

KAMAL SANDESH

Vol. 14, No. 01

01-15 January, 2019 (Fortnightly)

₹20



PM INAUGURATES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PRAYAGRAJ



'DEVELOPMENT IS THE MESSAGE OF BJP'

TAKE SUCCESS OF MODI GOVERNMENT TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD AND MAKE BJP VICTORIOUS IN 2019'

EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE GST

GST COUNCIL MEET: RELIEF FOR COMMON MAN AS RATES SLASHED FOR SEVERAL GOODS



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah flanked by other senior leaders of Delhi BJP lighting the lamp at the massive Booth Sammelan organised by Delhi State BJP at IG Stadium, New Delhi



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah visiting Arsha Vidya Mandir in Rajkot, Gujarat



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah being welcomed by BJYM National President Smt. Poonam Mahajan at the National Workshop 'Vijay Lakshya-2019' in New Delhi. BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri Ram Lal, BJP National General Secretary Shri Muralidhar Rao and others also seen at the dais.



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah flanked by Bihar CM Shri Nitish Kumar, BJP National General Secretary Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister Shri Ramvilas Paswan and others after a meeting to strengthen the NDA in Bihar



BJP National General Secretary Dr. Anil Jain and newly elected Mayors of five Cities of Haryana call on BJP National President Shri Amit Shah at BJP Headquarters in New Delhi

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'NO MAHAGATHBANDHAN CAN COME IN THE WAY OF BJP'S AGENDA OF SABKA SATH SABKA VIKAS'

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twitter



@narendramodi

Haryana trusts BJP! I thank the people of Haryana for continuously reposing their faith in @BJP4Haryana. We derive great strength from the people's blessings and reaffirm our commitment to work for Haryana's progress.

@arunjaitley



Why are Human Rights activists and opposition parties silent on denial of a right to a political party to organise its' programme in West Bengal. If any NDA/BJP Government had stopped an opposition Programme, it would have been called an "Undeclared Emergency". Why Silence now?

@nitin_gadkari



Our government under leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi ji is committed towards socio economic development of entire north east region. #PragatiKaHighway.

facebook

I want to thank Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi for setting up an SIT in 2015, which initiated re-investigation into several cases of 1984, pending for over three decades. I am grateful to the Court, which has delivered its judgment, bringing relief to the traumatised families.



— **Amit Shah**

Coastal Security Schemes I & II were started with a view towards improvement of overall coastal security and enhancement of capabilities of the coastal police. Phase 1 enhanced the infrastructure of stakeholders. Phase II is still continuing and would be completed by 2020.



— **Rajnath Singh**

Another milestone: In less than 90 days, More than 6,00,000 patients have been benefitted under #AyushmanBharat - PMJAY. It has become a supporting pillar to the poor & deprived families who were away from quality healthcare. Thank you Hon @narendramodi PMJAY.



— **Jagat Prakash Nadda**



Courtesy: Social Media



ON RAFALE: Congress Stands Exposed once again

Once again Congress stands exposed. Its politics of lies and deception has been defeated. The highest court of the country has given its verdict on the Congress attempt to propagate falsehood in the country over Rafale deal. The judgement has further shown that the politics of falsehood and lies cannot help Congress to revamp its image. Congress which has become synonymous with corruption, scams, misgovernance, policy paralysis and loot of public money cannot wash its sin by indulging in mudslinging over others. The impeccable image of BJP and the honesty and integrity of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is unquestionable and it has been proven again and again. A prime minister who has served Gujarat as chief minister for 12 long years without even a single finger raised against him represents a life dedicated to the service of Maa Bharati with unflinching commitment. The Congress has further damaged itself by raising a finger on Rafale deal in spite of all evidences contrary to its charges, and now after Supreme Court judgement its has only itself to blame for its self goal.

IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CONGRESS HAS CHOSEN TO INDULGE IN THE POLITICS OF LIES AND FALSEHOOD. IT HAS BEEN TRYING TO MISLEAD THE PUBLIC OPINION BY CREATING ISSUES OUT OF NOTHING. IN FACT IT IS A GAME PLAN TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM ITS PAST SINS AND MISDEEDS.

It is not the first time that the Congress has chosen to indulge in the politics of lies and falsehood. It has been trying to mislead the public opinion by creating issues out of nothing. In fact it is a game plan to divert public attention from its past sins and misdeeds. While in power, Congress tried to raise several questions on Shri Narendra Modi and Shri Amit Shah but in the court of justice its falsehoods were defeated and propoganda exposed. Most recently a fake case of Justice Loya death was sought to be created on false ground against BJP National President Shri Amit Shah. It was ironical to note that even in the face of clear facts, the Congress tried to raise the issue but the highest court of the country finally relying on the facts dismissed the Congress propoganda. In addition to that, on various issues of national concerns also the Congress has tried to rely on lies and falsehood even at the cost of national security and international image. The Rafale case is one such instance in which knowing full well that it concerns security of our country and morale of our forces, Congress president Shri Rahul Gandhi has sought to raise false issues concerning the deal to serve his vested political interests. The Congress should be reminded that most of the corruption charges during its regime were upheld by various courts of law and investigations into the charges were instituted at the instance of the courts. The situation is just opposite when the charges raised by Congress and its allies are concerned – all the instances of corruption cited by them in nakedly propogandist manner have been declared null and void by even the highest court of the country conclusively dismissing all these charges as false.

It appears that Congress has not learned its lesson well. The politics is not only about accusations and counter accusations. The politics is about honesty, integrity and hard work in public life. And these values require long and tough journey to inculcate and only after that a political party and leader is able to win trust and confidence of the people. The politics based on lies and falsehood is very short lived and gets exposed quickly in the face of hard evidences and facts. The Congress under the leadership of Shri Rahul Gandhi is trying to take short cut to power but contrary to their expectations they are getting themselves exposed again and again. The nation is marching ahead in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the entire world is acknowledging the emergence of India in every field. India is now not only the fastest growing economy but sixth major economy in the world. The country is passing through a phase of transformation which is changing the life of the poorest of the poor of the country. It is the hard work and honest leadership which is taking the country with single minded devotion and yielding such unimaginable results. Congress cannot help itself by relying on the politics of lies, deception and falsehood when it is faced with a committed and honest leadership with vision, hard work and dedication. ■

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org



‘NO MAHAGATHBANDHAN CAN COME IN THE WAY OF BJP’S AGENDA OF SABKA SATH SABKA VIKAS’

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah exhorted youth of the country to reinforce PM Shri Narendra Modi in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and ensure that the opposition’s bid to destabilize the developmental process started by the Modi government for the benefits of the common people didn’t be triumphant. “If the youth of the country is united and work together for the agenda of development, no *gathbandhan* or *mahagathbandhan* can come in the way of BJP and its agenda of ‘Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas.’”

Speaking at the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha’s (BJYM) National Workshop ‘Vijay Lakshya 2019’, at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Civic Centre in New Delhi on 16 December, 2018 which saw the participation of over 1,000 Yuva Morcha activists—including the National Office Bearers, Executive Committee Members, State Presidents, General Secretaries and District Presidents from across India

@AmitShah

आज दिल्ली में @BJYM की दो दिवसीय राष्ट्रीय कार्यशाला ‘विजय लक्ष्य-2019’ में देशभर से आये हमारे युवा मोर्चा के ऊर्जावान कार्यकर्ताओं को संबोधित किया और प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में 2019 के लोकसभा चुनावों में प्रचंड बहुमत वाली भाजपा सरकार बनाने का संकल्प लिया।

@poonam_mahajan

Humbled to have our Hon. BJP National President Shri @AmitShah ji address the concluding session of #VijayLaksh2019 National @BJYM workshop. Your commitment to the nation and party inspires us every single day.

Shri Shah said, "Development is the message of BJP and young party activists will convey this to each and every Indian". He also mentioned that the army of 12 crore individuals of BJP would play a very powerful role in 2019.

The BJP National President said, "We are the largest party in the world. PM Shri Modi has consistently followed the agenda of development. People of the country will certainly vote for BJP and Shri Modi will be PM again".

Earlier inaugurating the 'Vijay Lakshya 2019' workshop, Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is leading India on the road to development.

Shri Arun Jaitley said that parental organisation BJP has high hopes from the Yuva Morcha to spearhead the 'Vijay Lakshya 2019' and ensure the BJP was once again voted back to power next year under PM Shri Modi's leadership. "It is indeed an honour to have a decisive Prime Minister who works with a sole agenda of India First," he said.

Emphasizing the need of taking the works of the government to the grassroots, he also urged the youth wing office bearers to reach out to every person who have benefited by the schemes of the Central Government.

Addressing the workshop BYJM President Smt. Poonam Mahajan said the Morcha will carry various campaigns on the grass root level and run special campaigns on the social media highlighting the work of the BJP Government at the centre. An elaborate plan will also be laid down to streamline the BJYM work at the district level, she added.

The focus of the workshop was to design a technique for BJYM Karyakartas to how to spread the message of development done by Modi Government at the centre in the run-up to the 2019 elections. Sessions had

also been organised on organizational management, dissemination of key schemes and achievements of the government, media and social media management amongst other issues.

During the programme Smt. Mahajan also gave her fellow Karyakartas the mantra of success. She assured BJP National President Shri Amit Shah that BJYM Karyakartas would work day and night to ensure the victory of the party in every state by spreading the message of development and welfare works executed by the Modi government at the centre for the benefits of the common people. She requested the Karyakartas to leave no stone unturned in the 2019 polls and make sure BJP's victory. ■

Parental organisation BJP has high hopes from the Yuva Morcha to spearhead the 'Vijay Lakshya 2019' and ensure the BJP was once again voted back to power next year under PM Shri Modi's leadership. "It is indeed an honour to have a decisive Prime Minister who works with a sole agenda of India First."



