

# KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



**'GUJARAT, HIMACHAL PRADESH VOTED FOR POLITICS OF PERFORMANCE OVER DYNASTY'**



## **BIG WIN FOR BJP IN GUJARAT & HIMACHAL**

**CONGRESS LOSES ONE MORE STATE**

**READING THE VERDICT: A VICTORY FOR NEW INDIA OVER MEDIEVAL POLITICS**

**GANDHI, LOHIA AND DEENDAYAL**

**'BJP'S AGENDA IS SPEEDY AND ALL-ROUND DEVELOPMENT,**

## GLIMPSES OF GUJARAT AND HIMACHAL VICTORY CELEBRATIONS AT BJP HEADQUARTERS, NEW DELHI



BJP Parliamentary Board members led by National President Shri Amit Shah welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi to Party Headquarters



PM paying tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay at BJP Headquarters



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah waving at the karyakartas at BJP Central Office during Gujarat & Himachal victory celebrations



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi for the victory celebrations at BJP Central Office

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**twitter**



**@narendramodi**

I bow to the people of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh for their affection and trust in BJP. I assure them that we will leave no stone unturned in furthering the development journey of these states and serve the people tirelessly.

**@ChouhanShivraj**

Federation of Women SHG will be established. Under it bank loans will be provided to the groups at the guarantee of the state government. The groups who give outstanding performance will get a loan of Rs. 5 Crores at the govt's guarantee. Our SHGs will set an example: CM #NayaMP.



**@Dev\_Fadnavis**

We are firm & committed towards development of Marathwada, Vidarbha and all the drought prone regions where farmers are facing water issues. We will try to complete all these projects at earliest and with full pace. Giving funds for underdeveloped regions is our priority.

**facebook**

BJP's victory in Gujarat and Himachal assembly elections is a victory of the politics of development of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji against racism, dynasty and appeasement.



— **Amit Shah**

Abhar Gujarat! It's the victory of the people of Gujarat, their unshakable faith in the agenda of development, caste-less & classless society. We are indeed blessed! And promise to live up to the expectations more than ever before.



— **Vijay Rupani**

Cabinet approves continuation of centrally sponsored scheme National Ayush Mission (NAM) for ensuring the development and propagation of Indian systems of medicine and healthcare.



— **JP Nadda**



Courtesy: Social Media



**Kamal Sandesh Parivar**  
*wishes a very happy*  
**PONGAL, MAKAR SANKRANTI**  
*to its readers*

# Congress' divisive politics defeated

**T**he people of Gujarat and Himachal have delivered a phenomenal verdict. It is a clear verdict delivered amid the din of misleading noises raised by the Congress and its pawns hyped as winning combination in the elections. It is a resounding slap on the face of those who regale in playing divisive politics and believe dynasty, caste and communalism still relevant in elections. They also believe that they can mock development and win elections by making people forget their misdeeds and betrayals. Congress has developed a habit to take short cut to power even if it amounts to compromising political principles and ethics in politics. In place of acting as a constructive opposition and building its already ravaged organization in Gujarat, Congress sought to divide society by enrolling casteist pawns while pursuing divisive agenda for political gains. Its leader Rahul Gandhi visited temples while its leaders opposed early resolution of Ram Mandir dispute in Supreme Court. Congress stand on reservations, Demonetization and GST proved it to be anti-development and anti-people. Its doublespeak on a number of issues was exposed and in extreme frustration Congress started spewing venom against the most beloved Prime Minister of the country. The people of Gujarat and Himachal have taught a befitting lesson to the Congress as it loses one more state to the BJP.

**THE FAILURE OF CONGRESS LIES IN ITS INABILITY TO ACT AS A CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION. IT HAS EVEN NOW NOT RECONCILED TO THE FACT THAT PEOPLE REJECTED IT FOR ITS NON-PERFORMANCE, REGIME OF POLICY PARALYSIS, CORRUPTION, MISRULE AND OPEN LOOT OF PUBLIC MONEY.**

The failure of Congress lies in its inability to act as a constructive opposition. It has even now not reconciled to the fact that people rejected it for its non-performance, regime of policy paralysis, corruption, misrule and open loot of public money. What it continues to follow as a policy is to denounce and denigrate agenda of development, reforms and transforming zeal of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It stood against Demonetization consciously defending corrupt and the scamsters taking people for granted. Such stand has alienated the poor and deprived further away from the Congress which has become a symbol of corruption and loot. It was in favour of GST inside the parliament and remained so in GST council, but publicly took a stand creating doubts and suspicion in the market hoping to encash the certain practical problems arising from transition to new system. But its hopes were dashed, its duplicity was exposed. While the entire world is celebrating the rise of India as a leading economy under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi with all international rating agencies appreciating his efforts, Congress is making fool of itself by opposing the reforms. Its attempt to create an atmosphere against development by starting a mocking campaign and its propaganda that Indian economy is getting derailed has been rejected by people again and again. India is coming up strongly on almost all developmental parameters globally and its economic fundamentals are symbolizing its newly acquired vibrancy. Congress' one-sided campaign against these remarkable achievements has further exposed its negative politics and its regressive agenda.

The Congress should not forget that it has lost one more state to BJP. The constructive and reformative zeal of Narendra Modi is showing its results with India gaining prestige everywhere in the world. The poor and deprived of this country have a newfound confidence in the system having immense trust in the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi. As Congress continues to act in the interests of the corrupt and scamsters, it will never be able to win confidence of the poor people. Its insistence to cling to dynasty even at its such a miserable condition speaks volumes about its lack of faith in the democratic ethos of the country. Its attempts to revive dynasty and caste based regressive politics in the country will always receive befitting response from the people. But one doubts Congress will take any lesson even now from its defeat in Gujarat and Himachal. ■

 [shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org](mailto:shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org)



# BJP wins GUJARAT for the sixth time in a row and sweeps Himachal

The BJP, which romped home in all five previous Assembly polls since 1995, retained Gujarat once again by winning 99 out of 182 seats. The Congress won 77 seats, compared to 61 in the 2012 elections. The party's stand was rejected by the people of Gujarat after playing all dirty cards and even its failure to retain power in Himachal Pradesh, the grand old party now confines itself only in Karnataka and Punjab among the major States, besides three smaller states and UTs.

**I**t is 2-0 to the BJP, which has swept both in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh in the recently concluded elections. Riding on the popularity of PM Shri Narendra Modi's remarkable leadership and his appeal across caste and class divide, and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah's outstanding grassroots mobilization, the BJP proved the skeptics wrong by retaining Gujarat for the sixth time in a row. Together, with a comfortable win in Himachal Pradesh it seems that BJP is inching closer towards its stated goal of a "Congress-Mukth Bharat".

The BJP, which romped home in all five previous

Assembly polls since 1995, retained Gujarat once again by winning 99 out of 182 seats. The Congress won 77 seats, compared to 61 in the 2012 elections. The party's stand was rejected by the people of Gujarat after playing all dirty cards and even its failure to retain power in Himachal Pradesh, the grand old party now confines itself only in Karnataka and Punjab among the major States, besides three smaller states and UTs.

If BJP National President Shri Amit Shah was engaged in micro management at the grassroots level, then PM Shri Modi led the BJP campaign from the front Shri Modi was again able to win over the voters and



@arunjaitley

We received 49% votes, more than what was predicted in Exit Polls. This is a victory for development. Congress must introspect what went wrong for them

@nsitharaman

Undoubtedly, a major victory. The kind of work which Party workers have done right from booth workers level till PM's level, everybody put their best foot forward. People of Gujarat have recognized the good work going on in the state.

**As per the results declared by the Election Commission, the BJP has got close to 49.1 per cent votes in Gujarat, higher than 1.1 per cent from 48 per cent it polled in the 2012 assembly polls. On the other hand, Congress got 41.4 per cent vote share this time - up from 39 per cent in the 2012 assembly election.**

convinced them that BJP alone could take Gujarat and the nation on the path of development and economic revival.

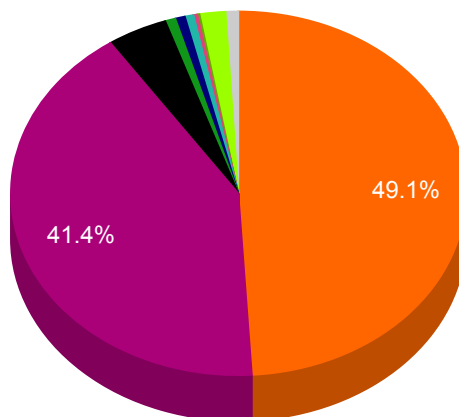
As per the results declared by the Election Commission, the BJP has got close to 49.1 per cent votes in Gujarat, higher than 1.1 per cent from 48 per cent it polled in the 2012 assembly polls. On the other hand, Congress got 41.4 per cent vote share this time - up from 39 per cent in the 2012 assembly election.

Noteworthy, in the 2012 elections, the BJP had won 115 seats while the Congress emerged victorious in 61 seats. The BJP has won every election since 1995 in Gujarat.

