue with the system under the union government, yes it would continue in Ladakh though.

Brothers and sisters,

we all want assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, that a new government is formed, that a new chief minister is elected. I assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir that you would get the opportunity to elect your representative in a fully honest and transparent atmosphere. Just as Panchayat polls were held transparently recently, assembly polls would also be held in Jammu and Kashmir. I would urge the Governor of the state that the setting up of Block Development Council, which has been pending for past two-three decades, be constituted as early as possible.

I have personally experienced that those who got elected in Panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh four-five months back, have been working nicely. Few months back when I visited Srinagar, I had a long meeting with them. When they came to Delhi I interacted with them for long at my home. It is because of these friends in Panchayats that the work has been done promptly at village level in Jammu and Kashmir. Be it the task of electrification in every home or making the state Open Defecation Free, the representatives in Panchayats have played a crucial role. I am fully confident that following abrogation of Article 370, once these Panchayat members get a chance to work in the new system, they would do wonders.

I firmly believe that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would conquer secessionism and move forward with new hope. I firmly believe that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would achieve their objectives with renewed fervor in an ecosystem of Good Governance and Transparency. Friends, Family rule has not given any opportunity of leadership to any young citizen of Jammu and Kashmir in the State.

Now, my these young people will take leadership of the development of Jammu and Kashmir and take it to a new height. I appeal to the youth, sisters and daughters of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to take over command of development of their area in their own hands.

There is every possibility of Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh becoming one of the greatest tourist destinations. The kind of environment required for this and the change in administration that is needed, is being taken care of. But for this I need the support of all the countrymen. There was a time when Kashmir was the favourite place for shooting Bollywood films. During that time perhaps there was no film for which shooting was not done in Kashmir. Now, situations in Jammu and Kashmir will normalize. Now not only from India, people from all over the world will come for shooting there. Every Film will bring with it new opportunity of employment for the people of Kashmir. I appeal to the Hindi, Telugu and Tamil Film Industry and people associated with it to definitely think over for investment, shooting of films and establishment of theatres and other resources in Jammu and Kashmir.

I appeal to those who are associated with the technology world, administration or private sector to give priority in their policies and their decisions as to how to disseminate technology in Jammu and Kashmir. When digital communication will be strengthened there and BPO Centres, Common Service Centres will increase in numbers, there will be enhanced opportunity of earning livelihood and the life of our brothers and sisters of Jammu and Kashmir will become easier.

The decision taken by the Govt. will benefit youth of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and those who aspire to progress in the world of sports. New sport academies, new sports stadium, training in scientific environment will help them to show their talent in the world. Friends, whether it is the colour of kesar or flavour of Kahwa or sweetness of apple or juiciness of apricot whether Kashmiri shawls or artefacts; organic products of Ladakh or herbal medicine of Jammu and Kashmir, all these need to be publicised in the whole of world.

I will give you one example. There is a plant in Ladakh, named solo. Experts say that this plant is like a sanjivini for people living in high altitude and for security forces deployed in heavy icy mountains. These plants have great role in maintaining immune system of the body at where oxygen level is low. Just think over, should these extraordinary items be sold or not in the whole world? Which Indian will not like this?

I have named only one plant. There are ample plants, herbal products spread over Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Those will be identified. If they are sold, it will benefit the people and the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Therefore, I appeal to the people

associated with Industry, Export, Food Processing Sector to come forward to ensure that local products of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh reach whole of the world.

After becoming a Union territory, the development of people of Ladakh is natural responsibility of the Govt. of India. Central Govt., with the cooperation of local representatives, the Development Council of Ladakh and Kargil, will make available the benefit of all developmental schemes at a faster rate. There is possibility of Ladakh becoming one of the greatest Centers of spiritual tourism, adventure tourism and eco-tourism. Solar Power generation could become a vast centre of Ladakh.

Now, the capability of people of Ladakh will be utilized appropriately and new opportunity of development will come without any discrimination. Now the innovative spirit of youth of Ladakh will get boosted, they will get good institutes for good education, people will get good hospitals, and infrastructure will be modernized with priority.

It is possible in democracy that some people will agree to this decision and some will oppose it. I respect their disagreement and their objections. Whatever is being argued in this connection, Central Govt. is responding to that and it is trying to resolve the same. It is our democratic responsibility. But I urge them to act keeping the national interest as paramount and help the government in giving a new direction to Jammu - Kashmir-Ladakh. Come forward to help the country.

Moving ahead from the fact that who voted in Parliament, who didn't, who supported the bill, who didn't, now we all have to come together to work unitedly in the interest of Jammu - Kashmir-Ladakh. I also want to convey every countryman that the concerns of Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh are our collective concerns. These are the concerns of 130 crore citizens. We are not indifferent to their happiness or sorrows and sufferings. The riddance from Article 370 is a reality. But it is also true that whatever odds are being caused now because of these historic steps are being fought by them only.

Our brothers and sisters of that region are patiently replying to those handful people, who want to vitiate the atmosphere there. We should not forget that it is the patriots of Jammu - Kashmir who are strongly opposing the conspiracies of Pakistan of instigating terrorism and separatism.

Our brothers and sisters, who believe in Indian Constitution, deserve a better life. We are proud of them.

Today I assure these friends of Jammu - Kashmir that the situation will gradually return to normal and all their troubles too will reduce.

Friends, the festival of Eid is around the corner. I extend my greetings to all on Eid. The government is taking all necessary steps so that the people of Jammu - Kashmir don't face any problem while celebrating Eid. The government is extending all possible help to those friends who live outside Jammu - Kashmir and want to return back to their homes on Eid.

Today on this occasion, I also express my gratitude to our friends in security forces, who are deployed for the security of the people of Jammu - Kashmir. The way all the administrative officials, state employees and Jammu - Kashmir police personnel are handling the situation is really commendable. Your this diligence has boosted my confidence that change can happen.