BJP SWEEPS HARYANA CIVIC BODY POLLS



The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has registered a clean sweep, winning all five mayoral posts in the elections to five municipal corporations in Haryana. The BJP registered victory with a huge margin for the seats of mayor in five municipal corporations including Hisar, Rohtak, Yamunanagar, Panipat and Karnal, for which elections were held on 16 December and results were declared on 19 December, 2018.

The mayors of these five MCs have been elected directly for the first time by the voters in the state. The ruling BJP, however, had to be content with 62 seats out of 107 wards it contested in five MCs. The results sprung a surprise as independent candidates managed to win on 48 seats out of 110 wards in these MCs. The elections were also held in 13 wards each in two municipal committees including Jakhhal Mandi (Fatehabad) and Pundri (Kaithal).

This closely watched high-stake electoral battle was widely seen as a popularity test for the BJP government after more than four years in office in Haryana.

The BJP had contested from all the seats of mayor and of 107 wards of municipal corporations while BSP and CPI (M) contested on their symbols on one

seat each in mayoral polls. The main opposition party, Indian National Lok Dal had contested the election from three seats of mayor including Hisar, Panipat and Rohtak and failed to secure even second spot in terms of number of votes. While the Congress did not contest on its party symbol, it had announced support for several candidates in the elections.

In Chief Minister's constituency Karnal, BJP's mayoral candidate Renu Bala won by a margin of 9348 votes from independent Asha Wadhwa, who was backed by both Congress and Indian National Lok Dal. Renu Bala bagged 69960 votes

In Panipat, BJP's candidate Avneet registered victory by a huge margin of 74940 against independent Anshu Pahwa. Avneet was polled 126321 votes.

In Jat heartland of Rohtak also, BJP managed to register a victory with its candidate Manmohan Goyal defeating independent Sitaram Sachdev by a margin of 14776 votes. Manmohan bagged 65822 votes.

The victory in Rohtak, the home-turf of two-time former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has given a much-needed shot in the arm to the BJP while it has caused concern for the Congress. Bhupinder Hooda and his son Deepender Hooda, who is MP from Rohtak were backing independent Sitaram

Sachdeva.

BJP's Gautam Sardana in Hisar also secured an easy win against independent Rekha Aren, who was supported by Congress leaders. Gautam polled 68196 votes and managed to win by a margin of 28091 votes.

In Yamunanagar, BJP's candidate Madan Singh recorded a comfortable victory with a margin of 40678 votes against independent Rakesh Kumar. While Madam Singh was polled 91642 votes, Rakesh Kumar bagged 50964 votes.

As far as election of councilors/ward members in five MCs is concerned, BJP won seven seats out of 20 wards in Hisar, 12 out of 20 wards in Karnal, 22 out of 26 wards in Panipat, eight wards out of total 22 in

Rohtak and 13 out of 22 wards in Yamunanagar.

The civic body election was a big test for Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal's performance, which he seems to have passed with flying colours. Also, the victory is more comforting for the BJP with the main opposition party INLD, not being able to secure even the second spot in three MCs, it contested for mayoral position.

Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal has termed BJP's victory as a stamp of approval by the citizens to his government's performance. The BJP's victory on five mayoral posts indicates that the citizens have given a positive nod to Chief Minister's campaign on good governance and graft-free system in Haryana, he said. ■

BJP registers spectacular win in Assam and Maharashtra's civic elections

There is good news for the BJP, and this time it is from Assam. The party has kept its winning spree in the rural elections in Assam leaving the Congress and AGP far behind. Similarly, the BJP also did very well in Maharashtra's Dhulia civic body elections wresting the corporation from Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in the just concluded elections.

The BJP did spectacularly well in Assam Panchayat polls by bagging 210 zilla panchayats (ZPs), 786 Anchalik Parishads (APs), 5356 Gram Panchayat Members, and 817 Gram Panchayat presidents' posts in the just concluded civic body elections.

The Congress, on the other hand, pocketed 145 ZPs, 574 APs, 3912 Gram Panchayat Members and 571 GP presidents' posts to come to the second slot. The Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) which is in alliance with BJP in the state, has won 19 ZPs, 85 APs, 1113 GP members and 119 GP presidents while the AIUDF bagged 26 ZPs, 103 APs, 402 GP Members and 93 GP Presidents' posts.

On the second day of panchayat elections the BJP maintained its winning spree by bagging 63 out of 105 ZP constituencies. The Congress got 28 and AGP 7. According to the results officially declared till 13 December noon, the BJP bagged 5,095 GP wards, the Congress 3,690, the AGP 931 and the AIUDF got 483.



Results of 1,363 Gram Panchayat president posts were declared till noon. The BJP got 573 of them, followed by the Congress which won 416 and the AGP which got 186. The AIUDF got 63 GP presidents elected and the Independents bagged 117.

BJP swept clean in Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal's Assembly segment Majuli by winning all the four zila parishad seats. The BJP is also going to form zila parishads in Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sonitpur, Morigaon, Kamrup and Golaghat districts. The ruling party is also set to form zila parishad in the districts in the North Bank. The AGP is going to form the Bongaigaon Zila Parishad with the support of the BJP.

After the victories, the ruling BJP celebrated a 'Vijay Utsav' at its State headquarters at Hengrabari. ■

“SC RULING ON RAFALE A SLAP ON THE FACE OF POLITICS OF FALSEHOOD”

The Supreme Court on 14 December, 2018 dismissed a bunch of petitions seeking a court-monitored probe of the Rafale jet fighter deal, and after the court verdict BJP National President Shri Amit Shah called the ruling a victory of truth and a slap on the face of those alleging corruption in the purchase.

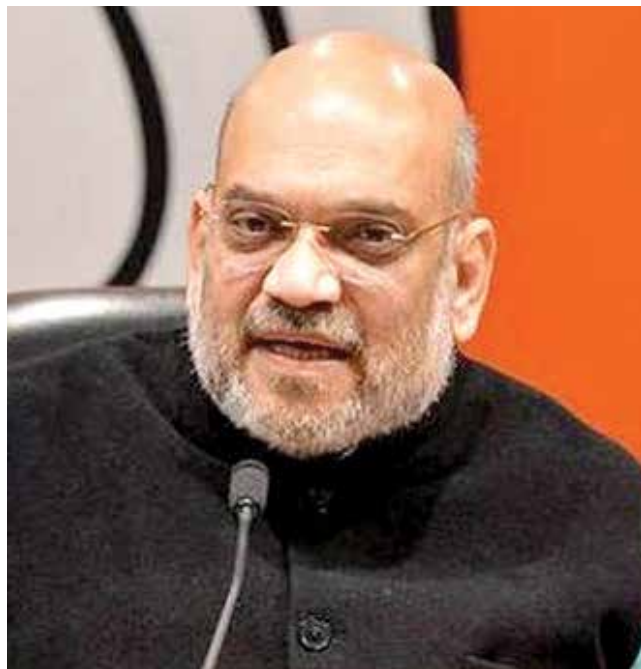
Shri Shah said the apex court had been confronted with three issues in dealing the case — the procedure followed in the purchase, the pricing of the aircraft and selection of offset partners — and it had not faulted the government’ on any of these.

The court noted that all procedures had been followed, the deal finalised by the government gave the country a financial advantage and it found no commercial favouritism, Shri Shah said at a press conference.

“Truth has triumphed... Biggest attempt to mislead country since Independence... It’s a slap on the face of politics of falsehood,” said Shri Shah.

The court also said the government had no role in choosing the offset partners for Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of Rafale jets, he said. “The Congress has been levelling allegations about this and the order is a slap on the face of those who have levelled these charges,” he asserted.

Shri Amit Shah also hit out at the Congress for its claim that the apex court’s judgement is a “vindication” of its stand that the court cannot adjudicate on the matter, saying the opposition party lives in an imaginary world where the truth has no place. “Propriety can be



decided only on the basis of facts and figures,” he said.

Shri Shah noted that even the Supreme Court had spoken about the need for India to buy modern aircraft. “You (Congress government) harmed India’s security interests,” he said, adding that even neighbouring countries had equipped their air force with fourth generation warplanes.

He questioned why the UPA government had stopped, if not abandoned, the deal in 2012, “why was national security compromised with and why were the needs of the IAF compromised with.” ■

Rajiv Pratap Rudy appointed as BJP National Spokesperson

Former Union Minister Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy was on 22 December, 2018 appointed as BJP National Spokesperson by party National President Shri Amit Shah.

A party statement said Shri Rudy’s appointment will take place with immediate effect. ■



INDIA BECOMING WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY, SHOWS IMF DATA

India's GDP growth has been one of the highest as seen in the last two quarters of FY19. Recently in the second-quarter (July-September) of the financial year 2018-2019, Indian economy grew at a rate of 7.1 per cent. On a broader perspective, Indian economy's share in the world, measured as a ratio of India's GDP to world's GDP at current value of US dollar, has increased from 3.2 per cent in 2017 from 2.6 per cent in 2014, news agency ANI reported citing World Development Indicators database.

- From 1960 to 2013, Indian economy's average share in the world was at 1.8 per cent.
- Interestingly, Indian economy recorded an average growth rate of 7.3 per cent between financial year 2014-2015 to 2017-2018, the fastest growth rate amid major economies in the world.
- According to International Monetary Fund October

2018 database, the Indian economy is estimated to be the fastest-growing among the major economies in the world in the present financial year 2018-2019 and the upcoming FY20.