As per the results declared the independents have

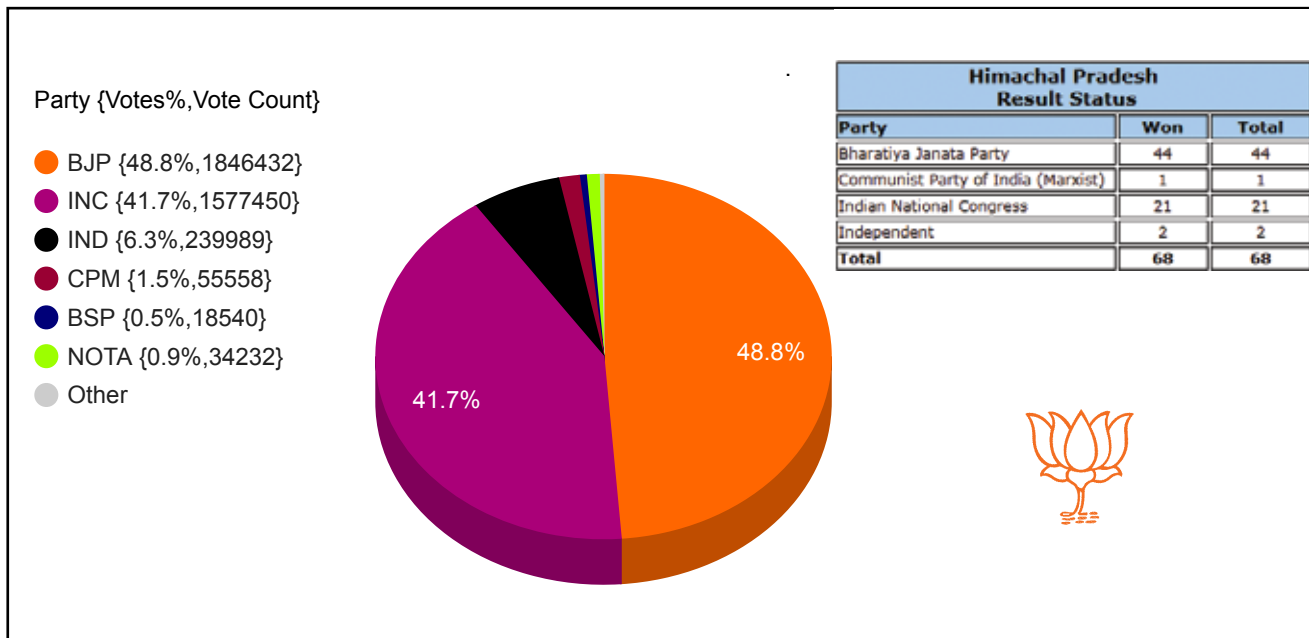
Party {Votes%,Vote Count}

- BJP {49.1%, 14724427}
- INC {41.4%, 12438937}
- IND {4.3%, 1290278}
- BTP {0.7%, 222694}
- BSP {0.7%, 207007}
- NCP {0.6%, 184815}
- AINHCP {0.3%, 83922}
- RSPS {0.2%, 45833}
- NOTA {1.8%, 551615}
- Other



| Gujarat Result Status      |            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Party                      | Won        | Total      |
| Bharatiya Janata Party     | 99         | 99         |
| Indian National Congress   | 77         | 77         |
| Nationalist Congress Party | 1          | 1          |
| Bharatiya Tribal Party     | 2          | 2          |
| Independent                | 3          | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>182</b> | <b>182</b> |





scored 4.3 per cent votes in Gujarat, while 1.8 per cent voters opted for NOTA (None of the above). No party other than the BJP and Congress got even 1 per cent votes.

The results also prove wrong those who predicted that senior Gujarat leaders are on a sticky wicket. CM Shri Rupani won by a margin of over 54,000 votes from Rajkot West Assembly constituency by defeating the wealthiest candidate in fray, Indranil Rajguru of the Congress. Apart from the CM, Gujarat's Deputy CM also emerged victorious by margin over 12,700 votes from Mehsana constituency in North Gujarat.

Like earlier occasions once again, the BJP won majority of highly urban seats situated in and around four biggest cities of Gujarat - Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot. Out of 55 such seats, the BJP won 44. The party won 55 seats out of remaining 127 seats in rest of Gujarat.

After BJP's victory BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said, "Dynasty, casteism and appeasement has lost to development".

Reacting on the results, CM Shri Vijay Rupani said considering BJP's 22 years long stint as the ruling party, the party's victory was commendable. People of Gujarat once again trusted BJP's development poll plank, he said.

After running an aggressive campaign in Himachal Pradesh, BJP claimed a huge victory in the state. In



## FOREIGN MEDIA ON GUJARAT, HIMACHAL PRADESH ELECTION RESULTS

"In India, Modi's party shows its might in state elections. the prime minister's newest electoral triumphs are in the swing state of Himachal Pradesh, and his home turf, **The New York Times** Gujarat". The Bharatiya Janata Party seemed to "continue to be a formidable political force." It won in spite of its rivals' "aggressive campaigning" and "talk about rising discontent over India's economy..." the report added. — **(The New York Times, 19 Dec, 2017)**

While Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won convincingly in Himachal Pradesh, it won 99 constituencies in Gujarat assembly seats. **CNBC** — **(The CNBC , 19 Dec, 2017)**

The election was seen as a referendum on last year's ban on high-value currency notes and the goods and services tax roll out this year. **Bloomberg** — **(The Bloomberg , 19 Dec, 2017)**

The election in Gujarat was bitterly fought, with campaigning marked by some of the sharpest verbal duels seen in recent Indian elections. **AP** — **(The Associated Press , 19 Dec, 2017)**

## EC SAYS 100% MATCH IN RANDOM VOTE COUNT ON EVMS, VVPAT SLIPS

There was a "100 per cent match" in the random vote count on EVMs and paper trail slips carried out by the Election Commission in 182 Gujarat polling stations on December 18, 2017, a senior official said. The EC had said it would conduct random vote counts on EVMs and VVPAT slips in one polling station in each of the 182 Assembly constituencies. "There was a 100 per cent match in the results of the EVM and the slips produced by the paper trail machines," the official of the election machinery said. The polling stations were decided through a draw of lots in which the candidates or their agents were also present. The EC had decided to match the tally in select polling stations amid allegations that the EVMs were compromised to help the BJP.



Himachal Pradesh uprooting the five years old corrupt Congress rule the BJP has won 44 of 68 seats and the Congress has won 21.

Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh threw up the expected result. Voters gave BJP a huge victory, even increased its vote share substantially, from 38.7% in 2012 to 48.7% in 2017. The majority mark in the state is 35. In the outgoing House, Congress had 36 seats,

and BJP 26 seats.

Congress mustered only 21 seats, even as its vote share fell from 42.8% in 2012 to 41.8% this time.

After a meeting of its parliamentary board, BJP announced that Union Defence Minister Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman and Union minister for rural development Shri Narendra Tomar would visit the state and talk to leaders before a CM is announced. ■

# Support for BJP shows the nation is ready for reform agenda: PM Modi



**W**hile addressing a gathering at the BJP HQ after the victories in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh on 18 December, 2017 PM Narendra Modi thanked the people of both states for reposing their faith in the BJP.

Shri Modi mentioned that support for BJP showed the nation was ready for reform agenda and every citizen wanted India transformed. He said that aspirations of the middle class were rising and the BJP was determined to serve the people and fulfill them. "The way the people of Himachal Pradesh have supported us, shows that people are fed up of mis-governance and misdeeds by the incumbent Government in the state. They have given BJP a positive vote", Shri Modi added further.

He said that Gujarat poll results were historical. "In this day and age, for a party to keep winning for so long... BJP won all the seats it contested in 1989 Lok Sabha polls. We won most of the seats we contested in 1990. In 1995, in 1998, in 2002, in 2007 and in 2012 we won. We won most seats in Lok Sabha polls too."

The PM said that winning the Gujarat polls were a matter of double joy for him. He appreciated the BJP karyakartas and leaders from the state for continuing the good work in the state. Thanking people for the

victory, PM Shri Modi said, "I compliment the people of Gujarat. There was so much misinformation. Congress was hatching all kinds of conspiracies. They mocked development also."

The Prime Minister stated that after 2014, discourse in the nation was only about development. He said, "Sadly, a few people who were hungry for power, they tried to sow the seeds of casteism. We took three decades to remove the poison of casteism from Gujarat. We took Gujarat on the path of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

Shri Modi said, "Six crore Gujaratis are one and they want to move ahead on the path of progress. Let every Gujarati embrace one another, we cannot and won't be divided. Whatever happened, let that be forgotten... only think of unity and brotherhood." "There is no need to waste time on those who will keep dismissing our victory. Since 1989, BJP has been victorious in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha polls and this makes today's win special", he said.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, members of BJP parliament board, several Union Ministers, BJP office bearers and BJP karyakartas were present at the event. ■



## Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh voted for politics of performance over dynasty: Amit Shah

**A**fter the massive election victories in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh on 18 December, 2017 addressing a press conference, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said that the results of the Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh elections showed that the people had voted for politics of performance.

He said it is a day of great joy for the BJP. BJP is forming government both in Himachal and Gujarat. I thank the people of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh for choosing development over caste politics. This win is due to hard work of the countless workers of the BJP and PM Modi's pro-people policies. Dynasty, casteism and appeasement has lost to development and good governance. These results prove country is moving beyond those three evils to politics of performance, he said.

Shri Shah said in Gujarat, we are going to form government for the sixth time. The most prominent leaders of Cong have lost because they were trying to divide the people on the basis of religion and caste. He said the Congress' attempt to fight

elections through outsourcing has failed.

The people of Gujarat have reposed their faith on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and rejected the Congress' divisive politics. They have rejected efforts that were made by the Congress to instigate people and divide them on the basis of caste and religion, he added.

He blamed the Opposition's divisive politics for a drop in BJP's seats in Gujarat. This is a victory of development over dynasty and polarization. We lost seats in Gujarat because the standard of political discourse was pulled down. There was an attempt to bring down level of discourse throughout campaign Shri Shah said.

Shri Amit Shah hailed the results as indicative of a new era in India's democratic journey and brought attention to the fact that the BJP's vote share in both states had actually increased.

