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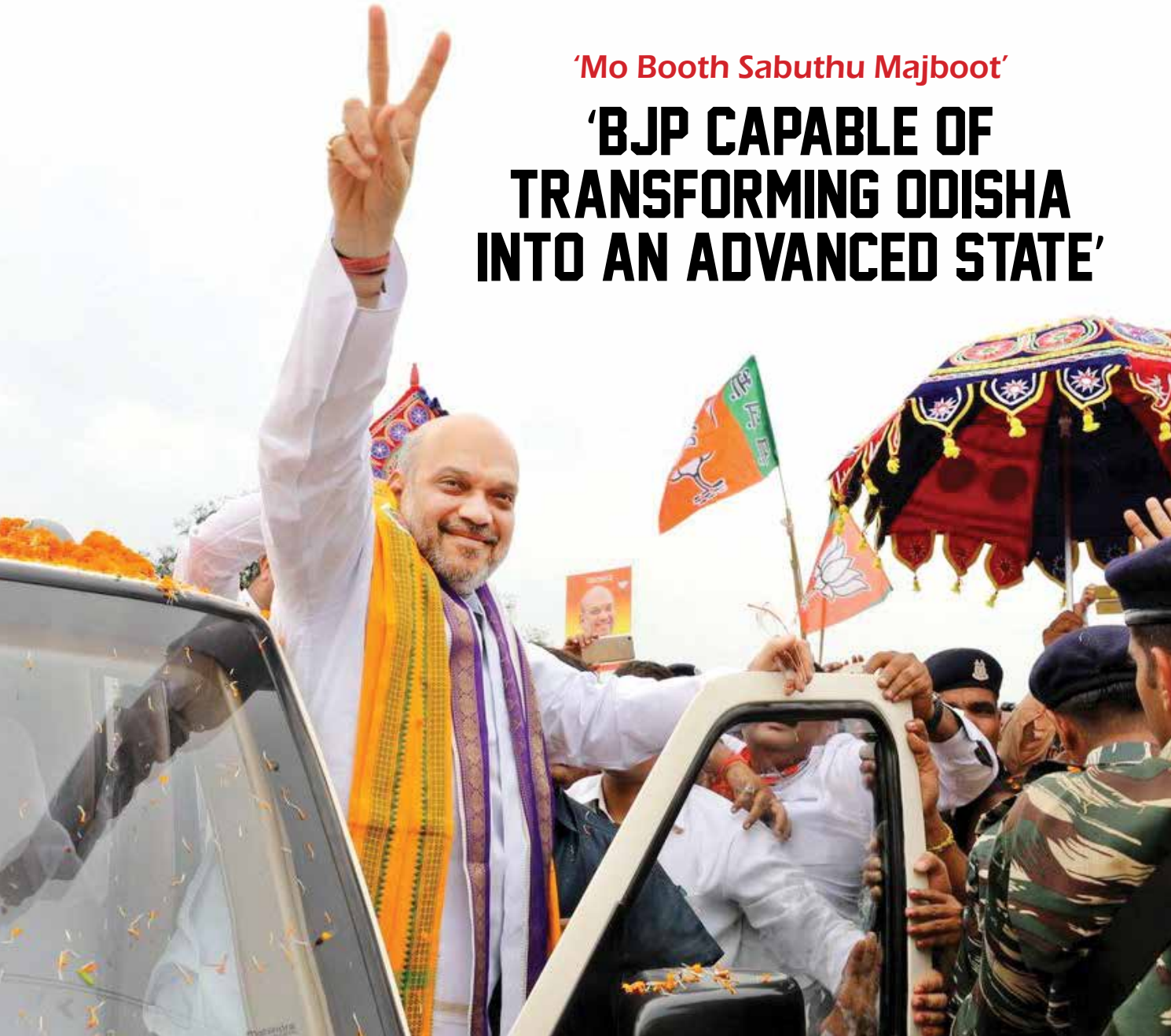
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**A MODERN INDIA IS
BEING CREATED: PM**

'Mo Booth Sabuthu Majboot'

'BJP CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING ODISHA INTO AN ADVANCED STATE'



**GST COMES INTO FORCE AMID
HISTORIC MIDNIGHT SESSION OF
PARLIAMENT ON 01 JULY**

**"FORTY TWO YEARS AGO -
THE EMERGENCY"**

**MODI AGAIN RECASTS THE TWO
TRILLION BEHEMOTH MARKET
ARCHITECTURE**

Glimpses of BJP National President Shri Amit Shah's Odisha, Goa and Puducherry Pravas



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twitter



@narendramodi

Hello Israel! I begin a special & historic visit with the aim of further strengthening the relations between India and Israel.