- The per capita income of India, measured as per capita net national income at current prices, registered a growth of 30.2 per cent from financial year 2014-2015 to 2017-2018.
- The per capita income of India jumped to Rs 1,12,835 in FY18 from Rs 86,647 in FY15, ANI said in a report citing Central Statistics Office (CSO) estimates.

Union Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu has recently said that in about 7 to 8 years, India will become a 5 trillion dollar economy. "We launched a major program for making one trillion dollars of manufacturing in India that will happen in the next 6-7 years," Shri Suresh Prabhu said. ■

Employment Generation: 8.27 lakh jobs created in October; 79.16 lakh in last 14 months, says EPFO payroll data

Employment generation in the formal sector nearly trebled to 8.27 lakh in October 2018 as compared to 2.81 lakh in the same month a year ago, while 79.16 lakh jobs added in 14 months since September 2017, according to EPFO payroll data released December 20, 2018.

Around 79.16 lakh new subscribers were added to social security schemes of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) from September 2017 to October 2018, data showed. This indicates that these many jobs were created in the last 14 months.

The job creation remained highest in September 2018 during the 14-month period till October 2018. The lowest number of 1.59 lakh subscribers were added to the EPFO schemes in March this year as per data for that month which was also revised downward from 2.36 lakh estimate released last month.

During October this year, the maximum number of 2.32 lakh jobs were created in the 22-25 years' age group followed by 2.22 lakh in the 18-21 years' age bracket.

The EPFO said in its statement that the data is provisional as updation of employee records is a continuous process and gets updated in subsequent month/s.

This is age-band wise data of new members registered under the EPFO where the first non-zero contribution received during particular month. For each age-wise band, the estimates are net of the members newly enrolled, exited and rejoined during the month as per records of the EPFO, it added.

The EPFO manages social security funds of workers in the organised/semi organised sector in India and has more than 6 crore active members (with at least one-month contribution during the year). ■

ONLINE PORTAL 'ENSURE' LAUNCHED TO CONNECT WITH DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh on December 11, 2018 launched a portal ENSURE- National Livestock Mission-EDEG developed by NABARD and operated under the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries. On this occasion, he informed that the National Livestock Mission has been conceived by Modi government for the sustainable development of the livestock sector. Under the Mission's component called Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation (EDEG), subsidy payment for activities related to poultry, small ruminants, pigs etc. through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) goes directly to the beneficiary's account. In order to make it better, simpler and transparent, the NABARD has developed an online portal "ENSURE" (<https://ensure.nabard.org>) so that the information related to beneficiary and processing of application can be made readily available.

Shri Singh added that under the new process, controlling officer/branch manager of the bank, after scrutinizing & sanctioning of proposal, uploads the



subsidy claims in the portal. The subsidy will be approved within 30 days from the date of sanction of loan. Earlier, even after the loan approval, subsidy took a long time to reach the beneficiary's account. Through this process, the flow of information/funds will also be quicker and more accountable. The burden of extra interest due to delay in the disbursal of the subsidy would now be reduced after the launch of the portal. Access from the portal will also be on real-time basis and list of beneficiaries can be easily prepared. ■

WPI INFLATION DECREASES TO 4.64%

The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at 4.64% (provisional) for the month of November, 2018 (over November, 2017) as compared to 5.28% (provisional) for the previous month and 4.02% during the corresponding month of the previous year. Build up inflation rate in the financial year so far was 4.73% compared to a build up rate of 2.83% in the corresponding period of the previous year.

The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index consisting of 'Food Articles' from Primary Articles group and 'Food Product' from Manufactured Products group decreased from -0.64% in October, 2018 to -1.96% in November, 2018.

For the month of September, 2018, the final Wholesale Price Index for 'All Commodities' (Base: 2011-12=100) stood at 120.9 as compared to 120.8



(provisional) and annual rate of inflation based on final index stood at 5.22 percent as compared to 5.13 percent (provisional) respectively as reported on 15.10.2018. ■

AYUSHMAN BHARAT AIDES 600,000 BENEFICIARIES IN THREE MONTHS

IT AIMS AT PROVIDING SECONDARY AND TERTIARY CARE FOR 500 MILLION PEOPLE

The Central government's flagship scheme, Ayushman Bharat, has provided health care to 600,000 people in first three months since its launch. About 3,000,000 beneficiary e-cards have been generated facilitating access to quality health care under the scheme to 3 million poor.

"Currently more than 16,000 hospitals have been empaneled or are in the process of empanelment. Out of these, 8,807 or 55 per cent are private hospitals," said a statement released by the government.

The scheme aims at providing secondary and tertiary care for 500 million people. The beneficiaries are those who feature in the socio-economic caste census.

Cardiology and cardio-thoracic and vascular procedures such as angioplasty, coronary artery bypass graft and valve replacement are the top three



packages of Ayushman Bharat worth more than Rs 2.97 billion and account for 37 per cent of the total admission amount. ■

Industrial output growth fastest in 11 months at 8.1% in October

India's industrial output grew at an 11-month high of 8.1 per cent in October mainly on the back of mining, power and manufacturing sectors coupled with higher offtake of capital as well as consumer durable goods. Industrial production measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 1.8 per cent in October last year, as per official data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Wednesday. The previous high IIP growth rate was recorded in November last year at 8.5 per cent. The growth for September remained unchanged at 4.5 per cent compared to provisional data released last month. During the April-October period, industrial output grew 5.6 per cent as compared



to 2.5 per cent in the same period of the previous fiscal. ■

National Democrats, Democratic Socialists & National Socialists



PANDIT
DEENDAYAL
UPADHYAYA

The Political Development of the modern world has been influenced and shaped by the three concepts of nationalism, democracy and socialism. Chronologically, nationalism is the earliest, and socialism the latest. Taking Europe to be of representative character in this respect, we find that right from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century, its map was drawn and re-drawn according to national urges. Nationalism united the people and forced different united people and forced different principalities to forgo their autonomy in favour of a national government. It also differentiated one set of people from another, and slowly we find that national interests, rather than whims or wishes of an individual, increasingly guided the conduct of war and peace. As nations came to acquire a distinctive character, the form of government also became a matter of interest and controversy. When Alexander Pope tried to summarily reject all controversies regarding form of government, he only exhibited his subconscious interest in the matter. He wrote :

For forms of Government let
fools contend;
What ever is administered best,
is best.
Pope Did Not Answer
The Question

Pope, however, did not answer the knotty problem: under which form of government we get, or can hope to get, or can hope to get, the best administration? Monarchy was the form in vogue then, and all the ills of the Government were due to, or could easily be made to look as due to, that system. Moreover and more political philosophers came forward to question

the divine right theory of kingship. All men came to be regarded as equal. All this gave birth to democratic ideas. Interest in city republics of Greece was revived. By the time of the French Revolution democracy had become more than a century for democracy to take practical shape and strike root in the many countries of Europe.

With the growth of industrial revolution it was soon realised that real power rested in the hands of the few. There was exploitation not only in the economic field, but in the political sphere also. The common man was either denied franchise, or conditions in which the right of franchise could be freely exercised, did not exist. The urge for social justice gave birth to a political philosophy—which was termed as socialism. Till Marx made a system of it, socialism was a vague tendency representing the utopian ideals of a number of social workers, trade union leaders and political philosophers. Not that Marx's enunciation of his philosophy lacked any of these traits, or that socialism became any more practicable. But he contributed to socialist thought an analysis and a theory, which elevated it into a definite political philosophy. Even after Marx, there have been socialists who have differed from him. but in their main premises and ultimate objectives they have not been able to make any distinctive mark. The influence of Marxian

Nationalism is still the single dominate factor influencing policies of the Governments of the world. But there are very few who expressly recognise its force; and some even want to put an end to nationalism, considering it a curse for humanity. The latter have not succeeded in freeing themselves from this elementary urge; they have only created a number of complexes and thus weakened their national policies.



Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya with leaders of the Jana Sangh

methodology has made socialism an anathema to many people, and has made it incompatible both with nationalism and democracy.

NATIONALISM IS A FACT

Nationalism is still the single dominate factor influencing policies of the Governments of the world. But there are very few who expressly recognise its force; and some even want to put an end to nationalism, considering it a curse for humanity. The latter have not succeeded in freeing themselves from this elementary urge; they have only created a number of complexes and thus weakened their national policies. Today most people claim to follow a combination of the two ideals. Thus there are national democrats, national socialists, and democratic socialists. Taken singly, there could be nationalists, socialists and democrats.

Most countries of the free world can be included in the first category, viz. national democrats. They take nationalism for granted and keep democracy as an ideal before them. There people are not very much enamoured of socialism and some even consider it to be detrimental to democracy. Nazism and Fascism were forms of national socialism. The communist countries USSR, China, Yugoslavia etc. could also be called national socialist. The only difference that is visible is that the latter do not deify nationalism. But impact of nationalism can easily be noticed. Hitler, by placing an undue stress on nationalism. Definitely roused his own people but antagonized the rest. The communist countries are acting in a subtler manner.

By claiming to be a world movement they easily undermine national loyalties of other people and thus serve their own national expansionist designs.

SOCIALISM IS A FORCE

Bhartiya Jana Sangh Places Equal Reliance On Nationalism And Democracy And Recognises That Socialism Too Has Some Part To Play In The Present Stage Or Development Of The Country.

