

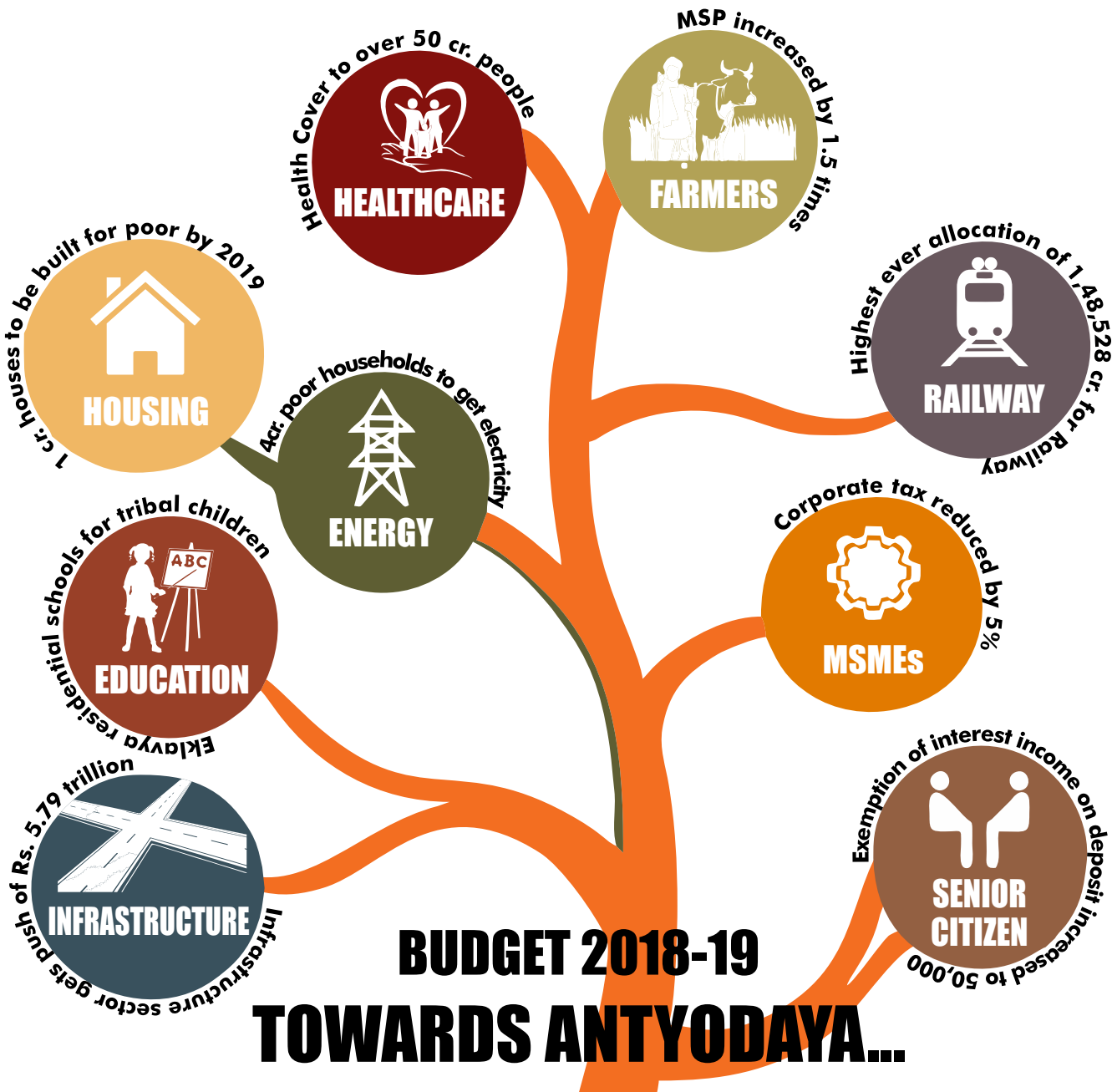
KAMAL SANDESH

Vol. 13, No. 04 16-28 February, 2018 (Fortnightly)

₹20



PM INAUGURATES 'ADVANTAGE ASSAM- GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT 2018', GUWAHATI



BUDGET FOCUSES ON POOR, FARMERS RURAL & JOB ORIENTED GROWTH

'A FARMER FRIENDLY, COMMON CITIZEN FRIENDLY AND DEVELOPMENT FRIENDLY BUDGET'

'BUDGET GIVES NEW WINGS TO ASPIRATIONS OF POOR'



Karnataka BJP welcomes BJP National President Shri Amit Shah at Parivartan Yatra Rally in Mysore.



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah hoisting the tri-colour on the 69th Republic Day celebration at BJP HQ, New Delhi.



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paying floral tributes to Sant Ravidas ji on his Jayanti at BJP H.Q. in New Delhi



Shri Amit Shah addressing the SARBANSDANI to commemorate the 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji at Chandani Chowk, New Delhi.

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Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presented on February 1, 2018 general Budget 2018-19 in Parliament. It was second time the budget was presented on first of February instead following colonial era practices of...

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18 67 FDI PROPOSALS OF 11,703 CR APPROVED DURING APRIL-DECEMBER 2017

As many as 67 foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs 11,703 crore were approved during the first nine months of the ongoing fiscal;...

19 DIGITAL TRANSACTIONS RISE TO 1.11 BILLION IN JANUARY

Digital transactions reached a new peak in January in terms of volume after crossing the 1 billion mark. They rose 4.73% to 1.11 billion...



twitter



@narendramodi

The #NewIndiaBudget is farmer friendly, common citizen friendly, business environment friendly and development friendly. It goes beyond 'Ease of Doing Business' and focuses on 'Ease of Living'.

@rajnathsingh

The Budget is one of the most farmers and people's friendly Budget presented in the recent years. The proposal to include 10 crore poor and vulnerable families under the annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh will bring a massive change in health outcomes.



@nitin_gadkari

FM Shri @arunjaitley has laid out an excellent budget for the benefit of masses. This is a Pro poor, Pro people budget. Universal health insurance to cover over 40% of India's population is a step first of its kind in history. #NewIndiaBudget.

facebook

Providing insurance of Rs. 5 lakhs to 10 million families i.e. around 40% of India's population under 'Ayushman Bharat' is a unique initiative to ensure health insurance as well as health assurance. For this world's largest health insurance scheme I congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley.

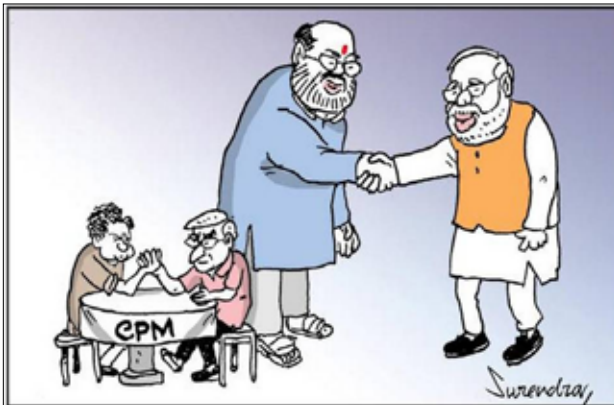


— **Amit Shah**

This is a historic & path breaking budget for a #NewIndia ! Poor, farmers, women, youth, senior citizens are biggest beneficiaries. Health and infrastructure sector will get a big boost. Hon Narendra Modi ji and Arun Jaitley ji has walked the talk of #SabkaSathSabkaVikas ! A big thank you!



— **Devendra Fadnis**



Courtesy: Social Media



(18 February 1836 to 16 August 1886)

Kamal Sandesh Parivar
pays tribute to
RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA
ON HIS JAYANTI

A budget committed to the principles of Antyodaya

As the budget for the year 2018-19 was presented in the parliament, the roadmap of a strong, vibrant and prosperous India was laid before the nation. The interests of most deprived sections of the society, farmers, women, youth, senior citizens and infrastructure sector along with fiscal prudence and discipline were given priority in the budget. A comprehensive budget aimed at uplifting the poorest of the poor in the society and committed to the principles of Antyodaya, it caters to the aspirations of almost every section of the society. The vision of providing LPG gas connection, electricity and toilet to every home has been adequately addressed by increase in allocations to Ujjwala, Saubhagya and Swachh Mission. At the same time it has addressed different sectors of economy, strengthening them with futuristic vision and goals while envisaging a vibrant rural and urban sector in the country.

The budget is in the line of previous budgets wherein the farmer, poor and rural sector have been prioritized and agriculture sector has remained in its main focus. The decision to offer MSP at 1.5 times the cost of the farming is set to revolutionise the agricultural sector transforming the lives of the farmers while strengthening the base of Indian economy. The vision of 'New India' envisaged by the Prime Minister aims at doubling the

farmers' income by 2022 now appears within range with such revolutionizing steps aided by new initiatives in allied agricultural activities including fisheries, animal husbandry, bamboo farming etc. But the biggest announcement came in the form of health cover to around 50 crore people in the country who under the health protection scheme were provided treatment in secondary and tertiary sector with a coverage upto 5 lac rupees. Considered to be the biggest health coverage scheme in the world, it promises to provide health security to 10 crore families in the country. The health sector has remained a priority area for the government having earlier reduced prices of medicines, stents and knee transplantation ensuring dialysis and other health related facilities which were hitherto out of reach for a large section of the society. The decision to open new medical colleges will further strengthen health infrastructure in the country and make health facilities available to common people.

One of the most important aspects of the budget is that it adheres to fiscal prudence with fiscal deficit pegged at 3.5 % and projected at 3.3% for 2018-19. A number of structural reforms measures are slated to take the economy on higher growth trajectory focussing on manufacturing, services and exports. The increase in custom duty will incentivise domestic sectors and help in generating employment opportunities while strengthening 'Make in India' initiatives. The budget has also made significant provisions for health, education, employment, SCs, STs, senior citizens, MSMEs, power, railways and infrastructure sector. It

has overall given a huge impetus to the economy ensuring its momentum in the days to come.

The budget is guided by the vision the Prime Minister who has ensured that the government remains committed to the welfare of farmers, poor, women, youth and SCs and STs. At the same time it focuses on the principles of 'reform, perform and transform' with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. It has been rightly called a pro-India budget which refuses to fall prey to hollow populism having an eye on elections, but underlines the vision of a developed, strong and prosperous India. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley should be congratulated for taking bold initiative in the national interests and heralding an era of responsible, accountable and transparent political culture in the country. As BJP National President has said that the budget has given new wings to the aspirations of the poor, the budget is a huge step towards, 'Ease of Living' for the poor and lower middle and middle class people. ■

THE BUDGET IS GUIDED BY THE VISION THE PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS ENSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE WELFARE OF FARMERS, POOR, WOMEN, YOUTH AND SCs AND STs. AT THE SAME TIME IT FOCUSES ON THE PRINCIPLES OF 'REFORM, PERFORM AND TRANSFORM' WITH THE MANTRA OF 'SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS'.