@netanyahu

This is the first time an Indian prime minister is visiting Israel. We receive you with open arms, @narendramodi. We love India!



@AmitShah



Same energy and enthusiasm among people at different places in Odisha. People of Odisha yearning for change.

facebook

As vistarak of BJP under Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Vistarak Yojana did door to door sampark at booth no.6, Hugulapata village, Ganjam (Odisha).



— **Amit Shah**

Emergency was an era of sycophancy suffering from a dichotomy. A dictatorial regime is often misled by its own propaganda.



— **Arun Jaitley**

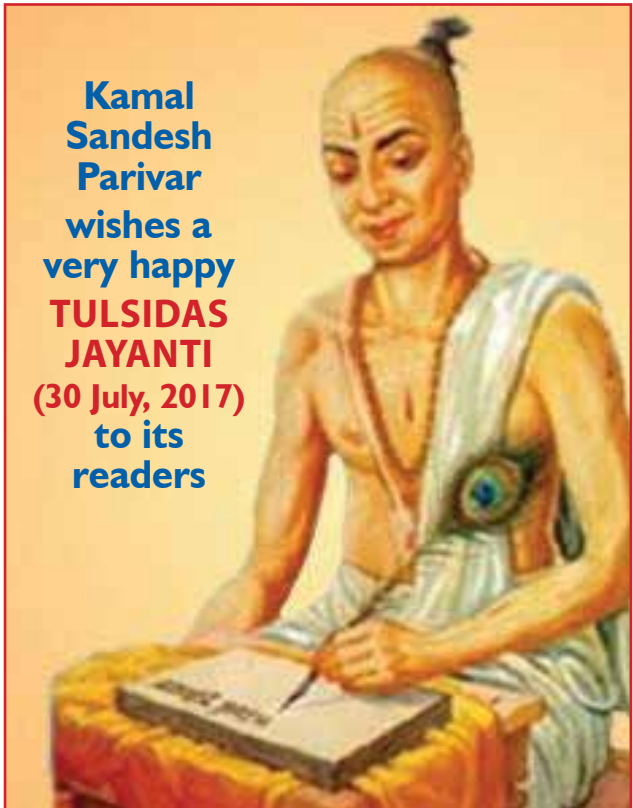
GST Becomes A Reality: GST will help in unleashing the true potential of our huge market and also boost India's GDP.



— **Rajnath Singh**



Courtesy: Social Media



India welcomes Good & Simple Tax

Rightly termed as Good & Simple Tax, GST is set to transform the contours of Indian economy. Launched with the vision of 'One Nation, One Tax', it is said to be the biggest economic reform so far which will have far reaching impact on Indian economy. It was a reform entangled into complex web of taxation appearing very difficult for the policy makers to resolve by developing the consensus required for its inclusion in the statute book. The manner in which the entire process of consultation and consensus building was carried out is an example of government's immense faith in the principles of cooperative federalism and its willingness to accommodate and adjust with the diverse interests and expectations. It was not possible without following the principles of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' wherein a system was conceptualized making all the stakeholders gainers in the bargain. While consumers are expected to benefit by low tax regime, the states and central government may collect more taxes in a more tax compliant society. The business may gain in a hassle free tax regime making possible 'ease of doing business' component of the system much more effective. In fact it is heralding an era of 'win-win situation' for everyone making Indian economy as much simple as it is robust. GST is set to revolutionise every sector in the coming days.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS RIGHTLY CALLED IT GOOD & SIMPLE TAX. IT HAS NOT ONLY RESULTED IN LESSENING THE INCIDENCE OF TAXATION ON POOR PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY BUT PROMISES TO CREATE A HASSLE FREE SYSTEM MAKING PEOPLE TO WILLINGLY ADHERE TO NEW TAX REGIME.

The GST also symbolizes a rare political consensus in the country. The coming together of different political parties rising above their partisan politics shows the maturity and strength of Indian democracy. It showed to the world that India is united in its quest of good governance and development. But the last minute hitch created by the Congress Party again raises question on its ability to rise above its politics in the national interest. Its decision to not to participate in the launching function of GST speaks volumes of the dilemma in which Congress leadership finds itself. Although it had supported the GST but it never expected that government will be able to roll it out so smoothly and in such a record time. While it should have wholeheartedly supported its implementation, it was seen unsuccessfully encouraging dissent against its implementation. In the entire process the doublespeak of the Congress was exposed. As a result many political parties including JDU, NCP and JDS refused to toe the Congress line on the issue. While the entire nation was celebrating the launch of GST, Congress stood isolated and exposed.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly called it Good & Simple Tax. It has not only resulted in lessening the incidence of taxation on poor people of the country but promises to create a hassle free system making people to willingly adhere to new tax regime. It is therefore that global ratings agency Moody's while endorsing GST said it will be positive for India's credit profile as it will contribute to productivity