Brothers and sisters, Jammu - Kashmir is the crown of our country. We are proud that many brave sons and daughters of Jammu - Kashmir have sacrificed and risked their lives for its security. Maulvi Ghulam Din of Poonch district, who had informed Indian Army about Pakistani intruders during 1965 war. He was conferred Ashok Chakra. Col. Sonam Wangchug of Ladakh district, who forced enemies to bite dust during Kargil war, was honoured with Mahavir Chakra. Kirti Chakra was conferred on Rukshana Kausar of Rajauri, who had killed a big terrorist. Martyr Aurangzeb of Poonch, who was assassinated by terrorists last year and whose two brothers are now serving the country after joining the Army. The list of such brave sons and daughters is very long. Several jawans and officials of Jammu - Kashmir Police have also laid their lives while fighting with terrorists. We have lost thousands of people from other parts of the country as well. They all had a dream of seeing a peaceful, safe and prosperous Jammu - Kashmir. We, together, have to realize their dream. Friends! This decision will help in economic development of the entire country alongwith Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh. When peace and prosperity prevails in this important part of the globe, the efforts for peace in entire world will be naturally strengthened.

I call upon my brothers and sisters of Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh to come together to show the world how much strength, courage and passion we have. Let us come together to build a new India, as well as a new Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh ■



A GLORIOUS CHAPTER
IN INDIAN POLITICS
COMES TO AN END

BJP SENIOR LEADER AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER SUSHMA SWARAJ PASSES AWAY

Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj passed away on 06 July, 2019 in New Delhi after suffering a massive cardiac arrest. She was 67. She is survived by her husband Shri Swaraj Kaushal and her daughter Bansuri.

On the same day of 06 July, 2019, just an hour before the cardiac arrest, Smt. Swaraj had congratulated the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on Twitter as the Parliament cleared the resolution to revoke Article 370 and passed a bill to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir.

She said: "Thank you Prime Minister. Thank you very much. I was waiting to see this day in my lifetime," she tweeted at 7.23pm.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj was rushed to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences around 9.30pm after she complained of chest pain. Doctors at AIIMS tried to revive her but failed. Several Union Ministers, including Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Smt. Smriti Irani and others reached AIIMS after she was admitted to the hospital.

Noteworthy, Smt. Sushma Swaraj had undergone

a kidney transplant at AIIMS in 2016, when she was foreign minister in the first Modi government.

In a series of tweets, PM Shri Narendra Modi called Smt. Sushma Swaraj a "prolific orator and outstanding Parliamentarian" who was "admired and revered across party lines". Prime Minister said her death was a "personal loss" for him, lauding her "tireless" work as foreign minister, even when she was ill.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi further said, "A glorious chapter in Indian politics comes to an end. India grieves the demise of a remarkable leader who devoted her life to public service and bettering lives of the poor. Sushma Swaraj ji was one of her kind, who was a source of inspiration for crores of people."

Smt. Swaraj's last prominent public appearance was on 30 May, 2019, when Modi government 2.0 was sworn in. At that time, she appeared to be in good health. She was in good spirits and interacted with politicians across party lines.

On 29 June, she announced that she had vacated her official residence as she was no longer a minister. Her announcement drew praise on social media for

setting an example of probity for other politicians.

In November last year, Smt. Sushma Swaraj announced that she will not be contesting the 2019 Lok Sabha elections due to health reasons.

An excellent administrator, Smt. Sushma Swaraj set high standards in every Ministry she handled. She played a key role in bettering India's ties with various nations. As a minister we also saw her compassionate side, helping fellow Indians who were in distress in any part of the world.

She made her mark with her hands-on approach towards her responsibilities and ability to connect with people as the external affairs minister in the first Narendra Modi-led NDA government. During her tenure, Smt. Swaraj had been active and popular on social media reaching out to the Indian diaspora in distress for assistance.

Smt. Swaraj, who entered politics in the mid-70s, was the first prominent woman leader of the BJP and a powerful orator who was fluent in both Hindi and English. As Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha during the UPA tenure, she had made a mark for herself.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj's most prominent electoral battle was against Sonia Gandhi in Bellary in 1999.

Bellary was known to be a Congress bastion, as the party had not lost a single Lok Sabha election from the seat. Smt. Swaraj, however, gave Congress leader Sonia Gandhi a tough fight in the party's stronghold. She learnt Kannada in just 30 days and even delivered speeches in the language. She lost by only 56,000 votes, but subsequently, got a Cabinet berth in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. She held the portfolios of Information and Broadcasting and Health and Family Welfare.

MANY FIRSTS OF SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ'S POLITICAL CAREER

Smt. Sushma Swaraj began her political career with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in the 1970s and joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after the Emergency in 1977. That year, at the age of 25, she joined the Haryana government as education minister, thus becoming the country's youngest state Cabinet Minister.

She was also Delhi's first female Chief Minister, holding that post from 13 October, 1998 to 03 December, 1998.

In 2007, she notched yet another achievement, becoming the first woman to be given the Outstanding





Parliamentarian Award.

Smt. Swaraj was also the first woman to hold the post of the General Secretary and spokesperson in BJP.

Among the several firsts to Smt. Sushma Swaraj's credit are — youngest cabinet minister to serve in the Haryana government at the age of 25 in 1977 and first full-time woman foreign minister of India (Indira Gandhi held additional charge of the ministry when she was prime minister).

LAST RESPECT AT RESIDENCE AND BJP HEADQUARTERS

Leaders cutting across party line paid heartfelt tributes to Smt. Sushma Swaraj at her residence on 06 July, 2019. Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Several leaders, including PM Shri Narendra Modi, Vice-President Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Senior BJP leader LK Advani, BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Working President Shri JP Nadda, many Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and Opposition Leaders like Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Samajwadi Party founder and former Uttar Pradesh CM, Mulayam Singh Yadav, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, Kerala's former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, TMC MP Derek O'Brien, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Yog guru Ramdev paid homage in front of her mortal remains kept in her residence.