In countries of Asia and Africa that have got their independence from the western colonial powers, the political philosophy in vogue is democratic socialism. Having acquired freedom they seem to have forgotten nationalism, which, in fact, had been the source of inspiration in their freedom struggle. Being associated with the West, they have some faith in democracy. But at the same time they cannot escape the demonstration effect of the fashionable slogan of socialism. Moreover socialism satisfies the lust for power of the cliques that rule and delude the masses. In a society which abounds in poverty and ignorance, socialism has an appeal but it is not a cure. Thus we see that the free and developed countries of the world are national democrats; regimented—developed or under-developed-ones are national socialists or communists; and free but under-developed countries are democratic socialists. These are broad categories. But there are exceptions which it is difficult to place in any of the three. Pakistan, for example, is neither national democratic nor national socialist. ■

(To be continued...)
[Organiser, Diwali, 1963]

Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, one of India's most charismatic and tallest leaders who led the nation through several crises while holding together a tenuous coalition with his inclusive politics and superlative oratory, was the founder President of BJP and beloved leader of millions till today.

It was this nationalist stalwart Shri Atalji's exemplary leadership that set the foundations for a developed, prosperous and inclusive India in the 21st century, for which his popularity was cut across party lines. His futuristic policies across various sectors touched the lives of each and every citizen of India.

It was due to the perseverance and struggles of Atal Ji that the BJP was built brick by brick. He travelled across the length and breadth of India to spread BJP's message, which led the party to become a strong force in Indian national polity.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born on 25 December, 1924 in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh to a schoolteacher, Shri Krishna Bihari Vajpayee and Smt. Krishna Devi. His birthday is celebrated as 'Good Governance Day' throughout the country.

After schooling, he graduated from Victoria College in Gwalior, now known as Laxmi Bai College. He did his M.A. in Political Science from DAV College, Kanpur. He became a full-time worker of RSS in 1947.

Shri Vajpayee, who joined the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangha (RSS) in 1947 rose through ranks to become a stalwart of the BJP. Shri Vajpayee's signature in politics was achieving pragmatic consensus, and in this process he earned the respect of his party, allies and opponents. Abroad, he projected a harmonious image of India and connected it to the world through his foreign policy outreach. He remained a Member of Parliament for 47 years — elected 10 times to the Lok Sabha and twice to Rajya Sabha.

A lifelong bachelor, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was first elected to Lok Sabha in 1957 from Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh in India's second general elections. His maiden speech in Parliament so impressed the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and his colleagues in Lok Sabha that Nehru introduced Shri Vajpayee to a visiting foreign dignitary thus: "This young man one day will become the country's Prime Minister."

In 1975, Shri Vajpayee was arrested along with several other opposition leaders during the Internal Emergency imposed by Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi of the Indian National Congress party. Emergency ended in 1977. Coalition parties, including the BJS came

together to form the Janata Party, which won the subsequent general elections. Shri Morarji Desai, the chosen leader of the alliance, became the Prime Minister and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee served as the Minister of External Affairs, in Shri Desai's cabinet. As foreign minister, Shri Vajpayee became the first person to deliver a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi in 1977.

Shri Vajpayee resigned from his post in 1979.

The erstwhile members of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh came together to form the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1980, with Shri Vajpayee as its first President.

Shri Vajpayee rose through ranks to become a stalwart of the BJP and was the first non-Congress Prime Minister to complete a full term in office. In 1996 Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee first became Prime Minister leading a shaky coalition government. It lasted for just 13 days and collapsed after losing a vote of no-confidence.

His second stint as Prime Minister was in 1998 when the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) again came to power but that lasted for 13 months. Finally, the BJP led NDA with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as PM returned to power in 1999 and completed a full turn in office till 2004.

This great son of the soil left for his heavenly abode at the age of 93 on 16 August, 2018 in New Delhi. ■



SHAT SHAT NAMAN!

[Jayanti, 25 December]

Kamal Sandesh Parivar pays tribute to former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his Jayanti.

9.99 lakh Candidates got Placement after Skill Training

The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) has two components known as Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM) being implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM) being implemented by State Skill Development Missions of the States/UTs popularly known as State-Engagement Component of PMKVY (2016-20). Training under PMKVY 2016-20 is being imparted in National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) aligned Job Roles.

Under CSCM component of PMKVY 2016-20, as on 30.11.2018, funds amounting to Rs. 3044 Cr. (approx) have been disbursed to NSDC for the implementation of this component. Further, as on 30.11.2018, 32.99 lakh (appx.) candidates have been trained (23.18 lakh STT + 9.08 lakh RPL + 0.71 Special Project) under STT, RPL and Special Project in the country. PMKVY 2016-20 scheme has mandatory provisions for placement tracking. The placement data is reported within 90 days of certification of trained candidates on the Skill Development Management System (SDMS). As per data reported on SDMS, as on 30.11.2018, 19.58 lakh candidates are certified under Short Term Training of PMKVY 2016-20. The number of candidates certified under Short Term Training of PMKVY 90 days prior i.e. 31.08.2018 is 18.19 lakh. Out of these candidates, as on 30.11.2018, 9.99 lakh candidates have been placed in various sectors across the country including the State of West Bengal which is approximately 54.9 %.

Further, under CSSM component of PMKVY 2016-20, 25% of the funds and corresponding physical targets of PMKVY 2016-20 has been allocated to the States for the implementation of scheme through State Skill Development Missions. Under this component,

after evaluation of proposal received from 36 States/UTs, Ministry has given in-principle approval of a total target of 20.15 lakh candidates and corresponding financial allocation of Rs. 3,047 Cr. for FY 2016-20. Out of which, funds amounting to Rs. 740 Cr. (approx) have been released to 35 States/UTs for the implementation of this component. Further, under this component, as on 06.12.2018, 1,92,079 candidates have been enrolled across 34 States/UTs.

Under the scheme, focus on employment has been significantly enhanced and candidates have been placed in various sectors and industries including small and medium enterprises across the country including the State of West Bengal. Training Centers (TCs)/ Training Providers (TPs) are mandated to organize placement/rozzgar melas every six month



with the support of Sector Skill Councils. Additionally, scheme incentivizes TCs/TPs for facilitating placement of the trained candidates as per table below:

This information was given by Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Anant Kumar Hegde in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on December 12. ■



'TAKE SUCCESS OF MODI GOVERNMENT TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD AND MAKE BJP VICTORIOUS IN 2019'

With the Mantra "Booth Jeeta-Chunav Jeeta" and the pronouncement of Namo Again 2019, a massive Booth Sammelan was organised under the Chairmanship of Delhi BJP President Shri Manoj Tiwari at IG Stadium, New Delhi in which thousands of Delhi BJP workers pledged to make Shri Narendra Modi again the Prime Minister of India in 2019.

This Sammelan was addressed by the BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ramlal.

Talking directly to the 13,816 Booth Presidents, Shri Amit Shah said that this is a massive conference and Booth Presidents are the backbone of our organization and this process in Delhi.

Shri Shah said that the forthcoming 2019 Lok Sabha Elections are not ordinary elections. Some elections have temporary impact and some elections change the times. These elections are elections for the bright future of India and hence it is necessary for all the workers to make Shri Narendra Modi again the Prime Minister. Although many elections have been held in this country

but previously the 1977 Lok Sabha elections is worth mentioning in which the people had dislodged the Congress Government. Similarly, we have to throughout the anti National forces engaged in the politics of appeasement and make Shri Narendra Modi again the Prime Minister.

Talking about politics of Delhi, Shri Amit Shah said that there are only 3 main political parties in Delhi. Kejriwal and Rahul Gandhi have spoken so many lies that no other person can surpass them.

He said a Congress leader has been awarded imprisonment for life by Delhi High Court for 1984 Sikh massacre. When in 2019 BJP came to power it formed SIT and ensured justice to the Sikhs. But I want to ask why the Congress Party protected the guilty person and why it did not take action at proper time?

On the other hand you must have seen a drama in Delhi Assembly which is like adding insult to the injury of Sikhs by Aam Aadmi Party. Today the AAP and Congress have been exposed in the entire country Shri Shah added.

Shri Shah further said that Kejriwal and his Government has completely failed in fulfilling the promises made to the people. Every promise of Kejriwal prove to be false be it for 500 schools, 3 hospitals in every LS Constituency, deputing marshals for women in the DTC buses, installing CCTV cameras or providing drinking water. Today the youth of Delhi want free wifi, the women are searching for the marshals for their security and the 50% people are compelled to drink contaminated water.

Talking about the achievements of Central Government, Shri Shah said that just after coming to power at Centre the BJP Government completed the construction of National Highways around Delhi at the cost of Rs. 50,000 for controlling pollution in the National Capital. He said that we have also given in principled approval for the regularization of 1600 unauthorized colonies. 3300 Sikh Victims of 1984 riots have been given compensation of 5 lakh rupees each. For the development of smart cities 1331 crores have been granted for 71 projects under smart city development and under Amrut Yojna corporations have been granted Rs. 200 crores each.

Shri Shah also said that today India is progressing at new pace and new dimensions. Congress party and Aam Aadmi Party promise make only promises and on the other hand we fulfill our all the promises.

Shri Shah also said that even after the decision of Supreme Court, the Congress Party continues with its mis-propaganda on Rafale deal and trying to mislead the people. The persons who committed the bungling of hundreds of crores are trying to raise questions against Modi Government. These people are with the anti national forces and when the Modi Government makes surgical strike or implements NRC they make hue & cry against it. Are not they concerned about the lives of the people who may be killed by the Bomb blasts of the infiltrators?

Shri Shah administered a pledge to all the Booth Presidents to make BJP victorious in 2019 Lok Sabha elections and called upon them to take the message of the success of Modi Government to every household.