Shri Shah said we are confident that when we go into 2019 elections under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi, we will once again get people's support. Modi ji's aim for the youth in 2022 will



“All sections of society have voted above caste politics. This is a win of development politics of the Prime Minister. In Gujarat, OBC, patidar, dalit all were used for caste politics by the Congress but caste politics could not get success. People have approved of our policies and work done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his development agenda. As far as Rahul Gandhi is concerned, after he became Congress president, he has lost Himachal Pradesh and could not bring the Congress in power to Gujarat.”

— **Nitin Gadkari, Union Road & Transport Minister**



“Newly-elected Congress Chief Rahul Gandhi in his opening innings has scored a zero”.

— **Manohar Parrikar, Goa Chief Minister**

“The people of Gujarat have once again voted for development. They once again reposed faith in the BJP leadership. It shows there is no alternative to the BJP in the country.”

— **Smt. Vasundhara Raje, Rajasthan Chief Minister**



“I had already said this would happen. A change of guard in the Congress leadership will be a good sign for the BJP. That aside, people have rejected divisive politics of Congress, this win is due to the dynamic leadership of BJP and the

hard work of BJP workers”.

— **Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister**

“BJP’s victory in the Assembly elections showed people’s unshakable faith in the agenda of development, caste-less and classless society. I acknowledge with humility people’s verdict who have voted for BJP and reposed faith in the politics of good governance - a dominant theme flourished by Prime Minister Modi on the Indian political landscape.”

— **Vijay Rupani, Gujarat Chief Minister**



This is a blessing by the people to the leadership of the Prime Minister and his government. It shows that they support his vision for development.

— **Piyush Goyal, Union Railway Minister**

“It is a matter of happiness for us; this is the victory of development. Jo jeeta wohi sikandar. It is victory of every booth worker’s hard work & the people who trusted development”.

— **Smt. Smriti Irani, Union IB Minister**



The election results have proven that the bullet train of development, under PM Modi’s leadership, has emerged victorious. The opposition, which violated all campaign norms, have been shown their place by the people.”

— **Ashish Shelar, Mumbai BJP President**



become a reality,” he added.

You all can see what happened in Himachal Pradesh, where Congress was in power. The people have rejected them as they wanted to join PM Modi’s development yatra. BJP has continuously improved its standing in national politics, he said.

He said today BJP has 14 chief ministers and is part of 5 other ruling alliances; governs 19 states across the country. Four states are going to polls next. I’m sure that BJP will win under the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

For the BJP’s vote share to not fall after so many years in Gujarat is a remarkable feat. I would like to thank all the party workers once again. They have worked very very hard throughout. We were on the receiving end of loose talk and baseless allegations. Can we not respond to such words against the prime minister?

Shri Shah added that the BJP was guaranteed to win in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. ■

## PM dedicates INS Kalvari to the nation

**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on December 14 dedicated the naval submarine INS Kalvari to the nation, at a function in Mumbai. Congratulating the people of India on this occasion, the Prime Minister described INS Kalvari as a prime example of "Make in India." He commended all those involved in its manufacture. He described the submarine as an excellent illustration of the fast growing strategic partnership between India and France. He said the INS Kalvari will add even more strength to the Indian Navy.

The Prime Minister said that the 21st century is described as Asia's century. He added that it is also certain that the road to development in the 21st century goes through the Indian Ocean. That is why the Indian Ocean has a special place in the policies of the Government, he added.

The Prime Minister said this vision can be understood through the acronym SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region.

The Prime Minister said India is fully alert with regard to its global, strategic and economic interests in the Indian Ocean. He said that is why the modern and multi-dimensional Indian Navy plays a leading role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

He said the ocean's innate potential adds economic muscle to our national development. That is why, he added, India is well aware of the challenges such as



sea-borne terrorism, piracy, and drug trafficking, that not just India, but other nations in the region also have to face. He said India is playing a key role in tackling these challenges.

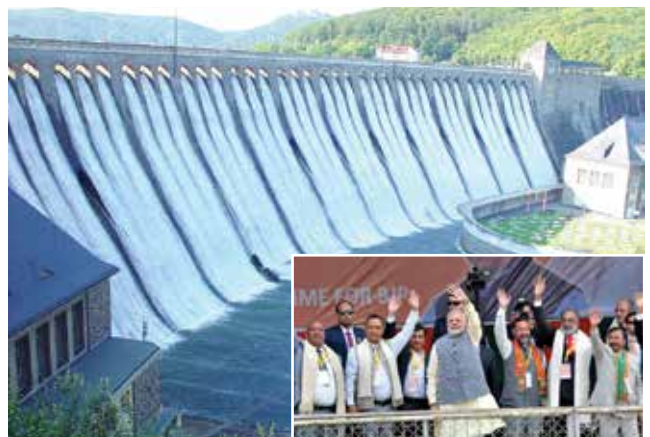
He said a strong and capable India has a vital role to play for humanity. He said countries of the world wish to walk with India on the path of peace and stability. The Prime Minister said that the entire ecosystem related to defence and security has started to change in the last three years. He said the skill-set accumulated during the manufacture of INS Kalvari is an asset for India.

The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to all those who have dedicated their lives to the nation's security. ■

## Narendra Modi inaugurates Tuirial dam in Mizoram

**P**rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the 60-MW Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project near Kolasib in Mizoram to the nation from Aizawl on December 16. The project has made Mizoram the third power-surplus state in the region after Tripura and Sikkim.

The earthfill and gravity dam over Tuirial river has been constructed as a central sector project and implemented by North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (Neepco) under the administrative control of the ministry of power. The first unit was commissioned on August 25 and the second one on November 28 this year. ■



## Union Government gives special package for employment generation in Leather and Footwear sector

**T**he Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on December 15 approved the special package for employment generation in leather and footwear sector. The package involves implementation of Central Sector Scheme "Indian Footwear, Leather & Accessories Development Programme" with an approved expenditure of Rs. 2600 Crore over the three financial years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

The scheme would lead to development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environment concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production. Enhanced Tax incentive would attract large scale investments in the sector and reform in labour law in view of seasonal nature of the sector will support economies of scale.

The Special Package has the potential to generate 3.24 lakhs new jobs in 3 years and assist in formalization of 2 lakh jobs as cumulative impact in Footwear, Leather & Accessories Sector.

Leather Technology, Innovation and Environmental Issues sub-scheme: Under this sub-scheme, assistance is proposed to be provided for upgradation/ installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants



(CETPs) @ 70% of the project cost. The sub-scheme will also provide support to national level sectoral industry council/ association and support for preparation of vision document for Leather Footwear and Accessories Sector. The proposed outlay for this sub-scheme is Rs. 782 crore for the three years.

Promotion of Indian Brands in Leather, Footwear and Accessories Sector sub-scheme: Under this sub-scheme, the eligible units approved for Brand Promotion are proposed to be assisted. The Government assistance is proposed to be 50% of total project cost subject to a limit of Rs.3 crore for each brand, each year for 3 years. The proposal under this sub-scheme is to promote 10 Indian brands in the international market in three years with proposed outlay of Rs. 90 crore. ■

## Cabinet clears new consumer protection Bill

**T**he Union Cabinet on 20 December, 2017 approved a new Consumer Protection Bill that seeks to give more teeth to the mechanism to safeguard consumer rights.

The Bill, expected to be tabled in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session, also has provisions to deal with misleading advertisements and ban celebrities from endorsing such products.

In August 2015, the Centre had introduced the Consumer Protection Bill in the Lok Sabha to repeal the 30-year-old Consumer Protection Act, 1986. A



parliamentary standing committee had also submitted its recommendations in April 2016.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has brought a fresh Bill as there were many amendments to the Bill introduced in 2015. The new Bill seeks to enlarge the scope of the existing law and make it more effective and purposeful.

It seeks to establish a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce consumer rights. It has provisions for post-litigation stage mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. The Bill also provides for product liability action. ■

## Skill development scheme for textile sector approved

**T**o help create more jobs in the labour-intensive textile sector, the Union cabinet on December 20, 2017 approved a Rs 1,300 crore scheme that will impart skills to a million people. The scheme, cleared in a cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will provide demand-driven and placement-oriented skilling programme across the textile value chain, an official statement said. The approved outlay is for the years FY2018-FY2020.

The cabinet also decided to bring in a new consumer protection law, repealing the existing Consumer Protection Act of 1986, that will provide better protection and an alternative dispute resolution facility for consumers. The Consumer Protection Bill, 2017 will seek to address “new-age consumer



protection challenges,” a person informed about the development said on condition of anonymity. ■

## Over 5 crore toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission

**T**he government on December 18, 2017 informed the Rajya Sabha that it had constructed more than 5 crore toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission. Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Shri Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi told the Upper House that it built 561.75 lakh toilets under the Swachh Bharat Mission (rural). Nearly 29.08 lakh toilets were constructed under the MGNREGA and seven states/UTs were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), he added.

In a written reply, the government said Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was a demand-driven scheme and hence state-wise funds were not allocated. The minister stated that states/UTs had to first furnish details of utilised and unutilised funds for release of central funds under SBM.

Shri Jigajinagi also said the ministry regularly monitored the implementation of SBM through review meetings with the states. “The ministry has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the programme through periodic visits by ministry officials and union ministers,” he said.

Online monitoring had been strengthened and transparency increased in the implementation of



SBM by making all data, including the names and addresses of the beneficiaries, available in the public domain. ■

# DHARMA AND RELIGION

## DHARMA IS NOT RELIGION

**T**HE distortions of Dharma that we now-a-days see all around us are largely the result of foreign education. The English word 'religion' has substantially contributed in distorting the pure meaning of Dharma. The British first heard the word when they came to India. They had no word of an equally comprehensive meaning. So they translated it as religion. Such translation has distorted the meaning of Indian words. Dharma is a very wide term which includes many religions. A religion a system of worship, and there are many such systems prevailing in this land. But in spite of these systems and sects Dharma is one. Dharma is that which is good for everyone irrespective of the system of worship and can open up for him the way to salvation.