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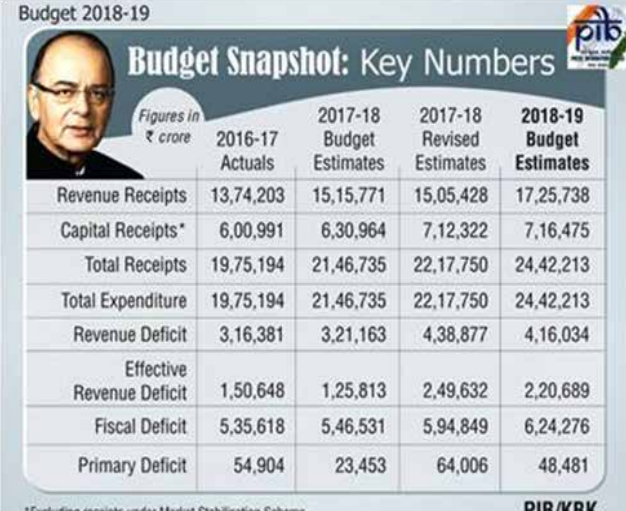
BUDGET FOCUSES ON POOR, FARMERS RURAL & JOB ORIENTED GROWTH

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presented on February 1, 2018 general Budget 2018-19 in Parliament. It was second time the budget was presented on first of February instead following colonial era practices of presenting the general Budget on the last working day of February. The FY 2018-19 budget mainly focuses on poor, farmers rural and job oriented growth.

MSP OF CROPS INCREASED TO ONE AND HALF TIMES OF PRODUCTION COST

In line with the government's objective of doubling farmers' income, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all hitherto unannounced crops of Kharif was raised to at least one and half times of their production cost.

Budget 2018-19



Budget Snapshot: Key Numbers

Figures in ₹ crore

	2016-17 Actuals	2017-18 Budget Estimates	2017-18 Revised Estimates	2018-19 Budget Estimates
Revenue Receipts	13,74,203	15,15,771	15,05,428	17,25,738
Capital Receipts*	6,00,991	6,30,964	7,12,322	7,16,475
Total Receipts	19,75,194	21,46,735	22,17,750	24,42,213
Total Expenditure	19,75,194	21,46,735	22,17,750	24,42,213
Revenue Deficit	3,16,381	3,21,163	4,38,877	4,16,034
Effective Revenue Deficit	1,50,648	1,25,813	2,49,632	2,20,689
Fiscal Deficit	5,35,618	5,46,531	5,94,849	6,24,276
Primary Deficit	54,904	23,453	64,006	48,481

* Excluding receipts under Market Stabilisation Scheme

PIB/KBK

HIGHLIGHTS

- Budget guided by mission to strengthen agriculture, rural development, health, education, employment, MSME and infrastructure sectors
- Government says, a series of structural reforms will propel India among the fastest growing economies of the world. Country firmly on course to achieve over 8 % growth as manufacturing, services and exports back on good growth path.
- MSP for all unannounced kharif crops will be one and half times of their production cost like majority of rabi crops: Institutional Farm Credit raised to 11 lakh crore in 2018-19 from 8.5 lakh crore in 2014-15.
- 22,000 rural haats to be developed and upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets to protect the interests of 86% small and marginal farmers.
- "Operation Greens" launched to address price fluctuations in potato, tomato and onion for benefit of farmers and consumers.
- Two New Funds of Rs10,000 crore announced for Fisheries and Animal Husbandary sectors; Re-structured National Bamboo Mission gets Rs.1290 crore.
- Loans to Women Self Help Groups will increase to Rs.75,000 crore in 2019 from 42,500 crore last year.
- Higher targets for Ujjwala, Saubhagya and Swachh Mission to cater to lower and middle class in providing free LPG connections, electricity and toilets.
- Outlay on health, education and social protection will be 1.38 lakh crore. Tribal students to get Ekalavya Residential School in each tribal block by 2022. Welfare fund for SCs gets a boost.
- World's largest Health Protection Scheme covering over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families launched with a family limit upto 5 lakh rupees for secondary and tertiary treatment.
- Fiscal Deficit pegged at 3.5 %, projected at 3.3 % for 2018-19.
- Rs. 5.97 lakh crore allocation for infrastructure
- Ten prominent sites to be developed as Iconic tourist destinations
- NITI Aayog to initiate a national programme on Artificial Intelligence(AI)
- Centres of excellence to be set up on robotics, AI,



TWO MAJOR INITIATIVES IN HEALTH SECTOR

(i) Health and Wellness Centre: The National Health Policy, 2017 has envisioned Health and Wellness Centres as the foundation of India's health system. Under this 1.5 lakh centres will bring health care system closer to the homes of people. These centres will provide comprehensive health care, including for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services. These centres will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services. The

Budget has allocated Rs.1200 crore for this flagship programme. Contribution of private sector through CSR and philanthropic institutions in adopting these centres is also envisaged.

(ii) National Health Protection Scheme: The second flagship programme under Ayushman Bharat is National Health Protection Scheme, which will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) providing coverage upto 5 lakh rupees per family per year for secondary and tertiary

Internet of things etc

- Disinvestment crossed target of Rs 72,500 crore to reach Rs 1,00,000 crore
- Comprehensive Gold Policy on the anvil to develop yellow metal as an asset class
- 100 percent deduction proposed to companies registered as Farmer Producer Companies with an annual turnover upto Rs. 100 crore on profit derived from such activities, for five years from 2018-19.
- Deduction of 30 percent on emoluments paid to new employees Under Section 80-JJAA to be relaxed to 150 days for footwear and leather industry, to create more employment.
- No adjustment in respect of transactions in immovable property where Circle Rate value does not exceed 5 percent of consideration.
- Proposal to extend reduced rate of 25 percent currently available for companies with turnover of less than 50 crore (in Financial Year 2015-16), to companies reporting turnover up to Rs. 250 crore in Financial Year 2016-17, to benefit micro, small and medium enterprises.
- Standard Deduction of Rs. 40,000 in place of present exemption for transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses. 2.5 crore salaried employees and pensioners to benefit.
- Relief to Senior Citizens proposed:-
- Exemption of interest income on deposits with banks and post offices to be increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000.
- TDS not required to be deducted under section 194A. Benefit also available for interest from all fixed deposit schemes and recurring deposit schemes.
- Hike in deduction limit for health insurance premium

and/ or medical expenditure from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 under section 80D.

- Increase in deduction limit for medical expenditure for certain critical illness from Rs. 60,000 (in case of senior citizens) and from Rs. 80,000 (in case of very senior citizens) to Rs. 1 lakh for all senior citizens, under section 80DDB.
- Proposed to extend Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana up to March, 2020. Current investment limit proposed to be increased to Rs. 15 lakh from the existing limit of Rs. 7.5 lakh per senior citizen.
- More concessions for International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), to promote trade in stock exchanges located in IFSC.
- To control cash economy, payments exceeding Rs. 10,000 in cash made by trusts and institutions to be disallowed and would be subject to tax.
- Tax on Long Term Capital Gains exceeding Rs. 1 lakh at the rate of 10 percent, without allowing any indexation benefit. However, all gains up to 31st January, 2018 will be grandfathered.
- Proposal to introduce tax on distributed income by equity oriented mutual funds at the rate of 10 percent.
- Proposal to increase cess on personal income tax and corporation tax to 4 percent from present 3 percent.
- Proposal to roll out E-assessment across the country to almost eliminate person to person contact leading to greater efficiency and transparency in direct tax collection.
- Proposed changes in customs duty to promote creation of more jobs in the country and also to incentivise domestic value addition and Make in India in sectors such as food processing, electronics, auto components, footwear and furniture.

1 OFFERED FARMERS A HIGHER MSP



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley addressed India's farmers directly when he pegged the minimum support price at 1.5 times the cost of inputs.

MSP will be solely based on cost of production. The Niti Aayog will find a mechanism to ensure all farmers benefit from the MSP.

3 TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE



Earlier, the NDA government had introduced price control on stents needed for angioplasty to around ₹ 30,000. However, the full angioplasty procedure could easily cost ₹2 lakh. Now, with the ₹5 lakh comprehensive family floater type of coverage for 10 crore families, almost all surgeries will be within their reach.

5 FOR BACKWARD CLASS PEOPLE

₹95k
CRORE

ALLOCATED TO SC & ST schemes (₹56,619 crore to SC and ₹39,135 crore to ST)

THIS IS A 12% INCREASE OVER 2017-18 of ₹85,227 crore (₹52,719 crore for SC and ₹32,508 crore for ST). The hike for ST is 20%

2 FOR THE POOR

A house with a gas connection, electricity and a toilet for the poor

Ujjwala Scheme

FREE LPG CONNECTIONS will be given now to 8 cr poor women instead of 5 cr. Out of which 3.34 Cr connections released so far

Saubahagya Yojana



4 CRORE POOR households to get electricity, with an outlay of ₹16000 crore

Housing

1 CRORE HOUSES to be built for poor by 2019, as part of target of 'Housing for All' by 2022. 54% increase in outlay for Smart City Mission to ₹6,000 crore



4 AND A BETTER RURAL ECONOMY

22,000

RURAL HAATS to be developed & upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets to protect the interests of 86% small and marginal farmers

Re-structured **National Bamboo Mission** gets ₹1,290 crore, finance minister terms Bamboo, 'GREEN GOLD'

Loans to Women Self-Help Groups will increase to

₹75,000 CR

in 2019 from ₹42,500 crore last year

Two New Funds of

₹10,000 CR

announced for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry sectors

Ekalavya Model Residential Schools

To provide quality education to tribal children in their own environment by 2022 in every block with over 50% ST population

RISE

'Revitalising Infrastructure & Systems in Education (RISE)', with an investment of ₹1 lakh crore in next 4 years, to step up investments in research & related infrastructure in educational institutions

Operation Greens

₹500 Cr-project launched to address price fluctuations in potato, tomato and onion for benefit of farmers and consumers

Tackling Pollution in Delhi-NCR

Special scheme to support efforts of governments of Haryana, Punjab, UP, and Delhi and subsidise machinery required for in-situ management of crop residue

GOBAR-DHAN

Launch of Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) to manage and convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, bio-gas and bio-CNG

care hospitalization. This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme. Adequate funds will be provided for smooth implementation of this programme.

In order to further enhance accessibility of quality medical education and health care, 24 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals will be set up, by upgrading existing district hospitals in the country. This would ensure that there is at least 1 Medical College

for every 3 Parliamentary Constituencies and at least 1 Government Medical College in each State of the country.

RELIEF TO SENIOR CITIZENS: EXEMPTION OF INTEREST INCOME ON DEPOSITS INCREASED TO RS 50,000

With the objective of providing a dignified life to senior citizens, the general budget proposes significant



incentives for senior citizens. Presenting the General Budget 2018-19 in Parliament, the Finance Minister said that the exemption of interest income on deposits with banks and post offices to be increased from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- and TDS shall not be required to be deducted on such income, under section 194A. This benefit shall be available also for interest from all fixed deposits schemes and recurring deposit schemes.

The Finance Minister also announced raising the limit of deduction for health insurance premium and/ or medical expenditure from Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-, under section 80D. All senior citizens will now be able to claim benefit of deduction up to Rs. 50,000/- per annum in respect of any health insurance premium and/or any general medical expenditure incurred.