On this occasion, Shri Ramlal said that the basic formula of BJP is "Booth Jeeta To Chunav Jeeta" and "Mera Booth Sabse Majboot". He said that till the Lok Sabha elections we have to organize at every booth the public programme of Mann Ki Baat by our Prime

Minister and take all the sections together organised Bike Rally with at least five workers from every Booth. With effect from February, every worker has to unfurled a flag of the Party at his roof top and light up a lamp in the form of lotus and the Mahila Morcha's sisters should apply Kamal Mehandi.

Shri Manoj Tiwari said every worker of BJP is the valuable part of BJP. Shri Tiwari called upon the workers to visit their areas and expose the conspiracy of the Government in Delhi. He said that the Modi Government had announced medical insurance of 5 lakh rupees each to 10 lakh families of Delhi under Ayushman Bharat. But the Chief Minister of Delhi Kejriwal did not implement this scheme and deprived the people of this benefit.

He said the Delhi government has failed on every



front and all of us should dislodge this Government in the forthcoming elections.

Among others National General Secretary Shri Anil Jain, Union Ministers Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Shri Vijay Goel, National Vice President and Delhi In-charge Shri Shyam Jaju, Co-Incharge Shri Tarun Chugh, National Vice President Shri Dushyan Gautam, National Secretary Shri Maheish Girri, National Secretary Sardar R.P. Singh, Delhi BJP Organization General Secretary Shri Siddharthan, General Secretaries Shri Kuljeet Singh Chahal, Shri Ravinder Gupta, Shri Rajesh Bhatia, MP Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Dr. Udit Raj, Shri Pravesh Verma, LOP Shri Vijender Gupta, former Pradesh President Shri Satish Upadhyay, Mizoram Incharge Shri Pawan Sharma, senior leaders Shri Harsh Malhotra, Shri Dharmvir Singh and thousands of BJP workers participated in this S sammelan. ■

EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE GST



ARUN JAITLEY

The Goods and Services Tax was implemented w.e.f. 1st July, 2017. It hasn't completed eighteen months of implementation as yet. The GST has been at the receiving end of a lot of ill-informed and motivated criticism. What has been its real performance?

THE PRE-GST REGIME

India had the worst indirect tax system anywhere in the world. Both the Centre and the State Government were entitled to levy a set of taxes. There were seventeen taxes levied. An entrepreneur, therefore, faced seventeen inspectors, seventeen returns and seventeen assessments. The rate of taxation were exorbitantly high. The standard rate of VAT and excise was 14.5% and 12.5% respectively. To this could be added the CST and the cascading effect of tax on tax. The standard rate thus became 31% on a large number of commodities. The assessee had only two options – either to pay a high rate of tax or evade it. Tax evasion was prevalent to a large extent. India comprised of multiple markets. Each State was a separate market because the rate of tax could be different. Interstate sales became

inherently inefficient because trucks had to wait for hours and days at the State borders.

THE GST IMPACT ON 1ST JULY, 2017

From the date of its implementation, the GST changed the situation radically. All seventeen taxes were combined into one. The whole of India became one market. The interstate barriers disappeared. Entry into the cities became open with abolition of the entry tax. States were charging an entertainment tax ranging from 35% to 110%. This came down radically. 235 items were being charged at either 31% tax or even higher. All except 10 such items were brought down immediately to 28%. The 10 such items were brought down to even a lower rate i.e. 18%. Multiple slabs were fixed transiently in order to ensure the tax of no commodity goes up radically. This contained the inflation impact. Most common items were placed in the zero or 5% tax bracket. Returns became online; assessments will be online; multiple inspectors had disappeared. The States were guaranteed that for the first five years they will be ensured a 14% annual revenue increase.

THE REVENUE TRENDS

A frequently made comment has been that the revenue position has been disappointing. The comment is based on an inadequate understanding of

both the targets and the revenue increase. The targets set for the State in the GST regime is unprecedentedly high. Even though GST commenced on 1st July, 2017, the base year for revenue increase has been calculated as 2015-16. For each year a 14% increase is guaranteed. Thus, even when 18 months have not been finished since the launch of GST, on this day every State has a target of improving its revenue with three 14% increases compounded annually over the base year of 2015-16. This is close to a 50% being reached in the second year itself. It is almost an unachievable target. Yet six States have already achieved it, another seven are within a striking distance of achieving it and only eighteen are still more than 10% away from achieving it. By the third, fourth and fifth year, as in the case of VAT, the ability to increase revenues and closing the gap will substantially increase. Those States which do not achieve the target of 14% are paid out of the compensation cess. The requirement of compensation cess in the second year is expected to be much lower than the first year. This increase in the tax collection has to be factored keeping in mind the significant rate reduction which has taken place in the GST. The reduction in monetary terms amounts to about Rs. 80,000 crores per year. Notwithstanding the substantial tax reduction, the GST collection

in the first six months of this year has shown a significant improvement as compared to the first year. The average monthly tax collected in the first year was Rs.89700 crore as compared to Rs.97100 crore per month in the second year.

THE RATE RATIONALISATION

We were faced with a situation with a large number of commodities being taxed heavily in the pre-GST regime. The Congress legacy of indirect tax was a 31% tax. We transiently put them in the 28% slab. As the revenues kept increasing, we started bringing down the rates. Most of the commodities have seen tax reduced. Today, barring tobacco products, luxury vehicles, molasses, air-conditioners, aerated water, large TVs, and dish washers, all 28 items have been transferred from 28% slab to 18% and 12% slab. Only cement and auto parts are items of common use which remain in 28% slab. Our next priority will be to transfer cement into a lower slab. All other building materials have already been transferred from 28% to 18% and 12%. The sun is setting on the 28% slab.

Of the 1216 commodities which are used, broadly 183 are taxed at zero rate, 308 at 5%, 178 at 12% and 517 at 18%. The 28% slab is now a dying slab. Restaurants are being levied a tax compounded under the composition of turnover at

5%. Assesseees with turnover upto Rs.20 lakhs are exempted from tax payment. Assesseees upto Rs.1 crore turnover can get a composition by paying 1% tax. The composition scheme for small service tax assesseees is under consideration. Cinema tickets tax between 35% to 110% has been brought down to 12% and 18%. The GST has helped in controlling inflation. Evasion has also come down.

THE NET EFFECT

Lower rate of taxes, increased tax base, higher collections, easy for trade and least interface in assessments with a significant part of the tax rationalisation

From the date of its implementation, the GST changed the situation radically. All seventeen taxes were combined into one. The whole of India became one market. The interstate barriers disappeared. Entry into the cities became open with abolition of the entry tax. States were charging an entertainment tax ranging from 35% to 110%.

over, the growth percentage in the years to come will increase. The transformation has been done over a period of 18 months. Any abrupt transformation could have been either detrimental to revenue or to trade.

THE GST COUNCIL

The GST Council has had 31 meetings. It is India's first

experiment with the federal institution. It is a body that has behaved with utmost responsibility. Several thousand decisions, including legislative drafting, rules drafting, notifications, fixing initial rates and rationalising rates have all been taken unanimously with consensus. The political noise outside is inconsistent with the harmony inside the Council.

A PERSONAL THOUGHT WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE ROAD MAP

With the GST transformation completed, we are close to completing the first set of rate of rationalisation i.e. phasing out the 28% slab except in luxury and sin goods. A future road map could well be to work towards a single standard rate instead of two standard rates of 12% and 18%. It could be a rate at some mid-point between the two. Obviously, this will take some reasonable time when the tax will rise significantly. The country should eventually have a GST which will have only slabs of zero, 5% and standard rate with luxury and sin goods as an exception.

EPILOGUE

Those who oppressed India with a 31% indirect tax and consistently belittled the GST must seriously introspect. Irresponsible politics and irresponsible economics is only a race to the bottom. ■

(The writer is Union Finance Minister, Gol)

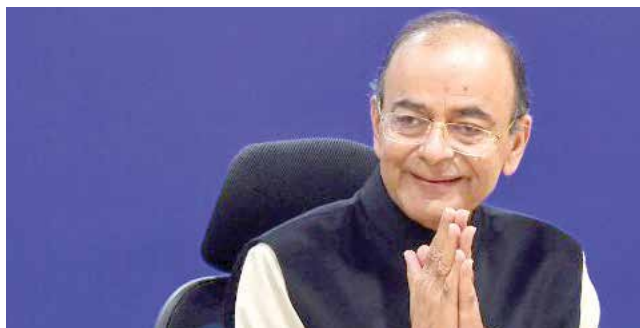
GST Council Meet: Relief for common man as rates slashed for several goods

COUNCIL REDUCED RATES ON 23 ITEMS FROM 18 PER CENT TO 12 PER CENT AND 5 PER CENT

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on 22 December, 2018 cut rates of 33 items from 18 per cent to 12 per cent and 5 per cent, Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy said, following a meeting chaired by Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley. The meeting at Vigyan Bhawan was attended by finance ministers all the states.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had said the government is aiming to bring 99 per cent of items below the 18 per cent GST slab and warned of stringent action against defaulters of bank loan and fugitives.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council decided to form a seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to study anomalies in tax collection in some of the states



which showed wide deviation from what was expected.

“The Council has approved the proposal to form a seven-member GoM to study the revenue trend, including analyzing reasons for structural patterns affecting revenue collection in some of the states,” Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said after the meeting.

The study would include the underlying reasons for deviation from revenue collection targets vis-a-vis original assumptions discussed during the design of the GST system, its implementation and related structural issues, he said.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) welcomed GST Council’s move to revise rates of cinema tickets to 12 per cent and

18 per cent for tickets below INR 100 and over 100 respectively. Commenting on the development, FICCI Assistant Secretary General Leena Jaisani said, “The move will help boost the industry and bring back the audience to theatres.”