Earlier in the day, a teary-eyed Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi led the nation in paying tributes to Smt. Sushma Swaraj. PM was seen consoling her husband Swaraj Kaushal and daughter Bansuri, after paying his tributes. As Swaraj Kaushal spoke, tears welled up in the Prime Minister's eyes.

On the next day Karyakartas and people were given an opportunity to pay their last respects to Smt. Swaraj at the BJP Headquarters in New Delhi. BJP Karyakartas jostled to have a glimpse of Smt. Swaraj one last time as her body was brought in a glass casket from her residence to the party headquarters.

LAST RITES

The funeral procession of Smt. Sushma Swaraj from BJP headquarters to Lodhi crematorium was led by her daughter Bansuri, while BJP Working President Shri JP Nadda, Union Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Piyush Goyal and others played pallbearers and gave shoulder to the mortal remains which was wrapped in Tricolour.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Vice-President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Shri LK Advani, BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Working President Shri JP Nadda, former Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay, Union Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and Shri Piyush Goyal among others - attended the last rites.

Bansuri Swaraj and Swaraj Kaushal, daughter and husband of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, pay tributes as state honours are accorded to her.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj was cremated with full state



honours at Delhi's Lodhi crematorium on 07 August, 2017.

The untimely demise of Smt. Swaraj, who was known for her oratory and administrative skills, leaves a major void in Indian politics. The history of Bharatiya Janata Party can never be complete without Smt. Sushma Swaraj and the workers of the party will be inspired by her for generations. She continues to be a source of strength for us even though she is no longer with us. The party will continue to move forward on the path shown by her. ■



CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM COLLEAGUES

Prime Minister **SHRI NARENDRA MODI**: "Can't forget the manner in which Sushma Ji worked tirelessly as EAM in the last 5 years. Even when her health was not good, she would do everything possible to do justice to her work and remain up to date with matters of her Ministry. The spirit and commitment was unparalleled. Sushma Ji's demise is a personal loss. She will be remembered fondly for everything that she's done for India. My thoughts are with her family, supporters and admirers in this very unfortunate hour. Om Shanti".

Union Home Minister **SHRI AMIT SHAH**: "Passing away of Sushma Swaraj ji is a great loss to BJP & Indian politics. I pay condolences to her family, supporters, & well-wishers on behalf of all BJP workers."

BJP Working President **SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA**: "Sushma Ji is no more with us, it is a sad incident for not only BJP but the whole country. She inspired us, her last tweet tells us how she was involved in serving the nation in an emotional way."

Senior BJP leader **LK ADVANI**: "The nation has lost a remarkable leader. To me, it is an irreparable loss and I will miss Sushmaji's presence immensely. May her soul rest in peace. My heartfelt condolences to Swaraj ji, Bansuri & all members of her family. Om Shanti,"

Lok Sabha Speaker **OM BIRLA**: "Sushma Swaraj ji was an ambassador of the Indian culture. She understood everyone's problems and served them. We are standing with her family".

Union Minister **SHRI NITIN GADKARI**: "Passing away of Sushma ji is a personal loss for me,

BJP, and the country. Since the inception of the party, she played a key role in its expansion. When I was the President of BJP, she gave me guidance as an elder sister.”

BJP National Vice President **SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN**: “Sushma ji was a true daughter of Bharat mata, she spent her whole life in service of Bharat mata and people. She increased the country’s prestige in the world. She was waiting to see the abrogation of Article 370 from Kashmir and left all of us after that.”

Union Health Minister **DR. HARSH VARDHAN**: “I’m deeply saddened, I never thought Sushma ji will leave us so early. She loved and guided me as an elder sister for 3 decades. She had extraordinary personality and talent, she was a caring human.”

Haryana Chief Minister **SHRI MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR**: “Swarajji was a great leader, an astute stateswoman and above all, a kindhearted person, loved and respected by all. The nation would always remain indebted for her contribution towards society and the country”.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **YOGI ADITYANATH**: “Deep condolences on the demise of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj ji. She was known for a clean and dignified politics”.

Maharashtra Chief Minister **SHRI DEVENDRA FADNAVIS**: “The death of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj as a “personal loss”. She was well cultured and immensely talented”.

Karnataka Chief Minister **SHRI BS YEDIYURAPPA**: Paying last respects to former Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Smt. Sushma Swaraj, at her residence in Delhi said, “It’s a great loss to the party and to the nation”.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister **SHRI TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT**: “Extremely sad over the sudden demise of former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. It’s a huge loss for the nation. I pay tributes”.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **SHRI JAI RAM THAKUR**: “My condolences to Sushma Swarajji. The demise of Swarajji is an end of a glorious chapter in Indian politics”.

EMINENT PEOPLE CONDOLES

President **SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND**: “Crores of people who loved her are sad and will miss her. She was a bright star of Indian politics and an able administrator. In the last five years as foreign minister she has made India proud globally under the leadership of the PM Modi. Her absence will be felt for a long time. I pray that she rests in peace”.

UN General Assembly President **MARIA FERNANDA ESPINOSA**: “Extraordinary woman and leader who devoted her life to public service. Deepest condolences to all of her loved ones”.

Former President **SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE**: “Shocked beyond words & distressed at passing away of Sushma Swaraj. An astute parliamentarian, an effective orator and an excellent humane leader, she’ll forever be remembered and missed. Hers was a story of hard work to heights!”

Former Prime Minister **DR. MANMOHAN SINGH**: “Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was a great parliamentarian and an exceptionally talented Minister. I was shocked to hear about the sudden demise of Sushma Swaraj. I have fond memories of my association with her when she was Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. In her death, the country had lost a respected and dedicated leader”.

Bollywood veteran **AMITABH BACHCHAN** : “A highly saddening news. An impactful politician, friendly personality, a great orator.”