## DHARMA SUSTAINS WORLD

RELIGION means a creed, or a sect, it does not mean Dharma. Dharma is a very broad concept. It is concerned with all aspects of life. It sustains society. It sustains the whole world. That which sustains is "Dharma"

The fundamental principles of Dharma are eternal and universal. Yet their implementation may differ according to time, place and circumstance.

The complete treatise on the rules in general and their philosophical basis is the meaning of Dharma.

These rules cannot be arbitrary. They should be such as to sustain and further the existence and progress of the entity which they serve.

## FUNDAMENTAL OF CIVILISED LIFE

WE believe in Dharma not just because it is instrumental in acquiring Artha but because it is a fundamental principle of civilized life.

Kama too can be attained only through Dharma. Having produced the material things, such as nice food, when, where, how and in what measure it will be used can be determined only by Dharma. If a sick person eats food meant for a healthy one and vice versa, both of them will be at a disadvantage. Dharma helps in restraining the natural tendencies of man whereby he is able to determine what is beneficial to

him apart from what is pleasurable. Hence Dharma is given the fore-most place in our culture.

## DHARMA GUIDES GOD

GOD cannot act contrary to Dharma. If he does, then he is not omnipotent. Adharma is a characteristic of weakness, not of strength. If fire; instead of radiating heat, dies out, it is no longer strong. Strength lies not in unrestrained behaviour, but in well-regulated action. Therefore God who is omnipotent is also self-regulated and consequently fully in tune with Dharma. God descends in the human body to destroy adharma and re-establish Dharma, not to act on passing whims and fancies. Hence even God can do everything but act contrary to Dharma. But for the risk of being misunderstood, one can say that Dharma is even greater than God. The universe is sustained because He acts according to Dharma.

## DHARMA IS HIGHER

NEITHER the Legislature is higher nor the Judiciary. Dharma is higher than both. The Legislature will have to act according to Dharma. Dharma will specify the limits of both. The Legislature, the Judiciary or the people, none of these is supreme. Some will say, "Why, people are sovereign. They elect". But even the people are not sovereign because people too have no right to act against Dharma. If an elected government allows people to go against Dharma and does not punish, then that government is in reality a government of thieves. Even the general will cannot go against Dharma. Imagine the situation, if by some manoeuvring, thieves gain a majority in the government and send one of their ranks as an executive. What will be the duty of the minority if the majority is of thieves and elects a thief to rule ?

## DHARMA RAJYA

IN our country we cannot think of any sentiment with which Dharma is not bound up. Hence we feel that our State cannot forsake Dharma. A secular State, in our opinion, does not mean a State without Dharma. The word Religion means a tenet in this country and those who believe it are called sects like the





Jains, Shaivas and Christians. Naturally the State cannot belong to any of these sects. It must look on all with an equal eye. So we can say that a State is non-sectarian. This would be the ideal, but such a State, even without being partial to a particular sect or against some other sect, can encourage ways and means of achieving both material and spiritual progress and thus be called Dharma Rajya.

## **JANA RAJYA AND DHARMA RAJYA**

IF the four million people of Kashmir say that they want to secede, if the people of Goa say they want to secede and if some say they want the Portuguese to return, all this will be against Dharma. Of the 45

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crore people of India, even if 449,999,999 opt for something which is against Dharma, even then this does not become truth. On the other hand, even if one person stands for something which is in accord with Dharma, that constitutes truth, because truth resides with Dharma. It is the duty of this one person that he tread the path of truth and change people. It is from this basis that a person derives the right to proceed according to Dharma.

Let us understand very clearly that Dharma is not necessarily with the majority or with the people. Dharma is eternal. Therefore, in the definition of democracy, to say that it is a government of the people is not enough ; it has to be for the good of

the people. Dharma alone can decide.. Therefore, a democratic government "Jana Rajya", must also be rooted in Dharma i.e. a "Dharma Rajya". In the definition of 'Democracy' viz. "government of the people, by the people and for the people", 'of' stands for independence, 'by' stands for democracy, and 'for' indicates Dharma. Therefore the true democracy is one where there is freedom as well as Dharma.

## **WRONG MEANING OF SPIRITUALISM**

ONE of the main reasons for looking to the West for a solution to economic problems is the mistaken belief that Indian culture and religion, being spiritual, are indifferent towards problems of a material life. This erroneous belief is the result of deliberate propaganda and of a wrong meaning of spiritualism. As a matter of fact our definition of religion ('Dharma') has taken materialism fully into account. Dharma is defined as that which leads to both physical and metaphysical development. Materialism and spiritualism are neither contradictory nor separate from each other. Spiritualism is a point of view of life from which we look at all problems. If spiritualism can give a true definition of the universe there is no reason why it should not give us a solution to all problems of the world. India has not thought only of the metaphysical world, it has thought of material wealth also. Chanakya has said that happiness depends upon Dharma and Dharma depends upon material wealth.

## **DYNAMIC RELIGION**

THE Vedic Religion has always undergone transformation. This religion is dynamic and living. It is not like a stagnant pool. New thoughts have always entered this religion and old thoughts have developed through change, but every new change has kept up its link with the old. Every new agitator maintained a feeling of reverence for his ancestors. Every new reformer gave respect to our ancient tradition, our ancestors and achievements and at the same time propounded new thoughts to suit the times. As these new thoughts had not broken off with the basic thought, they did not in any way harm the life of the nation. On the contrary, they contributed to its development. ■

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

# Swami Vivekananda

**S**wami Vivekananda, known in his pre-monastic life as Narendra Nath Datta, was born in an affluent family in Kolkata on 12 January 1863.

At the threshold of youth Narendra had to pass through a period of spiritual crisis when he was assailed by doubts about the existence of God. It was at that time he first heard about Sri Ramakrishna from one of his English professors at college. One day in November 1881, Narendra went to meet Sri Ramakrishna who was staying at the Kali Temple in Dakshineswar. He straightaway asked the Master a question which he had put to several others but had received no satisfactory answer: "Sir, have you seen God?" Without a moment's hesitation, Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Yes, I have. I see Him as clearly as I see you, only in a much intenser sense."

Apart from removing doubts from the mind of Narendra, Sri Ramakrishna won him over through his pure, unselfish love. Thus began a guru-disciple relationship which is quite unique in the history of spiritual masters. Narendra now became a frequent visitor to Dakshineswar and, under the guidance of the Master, made rapid strides on the spiritual path. At Dakshineswar, Narendra also met several young men who were devoted to Sri Ramakrishna, and they all became close friends.

After a few years two events took place which caused Narendra considerable distress. One was the sudden death of his father in 1884. This left the family penniless, and Narendra had to bear the burden of supporting his mother, brothers and sisters. The second event was the illness of Sri Ramakrishna which was diagnosed to be cancer of the throat. In September 1885 Sri Ramakrishna was moved to a house at Shyampukur, and a few months later to a rented villa at Cossipore. In these two places the young disciples nursed the Master with devoted care.

In spite of poverty at home and inability to find a job for himself, Narendra joined the group as its leader.

During his travels all over India, Swami Vivekananda was deeply moved to see the appalling poverty and backwardness of the masses. He was the first religious leader in India to understand and openly declare that the real cause of India's downfall was the neglect of the masses. The immediate need was to provide food and other bare necessities of life to the hungry millions. For this they should be taught improved methods of agriculture, village industries, etc. It was in this context that Vivekananda grasped the crux of the problem of poverty in

India (which had escaped the attention of social reformers of his days): owing to centuries of oppression, the downtrodden masses had lost faith in their capacity to improve their lot. It was first of all necessary to infuse into their minds faith in themselves. For this they needed a life-giving, inspiring message. Swamiji found this message in the principle of the Atman, the doctrine of the potential divinity of the soul, taught in Vedanta, the ancient system of religious philosophy of India. He saw that, in spite of poverty, the masses clung to religion, but they had never been taught the life-giving, ennobling principles of Vedanta and how to apply them in practical life.

Thus the masses needed two kinds of knowledge: secular knowledge to improve their economic condition, and spiritual knowledge to infuse in them faith in themselves and strengthen their moral sense. The next question was, how to spread these two kinds of knowledge among the masses? Through education – this was the answer that Swamiji found.

His speeches at the World's Parliament of Religions held in September 1893 made him famous as an 'orator by divine right' and as a 'Messenger of Indian wisdom to the Western world'. After the



Parliament, Swamiji spent nearly three and a half years spreading Vedanta as lived and taught by Sri Ramakrishna, mostly in the eastern parts of USA and also in London.

He returned to India in January 1897. In response to the enthusiastic welcome that he received everywhere, he delivered a series of lectures in different parts of India, which created a great stir all over the country. Through these inspiring and profoundly significant lectures Swamiji attempted to rouse the religious consciousness of the people and create in them pride in their cultural heritage; to bring about unification of Hinduism by pointing out the common bases of its sects; to focus the attention of educated people on the plight of the downtrodden masses, and to expound his plan for their uplift by the application of the principles of Practical Vedanta.

### FOUNDING OF RAMAKRISHNA MISSION

Soon after his return to Kolkata, Swami Vivekananda

accomplished another important task of his mission on earth. He founded on 1 May 1897 a unique type of organization known as Ramakrishna Mission, in which monks and lay people would jointly undertake propagation of Practical Vedanta, and various forms of social service, such as running hospitals, schools, colleges, hostels, rural development centres etc, and conducting massive relief and rehabilitation work for victims of earthquakes, cyclones and other calamities, in different parts of India and other countries.