Shri Jaitley also informed that Realty remains a concern for stakeholders. He said concerns regarding the real estate sector will be addressed in the next meeting.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE GST COUNCIL MEETING:

Reduction in GST rates/exemptions on services:

- GST rate on cinema tickets above Rs. 100 shall be reduced from 28% to 18% and on cinema tickets upto Rs. 100 from 18% to 12%.
- GST rate on third party insurance premium of goods carrying vehicles shall be reduced from 18% to 12%
- Services supplied by banks to Basic Saving Bank Deposit (BSBD) account holders under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) shall be exempted.
- Air travel of pilgrims by non-scheduled/charter operations, for religious pilgrimage facilitated by the Government of India under bilateral arrangements shall attract the same rate of GST as applicable to similar flights in Economy class (i.e. 5% with ITC of input services).

GST rate reduction on goods from 28% to 18% GST slab-

- Pulleys, transmission shafts and cranks, gear boxes etc, falling under HS Code 8483
- Monitors and TVs of upto screen size of 32 inches
- Re-treaded or used pneumatic tyres of rubber
- Power banks of lithium ion batteries. Lithium ion batteries are already at 18%. This will bring parity in GST rate of power bank and lithium ion battery
- Digital cameras and video camera recorders
- Video game consoles and other games and sports requisites falling under HS code 9504
- GST Council also agrees to set up a Centralized Advance Ruling Authority. ■

PM INAUGURATES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PRAYAGRAJ

175 KM OF SEWERAGE NETWORK IN PRAYAGRAJ WILL REDUCE 7.8 CR LITRES OF SEWAGE PER DAY FALLING INTO GANGA



National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) furthered its effort to reduce pollution in river Ganga before Kumbha when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated projects in Prayagraj including 175 KM of sewerage network. The projects will now carry 7.8 Cr litres sewage water per day to existing STPs (Sewage Treatment Plants) at Salori, Kodra & Ponghat for treatment which earlier ended up in Ganga.

The projects were inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in the presence of UP Governor Shri Ram Naik, CM of UP Yogi Adityanath, Deputy CM Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Minister of Urban Development Shri Suresh K Khanna among other dignitaries.

During the event, PM reiterated the commitment of

the government towards clean Ganga and informed the public about various initiatives taken up under the Namami Gange program.

Shri Narendra Modi also laid the foundation stone for two projects in the trans Ganga/Yamuna area under One City-One Operator scheme with sanctioned cost of Rs. 767.59 Cr. The project is based on Hybrid Annuity based PPP mode that includes Operations and Maintenance of all the sewerage infrastructure for 15 years. These projects include I&D (Intersection and diversion) of sewage network, 7 sewage pumping stations and 3 STPs of total capacity 72 Million Litres per Day (MLD) (Naini-42 MLD, Phaphamau-14 MLD and Jhusi- 16 MLD).

With these projects, there will be comprehensive sewerage coverage of Prayagraj, including areas on

the other side of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.

The sanctioned projects will also involve rehabilitation and Operations & Maintenance of existing sewage treatment infrastructure at the cost of Rs. 904 crores. Rehabilitation projects include six existing STPs with a total capacity of 254 MLD located at Naini, Numayadahi, Rajapur, Kodra, Ponghat and Salori and operations & maintenance of 10 existing sewage pumping stations.

Under Namami Gange Programme, 10 projects have been already sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 2915.78 crore for creation of 779 Km sewerage network and construction of 8 STPs having total capacity of 191 MLD.

4 projects have been completed during 2016 leading to the creation of sewage treatment capacity of 119 MLD and a laying of 129 km of sewerage network.

2 Projects pertaining to Sewerage District A & B in Prayagraj are under advance stage of execution and are expected to be completed by March 2019. These projects will lead to creation of 456 Km of sewerage network and would feed to existing STPs at Naini and Numayadahi

Supporting the sanitation initiative of Government of UP during Kumbh Mela 2019, NMCG sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs. 113 crores for the construction of 27,500 toilets & 20,000 urinals. An additional Rs. 16.68 crore has been sanctioned for 'Paint My City' and other such activities. The 'Paint

My City' campaign was appreciated by the PM as a commendable initiative to connect people with the city and make it clean and beautiful on the eve of the Kumbh. Rs. 3.6 crores has been allocated for 16,000 dustbins and lining bags. Bioremediation projects have been also sanctioned for 53 drains.

NEW AIRPORT COMPLEX, INTEGRATED COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRE FOR KUMBH MELA INAUGURATED

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on December 16 inaugurated a new Airport Complex, and an Integrated Command and Control Centre for the Kumbh Mela, at Prayagraj.

The Prime Minister also performed Ganga Pujan, and visited the Swachh Kumbh Exhibition. He visited the Akshay Vat in Prayagraj. He also dedicated to the nation, inaugurated, or laid the Foundation Stone for various development projects at Andawa in Prayagraj.

Addressing a large gathering, he announced that pilgrims for the Ardh-Kumbh this time will also be able to visit the Akshay Vat. He said the Government is making every effort to ensure good connectivity to Prayagraj. He said the projects dedicated today, would help both infrastructure and connectivity. He said the new airport terminal had been completed in a record time of one year.

The Prime Minister said that every effort is being made to ensure a unique experience for devotees coming for the Ardh-Kumbh. He said the effort is to



PM launches development projects in Rae Bareli

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who was on a day-long visit to Uttar Pradesh, visited the Modern Coach Factory in Rae Bareli on December 16, 2018. At a public meeting, he flagged off the 900th coach, and a Humsafar Rake. He also dedicated to the nation, inaugurated, or laid the Foundation Stone for various development projects at Rae Bareli.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the projects that were dedicated, inaugurated, or for which Foundation Stones were laid today, are cumulatively worth Rs. 1000 crore.

The Prime Minister said that the Modern Coach Factory is providing jobs to youth, and will make Rae Bareli a global hub of rail coach manufacturing.

The Prime Minister recalled that it was on this day in 1971, that the Indian Army had defeated those that are a symbol of terror, cruelty and lawlessness. The Prime Minister said that today on one hand, the Government is trying to make the Armed Forces

stronger; and on the other hand, there are those who do not want our Armed Forces to be strong. He said those that deal only in lies, are casting aspersions on the Defence Ministry, on the Air Force, and even on a foreign government. He said that the propensity to lie, can only be overcome by the truth. He said that when it comes to the country's security, and the requirements of the Armed Forces, the Union Government keeps only the interest of the nation in mind.

The Prime Minister said that in order to increase farmers' incomes, the Union Government has already increased MSP for 22 crops. This decision alone will provide an extra amount of Rs. 60 thousand crore for the farmers. He said the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has also benefited farmers whose crops have been destroyed by unforeseen causes.

The Prime Minister said that the Union Government is committed to the Mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." ■

showcase India's glorious past, and vibrant future.

The Prime Minister said that the Government is also working to ensure a clean Ganga. He said the sewage treatment plants and beautification of Ghats would go a long way in this regard.

The Prime Minister described the Kumbh as a symbol of India and Indianness. He said it unites us, and gives a glimpse of Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat. He said that the organisation of the Kumbh is not just a matter of faith, but also a matter of prestige, and every visitor to the Kumbh should be well taken care of. He said the Ardh-Kumbh would show how 'New India' encompasses both heritage and modernity.

The Prime Minister said that he wishes to caution the country that certain forces are trying to put undue pressure on the judiciary. He said these elements consider themselves to be above all institutions.

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (IWAI) WORKING TO FACILITATE SAFE PASSENGER MOVEMENT FOR KUMBH-MELA

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has been working hard towards facilitating safe passenger

movements for Kumbh-Mela 2019.

Kumbh-Mela is scheduled to be held at Sangam, Prayagraj (Allahabad) from 15.01.2019 to 15.03.2019. IWAI has set up four floating terminals, one each at, Kilaghat, Sarasvati Ghat, Naini Bridge and Sujawan Ghat. Further, two vessels namely C.L. Kasturba and S.L.Kamla will be deployed for pilgrim movement.

Fairway with navigational aids will be maintained between Prayagraj (Allahabad) and Varanasi with targeted least available depth (LAD) of 1.0 m. Five temporary jetties at Chatnag, Sirsa, Sitamarhi, Vindhyachal and Chunar have also been setup for embarkment and dis-embarkment of passengers.

IWAI has the mandate to provide safe and efficient mode of transport through Inland navigation.

As a part of development of NW-1 (Allahabad to Haldia) IWAI is making substantial interventions to make navigable the Allahabad -Varanasi stretch of River Ganga. In this regard, IWAI is working on providing a sufficient draft of 1.0 m for the entire channel in river Ganga between Allahabad and Varanasi. This will ensure seamless and safe movement of vessels. ■

KEY INITIATIVES FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POST GST AND DEMONETISATION

Government is continuously taking steps to facilitate industrial development in the country though no specific year-wise targets for industrial development are assigned. Key initiatives include Make in India under which thrust sectors have been identified to provide a push to manufacturing and Start-up India to strengthen the start-up ecosystem. The Ease of Doing Business initiative aims to create a conducive environment by streamlining existing regulations and processes and eliminating unnecessary requirements and procedures.

Foreign Direct Investment policy and procedures have been simplified and liberalised progressively. Measures for the micro small and medium enterprises include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Cluster Development Programme, Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme and Credit Guarantee scheme. The government has also implemented special packages for leather and footwear, textile and food processing sector etc. Further, the Government



has notified schemes for the North Eastern Region & Himalayan States to boost industrial development in these regions. State/UT-wise details of targets for industrial development and achievements are not centrally maintained.