Singer **LATA MANAGESHKAR**: “Deeply shocked and saddened to hear about Sushma Swaraj ji’s sudden demise. A graceful and honest leader, a sensitive and selfless soul, a keen understanding of music and poetry and a dear friend. Our former external minister will be remembered fondly.”

LIFE SKETCH OF SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ

EARLY LIFE

- Smt. Sushma Swaraj (née Sharma) was born on 14 February 1952 at Ambala Cantt, Haryana to Shri Hardev Sharma and Shrimati Laxmi Devi.
- Her parents hailed from the Dharampura area of Lahore, Pakistan.
- She was educated at Sanatan Dharma College in Ambala Cantonment and earned a Bachelor's degree with majors in Sanskrit and Political Science.
- She studied law at Panjab University, Chandigarh. A state-level competition held by the Language Department of Haryana saw her winning the best Hindi Speaker award for three consecutive years.

CAREER

- In 1973, Swaraj started practice as an advocate in the Supreme Court of India.
- She began her political career with Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in the 1970s.
- Her husband, Swaraj Kaushal, was closely associated with the socialist leader George Fernandes and Sushma Swaraj became a part of George Fernandes's legal defence team in 1975.
- She actively participated in Jayaprakash Narayan's

Total Revolution Movement.

- After the Emergency, she joined the Bharatiya Janata Party. Later, she became a national leader of the BJP.
- She resigned from the Union Cabinet in October 1998 to take over as the first female Chief Minister of Delhi. She resigned from the position in December the same year.

POSITIONS HELD

- 1977–82: Elected as Member, Haryana Legislative Assembly at the age of 25.
- 1977–79: Cabinet Minister, Labour and Employment, Government of Haryana.
- 1987–90: Elected as Member, Haryana Legislative Assembly.
- 1987–90: Cabinet Minister, Education, Food and Civil Supplies, Government of Haryana.
- 1996 [16 May – 1 June]: Union Cabinet Minister, Information and Broadcasting.
- 2009-14: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
- 2014–2019 [26 May 2014 – 29 May 2019]: Minister of External Affairs in the Union of India.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj suffered a heart attack on 06 August 2019 and died in AIIMS, New Delhi

LEADERS BJP LOST WITH IN A YEAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party has lost many of its stalwarts, founding members and senior leaders, including Smt. Sushma Swaraj, within a year. While some of them had retired from active politics, a few departed while in office. Here are the leaders that the BJP lost in a year's time:

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was BJP's first Prime Minister and the founding President of the party. He died on August 16 last year at an age of 93.

MADAN LAL KHURANA: Former Delhi Chief Minister, Shri Khurana started his career with Jan Sangh, and held several posts in the party and union government. He died on October 27, 2018.

ANANTH KUMAR: The several time member of parliament from Bengaluru was BJP's prominent face from the south. He

held ministerial position in the first BJP government under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and then under Shri Narendra Modi. He was battling cancer and died on November 12 last year.

BALRAM DAS TANDON: Another founding member of the Jan Sangh, Shri Tandon died on August 14 in 2018 as the governor of Chhattisgarh.

MANOHAR PARRIKAR: The engineer-turned-politician served as Goa's Chief Minister and Union defence minister under Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Parrikar was closely associated with the RSS. He died on March 17, 2019 after a prolonged illness.

MANGE RAM GARG: Shri Garg represented the Wazirpur assembly constituency in the national capital between 2003 and 2008. He had held a number of positions in the BJP, including that of the President of Delhi unit. Shri Garg, who was not keeping well due to age-related issues, died at the age of 83 in July this year.

FOREIGN DIGNITARIES PAY TRIBUTES

BANGLADESH LOST A GOOD FRIEND : BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

Remembering her variously as “good friend”, “dear sister” and “extraordinary woman” the Bangladesh prime minister said her country had lost a “good friend”.

SWARAJ MADE A LASTING IMPRESSION AMONG THE LANKAN PUBLIC: PM WICKREMESINGHE

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe expressed sorrow at the demise of former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, saying that her efforts to achieve regional policy objectives made a lasting impression among the Lankan public. In a condolence message sent to Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said, “I have always known Mrs. Swaraj as a true friend of Sri Lanka, a neighbour and a relative of Sri Lanka who held a pleasing personality.”

DEEPLY SHOCKED TO LEARN OF THE PASSING AWAY OF SUSHMA SWARAJ: KP SHARMA OLI, NEPAL PM

“Deeply shocked to learn of the passing away of Sushma Swaraj. Heartfelt condolences & deepest sympathies to the Govt & people of India as well as to the bereaved family members said PM of Nepal”, KP Sharma Oli.

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, RON MALKA PAID LAST RESPECTS

Israeli Ambassador to India, Ron Malka paid last respects to Sushma Swaraj at her residence in New Delhi. Ron Malka on the demise of former EAM Sushma Swaraj, says: I convey my condolences on behalf of people & the state of Israel. It is a great loss. She was a great friend of Israel. She played a big role in the remarkable progress in Israel-India relationship.

WE EXPRESS OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF RUSSIA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia: “We express our sincere condolences to the people of India on the premature passing away of the former Foreign Minister of this friendly country”.

CONDOLENCES TO BEREAVED PEOPLE OF INDIA': AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO INDIA

Kenji Hiramatsu, Ambassador of Japan to India: “I’m deeply saddened to learn of the sudden demise of Sushma Swaraj, Former EAM of India. On behalf of the government and people of Japan, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the bereaved family and people of India.

US MISSION TO INDIA MOURNS THE PASSING OF SUSHMA SWARAJ: U.S. EMBASSY

‘Today, the US Mission to India mourns the passing of Sushma Swaraj. Minister Swaraj was greatly respected & viewed as an outstanding representative of the Indian people, both at home and abroad,’ US Embassy in Delhi.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO INDIA CONDOLES THE DEATH

Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong condoles the death of late BJP leader and says, “Sad to learn about the passing away of Sushma Swaraj, former Minister of External Affairs of India. Appreciate her contributions to China-India relations. Express my deep condolences to her family.”

FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, ALEXANDRE ZIEGLER CONDOLES THE DEATH

French Ambassador to India, Alexandre Ziegler condoled the death of former Union minister Sushma Swaraj: My heartfelt condolences to the family & loved ones of former EAM of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj ji. One of India’s most respected leaders, she showed remarkable dedication to serving her fellow citizens & took the Indo-French relationship to new heights.”

‘KEY ARCHITECT OF RENEWED MALDIVES-INDIA FRIENDSHIP’: MALDIVES FOREIGN MINISTER

Abdulla Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives: Deeply grieved to hear the demise of my good friend Sushma Swaraj; Stateswoman extraordinaire, diplomat par excellence; A warm human being. Key architect of renewed Maldives-India friendship. May she rest in peace!”

BJP FORMS GOVERNMENT IN KARNATAKA

B.S YEDIYURAPPA TAKES OATH AS NEW CM AND WINS FLOOR TEST

Karnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yediyurappa sailed through the floor test in the legislative assembly on 29 July, 2019 in Bengaluru.

With the victory of the BJP government, the coalition government of the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) came to an end. With only 208 members in the House as speaker disqualified 14 rebel MLAs, all 105 BJP MLAs chose Shri Yediyurappa in a voice vote. The government needed only 105 votes in the House with reduced strength. BJP defeated the coalition government by 105-99 votes in the floor

largest party. The government lasted for three days after being sworn in as its number was slightly less than the majority.

“VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY”

Flashing the victory sign after the voting, Shri Yediyurappa described the outcome as a “victory for democracy” as people were fed up with the Kumaraswamy government.

After winning the floor test Shri Yediyurappa said, “When H.D. Kumaraswamy was chief ministers the administration has failed in Karnataka and we will set it right. I give an assurance in the House that we won’t indulge in vindictive politics either. I believe in forget and forgive”.

Shri Yediyurappa said, “We passed the budget presented by Kumaraswamy without any change, but got a vote on account only for the next three months”.

He assured the people of Karnataka that “an era of development” would start with BJP in power.

The 14-month-old Congress-JD(S) government collapsed in Karnataka as MLAs rebelled against the government. The political crisis came to the fore when several Congress MLAs resigned citing differences with Kumaraswamy.

On 09 July, Speaker Ramesh Kumar stated that eight resignations were not in order and thus will not be accepted. The rebel MLAs moved the Supreme Court challenging Kumar’s decision on declaring their resignations invalid.

The government had defied two deadlines set by Governor Shri Vajubhai Lala, who had asked Kumaraswamy to prove his majority on 26 July, 2019, saying he had “prima facie satisfaction” that it has lost its majority confidence of the house.

The ruling coalition made frenetic efforts to win back the rebels but they refused to budge, sealing the fate of his government. ■



test after a three-week-long intense confusion in the Karnataka assembly.

Earlier, the Bharatiya Janata Party ending the speculation in Karnataka staked the claim for government formation, three days after HD Kumaraswamy’s government failed to prove majority. BJP State president and three-time Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri BS Yediyurappa 76, was sworn in as new Chief Minister of Karnataka on 26 July, 2019, taking charge of the state for the fourth time in his political career. His last stint was after the May 2018 Assembly polls, when BJP emerged as the single



Local Bodies	Total seats	BJP Won
Gram Panchayat	6111	5916
Panchayat Samiti	419	411
Zilla Parishad	116	114

Massive victory of BJP in three-tier panchayat polls in Tripura, Left Scores Zero

The ruling BJP in Tripura has registered a massive victory in the three-tier panchayat polls in the state. According to sources in the state election department, the party has won 95 per cent seats in the panchayat polls, of which 86 per cent was uncontested victory for the BJP.

The Left front that had ruled Tripura for 25 years till 2018, could not win a single seat. The Congress had won about 2 per cent seats, sources from election department said.

The panchayat polls were held on July 27, 2019 and 76.63 per cent voter turnout was recorded; results were declared from July 30.

According to official records, the polling was announced in 6,111 seats of 591 Gram Panchayats, 419 seats of Panchayat Samities and 116 seats in eight Zilla Parishad bodies of Tripura. Out of which the BJP won 5916 panchayat seats, 411 panchayat samiti seats and 114 Jila Parishad seats.

Apart from 833 seats of Gram Panchayats, 82 seats of Panchayat Samiti and 79 seats of Zilla Parishad bodies other seats went uncontested.

After the results PM Shri Narendra Modi Congratulating the BJP Karyakartas of Tripura Twitted:

Tripura's faith in @BJP4India remains unwavering! I thank the people of the state for blessing the

party in the Panchayat Elections across the state. The transformative work in Tripura's rural areas is positively impacting many lives. Kudos to the local unit for the hardwork!

The PM further said: I would urge @BJP4India Karyakartas from other states to interact with Karyakartas from Tripura. The Party's repeated successes in the state demonstrate the power of development politics and democratic temperament. It also shows that with the right effort, everything is possible.

BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah also congratulated the BJP karyakartas of Tripura for the landslide victory. He twitted: @AmitShah Thank you Tripura for yet another landslide victory. The overwhelming mandate for party in the Panchayat elections is an endorsement for State govt and development projects initiated to transform lives of people. Congratulations to CM @ BjpBiplab & karyakartas of @BJP4Tripura.