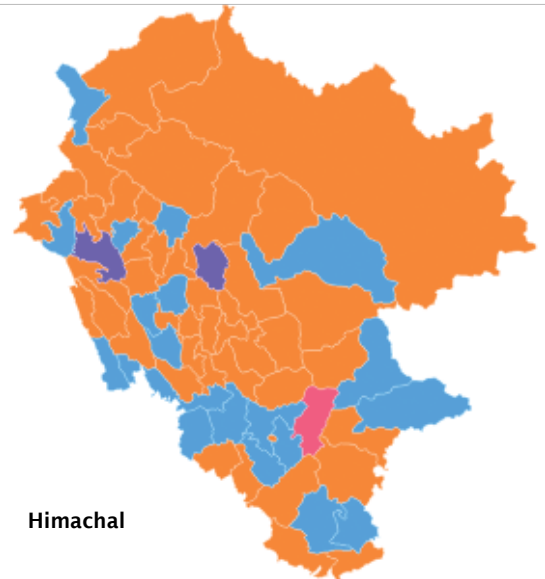
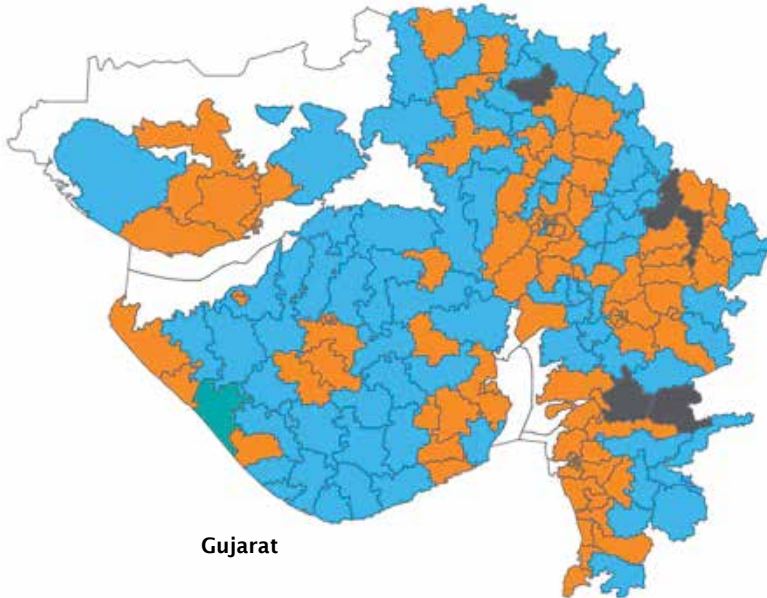
It may be mentioned here that in the West many people were influenced by Swami Vivekananda's life and message. Some of them became his disciples or devoted friends. Among them the names of Margaret Noble (later known as Sister Nivedita), Captain and Mrs Sevier, Josephine McLeod and Sara Ole Bull, deserve special mention. Nivedita dedicated her life to educating girls in Kolkata. Swamiji had many Indian disciples also, some of whom joined Ramakrishna Math and became sannyasins. ■

## PM Modi announces immediate assistance worth 325 Cr Rupees For Cyclone Ockhi affected Kerala, Tamil Nadu And Lakshadweep

**T**he Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi announced immediate financial assistance worth 325 crore rupees to provide relief material to cyclone Ockhi affected Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made immediate visit to Poonthura on December 19, one of the worst-affected fishing hamlets along Kerala's southern coast from cyclone Ockhi, where he met families of dead and missing fishermen and promised all possible help from the Centre to help them tide over the tragedy. Shri Modi assured that all assistance will be given to them. He said the search for the missing fishermen will continue and hoped that all would reach safe home before Christmas. The Prime Minister visited Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu and Kerala to meet cyclone Ockhi affected people and reviewed relief and rehabilitation work. The Centre will support the reconstruction of around 1400 houses fully damaged due to Cyclone Ockhi under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and each beneficiary will get up to 1.5 lakh rupees. ■



# Reading the verdict: A victory for New India over medieval politics



**I BHUPENDER YADAV**

**T**he results of the 2017 Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh assembly elections reaffirm the prime minister's resolve to make a "New India" and indicate that this vision is moving forward. These results are a sign of a big shift in Indian politics. Traditionally, the Congress has tried to keep elections centred on caste, dynasty and social considerations. However, the BJP under the leadership of Narendra Modi, chose to defy the medieval politics of the Congress and fought the election on the planks of development and good governance. Under the stewardship of national president Amit Shah, the BJP has gained ground ideologically and organisationally.

The Gujarat elections were held at a time when the Congress not only opposed the BJP's development agenda but also indulged in a confusing perception-based politics. It even tried to ridicule the concept of "vikas". The BJP continuously moved ahead in its electoral campaign on the issue of development. Multiple agencies have found the annual growth rate of Gujarat to be above 10 per cent. In the past 22

years, BJP rule has seen all-round development, including in agriculture, health and education. In consonance with the policies of the government, adequate new opportunities for employment were also created.

During its term, the Modi-led government has taken two tough decisions — GST and demonetisation. When such epoch-making decisions are taken, some discomfort takes place temporarily. The Congress thought that it could win the Gujarat elections on these issues. However, the people of Gujarat defied the claims of the Congress. This also makes clear the fact that the development model that evolved in Gujarat is an inclusive one. Even according to the Ranganath Mishra Commission, during the tenure of the Congress government, the development of minorities in Gujarat was more balanced than in most Congress-run states.

Development is not just about economic factors or economic policies. It consists of multiple dimensions like law and order, security of women, transparent



implementation of welfare schemes, removal of corruption, decisive leadership, etc. In all of these, the BJP-ruled Gujarat fared exceedingly well during the last 22 years.

The success of the BJP since winning the Lok Sabha election in 2014 has continued. The BJP won Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Goa. Gujarat and Himachal are just further additions. This is proof of the leadership of Modi and the organisational skills of Shah.

During the erstwhile rule of the Congress, the politics of “KHAM” gained prominence, which meant that particular sections of society were grouped together to form a vote bank. The Congress also tried to manufacture petty differences within communities. However, if one analyses this election as a whole, it becomes clear that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress outsourced the campaign to forces that tried to divide Gujarat into different castes, communities and sections. The underlying objective being that the social fabric of Gujarat is torn to pieces for political gains. However, the people of Gujarat chose the politics of good governance.

This election was also a direct contest between “democracy” and “dynasty”. Continuing the tradition and culture of “dynasty”, Rahul Gandhi chose himself as Congress president. On the other hand, a democratic BJP has been successful in expanding its base in areas and sections of society where it was weak. The BJP and its leaders conducted several programmes and undertook long yatras to interior parts of the state. The BJP held more rallies in tribal and other areas. This year marks the birth centenary of Deendayal Upadhyaya. The BJP started a “vistarak” campaign that is reaching every corner of the society. Organisationally, they have reached every booth and “shakti kendra” — the literal power centre of the BJP’s democratic organisation. The BJP could reach out to the people and communicate the past 22 years of good governance through this democratic set up.

When the Congress was talking about bullock carts, the BJP brought a seaplane as a model of development.

This election was a choice between “New India” and “medieval politics”. New India is where we can take all those decisions which are in the national

interest and for the welfare of the people. The party and the person taking those decisions might have had to bear the brunt of taking the decisions but that did not deter them. On the other hand, the “medieval politics” is one of lies and slander. The Congress lied and engaged in slander campaigns against the PM, the BJP and the tough decisions and policies we followed. Thankfully, it did not work. Amit Shah conducted “youth town hall” programmes to interact directly with the youth of Gujarat, which were attended by about 2 lakh young men and women. PM Modi directly communicated with party cadre and different sections of society during his visits to the state and through several rallies.

Another significant message of this election is that the people clearly understand the “use and throw”

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politics that the Congress habitually practises. From Dalits and OBCs to minorities, all sections of society have understood that the politics of the Congress is only to divide them for their votes.

It is for these reasons that the BJP won Gujarat despite a high-decibel campaign of lies and slander. This result is a landmark in the democratic journey of the country.

The principles through which the country moves forward include family values, culture, fraternity, development and a resolve to make a developed India using technology. The BJP has got the mandate to realise its vision of “New India”. ■

**(The writer is MP Rajya Sabha, BJP National General Secretary and In-charge of Gujarat.)**

# India second largest producer of horticultural crops and fruits in the World: Radha Mohan Singh

**U**nion Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh said research and development projects in horticulture crops have yielded encouraging results, as a result, the production of horticulture crops have been more than food grains irrespective of adverse climatic conditions. After China, India is the second largest producer of horticultural crops and fruits. The Agriculture Minister said it on 17th December, 2017 at the World Orange Day 2017 event in Nagpur.

Shri Singh said more than 9 crore metric ton of fruits on 63 lakhs hectare land were produced during 2015-16. According to an estimate, a production of 30 crore metric ton horticulture crops on 2.5 crore hectare land is expected during 2016-17 in which contribution of fruit is significant. The record achievement includes 42 million ton of fruit production on 65 lakh hectare land. In terms of area in India, the citrus fruits hold second position (10.37 lakh hectare) and third (12 million tonnes) in production.

The Agriculture Minister said keeping in view the importance of orchards in maintaining nutrient security, providing employment and conserving the environment, Agriculture Ministry is implementing

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture across the nation. The School of Horticultural Sciences department of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), along with its 23 institutes, 11 All India Coordinated Research projects and 2 All India Network projects are providing necessary technical cooperation and scientific research assistance to the horticulture mission.

Shri Singh said that Government established a Central Citrus Research Institute (CCRI) in Nagpur in 1985 with an objective to develop research and necessary techniques for citrus fruits and in 1986 it was upgraded to National Research Centre for Citrus. He said that in 2014, the present central government upgraded this centre to the central institute.