This information was given by the Minister of State of Commerce and Industry, C. R. Chaudhary, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha December 19, 2018. ■

LOK SABHA PASSES BILL TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE REGULATION OF SURROGACY

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016 which ensures effective regulation of surrogacy, prohibits commercial surrogacy and allows altruistic surrogacy to needy Indian infertile couples was passed by the Lok Sabha on Dec 19, 2018 by a voice vote. Now, altruistic surrogacy will be open to only infertile couples, who have been married for at least five years. An important condition in the Bill is that the surrogate mother has to be a close relative who has been married and has had a child of her own and there is no monetary exchange except for necessary medical expenses. The surrogate mother and the intending couple need eligibility certificates from the appropriate authority. The Bill also recommends a provision for the constitution of a National Surrogacy



Board, State Surrogacy Boards and appointment of appropriate authorities for regulation of the practice and process of surrogacy. ■

Internal Security situation in the country has vastly improved: Rajnath

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has said the Internal Security situation in the country has vastly improved, particularly in the North-East and the LWE affected States. Addressing the Inaugural Session of the Conference of Director Generals and Inspector Generals of Police at Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat, Shri Rajnath Singh noted with satisfaction the improving security scenario in the North-East, particularly the peaceful rollout of NRC in Assam including publication of the final draft NRC list on July 30, 2018.

“Security scenario in the North-East region has witnessed steady improvement in recent years. All parameters of violence have improved in 2018 in comparison to corresponding period of 2017. There is 17% decline in total incidents and 38% reduction in the casualties of civilians,” said Shri Rajnath Singh. “AFSPA was selectively relaxed in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, inviting positive public response. Besides, to encourage the militants to join the mainstream, Gol has revised the Surrender-Cum-Rehabilitation Policy by enhancing financial benefits to the surrendering militants,” he added.

The Union Home Minister said India's security concerns have been conveyed to Myanmar even as efforts are on to harness the trade potential with the Eastern neighbour and beyond. “A number of our militant groups are operating from the territories of neighbouring countries, particularly Myanmar. Our concerns have been highlighted in the bilateral meetings with these countries. In order to plug the gaps on the Indo-Myanmar border, an Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by MHA has formulated a revised protocol for effective implementation of Free Movement Regime.”

Shri Rajnath Singh said violence in the LWE affected areas continues to improve since the last eight years. “We achieved major operational successes in core areas of CPI/Maoist in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. Coordination among different State Police Forces and CAPFs, and generation of regular actionable intelligence was among the main factors

which led to an almost two-fold increase in the losses suffered by LWEs this year.” “Reflecting on these successes and the upper hand of the government over the Maoists, after a comprehensive review the number of districts covered under SRE scheme were reduced from 126 to 90,” he added.

The Union Home Minister said the communal situation has also remained under control this year to date. “The communal situation during the current year remained under control, with a decrease of



12% in communal incidents as compared to the corresponding period in 2017,” said Shri Rajnath Singh. “Misuse of Social Media for religious denigration also witnessed a significant decline during this year,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh said terrorism in the hinterland has also been stamped out. “Law enforcement agencies, through concerted action coordinated by Intelligence Bureau, have managed to overcome the first tide of propaganda and mobilization by Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Consequently, India witnessed very few incidents of IS inspired violence. In concerted counter-terrorism operations, Law enforcement agencies have arrested nearly 125 terrorist suspects as against 117 arrested in 2017,” said Shri Rajnath Singh. “The new phase of Islamic State propaganda emanating from Afghanistan-Pakistan region is also being countered effectively,” he added. ■

GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS SAVING 840 MORE KIDS A DAY THAN 4 YEARS AGO: PM

Lives of around 840 more children under five years of age are being saved every day, as compared to four years ago because of government-led health interventions, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said while inaugurating a global conference on maternal and child health in New Delhi December 12, 2018. "The country has 25 million newborns. Our robust facility-based newborn care system, which provides care to more than one million babies through 794 state-of-the-art special newborn care units, has served as a successful model. As a result of our interventions, 840 additional lives of children under five are being saved each day in India as compared to four years ago," he said, highlighting



government initiatives including intensified immunisation campaign, increased institutional deliveries and the latest National Nutrition Mission. ■

Congress leader Sajjan Kumar sentenced to life imprisonment in the 1984 anti-Sikh

Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was sentenced to life imprisonment in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots on December 17 by the Delhi High Court, which cancelled an earlier court order acquitting him of charges in what the judges called "genocide".

Sajjan Kumar, 73, was convicted in the killing of five members of a family in Raj Nagar and the torching of a gurdwara in Delhi on November 1, 1984. He has been told to surrender by December 31.

"It is important to assure the victims that despite the challenges truth will prevail," the High Court said, giving a shout-out to victims like Jagdish Kaur and Nirpreet Kaur, who fought for justice for 34 years and suffered intimidation and harassment. "The aftershock of those atrocities is still being felt," said the court.

At least 3,000 people were killed when mobs led by Congress leaders targeted Sikhs after the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31.

"In the summer of 1947, during partition, this



country witnessed horrific mass crimes where several lakhs of civilians, including Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus were massacred," said Justices S Muralidhar and Vinod Goel. "Thirty-seven years later, the country was again witness to another enormous human tragedy... For four days between November 1 to November 4 of that year, all over Delhi, 2,733 Sikhs were brutally murdered. Their houses were destroyed. In the rest of the country too, thousands of Sikhs were killed," the court said in a 203-page order. ■

E-RETURNS TAX PAYERS GROW MANIFOLDS

There has been a growth in the number of e>Returns filed by the individual tax payers during the last four years. The number of income-tax returns filed and the annual growth rate during the last four financial years are as under:

Financial Year	Number of Income Tax Returns (including revised returns) filed by Individuals	Growth over previous year
2014-15	31,334,957	15.7%
2015-16	40,034,897	27.8%
2016-17	49,329,747	23.2%
2017-18	63,349,975	28.4%



The average net tax liability in the e>Returns filed by individual taxpayers during the period under reference is Rs. 49,656/-. ■

Indian economy projected to be fastest growing major economy during current and next fiscal year

The government has said the share of the Indian economy in the world increased from 2.6 percent in 2014 to 3.2 percent in 2017 as per the World Development Indicators database. Minister of State for Finance, Pon Radhakrishnan said this in a written reply in Rajya Sabha on december 18. He said the average growth of the Indian economy during 2014-15 to 2017-18 was 7.3 per cent, which is the fastest among the major

economies in the world. Indian economy is projected to be the fastest growing major economy in 2018-19 and 2019-20. This is borne by GDP growth of 7.6 per cent in the first half of 2018-19. As per the estimates available from Central Statistics Office, the per capita income of the country increased from 86,647 rupees in 2014-15 to 112,835 rupees in 2017-18, recording a 30.2 percent growth from 2014-15 to 2017-18. ■

GSLV-F11 SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES GSAT-7A

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F11) successfully launched the communication satellite GSAT-7A from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota on December 19.

The GSLV-F11 lifted off from the Second Launch Pad at SDSC at 04:10 pm IST, carrying 2250 kg GSAT-7A and about 19 minutes later, injected GSAT-7A into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) of 170.8 km x

39127 km which is very close to the intended orbit.

An ISRO team lead by Chairman Dr K Sivan, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) S Somanath, U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) Director P Kunhikrishnan, Space Applications Centre (SAC) Director D K Das, SDSC Director S Pandian, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) Dr V Narayanan and ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) Director T Mookiah witnessed the launch. ■




The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on December 18, 2018 unveiled important projects related to housing and urban transportation during his visit to Maharashtra.

At a public meeting in Kalyan, the Prime Minister laid the Foundation Stone of two important metro corridors. These are the Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan Metro; and the Dahisar-Mira-Bhayander Metro. The two corridors, once completed, will greatly facilitate public transport in the area.

Also in Kalyan, he launched the 90,000 units' EWS and LIG Housing scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The total worth of projects for which the Foundation Stone was laid in Kalyan is about Rs. 33,000 crore.

In Pune, the Prime Minister laid the Foundation Stone of Pune Metro Phase-3.

Addressing the gathering in Kalyan, the Prime Minister highlighted how the pace of infrastructure and public transport development had been accelerated by the Union Government. He reiterated the Union Government's vision of "Housing For All" by 2022.

Addressing the gathering in Pune, he said the government is placing great emphasis on connectivity infrastructure. He said the focus is on providing next generation infrastructure, and integration of the transport sector. He said that through Startup India, and Atal Innovation Mission, India is emerging as a centre for technology. ■

DELEGATION FROM FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY MEETS PM

A delegation representing the film and entertainment industry, called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in Mumbai. The delegation comprised producers and CEOs of companies in the entertainment industry.

The delegation expressed its strong support of the Prime Minister's vision for making India a five trillion dollar economy in the near future. They gave an overview of the vast growth potential of the media and entertainment industry in India, and said that this sector is poised to contribute in a significant way towards this goal.

The delegation pitched for lower, and uniform rates of GST, for the entertainment industry in India.

Members of the delegation strongly called for the development of Mumbai as the global entertainment capital, through various initiatives and proactive approaches.

The Prime Minister said that the Indian entertainment industry enjoys immense popularity across the world. It is one of the key elements of India's rising soft power status, globally, he added. He assured the delegation that the Union Government is supportive of the media and entertainment industry; and would consider the suggestions positively.