Thanking the people of Tripura for their massive support BJP Working President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda twitted: @JPNadda त्रिपुरा की जनता ने पंचायत चुनाव में @BJP4Tripura को भरपूर आशीर्वाद प्रदान किया है इसके लिए मैं उनको हृदय से धन्यवाद देता हूँ। श्री @BjpBiplab जी को बधाई देता हूँ जिनके नेतृत्व में त्रिपुरा में तेज गति से हो रहे विकास कार्यों ने जनता के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाए हैं। ■

BJP WILL MAKE INDIA CORRUPTION-FREE AND COMMISSION-FREE: JP NADDA

BJP National Working President Shri JP Nadda visited Haryana on a two-day Pravas starting from July 26, 2019 and took part in the party's core committee meetings with the state leadership. On 28 July, 2019 he participated in a plantation drive in Rohtak and listened Prime Minister's radio program "Mann Ki Baat" with BJP Karyakartas.

Shri Nadda also held talks with the state leaders about forming a strategy for the upcoming Vidhan Sabha elections which are scheduled to be held towards the end of the year in Haryana. Shri JP Nadda also took a review of the BJP's membership drive which is going on throughout the country.

Earlier, Shri Nadda had also visited Maharashtra and Jharkhand and held talks with the State BJP leadership and party Karyakartas for the upcoming elections. State elections in Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra are scheduled to be held later this year.

Interacting with party Karyakartas BJP National Working President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has asked the members of the party's poll-management team to publicise the BJP's policies and the government's welfare initiatives through social media. He, however, asked them to exercise utmost caution while uploading content on social media and verify its authenticity beforehand. He advised them to develop a research centre at the media centre located in Panchkula.

Appreciating the efforts put in by the members of the poll-management team towards the party's victory in the recent Lok Sabha elections, Shri Nadda asked them to move ahead by setting specific targets for the upcoming elections to the Haryana Assembly.

The BJP Working President asserted that the party, which had 11 crore members, now aims to have 20 crore members. He participated in the membership drive and signed the membership forms filled by several entrants to the party at Rohtak. Shri Nadda also planted a sapling on the second day of his stay at Rohtak.

Criticising the previous Congress regimes, the BJP Working President Shri JP Nadda also said corruption was quite common in government services under

Congress rule in Haryana but the BJP government has done away with the culture of bribe prevalent in the state.

"Earlier there used to be corruption in government services in Haryana. Under the BJP rule, the culture of the bribe has been done away with. Transfer industry used to run at the time of Congress regime, now no employee is harassed in name of transfers," said Shri Nadda while addressing a meeting of BJP Karyakartas.

"Along with making Congress-free India we have to make BJP's India. Congress free India means corruption-free India and Commission-free India.



BJP's India means Ujjawala Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, Saubhgya Bharat and Ujala Bharat," said Shri Nadda.

He also slammed opposition parties for 'dynasty politics' and 'caste-based' politics while asserting that even a common party worker in BJP can reach the top position. "Out of about 1300 political parties, some are doing politics of dynasty while others are doing caste politics. Only BJP is the party in which a common worker can reach up to the top level. Fathers of none of those who are at the top in BJP were in politics," said Shri Nadda.

Haryana Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar was also present at the meeting. He reiterated the BJP's commitment of making "Congress-free India" saying that it means corruption-free and "commission-free" India. ■

TRIPLE TALAQ BILL PASSED BY BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

AN ARCHAIC AND MEDIEVAL PRACTICE HAS FINALLY BEEN CONFINED TO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY: MODI

The Muslim women (protection & rights on Marriage) bill, 2019 or triple talaq bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on July 30. The Bill was already passed in Lok Sabha on June 25, 2019. It was seen as great legislative success towards gender justice. The bill provisions make divorcing through instant triple talaq illegal and husband can be given jail for three years. PM Narendra Modi thanked all the parties and MPs who have supported the passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 in both Houses of Parliament. He said that they have risen to the occasion and this step of theirs will be forever remembered in India's history.

In a series of tweets he said that "An archaic and medieval practice has finally been confined to the dustbin of history! Parliament abolishes Triple Talaq and corrects a historical wrong done to Muslim women. This is a victory of gender justice and will further equality in society. India rejoices today!"

He further tweeted that "This is an occasion to salute the remarkable courage of those Muslim women who have suffered great wrongs just due to the practice of Triple Talaq. The abolition of Triple Talaq will contribute to women empowerment and

give women the dignity they deserve in our society."

Union Home Minister and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah reacting on abolition of this evil practices said enactment of triple talaq bill by India's parliament corrected a historic wrong.

- *The Bill makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void (i.e. not enforceable in law) and illegal.*
- *The Bill makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence, attracting up to three years' imprisonment with a fine.*

- *It provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to the accused. The bail may be granted only after hearing the woman (against whom talaq has been pronounced), and if the Magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail.*

- *The offence may be compounded by the Magistrate upon the request of the woman (against whom talaq has been declared).*

- *A Muslim woman against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children. The amount of the allowance will be determined by the Magistrate.*
- *A Muslim woman against whom such talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. The manner of custody will be determined by the Magistrate. ■*



MODI, GREAT REFORMER: ENACTMENT OF TRIPLE TALAQ BILL BY INDIA'S PARLIAMENT CORRECTS A HISTORIC WRONG



AMIT SHAH

Some dates stand out in history. In the annals of India's parliamentary history July 30, 2019, represents one such day. The passage of the historic triple talaq bill in Parliament's Upper House is not just about enactment of one more law. It is about correcting a historical wrong. It is about restoring honour and dignity to Muslim women. It is about establishing gender equality.

The bill's passage shows the Modi government's commitment to walk the talk on social reforms with a steadfast focus, despite resistance from opposition. It provides statutory shield to Muslim women who have been silently bearing the brunt of an utterly sinful practice.

A careful reading of the events during the bill's passage in the Rajya Sabha, as well as those outside Parliament, reveal some important pointers. For one, it brought out the Modi government's relentless efforts to accord social dignity, respect and honour to women in India. Equally importantly, it also completely exposed the duplicitous intent of the Congress party, which has all along treated minorities as a vote bank, perpetuating a deep-

rooted inequality that cared little about women's self-respect.