Shri Singh said ICAR is implementing All India Coordinated Fruits Crop Research Project in 10 centres of 8 states viz. Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Karnataka. Keeping in view the needs of the specific area, necessary research, technical training, and demonstration are being carried out on citrus fruits. In the last 4 years, the Government has allocated a sum of Rs.23 crore to these centres. ■

**Kamal Sandesh Parivar** wishes a

*Happy New Year* **2018**  
*to its readers*

# India ahead of UK, China, Japan in digital payments, says FIS report



India has the most evolved digital payments system among 25 countries including the UK, China and Japan, which were surveyed on parameters such as round-the-clock availability, adoption, and immediacy of payments, said a report released on December 22, 2017 by FIS, a US-based banking technology-provider.

The report titled Flavors of Fast used the Faster Payments Innovation Index (FPII) created in 2014 and aimed at evolving a comparative rating system where diverse payments systems across the globe could be compared and contrasted.

According to FIS, the FPII ranks different payments systems on a scale of 1-5, where level 1 reflects fast payments, level 3 reflects highly desirable features enhancing customer value such as universal access and 24x7 availability while level 5 payments systems have additional features for maximizing customer value such as remittance information, push and pull capability and aliases.

The Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in November 2010, is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service that is available through mobile phones and internet banking applications. NPCI is the umbrella

organization for all retail payments in the country.

Along with IMPS, the study also revealed the popularity of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) which is a combination of real time payments with open interfaces with an intention to replace cash, point-of-sale and wallet, the report added.

UPI is a payments system launched by NPCI in August 2016 that facilitates instant fund transfers between two bank accounts on a mobile platform, without any details of the beneficiary's bank.

Transactions across UPI touched a new peak in November. The transaction volume was 105 million, up 37% from 76.8 million in the previous month, figures released by NPCI showed.

Transactions through UPI received a major stimulus from the government after Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) app on 30 December.

The report also highlighted that appropriate fraud prevention measures are vital for payment systems offering real-time clearing and settlement. Fraudsters are moving toward the initiation point, rather than later in the process, so a lot of activity is needed to monitor and manage at the initial authentication and origination level, it added. ■

# Government initiatives to reduce debt burden of farmers

**A** ccording to an information shared by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley in Lok Sabha to reduce the debt burden of farmers, the Government has taken the following major initiatives:

- With a view to ensuring availability of agriculture credit at a reduced interest rate of 7% p.a. to farmers, the Government of India in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) implements an interest subvention scheme for short term crop loans up to Rs. 3.00 lakh. Under the said scheme, additional subvention of 3% is given to



**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of insured crops due to non-preventable natural risks, thus providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/ damage arising out of unforeseen events; stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming;**

those farmers who repay their short term crop loan in time, thereby reducing the effective rate of interest to 4% p.a. for such farmers.

- Reserve Bank of India has issued directions for Relief Measures to be provided by respective lending institutions in areas affected by natural calamities which, inter alia, include, restructuring/

rescheduling of existing crop loans and term loans, extending fresh loans, relaxed security and margin norms, moratorium, etc. These directions have been so designed that the moment calamity is declared by the concerned District Authorities they are automatically set in motion without any intervention, thus saving precious time. The benchmark for initiating relief measures by banks has also been reduced to 33% crop loss in line with the National Disaster Management Framework.

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of insured crops due to non-preventable natural risks, thus providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/ damage arising out of unforeseen events; stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming; and encouraging them to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices. For development of agriculture and welfare of farmers of the country, the Government in DAC&FW, is implementing various Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which include:
  - (i) Rashtriya KrishiVikasYojana (RKVY)
  - (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
  - (iii) National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)
  - (iv) National Mission For Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)

State Bank of India (SBI) has informed that it has published a study report about loan waiver and its impact on State finances in SBI ECOWRAP issue No. 13, FY 18 dated 20.06.2017. The gist of the study is as under:

- The demand for a loan waiver currently has been accentuated perhaps by 2 successive years of less than normal rainfall in FY14 and FY15.
- Apart from impacting asset quality for the Agricultural sector, farm loan waiver will impact State finances adversely.
- The current loan waiver, however, has a positive aspect unlike the earlier ones, as the schemes announced in several States have specified a threshold limit (mostly Rs.1 lakh), and any amount over that will have to be paid. ■



## India a leading global power, says new US security policy

**D**escribing India as a “leading global power”, the US on 19 December, 2017 unveiled its new National Security Strategy (NSS) that said it will “deepen” America’s strategic partnership with India and support its leadership role in Indian Ocean security and throughout the broader region.

With an eye on China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Trump administration said it will help South Asian countries “maintain their sovereignty” as China increases its influence in the region. The NSS also seeks Pakistan to take decisive action against terrorists.

“We welcome India’s emergence as a leading global power and stronger strategic and defence partner,” said the National Security Strategy unveiled by President Donald Trump. quadrilateral cooperation+ with Japan, Australia, and India.

“We will expand our defence and security cooperation with India, a Major Defence Partner of the United States, and support India’s growing relationships throughout the region,” the NSS said, noting that its vision for Indo-Pacific excludes no nation.

India-US defence relationship was mentioned in



the context of Indo-Pacific region, whereas it gave a very prominent role to India in South and Central Asia.

“We will deepen our strategic partnership with India and support its leadership role in Indian Ocean security and throughout the broader region,” according to the NSS which the White House said sets a positive strategic direction for the US that will restore America’s advantages in the world and build upon our country’s great strengths.

The NSS said it will press Pakistan to intensify its counter-terrorism efforts, since no partnership can survive a country’s support for militants and terrorists who target a partner’s own service members and officials. ■

## BJP wins 6 out of 10 local bodies in Maharashtra

**T**he BJP on December 14 won six out of ten municipal councils in the Maharashtra. Maharashtra BJP President Raosaheb Danve hailed his party’s victory and said the BJP has won the chairperson’s post at five places. Shri Danve said, “As per the results declared for the seven municipal councils/Nagar Panchayats today, the BJP has won the chairperson’s post at five places at Aurangabad, Nanded, Kolhapur, Dhule and Gondia.” The BJP won 50 posts out of the total 123 councillors, in the fray in seven municipal councils, the Maharashtra BJP president said. Danve further claimed that the BJP won the chairperson’s post in Trimbakeshwar.

Danve added, “Therefore, as per the results for the first two phases, the BJP has won six out of ten municipal councils and 75 posts of councillors,”



Attributing it to the developmental works carried out by the BJP, he said, “People have once again voted for development works under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and state Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The Fadnavis-led government has started disbursing the loan waiver amount that had been declared for farmers.” ■

# Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal

| VASANT NARGOLKAR

## COMPARISONS ARE ODIUS

**W**hether comparisons are 'odorous' or not, only Dog-berry, a character from "Much Ado About Nothing" and his creator Shakespeare were likely to know. But the common experience is that comparisons are at times certainly odious. An admirer of Deendayalji writing on Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Lohia and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, was constrained to admit:

"It is not with any spirit of comparison that I link the name of Deendayalji with that of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest man of the century, or that of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, the renowned thinker and revolutionary leader. I am only trying to lay bare the truth that no one except these three, tried to give an ideological orientation . . . to Indian Political life."

Bracketing Deendayal's or for that matter, Lohia's name with that of Gandhi is likely to strike some persons as sacrilegious. Deendayal was so humble and unassuming that he himself would have brushed aside any direct or indirect hint that he was anywhere near Gandhiji in political or spiritual stature. Lohia was a great admirer as well as a critic of Gandhi. But once after criticizing him for his Rajkot fast, Lohia said:

"If I venture to talk of Gandhiji in this way, it is only because I look upon him as a man who comes once in ten centuries.

Gandhi's was indeed an extraordinary personality. Many eminent non-Indians, among them Romain Rolland, Albert Einstein, E.M. Forster or Arnold Toynbee had testified to Gandhi's greatness. One Western admirer described him as "the greatest Indian since Gautama the Buddha and the greatest man since Jesus Christ I".

This disclaimer of any suggestion of an attempt at equating Gandhi on the one hand with either Lohia or Deendayal on the other, was necessary. For, the very juxtaposition of the names of these three eminent men, even in the title of an essay, might lead to misunderstanding. Otherwise, because comparisons are generally odious, they should be avoided as 101 00

possible. They are almost always unfair to the lesser of the two great personages compared.

## PERSONALITIES AND LIFE STYLES

Every single aspect of Gandhi's private or public life was based on deep consideration of the correctness or otherwise of the behaviour or the course of action adopted. He was conscientious in small matters and a meticulous observer of self-imposed vows. He never smoked or drank tea. He ate simple food without salt, chillies or condiments. He never missed his prayers. He observed celibacy for more than four decades before his death. His experiments in brahmacharya (celibacy) during the last phase of his life were so unorthodox, that these alone would place him in a very extraordinary category of saintly innovators.

As for 'Plain living and high thinking', both Lohia and Deendayal easily made the grade and could be compared favourably with Gandhi. All the three were sincere, earnest, painstaking and self-less. Gandhi was not a scholar, but he was much more than that. He was a seer, whose intuitive thoughts on many problems and issues before mankind, have over the years proved prophetic. Lohia was an erudite scholar, unorthodox thinker and actionist. Deendayal was a great organizer and deep thinker. Gandhi had come in contact with the Western civilization quite early in his life. Lohia had earned his doctorate from a German university and had travelled widely all over the world. Deendayal once did get an opportunity to travel to the U.K. and the U.S.A., but his direct knowledge of Western communities and the experience of living amongst them, was limited. But he made up this lacuna in his knowledge by extensive reading.

Both Gandhi and Deendayal were somewhat traditionalists, though the former was in many respects a radical reformer and innovator. Lohia was a rationalist and iconoclast. Gandhi had, on principle, renounced political power and hence he never thought of becoming the President or the Prime Minister of India. He was a unique example in the history of the world.

Labia was for some time a member of the Lok Sabha, while Deendayal had lost an election to a parliamentary seat in U.P. in 1963. But both were equally disinterested in securing political power or office for personal gain.