ALLOCATION FOR SCs AND STs INCREASED

In the General Budget 2018-19 in Parliament the total earmarked allocation for SCs in 279 programmes has been increased from Rs.34,334 crore in 2016-17 to Rs.52,719 crore in RE 2017-18. Likewise, for STs, earmarked allocation has been increased from Rs.21,811 crore in 2016-17 to Rs.32,508 crore in RE 2017-18 in 305 programmes. The Finance Minister said that earmarked allocation has been further increased to Rs.56,619 crore for SCs and Rs.39,135 crore for STs in BE 2018-19.

5.22 CRORE FAMILIES BENEFITTED UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BEEMA YOJANA

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley stated that the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana (PMJJBY) has benefitted 5.22 crore families with a life insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh on payment of a premium of only Rs.330/- per annum. Likewise, under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, 13 crore 25 lakh persons have been insured with personal accident cover of Rs.2 lakh on payment of a premium of only Rs.12 per annum. The Minister further added that the Government will work to cover all poor households, including SC/ST households, under these in a mission mode. The Government will expand the coverage under Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana by bringing all sixty crore basic accounts within its fold and undertake measures to provide services of micro insurance and unorganized sector pension schemes

through these accounts.

Under “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao”, Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme launched in January 2015 has been a great success. Until November, 2017 more than 1.26 crore accounts have been opened across the country in the name of girl-child securing an amount of Rs.19,183 crore, the Minister added.

BUDGET 2018 EXTENDS CONCESSION TO MSMEs IN PUSH TO FORMALIZE INDIAN ECONOMY

The Union Budget 2018 extended concession to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as part of the government's efforts to bring businesses under the formal economy's fold. The budget proposed to cut the corporate tax rate to 25% for companies with annual revenue of up to Rs250 crore. The budget also earmarked Rs3 trillion for 2018-19 under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana or Mudra scheme. In addition, the budget provided Rs3,794 crore for credit support, capital and interest subsidy to MSMEs.

EKALAVYA SCHOOLS FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN

The Union budget has proposed that the government will launch a series of residential schools for students from the scheduled tribes (STs), in view of the social discrimination faced by tribal communities. By 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons will have an Ekalavya Model Residential School.

GOBAR-DHAN SCHEME TO IMPROVE LIVES OF VILLAGERS

In an effort to make the villages open defecation free and improving the lives of villagers, the Union budget planned the launch of Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN). It will manage and convert cattle dung and solid waste in farms to compost, bio-gas and bio-CNG. The Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley informed while presenting budget that 187 projects have been sanctioned under Namami Gange Programme for infrastructure development, reverse surface cleaning, rural sanitation and other interventions at a cost of Rs.16, 713 crore. 47 projects have been completed and remaining projects are at various stages of execution All 4465 Ganga Grams villages on the bank of river have been declared open defecation free. ■

A farmer friendly, common citizen friendly and development friendly budget: PM

Congratulating Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley for the Budget, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said “This budget strengthens the foundation stone of New India. The budget focus is on issues ranging from agriculture to Infrastructure. On one hand, budget covers aspects such as health plans to address the concerns of the poor and middle class, while on the other hand it has plans to increase the wealth of small entrepreneurs in the country. Other aspects range from food processing to fiber optics, from road to shipping, concerns of youth and the senior citizens, from rural India to Ayushman India and Digital India to Start up India.”

He added “Our farmers have contributed in a big way towards the progress of the country with a record production of fruits and vegetables. Several steps have been proposed in this budget to give a boost to the farmers and enhancing their income. A record allocation of Rs. 14.5 lakh crores has been made for rural development and agriculture. Dalits, oppressed and disadvantaged sections of the society will be benefited with out of 51 Lakh new homes, more than 3 lakh kilometers of roads, about 2 crore toilets, electricity connections in 1.75 crore households. These initiatives will create new opportunities especially in the rural areas. He said, In our country, the cooperative societies are exempted from paying income tax. But the 'Farmer Producer Organization' -FPO, that is similar to the cooperative societies, does not get this benefit. Therefore, income tax exemption for the 'Farmer Producer Organization' -FPO, which mint for the welfare of the farmers, is a welcome step. By providing the linkages between the Self Help Groups for women engaged in organic, aromatic and herbal cultivation and the 'Farmer Producer Organizations' the income of the farmers will be increased. Similarly, the Gobar-Dhan Yojana will help in keeping the village clean, while increasing the income of farmers and cattle herders.

He added Ujjwala Yojana has not only provided a relief to the poor women from the smoke but also become a huge source of their empowerment. I am happy to note that the target for Ujjwala has been



enhanced from 5 crore families to 6 crore families. A large number of dalit, tribal and backward class families have been benefited from this scheme. This budget provides for allocation of about Rs 1 lakh crores for the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

He said “The new scheme 'Ayushman Bharat', presented in the budget, will address this serious concern. This scheme will be available to nearly 10 crore poor and lower middle class families of the country. It means it will provide coverage to 45-50 crore people.”

“For a long time, the small and medium enterprises or the MSME in our country had to pay higher taxes than the big industries. In a bold move in this budget, the government has reduced the tax rate for MSME by 5% now they will have to pay 25% tax in place of 30% which was the practice earlier” he added.

In order to realize the dream modern India, to enhance the Ease of Living of the common man and to ensure stability in development, India requires a Next Generation Infrastructure. Special emphasis has been given to the development of infrastructure related to Digital India. Allocation of Rs. 6 lakh crores has been made which is Rs. 1 lakh crore more than the previous year. These schemes will enhance the employment opportunity manifold in country. He also congratulated the Finance Minister for the tax concession to the salaried and the middle class. ■

Budget gives new wings to aspirations of poor: Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said the Union Budget gives new wings to aspirations of the poor as he cited measures aimed at giving a boost to farmers, infrastructure, rural sector and small and medium enterprises. Shri Shah posted a number of tweets as Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley made announcements while presenting his fifth budget to highlight their significance, especially for the poor and weaker sections.

He said the “record allocation” to the rural sector and agriculture will lead to unprecedented rural development and agricultural growth and asserted that consistent focus on rural development and agriculture has been a hallmark of the government.

He praised Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Shri Arun Jaitley for the historic step of raising MSPs to 1.5 times the costs incurred by farmers and said it showed the government’s commitment to farmers and doubling their income. “This budget gives new wings to the aspirations of the poor, farmers and the middle class. The #NewIndiaBudget will truly empower all sections of the society to attain prosperity,” he said.

There is a tremendous stress on improving ease of living for the common man and this is happening with improving affordability and access, he said. This will give a boost to aspirations of common man, Shri Shah added.

He also termed ‘Ayushman Bharat’ as an unparalleled initiative to ensure health insurance as well as health assurance. Protecting 10 crore families, which is about 40 per cent of India’s population, with a health insurance cover of 5 lakh per family is a global first, he said.

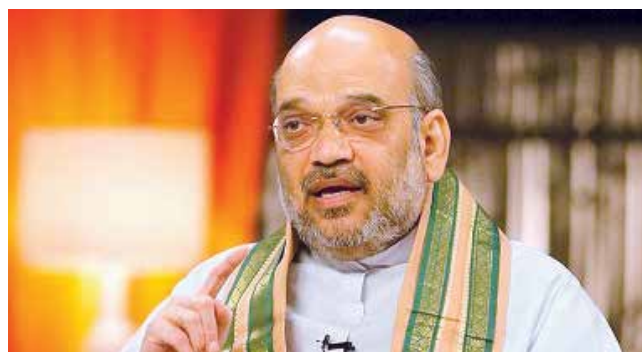
‘Saubhagya Yojana’, which aims to provide electricity connection to 4 crore families, reflects sensitivity and commitment of the Modi government to brightening the lives of the poor and bring them into mainstream of India’s development, he said.

The Modi government’s decision to provide eight crore LPG connections under the historic Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana is a landmark decision and a testimony of its commitment towards woman empowerment and improving the quality of lives of poor, both urban and rural, the BJP President said.

The proposed ‘Eklavya Schools’ in tribal blocks reflect the government’s resolve for the uplift of tribals and this will boost their education help them secure a better future, he said.

There are significant benefits to the MSME sector, which will not only give relief but also help small and medium entrepreneurs to achieve new heights of development, he said. “I thank the government for the budgetary allocation of 3 lakh crore under Mudra Yojana for the year 2018-2019 that will boost employment generation. This will specially benefit the women, OBC, SC & ST, as so far 76 per cent of loan accounts are of women and more than 50 per cent belong to the SC, ST & OBC,” he said.

Building solid Infrastructure for a ‘New India’ has always been the focus of the government and the BJP welcomes



and appreciates the record allotment to infrastructure and fastening of pace of completion, Shri Shah said. He also highlighted the mention of ‘Swachh Bharat’ scheme in the budget, saying it has been one of the country’s biggest success stories.

The BJP President also highlighted budgetary allocations of 56,619 crore and 39135 crore for SC and ST welfare and said it reflects government’s commitment to uplift marginalised and deprived sections of the society.

“The Modi government has continuously improved fiscal deficit since its first budget. The target of 3.3 per cent for 2018-19 is another effort in the same direction and will certainly improve investor confidence in Indian economy,” he said. ■

Economic Survey Predicts 7-7.5 Percent Growth in 2018-19

A series of major reforms undertaken over the past year will allow real GDP growth to reach 6.75 percent this fiscal and will rise to 7.0 to 7.5 percent in 2018-19, thereby re-instating India as the world's fastest growing major economy. This was stated in the Economic Survey 2017-18 tabled in Parliament today by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley. It said that the reform measures undertaken in 2017-18 can be strengthened further in 2018-19.

The survey underlines that due to the launch of transformational Goods and Services Tax (GST) reform on July 1, 2017, resolution of the long-festering Twin Balance Sheet (TBS) problem by sending the major stressed companies for resolution under the new Indian Bankruptcy Code, implementing a major recapitalization package to strengthen the public sector banks, further liberalization of FDI and the export uplift from the global recovery, the economy began to accelerate in the second half of the year and can clock 6.75 percent growth this year.