Another interesting facet that has emerged is Congress's diminishing ability to rally other parties around its partisan obduracy. When a government remains dedicated to the cause of public and social welfare, which is the case with the Narendra Modi government, it is only natural for other parties to support it.

The support the triple talaq bill has received from non-NDA parties is welcome. We also appeal to all parties to rise above political



differences and offer non-partisan support to such issues that are critical for India to progress as a nation and society.

It is important to analyse Congress's role on triple talaq through the prism of India's recent political history. Congress, which had more than 400 MPs in the Lok Sabha three decades ago, had a great opportunity to change the

historical wrong to Muslim women in the Shah Bano case. In 1985, the Supreme Court had ruled in favour of triple talaq victim Shah Bano, made her entitled to an allowance of Rs 500 per month, and had said that the order was in conformity with the Sharia law. However, instead of implementing it, Congress led by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi succumbed to pressure from clerics represented by Muslim personal board and the lure of vote bank politics and enacted a law to nullify the court's order.

The capitulation appalled even the left-leaning legal luminary, former SC judge Justice VR Krishna Iyer. Arif Mohammed Khan, a minister in the then Congress government who had termed the court decision as fair, resigned in protest against the government's decision. Rajiv Gandhi had made Khan believe that he would implement the progressive SC verdict.

The issue had since remained in cold storage for years, and when the Modi government brought it up, there was no change in the Congress's malicious ambivalence. Congress's double standards and divisive politics that existed 30 years ago were on vivid display as it tried subterfuges to thwart the attempt to right the wrong committed by Rajiv Gandhi. The obstructionism only reflected core character that perpetuates appeasement and vote

bank politics. The law banning triple talaq marks a huge blow to such politics.

This bill has also thoroughly exposed the so-called liberals in India. Many of these "liberals" who proclaim themselves to be champions of gender justice were conspicuously silent or employed ruses to oppose a bill that sought to empower Muslim women. The duplicity has exposed that these self-styled liberals are driven by narrow partisan politics instead of humanitarian values.

Importantly, those who question the need to have such a law forget that hundreds of cases of the atrocity that triple talaq was, had been reported after January 2017 when SC outlawed the practice. The brazenness necessitated a strict law to clamp down on the unjust practice. That the law is not against Islam is borne out by the fact that 19

countries including Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria have banned instant oral divorce.

We need to understand that women who fought a long battle against triple talaq didn't have any political motive. They were normal women who showed extreme courage to fight against injustices they were subjected to. They were determined to put an end to this practice and finally won the battle in the country's highest court. By legislating a triple talaq law our government has given a statutory backing to their battle. After all, lawmakers and political parties are duty bound to give voice and right direction to such fights.

Opposition's argument questioning the need for law applicable only to Muslim society is also baseless. Independent India has seen enactment of laws aimed at reforming entrenched practices

in other communities. Hindu Marriage Act, Christian Marriage Act, and laws to ban child marriage and dowry are examples of such interventions.

Those engaging in opportunistic, narrow political arguments refuse to acknowledge these. Those who question making triple talaq a criminal offence conveniently ignore that several other practices related to Hindu society are considered criminal offence and attract severe punishment.

The Narendra Modi government deserves credit for enacting a law to ban triple talaq. I am sure Modi will now go down in history as a social reformer in the league of Raja Rammohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, who waged struggles to improve the lot of women. ■

(The Writer is Union Minister of Home Affairs, GoI)

BHARAT RATNA FOR PRANAB MUKHERJEE, BHUPEN HAZARIKA AND NANAJI DESHMUKH FOR THEIR SERVICES TO NATION

Former President Shri Pranab Mukherjee was conferred the highest civilian award by his successor Hon'ble President Shri Ram Nath Kovind on August 8, 2019. Acclaimed Assamese singer Shri Bhupen Hazarika and RSS leader and Social Servant Shri Nanaji Deshmukh were conferred the Bharat Ratna Award posthumously.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the Bharat Ratna conferred on former president Pranab Mukherjee is a fitting recognition for his service to the nation.

"Thank you for leaving no stone unturned towards making India more developed ... It was an honour to witness you receiving the Bharat Ratna, a fitting



recognition of everything that you have done for the nation," PM Shri Modi tweeted. ■

2019 has been a great year for India's space missions: PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the countrymen in his 'Mann Ki Baat' on 28 July, 2019. In his address the PM said, "I touched upon the subject of water conservation in last Mann Ki Baat and you will be happy to know that Meghalaya has become the first state to have formulated its own water-policy". He congratulated the scientists for successful launch of Chandrayaan II mission and said it will inspire our youth towards Science & Innovation. We are publishing the excerpts for our esteemed readers;

My dear countrymen, Namaskar. As usual, you and I eagerly keep waiting for 'Mann Ki Baat'. This time too, numerous letters, comments & phone calls have poured in – full of stories, suggestions & inspiration – everybody wants to do something or the other; also wanting to say it out. One can feel that sentiment.

Friends, I touched upon the subject of water conservation in Mann Ki Baat and I feel that it was an issue close to your heart even before I referred to it, a matter of universal human interest. People have shared information on traditional methods. And you will be happy to know that the beautiful North Eastern State of Meghalaya has become the first state to have formulated its own water-policy. I congratulate the Government of Meghalaya.

In Haryana, crops that require meagre water are being encouraged. Farmers thus are saved from suffering losses. I specially congratulate the Haryana Government for establishing a connect with the farmers to wean them away from conventional modes of farming towards crops that do not require much water.

Actually, this month, the World Children's Winners Games were held in Moscow. It is a unique sports

tournament meant for young cancer survivors; only they who have emerged fighting cancer, can take part. In this tournament, sports & games such as shooting, chess, swimming, running, football & table-tennis are organized. All Ten champions of our country won medals in this tournament. Out of these, some players even won more than one medal.