gains and higher GDP growth as well as support higher government revenue generation through improved tax compliance. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) feels that the regime will contribute to ease of doing business and accelerate new business ventures. Overall it has created a positive environment both in India and outside with people welcoming this revolutionary step aimed at unifying Indian market removing all the clogs and clutters. President Pranab Mukherjee while commending and congratulating everyone who made GST a reality hope that it will also make our exports more competitive and also provide a level playing field to domestic industry to compete with imports. The market has responded well, the implementation is going on effectively with the launch and India is proving that it can take big decisions with zeal and courage when backed by political will and determination. ■

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Amit Shah begins BJP's 'Mission Odisha' from CM's home turf Ganjam

“BJP WILL WIN 2019 POLLS WITH 2/3RD MAJORITY”

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah who reached the Eastern State of Odisha on 03 July, 2017 night for a three-day visit aimed at reviving the party's infrastructure at the grassroots level, visited Berhampur city, its neighbouring constituencies and the home district of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the very first day. The visit is part of Shri Amit Shah's 110-day countrywide Pravas to strengthen the party.

Shri Shah kicked off his three day campaign on 04 July, 2017 to strengthen the party at the root level and encourage party workers in Ganjam district by launching a door-to-door campaign.

Shri Shah received a rousing reception throughout his road trip from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur, Ganjam district in South Odisha on the first day of his 3-day visit to the State. He addressed booth connectivity programme 'Mo Booth Sabuthu Majboot' of the party accompanied by other senior leaders including Tribal Affairs

Minister Shri Jual Oram, Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, State President Shri Basant Panda, vice president Shri Sameer Mohanty and other party workers.

Travelling in a long cavalcade, Shri Shah stopped at Badapokhariya and interacted with the gathering. Prior to that large number of people were seen making serpentine queues outside the State guest house in Bhubaneswar to meet the BJP leader. BJP workers and common public welcomed Shri Shah on the way to Ganjam.

‘MO BOOTH SABUTHU MAJBOOT (MY BOOTH IS THE STRONGEST)’ PROGRAMME IN GANJAM

During the visit to Ganjam District the party National President embarked on a door-to-door campaign at Hugulapata village of Kukudakhandi Block in the outskirts of Berhampur city, Ganjam district.

Later he addressed a meeting of booth workers and met five families in the Hugulapata village



and discussed various welfare programmes implemented by the Narendra Modi government with them. Along with other BJP state leaders Shri Amit shah also had lunch with a Dalit family in the village.

Addressing a mass gathering at Hugulupata in Ganjam district, he said 'Booth Committee' would be formed in all the 37000 booths across the State in a time-bound manner, adding that he has worked at grassroots level and well-aware of the issues.

Tearing into the failures of the BJD government, Shri Shah said, "People of Odisha are yet to get electricity and drinking water even after 17 years of rule of the BJD government. Toilets are still elusive in villages and the rate of educated unemployed is increasing in the State."

Despite being rich in minerals, natural resources and hundreds of kilometers of coastline, Odisha continues to be a poor State and is 'far behind' in terms of development, the BJP president alleged.

BOOTH WORKERS RALLY IN BERHAMPUR

In the afternoon of the first day visit thousands of BJP Karyakartas, Booth workers, BJP leaders and Common people have given a grand reception to the BJP National President Shri Amit shah at Berhampur city, his second stop of the day. Booth level workers and common people from Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal districts and other parts of south Odisha welcomed him to Berhampur.

At Ambapua, Berhampur Shri Shah addressed a huge meeting of booth workers and BJP Office Bearers from South Odisha. He asked party workers to dedicate themselves to booth level activities. He said more than four lakh party workers in the country have variously pledged to give 15 days, six months or one year as full-timers to strengthen the party at the booth level.

Shri Shah educated the cadres how the Modi Government has significantly increased the financial assistance to Odisha since 2014 but the State Government is not able to properly spend it.



He put the blame of underdevelopment of the State on both the Congress and the BJD, whom he described as the rulers since Independence.

Launching a scathing attack on the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government on lack of development in the state, the BJP President Shri Amit Shah said BJP will win the 2019 elections with a two-thirds majority.

Speaking to grassroot workers in Berhampur, he called for their active support so that the BJP could win 130 seats in the 2019 Assembly polls.