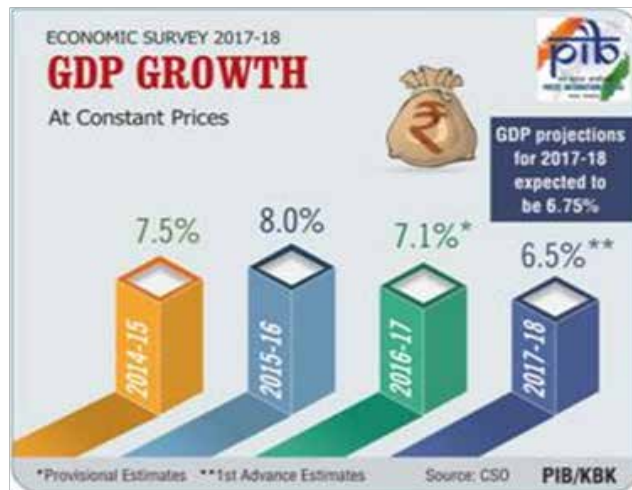
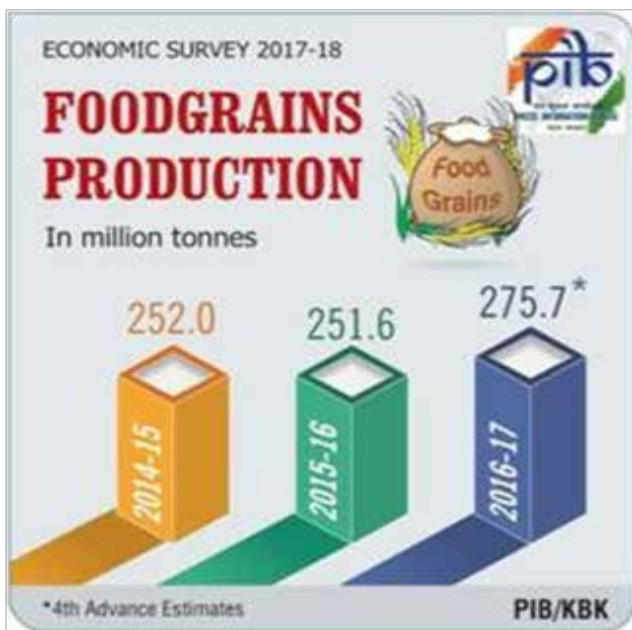
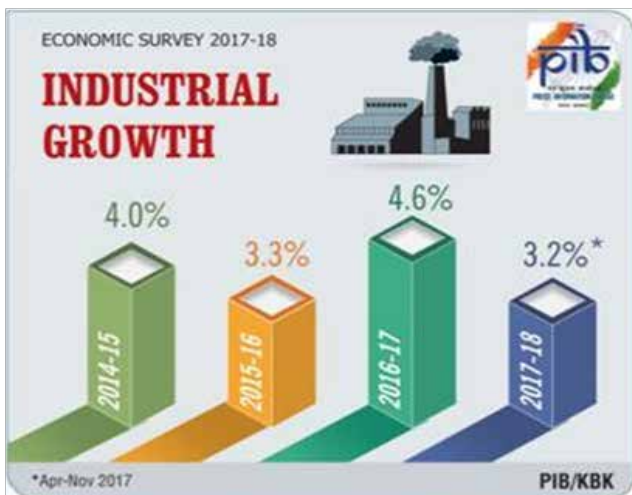
The survey points out that as per the quarterly estimates; there was a reversal of the declining trend of GDP growth in the second quarter of 2017-18, led by the industry sector. The Gross Value Added (GVA) at constant basic prices is expected to grow at the rate of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 as compared to 6.6 per cent in 2016-17. Similarly, Agriculture, industry and services sectors are expected to grow at the rate of 2.1 per cent, 4.4 per cent, and 8.3 per cent respectively in 2017-18. The survey adds that after remaining in negative territory for a couple of years, growth of exports rebounded into positive one during 2016-17 and expected to grow faster in 2017-18. However, due to higher expected increase in imports, net exports of goods and services are slated to decline in 2017-18.

Similarly, despite the robust economic growth, the savings and investment as a ratio of GDP generally declined. The major reduction in investment rate occurred in 2013-14, although it declined in 2015-

16 too. Within this the share of household sector declined, while that of private corporate sector increased.

The survey points out that India can be rated as among the best performing economies in the world as the average growth during last three years is around 4 percentage points higher than global growth and nearly 3 percentage points higher





than that of Emerging Market and Developing Economies. It points out that the GDP growth has averaged 7.3 per cent for the period from 2014-15 to 2017-18, which is the highest among the major economies of the world. That this growth has been achieved in a milieu of lower inflation, improved current account balance and notable reduction in the fiscal deficit to GDP ratio makes it all the more creditable.

Though concerns have been expressed about growing protectionist tendencies in some countries but it remains to be seen as to how the situation unfolds. Some of the factors could have dampening effect on GDP growth in the coming year viz. the possibility of an increase in crude oil prices in the international market. However, with world growth likely to witness moderate improvement in 2018, expectation of greater stability in GST, likely recovery in investment levels, and ongoing structural reforms, among others, should be supporting higher growth. On balance, country's economic performance should witness an improvement in 2018-19.

The survey highlights that against the emerging macroeconomic concerns, policy vigilance will be necessary in the coming year, especially if high international oil prices persist or elevated stock prices correct sharply, provoking a "sudden stall" in capital flows. The agenda for the next year consequently remains full: stabilizing the GST, completing the TBS actions, privatizing Air India, and staving off threats to macro-economic stability. The TBS actions, noteworthy for cracking the long-standing "exit" problem, need complementary reforms to shrink unviable banks and allow greater private sector participation.

The GST Council offers a model "technology" of cooperative federalism to apply to many other policy reforms. Over the medium term, three areas of policy focus stand out: Employment: finding good jobs for the young and burgeoning workforce, especially for women. Education: creating an educated and healthy labor force. Agriculture: raising farm productivity while strengthening agricultural resilience. Above all, India must continue improving the climate for rapid economic growth on the strength of the only two truly sustainable engines—private investment and exports. ■

Union Budget 2018: Railways allocation hiked to record Rs 1.48 lakh crore

Wifi and CCTVs will be provided in all trains and there will be escalators at stations with 25,000-plus footfall, said finance minister Arun Jaitley.

The Union Budget has allocated a record Rs1.48 lakh crore for Indian Railways to raise its carrying capacity and improve the train travel experience.

Of this, Rs1.46 lakh crore is capital expenditure, while Rs2,028 crore is to reimburse operating losses on strategic lines and reimburse Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for the operational cost of e-ticketing.

In the last budget, finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley had waived service charges on railway e-tickets to encourage cashless transactions. The charges waived were Rs 40 for AC class and Rs 20 for sleeper class.

Shri Jaitley said a large part of the expenditure is for capacity creation, and mentioned different initiatives

being taken.

These include track doubling, and third and fourth line works of 18,000 km; 5,000 km of gauge conversion; redeveloping 600 railway stations, equipping them with Wi-Fi and CCTV cameras; introduction of modern train-sets; and escalators for stations with footfalls over 25,000.

Shri Arun Jaitley said Mumbai's suburban rail system is being expanded at cost of Rs10,000 crore, and an additional suburban network worth Rs40,000 crore was also being planned. Similarly, 160 km of rail network worth Rs17,000 crore has been planned for Bengaluru.

"Once the 18,000km expansion and 5,000km doubling is done, railways will once again emerge as a preferred mode of travel. Rs73,000 crore for security is historic," said Railway Minister Shri Piyush Goyal. ■

Industry players welcomed Union Budget

Industry players welcomed the Budget and government's move to double the allocation for the Digital India programme to Rs 3,073 crore -- a decision that will help research and skilling in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), among others.

Presenting the Union Budget, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that NITI Aayog will initiate a national programme to direct efforts in AI and the

Department of Science and Technology will launch a Mission on Cyber-Physical Systems.

"The National Programme on Artificial Intelligence to be set up by Niti Aayog, the 5G test-bed in IIT Chennai and the mission to encourage Big Data, cyber security and Robotics are some of the initiatives that will help promote Industry 4.0," said President of the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

Congress Government in Karnataka is on exit doors: PM Modi



To mark the end of the Parivarthana rally taken out by BJP State President Shri BS Yeddyurappa from November last year, PM Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive rally at the Palace grounds in Bengaluru on 05 February, 2018. Noteworthy, the 90-day Parivarthana Yatra, which was flagged off by BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 01 November, passed through 224 Assembly constituencies in the State finally culminated in Bengaluru.

PM Shri Modi started his speech in Kannada, greets people. He said, "Remembers Kempegowda, Kittur Chennamma, Sangolli Rayanna, Basaveshwara, Madara Chennaiah and Sir M. Visveswaraya".

The PM said, "Looking at the mass enthusiasm, countdown has begun for the Congress Government in Karnataka." The PM said the Congress Government is on the exit doors. For development, bring back the BJP to make Karnataka one of the favourite destinations in the world, he said.

Launching a scathing attack on the Siddaramiah

Government for alleged corruption and non-utilization of Central funds, Shri Modi called it a 10 per cent Government. He said several Congress leaders have been facing allegations of corruption and there have been reports of bribes and commission in Government projects. "The Congress Government in Karnataka is being recognized as 10 per cent Government as no work is possible without 10 per cent commission," he added.

The Prime Minister said the people of Karnataka have decided to make Karnataka Congress Mukta. He said his Government believes in the mantra of "Reform, Perform and Transform".

Declaring Shri Yeddyurappa as the next Chief Minister, the PM said, "If BS Yeddyurappa, the son of a farmer, becomes the Chief Minister of Karnataka, the projects for farmers will work at its best because Yeddyurappa has the farmer's best interest at heart. When facilities are provided to villages, migration to the cities will go down and the mounting pressure on cities

will be eased.”

Thousands of party workers from across the State attended the rally along with youth and IT professionals. “When the UPA was in power at the Centre, Karnataka was allotted Rs 73,000 crore. After the BJP came at the Centre, it was decided to allot Rs 2 lakh crore to Karnataka. It is nearly 180 per cent more than what the Congress provided,” Shri Modi said, hitting at the Congress Government in the State for non-utilization of the funds.

Shri Modi said his Government was committed to infrastructure development of the State and 160-km long suburban railway network will be built with Rs 17,000 crore in Bengaluru. “It will benefit around 15 lakh commuters. Not only will the project help commuters with traffic, but it will also help clean the city’s environment,” he added.

He said more than one crore loans have been sanctioned for the people of Karnataka under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. More than 1.16 crore accounts were opened in the State under the Pradhan

Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, he said. “It opened the doors of banking to the poor and lower middle class,” said Shri Modi, adding around 8.5 lakh women have been provided free LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. “Around 34 lakh toilets have been built under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan,” he further said.

The PM also reiterated the Government’s Budget promise to increase the minimum support price for farmers to 1.5 times the production cost of crops.

He mentioned about the fruits and vegetables under “Operation Green” which was introduced in the recent Budget. He said, “TOP means tomato, onion and potato. Operation Green will be beneficial for farmers just like the Amul model was successful in the dairy business.”

The Prime Minister blasted the ruling Congress Government over increasing crime in the State and also referred to the murders of BJP workers. “While the world is talking about ease of doing business, the BJP Government is talking about ease of living, but the Karnataka Government is talking about ease of doing murder,” he said.

BJP State President Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa also addressed the gathering. Shri Yeddyurappa said Congress is a party that did not let the body of Dr. B R Ambedkar to be cremated in Delhi; they did not even give him Bharat Ratna. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee tried to make Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Prime Minister, Congress stonewalled the efforts. “So I request all the Dalits of the state not to even cast a single vote for Congress.”

“After the 85-day tour of the State as part of the Parivartana Rally, I have realized there is water shortage everywhere and people are demanding more focus on irrigation. I assure that if we come to power, we will spend a total of 1 lakh crore for improving irrigation facilities during our term. We will complete all pending irrigation projects in the State.”

Shri Yeddyurappa refers to Nostradamus, who, he claims, had said several centuries ago that a strong leader will emerge from India and rule the world. “Modi has emerged now,” he said.