None of these three eminent persons could be considered handsome and their physical stature was also not impressive. As far as their personal status was concerned, Gandhi was a married man who had, from 1904 onwards till his death, observed celibacy, Lohia could be described as an unmarried person, while Deendayal was a bachelor who believed in the traditional values of the Hindu faith. One remarkably common feature of their lives was their unnatural deaths. Both Gandhi and Deendayal were murdered while it is reported that Lohia died as a result of unparadonable negligence after a prostate operation by the doctors at the Willingdon Hospital in New Delhi in 1967. He was then 57 years of age, while Deendayal when murdered was only 52.

Gandhi, A Scavenger Anecdotes about Gandhi illustrating some unique characteristic of his are legion. That with a view to abolishing untouchability, he sometimes used to undertake scavenging himself is well known.

Gandhi once went to Simla to have an important meeting with the viceroy. He did not forget to send a co-worker to see the bhangi quarters there. When informed that they were not fit even for animals, he said;

“Look at a bhangi as he eats his food, cowering under the shadows of the latrine wall surrounded by filth. It is enough to break one’s heart.”

A foreigner once asked Gandhi : “If you are made the Viceroy of India for a day, what will you do?”

Gandhi said : “I shall clean the Augean stables of the scavengers near the Viceroy’s house.”

“Supposing your term is extended a day more, then?”

“The very same work shall I do the next day,” was his quick reply.

Lohia also used to narrate many anecdotes of Gandhi. In probably 1946, Gandhi was holding consultations

with the Congress Socialists about the problem of partitioning India into two sovereign states. At the end of a morning walk, Gandhi asked Lohia to meet him again the same evening, The latter eagerly went to see him. But to his surprise, instead of discussing politics, Gandhi opened the topic of cigarettes, tea and coffee! In one of his reminiscences, Lohia says:

“I used to smoke too much and to drink a lot too much coffee and tea. Gandhiji went on a long dissertation on how ruinous these habits were. ..He said, as a Socialist, I must identify myself with the poverty-stricken countrymen ...”

### LOHIA, A KIND-HEARTED MAN

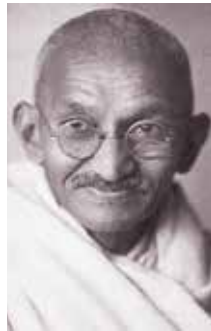
But Gandhi used to like Lohia. He supported him when the latter was arrested in Goa by the Portuguese authorities for initiating the campaign for civil liberties in

1946, “Gandhi had begun to like me,” said Lohia later,” and, ‘therefore, he assumed that my acts would be more good than evil.’ Unlike Deendayal or Gandhi who spoke softly and gently. Lohia had a sharp tongue. He not only did not spare Nehru, but Gandhi also. He himself

has confessed that “Often, as I talked to Gandhiji, all the violent, rough and sharp language used to come out of mine.” And yet Lohia was a kind-hearted man. He came to believe in non-violence after 1942, though it had not become an inalienable part of his creed. But he abhorred cruelty, especially in respect of dumb animals. Once a woman colleague of his came to him to plead for launching a movement for prevention of cruelty to animals. She was herself a non-vegetarian. Almost in the style of Gandhi, Lohia asked her as to why she did not herself give up meat-eating! He then went on to describe how in a Calcutta market, tortoises are sold. As the customers arrive, he said, limbs of live tortoises are cut off one by one and sold to them. The poor creature is all the time writhing in agony!” he added. ■

(To be continued)...

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



# India ranks 60th most innovative country on the Global Innovation Index-2017

India currently ranks 60th out of 127 countries on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017 as compared to 66th rank on GI 2016. In order to make India an innovation-driven economy, NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) together launched a mega initiative "India Innovation Index" that will rank states on Innovations through country's first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian states on innovation and regularly update it in real time.

Further, the Smart India Hackathon and Smart India Hardware Hackathon have been launched to improve the innovative abilities of the students in the Higher Education Institutions. The Smart India Hackathon has received huge response when it was launched in 2017 and this would be continued as annual event.

The Government is also promoting research parks (RPs) and technology business incubators (TBIs) which would nurture and promote the innovative ideas till they become commercial ventures.

The projects for promoting research and innovation like the IMPRINT and Uchhatar Avishkar Yojana (UAY) have brought focused attention of the scientific community on the need for promoting innovation.

The Start Up India initiative of the Government has also put in place a mechanism for identifying and



incubating the innovative ideas.

This information was given by the Minister of State (HRD), Dr. Satya Pal Singh today in a written reply to a Lok Sabha question. ■

## A survey finds most Indians believe modinomics working

According to a report published in TOI on December 16, the most Indians believe Modinomics is working, as 74 per cent respondents, in an online survey conducted in 9 languages across 10 Times Group media properties, share the government's view that the country's economy is on an upward trajectory. The three part-survey was conducted online between December 12-15 with over half a million responses. About 74 per

cent of respondents share the Modi government's optimism that the Indian economy on the right track and is set to grow in the coming years. The Modi government's decision to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes has got an overwhelming endorsement from the voters. Three-quarters of respondents in the survey lauded the Centre's decision to introduce the note ban and a unified tax for India, whereas only 21 per cent objected to the tough economic reforms. ■

## Now, Govt will bear merchant charge on debit card purchases up to Rs 2,000

**T**he Modi led NDA Government government has decided to bear the charges merchants pay to banks on purchases of up to Rs 2,000 using a debit card, Bhim or Aadhaar to encourage cashless transaction. The subsidy will be available for a period of two years starting from January 1, 2018.

Announcing the decision taken at the Cabinet meeting on Friday, IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the government was trying to accelerate digital payment in the country. He added that a committee of secretaries had been set up to ensure that there was no misuse of the subsidy and that benefits are passed on to traders and customers.

Every time a card is swiped, a merchant pays a fee to the bank. This fee is deducted by the bank while crediting the sale proceeds to the merchant's account and is called merchant discount rate (MDR). Last week the Reserve Bank of India had announced



a revised MDR of 0.9% for large merchants and 0.4% for those with a turnover of below Rs 20 lakh per year. ■

## Cabinet Clears Bill That Proposes To Make “Triple Talaq” Criminal Offence

**A** bill that proposes to make the “triple talaq” a criminal offence was cleared by the union cabinet on December 14 and the government hopes to get parliament clearance for it during the short winter session that began from December 15 .

The proposed bill, called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, is a “priority agenda” for the government, people familiar with the matter said. Home Minister Rajnath Singh led a group of ministers to draft the bill. The government's seeking of a ban against “triple talaq” because it is derogatory and discriminatory against women.

Many Muslim countries have banned triple talaq including Pakistan and conservative Saudi Arabia. It survived in India because religious communities are allowed to apply their own laws in personal matters such as marriage, divorce and property inheritance. ■



## BJP's agenda is speedy and all-round development: PM Modi



@narendramodi\_in  
I am very happy to have inaugurated 261 kilometer long 2-Laning of Shillong-Nongstoin Section of NH 106 and Nongstoin- Rongjeng Section of NH 127-B. This road will serve as an east-west corridor.

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi on December 16, 2017 addressed a public meeting in Shillong, Meghalaya after inaugurating 261 kilometre long 2-Laning of Shillong-Nongstoin Section of NH 106 and Nongstoin- Rongjeng Section of NH 127-B. He emphasized that the enhanced road network would boost economic activity and would establish a direct link between the important towns of the state-Shillong and Tura.

Speaking at the rally, Shri Modi highlighted several welfare measures undertaken by the NDA Government for welfare of people in the Northeast. He spoke about the Northeast council which was set up in 1972. "It was only Morarji Desai who chaired the meeting of Northeast Council. After him, I got the opportunity to chair its meeting when our Government revived the council in last year."

The PM said that Across the North East the Union Government had sanctioned around four thousand kilometres of National Highways, for an amount of over Rupees thirty two thousand crore. He added that the Government of India was executing fifteen New Rail Line projects of nearly fourteen hundred kilometre length which would cost around forty seven

thousand crore rupees and boost rail infrastructure in the North Eastern Region.

Shri Modi remarked, "The wave for change, which began with the Assam elections, is now reaching Meghalaya. This state can do wonders. 15 years of Congress rule has ruined Meghalaya."

Lashing out at the Congress government in the state, the PM said, "The Chief Minister of Meghalaya is a doctor but what is the state of the health sector in the state. Why are people not getting proper healthcare? See the record corruption in Meghalaya. Why has the Congress Government in Meghalaya committed so many scams?"

The PM took note of the lack of infrastructure in primary educational institutions and how over 70% of primary teachers were not even trained well. He blamed the Congress government for not being able to ensure clean drinking water despite being in power for almost fifteen years. He also accused them for high rate of unemployment in the state.

The Prime Minister said that it was 'Time for Change' in Meghalaya. He said that BJP's only agenda was speedy and all-round development of the state. ■

## More Than 30 Crore Accounts Opened Under PMJDY till December 6

**A** total of 30.71 crore accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), including 18.05 crore accounts opened in rural/semi-urban areas as of December 6, 2017. The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion that ensures access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

According to a government press release, banks are opening PMJDY accounts for unbanked persons at their branches. In addition to uncovered Sub-Service Areas (SSAs) with 1000-1500 households, Bank Mitras, who can open PMJDY accounts, are deployed. State/UT-wise number of PMJDY accounts is annexed at Table 1.

The Department of Revenue has apprised that based on information received from 187 Reporting Entities, Rs. 42,187 crore had been deposited in 3,74,14,844 PMJDY accounts during the period 8.11.2016 to 30.12.2016. A number of measures have been taken up by the Government, which include the collection of information on cash transactions,



collating and analysis of such information, extensive use of information technology and data analytic tools for identification of high-risk cases, expeditious verification of suspect cases and enforcement action as required.