Shri Akshay Kumar, Shri Ajay Devgan, Shri Rakesh Roshan, Shri Prasoon Joshi, Shri Karan Johar and Shri Siddhartha Roy Kapur were among those present at the meeting.

91,85,937 Employees benefitted by PMRPY

Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) was launched on 9th August, 2016 with the objective to incentivise employers for creation of new employment. Under the scheme, Government of India is paying Employer's full contribution i.e. 12% towards EPF and EPS both (as admissible from time to time) w.e.f. 01.04.2018 for a period of three years to the new employees and to the existing beneficiaries for their remaining period of three years through EPFO. The terminal date for registration of beneficiary through establishment is 31st March, 2019. The scheme is targeted for employees earning upto Rs. 15,000 per month. This scheme has a dual benefit, where, on the one hand, the employer is incentivised for increasing the employment base



of workers in the establishment, and on the other hand, a large number of workers will find jobs in such establishments. A direct benefit is that these workers will have access to social security benefits of the organized sector. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment has given information in written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on december 12.

PMRPY has been running smoothly. The details of benefits under the scheme is as under as on 05.12.2018 (as reflected on PMRPY Portal):-

1. Total No. of Employee beneficiaries - 91,85,937
2. Total No. of Establishments benefitted - 1,14,145
3. Total payment disbursed - Rs.2870.72 Cr. ■

Development of 14 CEZs identified Under Sagarmala Programme

The Minister of State for Shipping and Finance Shri Pon Radhakrishnan in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha informed that the Fourteen Coastal Economic Zones have been identified along the coastline of the country under National Perspective Plan (NPP) of Sagarmala Programme. These are now proposed to be developed as Coastal Employment Zones (CEZs). Out of 14 CEZ, 1 prototype CEZ is planned to be developed at 1st phase for

validation of CEZ concept which will be expanded further to encompass the total 14 CEZs. The finalization of institutional framework, road map and budgetary outlay of the prototype project has been taken up.

The Minister also informed that the Central Line Ministries such as Ministry of Finance, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), NITI Aayog etc. and concerned State Govt. are involved in the development of CEZ. ■

CBI SECURES INTERPOL RED CORNER AGAINST MEHUL CHOKSI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), according to report published in TOI, has managed to secure an Interpol Red Notice against fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, in what is seen as a big boost to its efforts to bring him back to India to face trial in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud. Choksi became a citizen

of the Caribbean country Antigua and Barbuda under a programme in which a certain quantum of investment entitles an individual to citizenship. Investigations have showed that Choksi began the process to take citizenship of the twin-island nation last year, well before he left India in the first week of January. ■

‘EVERY BLOCK WITH MORE THAN 50% TRIBAL POPULATION WILL HAVE EKLAVYA RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL BY 2022’

An Autonomous Society to be set up Under Ministry of Tribal Affairs Similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to Run EMRS

Every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) by the year 2022. Addressing media persons in Delhi on December 19, the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram said that consequent upon Budget announcement for 2018-19, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in its meeting held on 17th December, 2018, has decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School. Eklavya schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas and will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development. Across the country, as per census 2011 figures, there are 564 sub-districts i.e. blocks/taluka/tehsil having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. Out of these sub-districts, at present 102 sub-districts have EMRSs. He informed the



media persons that it is proposed to establish new EMRSs in the remaining 462 sub-districts by the year 2022. ■

UNDER MODI GOVERNMENT, INDIA ACHIEVED FOOD SECURITY

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh met Ms. Ruhsar Pekcan, Turkish Trade Minister on December 18 and called for extending cooperation between the two countries through greater interaction among government agricultural institutions, experts, scientists and agro business.

The Minister said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has resolved to double farmers' income by 2022 through a series of focused programmes including Soil Health Card, organic farming, crop insurance, irrigation, e-NAM and focus on strengthening post-harvest management so as to ensure better returns

to the farmers. He further added that India has made tremendous progress in agriculture and allied sectors in the last few years. He said "India has achieved food security and become a net exporter of agriculture commodities."

Reflecting on the longstanding, close & friendly relations between India and Turkey, the Minister urged both sides to prioritize the sectors for cooperation and also identify nodal officers so that progress can be made on the MoU signed between the two countries. An MoU was signed between India and Turkey based on which the 1st Meeting of the Steering Committee was held in India in 2010. A Work Plan had also been prepared. ■

iGOT launched

IT WILL AUGMENT THE EXISTING TRAINING MECHANISM WITH ONLINE MODULE-BASED TRAINING

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) developed by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, in Delhi on December 20. It will augment the existing training mechanism with online module-based training coupled with certification. This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis. The initiative aims at “Competent Civil Services for Good Governance”. He also launched Hybrid Course on Administrative Laws developed by DoPT in collaboration with the premier law school, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru.

On the occasion, RTI Portal on Judgments/Orders of Supreme Court, High Courts and CIC, was also launched that will provide a learning environment for all stakeholders under which a repository on the landmark cases on the RTI will be available at one place.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Ministry of Personnel has undertaken various initiatives in the last four and a half years. He said that the launch of these initiatives on the eve of Good Governance Day shows Government's commitment to 'maximum governance, minimum government'. He also spoke about the initiatives taken by DARPG. He said that during the last four years, the participation of districts has increased in the Civil Services Day awards, which has transformed the whole process. Commenting on the RTI Portal on Judgments/Orders of Supreme Court, High Courts and CIC, he said that this is an extension of online RTI mechanism that is available to the users. Speaking on the improvements made by DoPT in the training programmes, the Minister said that the training programmes of India

are now being acknowledged worldwide. He further said that 'Anubhav' initiative of the Ministry is a good base for research activities and now the department is in the process of preparing a manual based on these write-ups. The Minister also urged the state Governments to adopt these initiatives towards good governance and improved training techniques.

The National Training Policy-2012 mandates that all civil servants will be provided with training to equip them with the competencies for their current or future jobs. The current structure of training for Government servants including domestic and foreign training is mostly available to very small section of the



government servants. However, consequent upon some recent initiatives undertaken by Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India aimed at providing training to cutting edge level functionaries in the Central/State Governments, significant changes have taken place. The outreach of the existing training setup is very limited in view of the large workforce employed in various States/UT Governments. The Integrated Government Online Training Programme (iGOT) launched by Minister will augment the existing training mechanism with online module-based training coupled with certification. This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flexitime basis. Furthermore, the training will be focussed and targeted to the requirement of the officials. ■



THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI AND
 BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHRI AMIT SHAH
 BECOME LIFE MEMBERS OF KAMAL SANDESH

BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

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Address :

..... Pin :

Phone : Mobile : (1)..... (2).....

E-mail :

SUBSCRIPTION TYPE	One Year	₹350/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Time (English or Hindi)	₹3000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Three Years	₹1000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Time (English+Hindi)	₹5000/-	<input type="checkbox"/>

(DETAIL OF THE PAYMENT)

Cheque/Draft No. : Date : Bank :

Note : * DD/Cheque will be made in favour of "Kamal Sandesh"
 * Money order and Cash accepted with details

(Subscriber's Signature)



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KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with BJP President Shri Amit Shah, Senior BJP Leader Shri LK Advani, Loksabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Union Ministers Shri Arun Jaitley and Dr. Mahesh Sharma releasing the commemorative coin in honour of Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying homage to the martyrs of the 2001 Parliament attack, at Parliament building in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flanked by Maharashtra Governor Shri C. Vidyasagar Rao, CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis and others lays the foundation stone of Metro Phase 3 in Pune, Maharashtra



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with Maharashtra Governor Shri C. Vidyasagar Rao, CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis and others releasing a book titled 'Timeless LAXMAN' in Mumbai, Maharashtra



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the newly elected Sarpanches of Panchayats from Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the new Airport Complex at Bamrauli Airport in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

NATIONAL TAX MARKET

A HUGE RELIEF TO CONSUMERS IN THE FORM OF GST RATE CUT

GST rate slashed on 23 items/services

28% to 18%	12% to 5%	28% to 5%	18% to 12%
Movie tickets above Rs 100	Natural cork	Parts and accessories for the carriages for divyngs	Third-party insurance premiums of goods carrying vehicles
Monitors, TVs up to screen size 32"	Walking Stick		
Power banks of lithium-ion batteries	Fly ash blocks		
Digital camera and Video camera recorders			
Video game consoles			

Exempted from GST

- Vegetables (uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling), frozen, branded
- Services supplied by banks to Basic Saving Bank Deposit account holders under PMJDY

*New GST rate to be effective from January 1, 2019

PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN THE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Modi government's FDI related reforms making India an investor-friendly destination

Year	FDI (USD Billion)
2013-14	36.05
2014-15	45.15
2015-16	55.56
2016-17	60.22
2017-18	60.97

*Figures are provisional

RISE OF A NEW INDIA

COMMON SERVICE CENTRES

Development touching every strata of the society

AROUND 84,000 (1947 - 2014)

MORE THAN 3 LAKH (2014 - 2018)

CSC

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Ensuring 'Ease of Living' for every Indian Household

Cabinet approves expansion in scope of PMUY to cover poor families not having LPG connection and not covered under existing categories

8 Crore revised PMUY target

5.86 Cr. PMUY beneficiaries till now

Expansion in scope of eligible categories

- ✓ All SECC listed families and all SC/ST Households.
- ✓ Beneficiaries of PMUY (Gramin), Antyodayay Anna Yojana (AAY) & Most Backward Classes (MBC's).
- ✓ PMUY to reach out to forest dwellers, Tea & Ex-Tea garden tribes, people residing in Islands & river-islands.
- ✓ Poor Households not covered under the above categories.