I firmly believe that you must



have felt immensely proud on India's achievement beyond the skies... in outer space... Chandrayaan II. In fact, in the realms of Space, 2019 has been a very fruitful year for India. Our scientists launched the A-Sat in March. After that, amidst the hectic engagements during Elections, an important development such as the A-Sat could not be a prominent part of the discourse. Whereas the fact is,

through the A-Sat, we have acquired the capability of destroying a satellite three hundred Kilometres away in a mere three minutes. India became the fourth country in the world, possessing this capacity. And now, on the 22nd of July, the nation watched with pride Chandrayaan II taking strides into space from Sriharikota. Visuals of Chandrayaan II lifting off filled our countrymen's hearts with glory, zest and joy.

Chandrayaan II is a mission that is special on many counts. It will lead to a better understanding of the Moon on our part. We will be able to gather detailed information & knowledge. But if you ask me what the two greatest lessons I have received from Chandrayaan II, I shall say they are Faith & Fearlessness. We should trust our talents & capacities; we should have faith in them. You will be glad to know that Chandrayaan II is INDIAN to the core. It is thoroughly Indian in heart & spirit. It is completely a swadeshi, home grown mission.

My dear countrymen, you must have observed one thing. Our chain of Mann Ki Baat has lent pace to the cleanliness campaign from time to time. Similarly, efforts towards ensuring cleanliness have always inspired Mann Ki Baat. A journey that began five

years ago gathered momentum with mass participation & is now setting up newer benchmarks in cleanliness & sanitation. It is not that we have reached the ideal yet, but the way we have achieved success in ODF & clean public spaces, it displays the collective will & strength of the resolve of a hundred & thirty crore countrymen. But we are not stopping at that. This movement has now advanced from cleanliness towards beautification.

A few days ago, I read a very interesting comment on My gov. This comment came from Brother Muhammad Aslam who stays in Shopian, Jammu & Kashmir. He wrote, "I like listening to the programme Mann Ki Baat. I am happy to let you know that I played a positive active role in organizing the community

mobilisation programme- Back to Village in my state Jammu & Kashmir. This programme was organized in the month of June. I feel such programmes should be organized every quarter. Simultaneously, there should be a provision for online monitoring too. According to me, this was a one of a kind programme where the public directly entered into a dialogue with the Government.

The people of Kashmir are eager to join the national main stream, their enthusiasm is reflected in the mechanism of this programme. For the first time, senior officials reached the villages, directly, even those officials who had never visited a village were available to the villagers at their doorsteps, to judge for themselves to gauge the obstacles in the path of

progress and to remove the hurdles.

This week long programme encompassing about 4500 panchayats witnessed the govt. officials briefing the villagers about the schemes and programmes implemented by the Government and also inquired whether these facilities were available to them or not. How to impart more might to the Panchayats? How to increase their income? And how the facilities rendered by panchayats can affect the day to day life, were topics that were discussed and people too interacted in a participatory fashion telling about their problems. Literacy, sex ratio, health, hygiene, water conservation, electricity, water, Girl education, senior citizen's concerns etc. were some of the topics that were discussed at length. ■

BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT APPOINTS IN-CHARGE AND CO-IN CHARGE FOR POLL BOUND DELHI, HARYANA, JHARKHAND, MAHARASHTRA AND J&K

Gearing up for the upcoming Assembly polls in Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand and Maharashtra, the BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah on 09 August, 2019 appointed Union Ministers Shri Prakash Javadekar and Shri Narendra Singh Tomar as its in-charge for elections in Delhi and Haryana respectively.

Shri Shah also appointed BJP National Vice-President Shri O.P. Mathur and BJP National General Secretary Shri Bhupinder Yadav as poll in-charges for Jharkhand and Maharashtra respectively,



Prakash Javadekar



Narendra Singh Tomar



Bhupinder Yadav



O.P. Mathur



Avinash Rai Khanna

according to a statement from the party.

Assembly polls in Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand are slated for later this year while in Delhi they are due early next year.

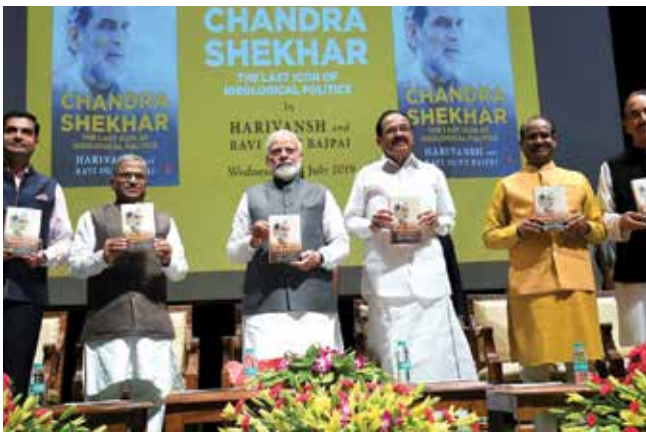
Union Ministers Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Shri Nityanand Rai will be co-in charges for Delhi polls while Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Shri Keshav

Prasad Maurya and Karnataka leader Shri Laxman Sevadi will be co-incharges for Maharashtra polls.

Earlier, on 31 July, 2019 the BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah also appointed BJP National Vice President Shri Avinash Rai Khanna as election In-Charge of Jammu & Kashmir. ■



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi planting the sapling with other dignitaries at the tree plantation drive organised by the Lok Sabha Secretariat at Parliament House Premises in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with Vice President Shri Venkai Naidu, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla and others releasing the book "Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics", at Parliament Library, New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi at the Cultural Event "Divya Kala Shakti" Witnessing Ability in Disability organised by the DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Working President Shri JP Nadda and others at 'Sansad Karyashala' in Parliament House, New Delhi. This is a great forum for Party MPs to extensively engage on issues pertaining to the nation and our organisation said PM Shri Modi.