Apart from PM Shri Modi, BJP State President Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa, Union Minister Shri Ananth Kumar, Several other Union Ministers, senior State leaders of the party and karyakartas were present during the event. ■

HIGHLIGHT

- Karnataka has pledged to remove Congress from power
- People benefitted from schemes like the Mudra Yojana and Jan Dhan Yojana in the state.
- The Saubhagya Yojana which would ensure power for all in Karnataka
- Our focus is on creating Next Generation Infrastructure... In Bengaluru, the work will start on 160 kilometres of sub-urban railway network at a cost of about 17 thousand crores.
- Stating that ‘Reform, Perform and Transform’ was the Government’s mantra
- The Government of Karnataka is establishing new records in doing corruption.
- Shri Modi added that the Centre was committed to develop Karnataka and hence allocating funds but due to the insensitivity, negligence and lack of concern of the state government, the funds were not being utilised judiciously



CM Siddaramaiah synonymous with corruption: Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah was synonymous with corruption and added that the state government was protecting the killers of Hindu activists. Shri Shah addressed a huge Parivartana rally in CM Siddaramaiah's hometown of Mysuru on 25 January, 2018 despite a Karnataka-bandh called by some small groups supported by the ruling Congress party.

BJP National President said Congress had organised the bandh just to stay me away from this rally, which concludes the 77-day Parivartana yatra taken out by BJP state president and the CM face Shri BS Yeddyurappa for the state assembly elections due in next two months. Shri Shah said, "Congress has not forgotten its Emergency culture."

He said like the tactics adopted during the Emergency imposed by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975, the ruling Congress in Karnataka adopting the similar strategy to stifle party's Parivarthana Yatra rally in Mysuru, by sponsoring a state-wide bandh on the same day.

Shri Shah asked, "I have come to challenge the Chief Minister in his hometown where so many people have gathered despite the threat of a bandh. You cannot stop us now and the next government will be that of the BJP. I have confidence in the people of Karnataka who supported and proved that they favour the BJP."

He said over 20 Hindu activists had been killed in Karnataka but Siddaramaiah did not ban the SDPI and PFI and even taken back cases against the killers. You

elect us to power and we will dig out killers of Hindus even if they are hiding in the depths of hell, he said.

The BJP President said, "When Siddaramaiah had come to Delhi, he had sought accounts for the funds given by the Centre to Karnataka. I have come here to give the accounts. The previous Congress-led UPA government, during the tenure of the 13th Finance Commission, had given Rs 88,583 crore to the state but in 2014, during the tenure of the 14th Finance Commission, the BJP led NDA government gave Rs 2,19,506 crore. Besides this, Rs 1,30,000 crore has been given for 106 programmes. What happened to all that money? Give me the account. Siddaramaiah has ensured that these programmes don't reach the people, fearing that Shri Modi will become popular. So if they have to reach you, you must resolve to throw out the corrupt Siddaramaiah government and bring BJP to power."

The BJP President said that Rs 1.36 lakh crore of the Rs 2,10,506 crore that the Centre had allotted to Karnataka, had gone into the pockets of Congressmen. Did any of this money go into your villages, your homes? he asked. The crowd roared No!

Shri Shah continued, "Congressmen who had single storey houses and rode two-wheelers, now have four-storey houses and foreign cars. Siddaramaiah is corruption, corruption is Siddaramaiah. To list all the information I have of his corruption, it will take a week. I will not be able to go back to Delhi and you will not be able to go home!" ■

67 FDI proposals of 11,703 cr approved during April-December 2017

As many as 67 foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs 11,703 crore were approved during the first nine months of the ongoing fiscal; the Rajya Sabha was informed on 06 February, 2018. Minister of State for Finance Shri P Radhakrishnan said “the government has cleared 67 FDI proposals worth Rs 11,703 crore during the period April 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017”.

An FDI proposal worth Rs 532 crore of Metaffinity Pvt Lt, an investment holding company, got the government's nod, the minister said. “The foreign invest is to be brought in by two foreign investors, viz Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Pantheon-HK Project Universe, LP, for up to 49 per cent stake in the form of non-voting equity share of Metaffinity Pvt Ltd,” as per the reply.

INDIA REMAINS FASTEST GROWING DOMESTIC AVIATION MARKET IN 2017

India remained the world's fastest growing domestic aviation market for the third straight year in 2017 as economic and network expansion bolstered the sector, according to global airlines' body IATA. Globally, Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs) — a measure

India remained the world's fastest growing domestic aviation market for the third straight year in 2017 as economic and network expansion bolstered the sector, according to global airlines' body IATA. Globally, Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs) — a measure of passenger volumes — rose by 7.6 per cent in 2017, registering “above-trend growth” that was ahead of the ten-year average rate of 5.5 per cent.



of passenger volumes — rose by 7.6 per cent in 2017, registering “above-trend growth” that was ahead of the ten-year average rate of 5.5 per cent. “The domestic India market posted the fastest full-year growth rate for the third year in a row (17.5 per cent), followed by China (13.3 per cent),” the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in a report released last week. The grouping noted that such growth rates were driven mainly by the comparatively strong rates of economic expansion seen in each country, as well as stimulus from additional airport pairs being offered.

Such new services translate into time savings for passengers and have a similar stimulatory impact on demand as cuts in airfares, it added. “India posted the fastest domestic RPK growth for the third year in a row, driven by economic and network expansion,” the report said. In December also, India registered the highest growth rate of 17.4 per cent. Many Indian carriers have embarked on ambitious expansion plans and local airlines have placed orders for over 900 aircraft. Since late 2014, lower airfares have helped in boosting passenger growth — which in 2017 was also supported by broad-based pick-up in global economic conditions. ■

Digital transactions rise to 1.11 billion in January

Digital transactions reached a new peak in January in terms of volume after crossing the 1 billion mark. They rose 4.73% to 1.11 billion in January from 1.06 billion in December, according to provisional data released late on 07 February, 2018 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The overall value of these transactions was also the second highest in a month in the past year. Transactions worth about Rs131.95 trillion were carried out in January through credit and debit cards, the unified payments interface (UPI), unstructured supplementary service data (USSD), prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) and internet banking. The highest so far was in March, at Rs149.59 trillion.

The impact of the government's decision to bear merchant discount rate (MDR) for a period of two years, applicable on transactions made through debit cards, BHIM UPI and Aadhaar-enabled payments system (AEPS), which was implemented from 01 January is clear, with a significant increase in the volume of transactions made through these modes during the month.

Transactions across UPI reached a new peak in January. The transaction volume was 151.7 million, up around 4% from 145.5 million in the previous month. The value of transactions rose around 18% to Rs155.4 billion in January from Rs131.4 billion in the previous month. Out of this, Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) accounts for 9.57 million transactions, amounting to Rs 3.65 billion.

Transactions through UPI received a major boost from the government after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the BHIM app on 30 December 2016. Until now, there have been more than 22.7 million downloads of the app on the Android platform and around 1.10 million downloads on the IOS platform.

UPI is a payment system launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which facilitates instant fund transfer between two bank accounts on the mobile platform without having any details of the beneficiary's bank. UPI was launched in August 2016



with 21 banks, and is currently being offered by about 71 banks.

Usage of PPIs such as mobile wallets reached a new peak in terms of both volume and value during January. The volume of PPI transactions in January was 113.6 million as compared with 99.1 million in December.

Transactions worth Rs38.3 billion were recorded in January compared with Rs35.1 billion in December. The provisional data considers transactions of PPIs issued by eight non-bank issuers for goods and services transactions only.

Debit and credit card usage at point-of-sale (PoS) machines was at its second highest in a month since the government's demonetization exercise in November 2016. The volume of transactions increased by around 1.43% in January to 267.7 million transactions from 263.9 million transactions in the previous month. The highest was in December at 311 million transactions. However, the value of transactions fell by 3% to Rs512.2 billion in January from Rs528.7 billion in the previous month. Card transactions of four banks have been considered by RBI.

Payments using National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) increased by around 1% and 2.4%, respectively, in January from the preceding month.

The government has been pushing to popularize digital payments. Its aim is to grow India's digital economy to \$1 trillion by 2022. ■

Services PMI logs fastest growth in 3 months in January, expands to 51.7

The Indian services sector remained in expansion mode in January, registering the fastest rise in activity in three months driven by a renewed increase in new business orders. The seasonally adjusted Nikkei Services Business Activity Index improved to 51.7 in January, up from 50.9 in December, signalling a faster expansion. The index remained above the neutral mark of 50 in January, which separates growth from contraction for the second consecutive month.

In November, the index stood at 48.5. "The recovery across India's services sector continued during January, with growth in output picking up to the joint-strongest since June 2017 as underlying demand conditions improved," said a report of IHS Markit.

As per the report, "Job creation accelerated to the second strongest in over six-and-a-half years." Going



forward, services sector companies in India remained optimistic regarding expected activity levels in 12 months' time. ■

India among top three countries where trust in government remains high

India continues to be among the top three nations where trust in government remains high, according to the Global Trust Index released annually in Davos. The ranking will reassure the Modi government in the wake of tough reforms like demonetisation and goods and services tax.

India is also in the trust zone as far as how the public sees business, media and NGOs. Its rating remains at 'trust level' with Indonesia and China ahead of it.

The annual Global Trust Index, released by communications marketing firm Edelman in Davos On 29 January, showed that China gained strongly and jumped to the top position whereas the US reported the steepest decline in public trust in its institutions.

The index showed that globally, trust in government, media and NGOs was low as 20 out of 28 countries



surveyed online during October-November last year came in the categories where general population distrusted those institutions. India, as last year, continued to buck this trend. ■

ASPECTS OF ECONOMICS

PROSPERITY VERSUS DHARMA

NOT only an absence of material prosperity but also an excess of material prosperity leads to an end of Dharma. This is the special point of view of this country. The West has not thought of the result of material means. When these means create an addiction to them or to the things and pleasures to be had through them, then we can say that material influence has been established. In the absence of material wealth it ceases to be a means and becomes an end in itself. When there is too much of it, it ceases to be a means of righteous conduct and becomes a means of sensual pleasure. As these pleasures have no limit a person given to them will always feel a want of wealth and at the same time his addiction to pleasures will reduce his capacity to produce wealth.

SWADESHI AND DECENTRALISATION

“SWADESHI” and “Decentralisation” are the two words which can briefly summarize the economic policy suitable for the present circumstances. Centralization and monopolization have been the order of the day for all these years, knowingly or unknowingly. The planners have become prisoners of a belief that only large-scale centralized industry is economic and hence without worrying about its ill-effects, or knowingly but helplessly they have continued in that direction. The same has been the case with “Swadeshi” The concept of “Swadeshi” is ridiculed as old-fashioned and reactionary. We proudly use foreign aid in everything, from thinking, management, capital, methods of production, technology, etc. to even the standards and forms of consumption. This is not the road to progress and development. We shall forget our individuality and become virtual slaves once again. The positive content of “Swadeshi” should be used as the cornerstone of reconstruction of our economy.