Under the PMJDY, an account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitr) outlet. It has to be noted that accounts opened under PMJDY are being opened with Zero balance. However, if the account-holder wishes to get cheque book, he/she will have to fulfill minimum balance criteria. ■

## 4.4% growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals in November, 2017 over 2016

**U**nder 'Make in India' campaign foreign Tourist Arrivals has registered 56.2% growth. Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) and FTAs on e-Tourist Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI). Number of FTAs in November, 2017 was 10.05 lakh as compared to FTAs of 8.78 lakh in November, 2016 and 8.16 lakh in November, 2015. The growth rate in FTAs in November, 2017 over November, 2016 was 14.4%, compared to 7.6% in November, 2016 over November, 2015.

During the month of November, 2017, a total of 2.14 lakh foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa as



compared to 1.37 lakh during the month of November, 2016 registering a growth of 56.2%.

During January- November 2017, a total of 14.57 lakh foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 9.17 lakh during January- November 2016, registering a growth of 58.8%. ■

# Darpan Launched For Financial Inclusion of Rural Population

**T**he Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha on December 21 launched DARPAN – “Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India” Project to improve the quality of service, add value to services and achieve “financial inclusion” of un-banked rural population. He said, the goal of the IT modernization project with an outlay of Rs. 1400 Crore is to provide a low power technology solution to each Branch Postmaster (BPM) which will enable each of approximately 1.29 Lakhs Branch Post Offices (BOs) to improve the level of services being offered to rural customers across all the states. Shri Sinha said that as on date, 43,171 Branch Post Offices have migrated under the “DARPAN” project with the aim of financial inclusion to rural population and it is targeted to complete the project by March, 2018.

The Project shall increase the rural reach of the Department of Posts and enable BOs to increase traffic of all financial remittances, savings accounts, Rural Postal Life Insurance, and Cash Certificates; improve mail operations processes by allowing for automated booking and delivery of accountable article; increase revenue using retail post business; provide third party applications; and make disbursements for social security schemes such as MGNREGS.

As part of IT modernization project, the Department of Posts (DoP) has carried out business process reengineering across various functional areas and has created To-Be processes that will enable it to achieve these objectives. As an achievement, Department of Posts has established 991 ATMs across the country, which are interoperable with other banks and the common people has directly benefited with the wide network of Department of Posts especially in rural areas. Till now, 1,12,85,217 transactions have been carried out on the DOP’s ATMs out of which 70,24,214 transactions have been done by the non-DOP customers. Department of Posts is the only Government player in this space.

For more than 150 years, the Department of Posts (DoP) has been the backbone of the country’s communication and has played a crucial role in the



country’s socio-economic development. It touches the lives of Indian citizens in many ways: delivering mails, accepting deposits under Small Savings Schemes, providing life insurance cover under Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI) and providing retail services like bill collection, sale of forms, etc. The Department of Posts also acts as an agent for Government of India in discharging other services for citizens such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) wage disbursement and old age pension payments. With 1.5 lakh Post Offices (approximately), the Department of Posts has the most widely distributed postal network in the world.

Trends such as urbanization, increased demand for financial services, increased funding by the government for the weaker sections and the rural sector, have opened up new opportunities for the Department of Posts, which in turn has necessitated development of new processes and supporting technology. The Department of Posts is also faced with twin challenges of increasing competition and continuing advances in communication technology, especially in mobile telephony and the Internet. In order to provide the best-in-class customer service, deliver new services and improve operational efficiencies, the Department of Posts has undertaken an end to end IT modernization project to equip itself with requisite modern tools and technologies. ■





## GREEN SIGNAL FOR INDIA'S FIRST RAIL UNIVERSITY

The Union Cabinet on December 20, 2017 approved the Railways Ministry's plan to set up the National Rail and Transport University in Vadodara to skill its human resources and build capability. This idea will be a catalyst for transformation of rail and transport sector towards a new India. A not-for-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, will be created by the ministry of railways which shall be the managing company of the proposed university, the ministry said. "Existing land and infrastructure at National Academy of Indian Railways at Vadodara will be utilized, and suitably modified and modernized for the purpose of the university. In its full enrolment, it is expected to have 3,000 full-time students. The funding of the new university/institute is to entirely come from the Ministry," said the ministry. The university plans to use latest pedagogy and technology applications such as satellite based tracking, radio frequency identification and artificial intelligence to improve on-the-job performance and productivity.

— (TIMES OF INDIA, December 21, 2017)

## UPA FORCED BANKS TO LEND TO A FEW INDUSTRIALISTS: PM

PM Shri Narendra Modi on December 13, 2017 accused the previous UPA regime of pressuring banks into giving loans to a few industrialists at the cost of the banking system and economy. "Banks were pressured to give loans to only a select few industrialists. This was the biggest of UPA's scams, bigger than coal and 2G. It was loot of people's hard-earned money through industrialists," the PM said, addressing the 90th annual general meeting of industry chamber Ficci. The PM's remarks alleging crony capitalism under UPA came a day before the final round of polling in Gujarat and marked a sharp riposte to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charge that the Modi government was partial to select industrial houses. "The voice around nonperforming assets that we hear is basically a liability that has been handed out to us by economists of the

previous government. In a way, the people sitting in the previous government looted the hard-earned money of the public through the medium of such industrialists," the PM said.

— (THE INDIAN EXPRESS, December 14, 2017)

## CENTRE SET TO HIKE BPL PENSION

The Narendra Modi government is working on a plan to increase the pension it provides to people over the age of 60, widows, and disabled persons, all from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households from the current Rs 200-1,000 a month to around Rs 1,600, with some of the increase coming from the states. The pensions are all part of the National Social Assistance Programme, on which the Central government spent around Rs 9,300 crore in 2014-15; around 31 million people from poor households benefited from the schemes that year. The Union rural development ministry wants the Centre's share to be at least Rs 1,000 a month in each case.

— (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, December 18, 2017)

## NEW DEADLINE TO LINK AADHAAR WITH BANK ACCOUNTS

The Union government on December 13, 2017 extended the deadline for linking Aadhaar with bank accounts by three months. The linkage now needs to be completed by 31 March 2018. "It has been decided by the Government to notify 31st March, 2018 or six months from the date of commencement of bank account based relationship by the client, whichever is later, as the date of submission of Aadhaar number & PAN or Form 60 by the clients to the reporting entity," the Ministry of Finance said. The decision effectively means that for existing bank accounts, which are more than six months-old, the deadline is 31 March 2018. On the other hand, for accounts opened after 1 October 2017, the deadline will be six months from the date of opening the account. Last week, the deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar too was extended by three months to 31 March 2018.

— (TIMES OF INDIA, December 14, 2017)

(Compiled by Pankaj Anand)



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**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**



**BJP President Shri Amit Shah flanked by senior BJP leaders and MPs welcoming PM Shri Narendra Modi to BJP Parliamentary Party meeting after Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh victory**



**After election victory PM Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah meeting with MPs from Himachal Pradesh**



**After election victory PM Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah meeting with MPs from Gujarat**



**PM interacts with people affected by Cyclone Ockhi and reviews progress of cyclone-relief measures in Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu and Kerala**



**PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing a huge rally at Shillong, Meghalaya after inaugurating several developmental projects for North-Eastern states**



## PUTTING NORTH-EAST ON THE DEVELOPMENT TRACK RAIL CONNECTIVITY BOOST



Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya put on the rail map of India



Agartala in Tripura connected with broad gauge



Foundation stone of Imphal railway station laid in 2016

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Longest railway tunnel in India coming up on Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new broad-gauge line



15 new projects of 1,385 km at a cost of Rs. 47,000 crore in progress



In last 3 years, Rs. 5,300 crore spent p.a. for rail development in North-East

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**Agartala-Akhaura broad gauge line work started in 2016**  
 15.06 km line between Agartala and Bangladesh's Akhaura is part of the Trans-Asian Railway Network

Will greatly shorten the connectivity distance between Agartala and Kolkata



## ORGANIC FARMING POWERHOUSE - PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN NORTH-EAST



**India's third Agricultural Research Institute coming up in Assam**

→ Better education and research for increased agricultural production and productivity

→ Helps farmers in higher adoption of technology in farming

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**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana promotes organic farming**

- Aimed to bring 50,000 hectares North-East land into organic farming
- 45,863 hectares already brought under organic farming
- 2,406 Farmers Interest Group created
- 44,064 farmers linked to the scheme




**North-East is a leader in the use and production of biofertilizers**

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**55036.4064 MT carrier based biofertilizers produced in 2015, higher than any other region in India**



## North Eastern Council - Ensuring Development Reaches Our North-East

Achievements of the NEC for India's North-East

-  North Eastern Council has spent over **Rs. 2,309 crores** in the last 3 years on development in the region
-  Budget Allocation increased from **Rs. 579 crores** to **Rs. 969 crores** in 3 years
-  Number of projects increased from **56** in 2014-15 to **138** in 2016-17
-  For the first time:
  - ① A roster ensures 8 Union Ministers visit North-East every fortnight.
  - ② Ensures major projects in the region are constantly reviewed
-  "Brahmaputra Studies Centre" being set up to research the river's ecosystem



## Giving Wings To Aspirations Of North-Eastern States

 **Upgradation of airports**

- ① Guwahati Airport being developed as an inter-regional hub
- ② Agartala, Dibrugarh and Imphal developing as intra-regional hubs

 **UDAN - Taking Flying To The Common Citizen**

- ① 92 new routes to be started in the North-East
- ② Shillong will be connected to Agartala, Aizawl and Imphal
- ③ North-East is a priority area under regional air connectivity scheme
- ④ 19 new or under-served airports like Moreh in Manipur, Rupsi in Assam and Tura in Meghalaya to get air services