Touching the emotional chord of the Ganjam people, where migration is high, he criticised the BJD Government for not creating local employment for the migrant youths.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECH

- At Berhampur, the BJP chief launched a scathing attack on the BJD government in the State.
- He blamed the Odisha government for “under development” despite the State being rich in resources. According to him, the people in Odisha were yet to get round-the-clock power supply.
- He lamented that only 14% of the population had access to safe drinking water and despite the Centre’s support, only 22% families in the State had toilets at home.
- He claimed that during the three years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, grants for Odisha had increased manifold, which the State government was failing to utilise.
- He criticised the BJD government for the migration of labour from Odisha to other States, including Gujarat.
- It is unfortunate that this labour force, which is helping in the development of other States, is not used for the development of Odisha.

Shri Shah was accompanied by senior leaders of the state BJP, including Union Ministers Shri Juel Oram, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, leader of the BJP Legislature Party Shri K.V. Singhdeo, State BJP President Shri Basant Panda and former CM Shri Giridhar Gamang.

“MO BOOTH SABUTHU MAJBOOT” PROGRAMME IN JAJPUR

Shri Amit Shah’s second day schedule includes similar events in Jajpur district of North Odisha.



BJP National President went on a door-to-door campaign in Jajpur district along with other ministers on 05 July, 2017.

Shri Amit Shah, along with Union Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, state BJP president Shri Basant Panda and other senior party leaders, also stopped for lunch at a local’s house in Areigao village.

As part of “Mo Booth Sabuthu Majboot (My Booth is the Strongest)” programme, the BJP





National President addressed a meeting of party workers at Panikoili. Earlier in the day, he offered prayers at Maa Biraja temple and took blessings of Maa Durga.

He received a grand welcome by people while on his way to the Jajpur district from Bhubaneswar. He tweeted, "Same energy and enthusiasm among people at different places in Odisha. People of Odisha yearning for change".

VISIT TO KHURDA DISTRICT

On the last day of his Odisha visit Shri Amit Shah met BJP Zilla Parishad members, block presidents and vice-presidents in Khurda district. He has also met senior party leaders to chalk out a strategy for the 2019 elections.

On Day-Three, he met some families at Basantpur, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar and had breakfast with them. Later, a meeting of party leaders was held at a hotel in Bhubaneswar.

NAVEEN PATNAIK KEEPING ODISHA 'BACKWARD', SAYS AMIT SHAH

Winding up his three-day tour to the state as part of BJP's drive to strengthen the party at the grassroots



BJP president Shri Amit Shah sharpened his attack on Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and accused him of always "flying" to places while the state languished in backwardness. "I have been in Odisha for the last three days and visiting places.

But, I am travelling by road and not flying by helicopter like Naveen Patnaik," he said.

The BJP President, who attended meetings at several places including Basantpur in Khurda district, alleged that the "high-flying" chief minister, who boarded a chopper or a plane wherever he visited, had failed to grasp and address the

"I can clearly see love and affection among the people for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP. While the people of Odisha are now with the BJP, our party is also eager to serve them and pull the state out of poverty and backwardness," he said.

people's problems.

In a stinging attack on Mr. Patnaik over poverty and backwardness in the state, Shri Shah said that during my visit I had sensed that the people of Odisha had made up their mind to throw the BJD out of power as they were fed up with 17 years of misrule.

"I can clearly see love and affection among the people for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP. While the people of Odisha are now with the BJP, our party is also eager to serve them and pull the state out of poverty and backwardness," he said.

With the BJP focusing on Odisha to expand its base ahead of the 2019 Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, the party President said the state would not be able to witness development and progress as long as the BJD was in power.

Shri Amit Shah, who visited several houses

and interacted with people from different sections, including party workers from the booth and the panchayat levels, he said only the BJP was capable of transforming Odisha into an advanced state.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECH

- The BJP President said the BJD government had "failed" to utilize the money and implement different schemes properly, leaving the state in the grip of poverty and backwardness.
- BJP would win the assembly elections with two-third majority in 2019 and form the next government in the state,
- People now realized that BJP alone was capable of pulling the state out of the "morass" and usher it in rapid development.
- The BJP president asked the party leaders and workers to make people aware of various schemes and programmes launched by the NDA Government for the development and progress of the state.
- They should also tell people about the "failure" of the BJD government on all spheres.
- It was a paradox that a state, endowed with abundant mineral and natural resources, was languishing in poverty.
- The party was determined to steer Odisha on the path of speedy development.
- The people of Odisha are yet to get electricity and drinking water even after 17 years of BJD rule.
- The BJP President said that the number of jobless educated people was growing at an alarming rate.
- The youth of Odisha were forced to migrate for work and contribute to the progress of other states due to the "lack of opportunities at home".
- He reviewed the programmes being carried out under Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay birth centenary Karya Vistarak Yojana in Odisha.