DEPENDENCE ON WESTERN ECONOMICS

NOT only because of different ideals of life but also because of different conditions in terms of time and place the way of our economic development will have

to be different from that of the West. But we are tied to Marshall and Marx. We believe that the economic principles they have discussed are eternal. Even those Who realise that they are dependent upon certain systems are not able to step out of their orbits. The economic prosperity of the West has created a blind belief in us about the Western system of production. Western economists have produced so much critical literature that we easily feel overwhelmed by it. We cannot rise above it. It is possible that this science of economics may have some principles that do not depend upon time, place or system and can prove useful to all, but very few have the capacity to assess this quality. Our education cannot create people with such a capacity. Our economists may be experts in Western economics, but they have not been able to make any solid contribution to it because the Indian economy can neither provide them the necessary thought nor the necessary field for experimentation.

NO RIGHT ETERNAL

NO fundamental rights, whether related to property or other things, are eternal. They are all dependent upon the interest of society. In fact these rights are given to the individual in order that he may perform his social duties. A soldier is given weapons because his duty is to protect society. If he does not do his duty he loses the right to bear weapons. Similarly the right to property is given to an individual so that he could do his duty by society. For this purpose it becomes necessary to define and modify these rights from time to time. No right to property is absolute of society.

RIGHT OF OWNERSHIP

THE right of ownership is actually the right to use a particular thing within definite limits and for a definite purpose. These rights keep changing with the times. Hence as a matter of principle we may not get entangled in the quarrel between the individual's rights and the right of society. For us the State is not the only form of society. We believe that the individual, the family, the community, the State are all different forms in which society expresses and fulfils itself. The

joint family is the practical unit in this country in which we seek to preserve the social sense in the individual, in which every individual has the right to earn, but the right of ownership vests in the family. Wealth is used for the benefit of the family. It is this Indian principle of Trusteeship that has been propounded by Gandhiji, Guruji and other thinkers.

OWNERSHIP RIGHT FOR WORKERS

IT is a matter of surprise that today a share-holder in joint stock companies, who has no other connection with the company except a share in its profit, should be able to exercise ownership rights while the worker who works in an industry, sets its machines into motion and depends upon it for his livelihood should experience a feeling of being a stranger to it. This feeling is not proper. It is therefore necessary that along with the share-holder the worker should be given ownership rights and a share in its management and profit.

RIGHT TO FOOD

THE slogan commonly heard now-a-days is "one must earn his bread". Normally communists use this slogan, but even the capitalists are not fundamentally in disagreement with it. If there is any difference between them, it is only as regards who earns and how much. The capitalists consider capital and enterprise as important factors of production and if they take a major share of profit, it is because they think it is their due. On the other hand, communists believe only labour to be the main factor in production. Therefore they concede a major share of production to the labourers. Neither of these ideas is correct. Strictly speaking, our slogan should be that he who earns will feed and every person will have enough to eat. The right to food is a birthright. The ability to earn is a result of education and training. In a society even those who do not earn must have food. The children and the old, the diseased and

the invalids, all must be cared for by society. Every society generally fulfils this responsibility. The social and cultural progress of mankind lies in the readiness to fulfil this responsibility.

FOOD VERSUS FREEDOM

WHILE imports may help us tide over our present difficulties, the real solution to the problem lies in maximising agricultural production in the country. That we have not done sufficiently in this direction needs no saying. The present agreement is an eloquent testimony to the Government's failure on this front. With the passage of time we have become increasingly dependent on foreign sources. We fear that due to availability of food in plenty at present the Government may become complacent in their efforts

to raise production locally. The US Ambassador feels that America is following this policy only to let the struggling people of the democratic world realise that "there can be both freedom and food". But what we want is our freedom and our food. That is possible only if we revive our old slogan of "Freedom from foreign food". Dependence on foreign sources will impoverish and entangle us.



ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY

IF a vote for everyone is the touch-stone of political democracy, work for everyone is a measure of economic democracy. This right to work does not mean slave labour as in communist countries. Work should not only give a means of livelihood to a person but it should be of the choice of that person. If for doing that work the worker does not get a proper share in the national income, he would, be considered unemployed. From this point of view a minimum wage, a just system of distribution and some sort of social security are necessary. ■ *(To be continued..)*

(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Raje)

Chintaman Vanga is no more

BJP leader & Member of Parliament from Palghar Chintaman Vanga died of cardiac stroke in Delhi on 31 January.

He was at 67. Shri Vanga won the 2014 Lok Sabha election by defeating then MP Baliram Jadhav of the Bahujan Vikas Aghadi. Born on June 1, 1950, an advocate by profession, Shri Vanga was elected as MP in 1996 and 1999. He was also instrumental in the introduction of the first suburban train between Dahanu and Andheri.

Expressing shock on sudden demise of the leader Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi tweeted "Pained by the unfortunate demise of my colleague



and MP from Palghar, Shri Chintaman Wanaga. He played an important role in building the BJP in the Thane region and did commendable work for the welfare of tribals. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this sad hour."

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah also expressed his deepest condolences to his family and friends. He said "Pained to know about the untimely demise of Shri Chintaman Vanga ji, our MP from

Palghar, Maharashtra. He devoted his entire life for the welfare of tribals & deprived. His passing away is an irreparable loss to the BJP. I express my deepest condolences to his family & friends." ■

Lok Sabha Member Hukum Singh passes away

Hukum Singh, BJP MP from Kairana in Uttar Pradesh, passed away on February 3 in Noida. He had been under treatment at JP hospital for a month and was suffering from breathing difficulties. Shri Singh had won the 2014 Lok Sabha election. Born in Shamli district's Kairana, which he went on to represent in the Lok Sabha, Hukum Singh started practising law in the nearby city of Muzaffarnagar in 1969. By 1974, he entered active politics and became a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly (MLA) after contesting on a Congress ticket. In the 1990s, he left the Congress and joined the BJP and got elected to the UP assembly on a BJP ticket in 1996. Hukum Singh quickly rose up the ranks of politics due the massive support he enjoyed from Western UP's sugarcane farmers. In 2014, when Modi wave swept through Uttar Pradesh, Hukum Singh was elected as the Member of Parliament from his hometown. His followers affectionately referred to him as 'Babu Sahab'.



In his condolence message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Anguished by the demise of MP and veteran leader from Uttar Pradesh, Shri Hukum Singh Ji."

"He served the people of UP with great diligence and worked for the welfare of farmers. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this hour of grief," Shri Modi tweeted. ■

Congress Divided Nation for Selfish Gains: PM Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi replied to the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address, in the Lok Sabha on 07 February, 2018. He said several Members of Parliament had expressed their thoughts on various subjects, and added that the address by the Hon'ble President does not belong to any party, but is about the aspirations of every Indian.

Whenever the Government is criticised by select Opposition parties, substance is lacking, he said that they go back to recalling the time when they were in power. This is the same party that divided India, he added.

He also criticised the manner in which the previous Congress-led central government handled the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. When we speak about creating new states, we remember the manner in which Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji created Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, the Prime Minister said, adding that Vajpayee ji had showed how farsighted decision making is done.

He said that for decades, one party devoted all



their energies to serving one family. The interests of the nation were overlooked just for the interests of one family, he added. How can one of the leaders say India got democracy due to Pandit Nehru and the Congress Party, he asked. Is this their reading of India's history, what arrogance is this, he added.

The Prime Minister said that India did not get democracy due to Pandit Nehru, as Congress wants us to believe. Exhorting Members to look at our rich history, he said that there are many examples of rich democratic traditions that date back centuries ago. Democracy is integral to this nation and is in our culture, he asserted.

Shri Modi recalled that once when Shri Rajiv Gandhi had landed in Hyderabad, he misbehaved with a Congress leader Mr. T Anjaiah, humiliating a big leader, who did not belong to a privileged background.

How did the Congress act in Kerala, how did they treat the Akali Dal in Punjab, how did they behave in Tamil Nadu, the Prime Minister asked. Why Congress dismissed so many state governments at will, he asked, adding that this does not indicate their commitment to democracy.

We cannot forget how the Congress insulted

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NDA Government has changed the work culture in the nation. Projects are not only thought about well but also executed in a timely manner, he said. He asserted that the NDA government is building more roads than the previous one. We have given a strong boost to the infrastructure sector across the nation, he added.

Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, a proud son of Andhra Pradesh, the Prime Minister said. They humiliated him, he asserted. Nobody in India needs lessons on democracy from the Congress Party, he said.

In December, did we witness an 'election' or coronation for the post of Congress President, the Prime Minister asked. He noted that one youngster had raised his voice about this as well.

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The Prime Minister gave examples of the Bidar-Kalburgi rail line in Karnataka, and the Barmer Refinery in Rajasthan, to explain how BJP Governments at the Centre and the State serve the nation and care for 125 crore Indians.

The Prime Minister said that he sees energy and enthusiasm in our youth. They want to do something on their own, they want to launch their own start-ups, he said, adding that the Government is giving wings to the aspirations of India's middle class. He said the Union Government had prepared an aviation policy that focuses on smaller cities and towns, so that more Indians can fly.

Shri Narendra Modi said that when the Government took office in 2014, the chorus from the opposition was that the UIDAI will be scrapped. He said that when Aadhaar was made more effective in terms

of enabling better and effective service delivery, suddenly the opposition began opposing Aadhaar. When the corrupt and middlemen are out of work, obviously the Congress will be unhappy, he said.

He said that India's middle class desires good education facilities, affordable housing, good infrastructure. They want 'Ease of Living' which we are committed to providing, he added.

The Prime Minister said that he is aware that the Government's efforts to eliminate corruption and black money are hurting a select group of people. Today, people who served as Chief Ministers are in jail, he said, adding that however powerful one was, if one has been corrupt, that person will be punished. We are in an era of honesty, he asserted.

Shri Narendra Modi said that the workings of the previous Government are responsible for the NPA mess. The banking policies of the previous Governments were not proper, he said.

He said that the nation's army was fighting in Doklam but leaders of one party preferred to meet Chinese officials. The same party questions the army on surgical strikes, he added.

The Prime Minister asserted that a new India has to be created, and exhorted the Members to work together to fulfill the dreams of the people. ■



During three & half years, Union Govt completed more than fifty works which will find place in the history of India: Amit Shah

Speaking on the motion of thanks on February 5, 2018 on the president's address BJP National President & Rajya Sabha Member Shri Amit Shah said that in 2014 election great people of the country took great decision and after 30 years gave full majority to one party led by Shri Narendra Modi which is giving governance on the principles of 'Antyodaya' and making inclusive development for all. Here, We are giving synopsis of the speech for our esteemed readers:

I move that an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of the Rajya Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on January 29, 2018."

Hon'ble President, in his speech has mentioned the achievements of this Government. Its analysis is to be welcomed but I want to add a different point of view that this Government got a kind of void in the form of heritage and Government had to devote a lot of time in refilling the same. In the year, 2013 everybody in the country was worried about its future. Women had the feeling of insecurity.

There was no definite policy for securing our borders. Jawans engaged in securing the borders could not even show their valour due to indecisiveness of the government. Youths were agitated. People were worried due to scams and corruption. There was policy paralysis in the government as far as the policy matter are concerned. Then in the year, 2014 during elections, the great people of the country took a historical decision. First time after Independence a non-congress government i.e, BJP Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi was formed. After 30 years, one party got the full majority with the mandate to carry forward the nation and find solution of the problems of the country. This huge mandate was historical. Modi ji was elected the leader of party and he delivered a



historical speech. He said the government which is being formed belongs to poor people, farmers, dalits, backward classes, youths women and tribes. This Government will run on the principles of 'Antyodaya' and make inclusive development for all. During three and half years, Government has completed more than fifty works which will find place in the history of India. In order to fulfil the target of 'Antyodaya', this Government decided to uplift the standard of living of poor people and make the development very meticulously and in this chain opening of Jan-Dhan bank account was the first. After 70 years of Independence and despite 55 years of Congress rule 60 percent people had no bank account. But, Today 31 crore account have been opened. It was commented where from the poor people will get money for depositing in the accounts but I would like to mention that 73 thousand crores rupees have been deposited under the JanDhan scheme. Hard earned money of the poor people is safe in these bank account and they find themselves linked with the economy of the country. I believe this is a great achievement.

Modi ji, appealed to rich people to give up gas subsidy voluntarily so that this subsidy could be given to poor people and dalits including rural areas. In the era of vote politics, after Shastri ji, first time any Prime Minister dared to ask people to give up something. Lacs of people, honoured the appeal of Prime Minister



and gave up the subsidy. Bharatiya Janta Party added some more money in it and initiated 'Ujjawala Yojana'. After 70 years of Independence, even 1.5 crore rural people had no LPG. Our Prime Minister decided to provide gas connection to 5 crore poor women during 5 years. So far 3.30 crores people have been provided with the gas cylinder and in this budget Government is making effort to provide cylinders to 8 crore people in place of 5 crore. As far as construction of toilet is concerned, by the year 2022 we will arrange toilet for each house. Existence of toilet in the house not only improves the health but also provides to the women right to live with dignity. Only this Government has dreamed for providing house to every individuals and we are moving ahead in this direction. Only our

Government found out the solution of unemployment in the country. Banks were nationalised for the benefit of poor people but they could not be benefitted from this. Neither they had accounts nor they used to get loans. These unemployed youths were directionless. Today through the Mudra bank, crores of youths have been provided with the suitable loans. This requires neither guarantee nor guarantor and rate of interest is very low. Our Government has electrified 16 thousands villages out of 18 thousands during three and half years.

Our Government has initiated Pradhan Mantri Jivan Jyoti Bima Yojna and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana for ailing poor people, the cost of stent and artificial knee has also been substantially reduced.

'Aayushmaan Bhav Yojana' has been initiated in this budget for the benefit of the people of the country. BJP Government has worked towards poverty alleviation. Many steps have been taken to double the income of farmers and also to encourage the agriculture. Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojna is a unique per se, it will not only save water but also increase the crop. This Government has restarted the interlinking of 30 rivers. In addition to this Government has initiated many crop insurance schemes in the country.

I would definitely say that arrangements have been made under "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojna" to provide financial support to farmers suffering crop loss out of any unforeseen events right from sowing to reaping. A decision to this effect has been taken for conducting survey of each village instead of block level survey. Government has chalked out a

scheme for converting all mandies of the country into e-markets. With neem coating, divergence of urea has completely stopped and its consumption has also gone down. Shut fertiliser plants like Sindri, Barauni, Talcher, Ramagundam and Gorakhpur have resumed production. I hope that with this step there will be no requirement to import urea in this country. A scheme has been formulated for dairy business involving 11,000 crores rupees.

A better initiative has been taken for organic farming. Around 22.5 lakhs hectares of land has been brought under organic farming. Around 3.5 crores of farmers have been given soil health card during the last three years. 460 full-fledged laboratories are functional at present and work relating to setting up of 4,000 mini labs has been initiated. Providing one and a half times than the cost of crop to farmers remained a political slogan even after 70 years of Independence. Government has decided to provide one and a half times than the cost of crop, be it Rabi or Khareef. Agricultural growth rate has remained at 4.1 percent while inflation has come down to 1.5 percent from 9.5 percent. Interest rate has come down from 8 percent to 6 percent. FDI inflow has increased. India's ranking in

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terms of Ease of Doing Business, Globalization Index, Global Competitive Index etc. has shown high leap. The roll out of GST is a big step towards 'One Nation, one tax' goal in the country. GST has been smooth with 22 states. GST will help in increasing trade and strengthening small scale industries and small traders.

Collection from GST is directly deposited in bank accounts of soldiers, in bank accounts of widows of these soldiers, is used for providing LPG connections to BPL families, houses for poor and rural electrification. No trader would oppose this GST as inspecting Book of Accounts would be carried out by only one inspector instead of earlier 15 inspectors. This is a sensitive Government. 150 items out of 1100 have been kept

Our Government is a popular one. The biggest criteria of the same is the public mandates achieved in the recent elections. The Prime Minister has come out from a number of conflicts and it is a great achievement of his leadership that he has abolished dynasty, casteism and appeasement from the democracy of this country.

out of GST. Gross revenue has also increased from 19 billion dollars to 25 billion dollars. We have set a target of increasing the number of airports by five times. With strong political will power, we have conducted surgical strike in POK and avenged killing of our jawans by Pakistan. We have chalked out a tenyear blueprint for modernisation of our three forces and equipped our forces with modern weapons. Government has taken many initiatives for transformation in society also. In order to provide equal rights and social security to the Muslim women, Government came up with the Triple Talaq Bill but it was held in the Rajya Sabha. Since Independence, the Diblyang had to face humiliation owing to the word 'Handicapped'. It was

the foresight of a sensitive Prime Minister that the word 'Handicapped' was replaced with 'Diblyang' legally and they were granted prestige. The reservation for them was also enhanced. Positive results of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' are being noticed in the country. Today, Yoga which is our cultural heritage, is functioning for the welfare of entire world's health. Preventing the scam, Government have saved Rs. 57,000 crore yearly through Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme which is a great achievement. The new initiative of the Niti Ayog is also becoming fruitful in making so many policies nowadays in the country. I believe this trend will take our country very forward in coming days. I hope the initiative of 'Khelo India' will witness a number of Gold and Silver Medals for our country in future. It is the first time when this Government have identified 115 backward districts and launched a special work plan for them. I believe that it is a great initiative.

The Prime Minister has done a great job to get our country dignified in the entire world through his addresses on the various international forums. With the launch of 104 satellites in the space in one go, ISRO has set a new record. I believe that this changes the scale of our country's thinking. I believe that the presence of all the SAARC countries in the Digital connectivity and Oath and the presence of all the heads of the ten ASEAN countries on this Republic Day is also a great achievement. Our Government has seen three and half years but our opponents cannot blame us for any corruption activity. Government has battled a great war strategically against black money and stricken it heavily.

Our Government is a popular one. The biggest criteria of the same is the public mandates achieved in the recent elections. The Prime Minister has come out from a number of conflicts and it is a great achievement of his leadership that he has abolished dynasty, casteism and appeasement from the democracy of this country. We have been running a transparent, decisive and sensitive Government and restored India's dignity. This is why we have got public mandate. I request to all to begin a positive debate on simultaneous elections. The Prime Minister has visioned of a 'New India' and this Government is moving ahead to achieve the same. The President has also included all these things very well in his address. Therefore, I thank him and conclude my speech. ■

Government taken up many path breaking economic reforms in last three years: PM Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on February 03, 2018 addressed the inaugural session of Advantage Assam - Global Investors Summit 2018, in Guwahati. Welcoming delegates to the Summit, the Prime Minister said that the North-East is at the heart of the Union Government's Act East Policy. The Act East Policy envisions increased people to people contact, trade ties and other relations with ASEAN countries, he added.

The Prime Minister recalled the recent ASEAN India Commemorative Summit celebrating 25 years of partnership between ASEAN and India. He added that ties between India and the ASEAN countries go back thousands of years. He said it was a privilege for India to host Heads of 10 ASEAN countries as honoured guests at the Republic Day function in New Delhi.

He emphasized that India's growth story would be further energised through balanced and fast-paced growth of the North-Eastern region. He said all the schemes of the Union Government are oriented towards bringing about a qualitative change in the lives of the people. He said the aim is to improve "Ease of Living."

He said that the "Ayushman Bharat" scheme announced in the Union Budget is the largest scheme of its kind in the world. He said this healthcare scheme would benefit about 45 to 50 crore people. He also mentioned other steps for healthcare for the poor, that have been taken by the Union Government.

Shri Narendra Modi said that the Union Government is working towards the target of doubling farmers' incomes, by lowering input costs and enabling appropriate price for their produce. He outlined other steps being taken by the Union Government for the welfare of farmers.

The Prime Minister mentioned the steps taken to provide affordable housing to people. He spoke of the Ujala Yojana for distribution of LED bulbs, which is resulting in significant savings on household electricity bills. He mentioned the restructuring of



the National Bamboo Mission, which he said, is especially significant for the North-East.

He said that a revamp of administrative structures within the Union Government has greatly speeded up the implementation of projects.

The Prime Minister spoke of steps taken for providing collateral free loans to entrepreneurs, under the Mudra Yojana. He spoke of steps taken in the Union Budget to provide tax relief to MSMEs.

Shri Modi reiterated the commitment of the Union Government to curb corruption and black money. He said the Union Government has taken up many path breaking economic reforms in last three years, which have simplified procedures for doing business. It is a result of these reforms that India today ranks 100 among 190 countries in the Doing Business Report of the World Bank, after climbing up 42 ranks, he added.

Quoting the great Assamese musician Bhupen Hazarika, the Prime Minister said it is our collective responsibility to achieve the vision and dreams of our freedom fighters, and create a New India by 2022.

Shri Modi outlined the work done to create new transportation infrastructure in the North-East. He congratulated the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal for creating a business friendly and development friendly environment in Assam. ■

Women achievers have contributed immensely to the positive transformation of the country: PM

In his first Mann Ki Baat radio programme in 2018 and 40th edition of the programme Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28 talked about the women achievers who have contributed immensely to the positive transformation of the country.

Citing some examples, the Prime Minister said women are now leading from the front in every sphere. He said that Nari Shakti is breaking all barriers and setting new records. He said that common people are getting padma award due to transformation in nomination process. He added "You must have heard name of Arvind Gupta ji who was conferred with Padma Shree award. He spent all his life creating toys for children from waste. We have honoured those who may not be seen in big cities but have done transformative work for society". January 30 is observed as the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. He said "Peace and non-violence is what Bapu taught us. His ideals are extremely relevant today". He added "I am happy that non-



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resident Indians are not only serving the countries they are in but also contributing immensely to India" The Prime Minister hailed Mangesh from Maharashtra who shared a photograph on the NM Mobile App, of an elderly person and a young child taking part in the movement to clean the Morna river. He said "Mission Clean Morna River is a wonderful initiative, where people came together to clean the river." "Darshan from Mysore, Karnataka, has written on My Gov app that he was undergoing an expenditure of Rs 6,000 a month on medicines for the treatment of his father. Earlier, he wasn't aware of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana. But now that he's come to know of the Jan Aushadhi Kendra, he has begun purchasing medicines from there and expenses have been reduced by about 75%. He has expressed that I mention this in Mann Ki Baat, so that it reaches the maximum number of people and they can benefit". He appreciated the Bihar's move to form a human chain to spread awareness about evils of dowry and child marriage. He termed it a unique initiative. ■

Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal

| VASANT NARGOLKAR

(Continue from Last Issue...)

Deendayal used to wear khaddar occasionally, but like Lohia, he would not endorse Gandhi's insistence on the promotion of khadi and village industries. And yet his views on the western type of industrial civilization or the Marxist pattern of industrialization resembled those of Gandhi, Said he:

"Not only absence of material prosperity, but its excess leads to the end of Dharma... The west has not thought of the evils resulting from such material prosperity..."

Our planners have become prisoners of a belief that only large-scale centralized industry is economic,...

We are short of capital. (Therefore), when we think of the means of production in India, we arrive at the firm conclusion that our production process must be labour-intensive."



CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM, NO GOOD

Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal—all three were against capitalism as well as communism, Gandhi had placed the ideal of a non-exploitative, egalitarian social order before the world as many had done before. But the uniqueness of his ideal was that the new social order was to be established through non-violent means. "By the non-violent method," he said, "we seek not to destroy the capitalist, we seek to destroy capitalism..." Similarly, though he admired the Communist ideals of economic equality and social justice, he rejected bad means for achieving those good ideals. Man is

not all animal. The spirit in him responds to a call for giving up selfishness. Socialism, according to Gandhi, begins with the first convert. And he claimed that he learnt his lessons in socialism and communism, not from Marxist books, but from the first verse of the Ishavasyopanishad- --'Do not covet other person's wealth.'

बल्लभः, फेनल ओ
; फल्लत त xR, लत xR
रुत R, ड्रुत H, फल्ल
ek x/ल% dL; fLon~/लueA बल्लभः; ली fu' लAA1AA

Lohia, as was to be expected, had attacked capitalism and Western imperialism in harsh language. But it was his genuine concern for the abject condition of the poor and oppressed not only in India but elsewhere also, which used to rouse his its against colonialism and all kinds of exploitation. His study of Marxism and Communism was deep his knowledge of world history, vast. He has boldly pointed out many shortcomings of Marxism. His criticism of the Russian economic system is also penetrating. ■

(To be continued)...

(Source: Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal, Edited by- P. Parameswaran, Pub. by Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi)

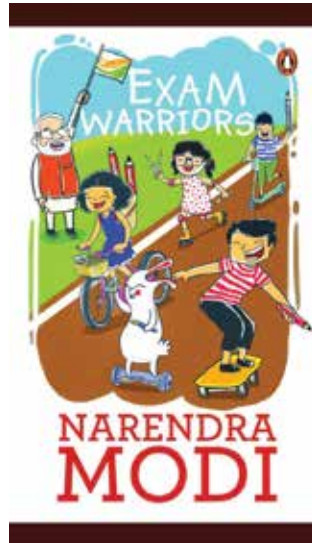
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PM Narendra Modi writes a book titled 'Exam Warriors' for students

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has often reached out to students during his Mann ki Baat radio show. Since the inception of the show, he has, on many occasions, talked about the challenges faced by students and even encouraged them to overcome those challenges. And now, the Prime Minister has come up with a book for them.

Shri Modi has written a book for students who battle stress and anxiety during examinations. The book, talks about the ways in which students can tackle the stress.

The book has been titled 'Exam Warriors' and mentions various means such as practicing yoga. The book is brought out by



publishing major Penguin.

It lays special stress on the challenges faced by students who appear for class 10 and class 12 board examination. The Prime Minister, in his book, talks about why knowledge should be given priority over marks secured in examinations.

The book, which has been conceptualized by PM Shri Modi himself, would encourage students to take up education in a manner that would strengthen and build their future. ■

PM Modi launches 'Khelo India'

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 31 January, 2018 declared the inaugural Khelo India School Games open and said the event will highlight the country's sporting talent and its potential to the world.

Shri Modi declared open the KISG at a colourful opening ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi. The ceremony showcased the rich 'Guru-Shishya' tradition of the country in grand style.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister said sports should occupy a central place in the lives of the country's youth.

"Sports is an important means of personality development and Khelo India is not a programme,



it's a mission. The Games will highlight India's young sporting talent and showcase India's sports potential," Shri Modi said. ■



FROM NEWSPAPERS

TRIPURA WANTS CHANGE: RAJNATH SINGH

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on February 4, 2018 led a Vijay Rath Yatra in Agartala and addressed a party rally where he said the people of Tripura want a change in government. "The enthusiasm I have seen during the Yatra from the BJP workers and the people of the state have confirmed my belief that Tripura wants a change in government. For 25 years, you have had the CPM in power. Even 10 years is enough to bring about changes in a state. Chhattisgarh was considered a backward state, Madhya Pradesh a BIMARU state and Jharkhand as well. If you visit these states now you will see the massive strides that they have made in terms of development.

I am surprised that the CPM has been voted to power for 25 years. There is such poverty in this state that the common man can't even afford to buy a bicycle. I would like to ask the Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, why so. Nobody can point a finger at any of the Union Ministers and say that there are corruption charges against them. I would like to ask the CM, can you say the same for your ministers?" Shri Singh asked.

— (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, February 05, 2018)

FIVE LAKH WI-FI HOTSPOTS FOR RURAL AREAS PROPOSED

In a move aimed at boosting digital technology and telecommunication, the government proposes to set up five lakh Wi-Fi hotspots to provide broadband access to five crore rural citizens with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore in 2018-19 for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure. Shri Arun Jaitley said the task of connecting one lakh gram panchayats through high speed optical fiber network has been completed under phase I of the Bharatnet project. This has enabled broadband access to over 20 crore rural Indians in about 2.5 lakh villages. The government also proposes to set up five lakh Wi-Fi hotspots which will provide broadband access to five crore rural citizens. Allocation of Rs 10,000 crore has been provided in 2018-19 for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure.

— (THE INDIAN EXPRESS, February 02, 2018)

READY TO WORK WITH INDIA: NEPAL'S COMMUNIST LEADER KP SHARMA

Communist leader KP Sharma Oli, widely seen as Nepal's next prime minister, has expressed his readiness to work with the Indian government and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The victory of a leftist alliance in Nepal's recent polls had fuelled concerns about relations with India in light of the strident anti-Indian rhetoric by Oli and another senior communist leader, Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda". Both leaders are perceived as tilting towards China.

In a letter written to PM Shri Modi ahead of Republic Day on January 26, Oli stated he was looking forward to working with the Indian government. "As one of the recently elected people's representatives and leader of the largest party in the Federal Parliament, I am eager to work together with Excellency and your government for the betterment of our two countries," Oli wrote in the letter. Oli also wrote that he expected "further close cooperation between our two countries and the people". He said that Nepal is learning from India's Constitution in the process of implementing its new Constitution.

— (THE HINDU, January 31, 2018)

2.53 LAKH MORE JOBS ADDED IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN LAST TWO YEARS

An estimated 2.53 lakh central government jobs were generated in the last two years, reveals the Union Budget 2018-19. According to the budget documents, presented by Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley the estimated workforce of central government establishments will be 35.05 lakh as on March 1, 2018. This is 2.53 lakh more than the head count of 32.52 lakh in March 2016. About 2.27 lakh jobs are estimated to have been added in central government departments between 2016 and 2017. An estimated 34.8 lakh people were working with central government departments as on March 1, 2017.

— (THE ECONOMIC TIMES, February 05, 2018)

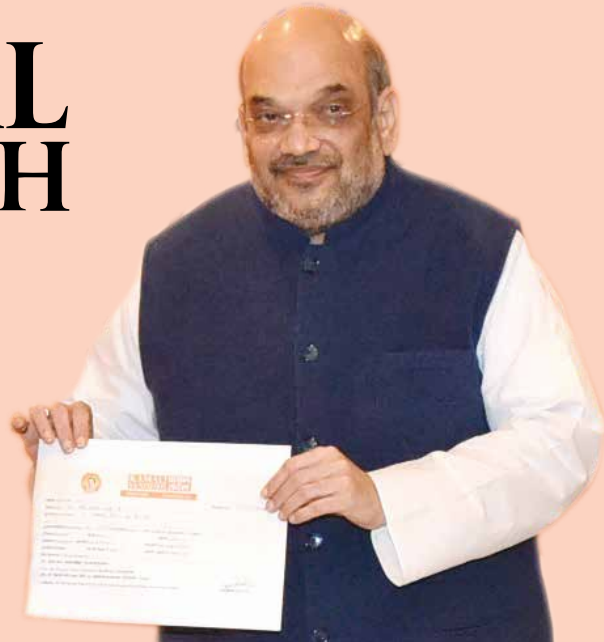
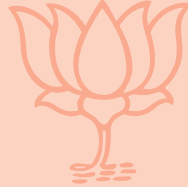
(Compiled by Pankaj Anand)



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Ph.: 011-23381428 Fax: 011-23387887 E-mail: kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi pays floral tributes at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat on his punyatithi.



PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing at the inaugural session of the Advantage Assam- Global Investors Summit 2018 in Guwahati, Assam




PM Shri Narendra Modi paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, on the occasion of the 69th Republic Day in New Delhi



Karnataka BJP welcomes PM Shri Narendra Modi at the concluding day of Parivartana Yatra Rally in Bengaluru.




PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the ITBP excursion groups of students from Sikkim and Ladakh in New Delhi



Common Man Friendly

#NewIndiaBudget




Health Insurance Coverage worth Rs 5 lakh for 10 crore families

Standard deduction of Rs 40,000 for transport allowance and reimbursement of medical expenses for salaried class

For senior citizens, exemption of interest income on deposits to be increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000


All senior citizens eligible for deduction up to Rs 50,000 per annum for health insurance premium & medical expenditure

Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana with assured return of 8% extended to March 2020 & investment limit enhanced to Rs 15 lakh.



#NewIndiaBudget for enhanced Ease of Living

- Aysuhman Bharat to give health insurance cover of Rs 5 Lakh to around 10 crore families
- 1.5 lakh Wellness Centres to provide improved healthcare
- Saubhagya Yojana to provide electricity to all households of the country
- 2 crore toilets to be constructed under Swachh Bharat
- Target for Ujwala Yojana raised to 8 crore beneficiaries
- Focus on Learning Outcomes, Teacher Training to improve Quality of Education



#NewIndiaBudget for New Opportunities

- Target of lending increased to Rs 3 Lakh crore under Mudra
- Government to contribute 12% of the wages of the new employees in the EPF for all the sectors for next 3 years.
- National Apprenticeship Scheme with stipend support launched to give training to 50 lakh youth
- Tax Rate reduced to 25% for small & medium enterprises with turnover up to Rs 250 crore
- Govt to announce measures for addressing NPAs & stressed accounts of MSMEs



Farmer Friendly

#NewIndiaBudget



Record Allocation of Rs 14.34 lakh crore for Rural Development & Agriculture

Farmers to get 1.5 times higher than cost as MSP

22,000 Gramin Agriculture Markets to help farmers sell their produce

Operation Greens to augment Food Processing

Institutional Credit for Agriculture hiked to Rs 11 lakh crore