BJP National General Secretary and Odisha BJP In-Charge Shri Arun Singh interacting with media persons said the BJP which is on a high after winning 297 of the 851 zila parishad seats in February's panchayat polls, has booth-level workers in just about one-third of the 92,000-

The BJP President said the BJD government had "failed" to utilize the money and implement different schemes properly, leaving the state in the grip of poverty and backwardness. BJP would win the assembly elections with two-third majority in 2019 and form the next government in the state.

odd polling booths in the state. He said with BJP National President Shri Amit Shah's visit, the party now aims to kickstart the process of recruiting more booth-level workers to strengthen the booths before the party take on the BJD late next year.

He said, Odisha is one of the states we aim to win in 2019. The mass contact programme of the National President is aimed at strengthening the party at the booth level. ■

BJP workers are focal point of party's journey from Jan Sangh till now: Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah arrived in Goa on 01 July, 2017 on a two-day visit where he met senior party officials to draw up a strategy for the grass root infrastructure of the party for 2019 general elections. This was Shri Shah's second trip to Goa after the BJP-led government came to power in the state following the Assembly elections held in February this year.

Shri Shah, who landed at the Dabolim airport, was received by Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar, state party president Shri Vinay Tendulkar, other senior leaders and thousand of Karyakartas. The BJP National President paid tributes to Goan freedom fighters at the Martyr's Memorial here.

Shri Amit Shah met BJP MLAs and also addressed a meeting of various elected representatives of the party at a city hotel, before meeting local industrialists, hotel owners, chartered accountants, doctors and builders.

INAUGURATES SOUTH GOA DISTRICT OFFICE "PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA BHAVAN"

BJP National President on 02 July met coalition partners in the Manohar Parrikar-led Goa government and party legislators over lunch in Panaji. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party's MLAs led by Sudin Dhavalikar, two Goa Forward Party ministers Vinod Palyekar and Jayesh Salgaoncar, and art and culture minister Govind Gaude met



Shri Shah over the lunch.

Party president Shri Amit Shah also inaugurated the BJP South Goa District Office "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Bhavan" in Margao.

Addressing the gathering he said the BJP will have its office in all districts of the country by December 2018. BJP workers are the focal point of party's journey from Jan Sangh till now. The party's existence is through the smallest of the booth level cadre," he said.

"The party office is not less than a temple for the workers. This is the place where planning is done based on which the party marches ahead. That is why BJP has decided that each district will have party office across the country by December 2018," he added.

Hailing the Manohar Parrikar-led Goa government, Shri Shah said "when BJP government is formed in any state, it is not just change in power but also change in the systems". "Goa is an apt example.

Five years back, BJP came into power and we are now elected again. Goa has been witnessing tremendous progress since the time BJP came to power in the state," he said. According to him, along with development, BJP led by Shri Parrikar has also given a government which has eradicated corruption. "Parrikar has given a government with transparency," he said. ■



'106 schemes implemented to improve the condition of weaker sections'

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah arrived for two-day Pravas in Puducherry on 25 June, 2017 as part of his 110-day nationwide pravas to strengthen the party. Shri Shah, immediately after the commencement of his second visit to the union territory garlanded a statue of famous Tamil poet Subramania Bharathiyar near the Raj Nivas and later attended a meeting of office bearers of the party's Puducherry unit. After his arrival here, a huge rally was taken out by party cadres through important thoroughfares from the airport to the town.

Union Minister Shri Pon Radhakrishnan and BJP National Secretary Shri H Raja were among those who accompanied him during his visit to Puducherry and the party's programmes.

PROFESSIONALS CONVENTION

Congress government in Puducherry most corrupt, says Amit Shah

Addressing a 'Professionals Convention' organised by the local BJP unit, BJP President Shri Amit Shah said the Congress-led Puducherry government headed by Chief Minister V Narayanasamy is the most corrupt government. He also attacked the previous UPA government headed by Congress at the Centre for causing policy paralysis and said the Narendra Modi regime in contrast had implemented various schemes for all sections of people and was free of corruption.

Shri Shah said the financial assistance by the Centre to the Union territory had gone up by around 613 per cent in the last three years of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. "This is more than what Chief Minister Narayanasamy could accomplish while being a minister in the previous UPA government at the Centre," he said.

Stating that the NDA government had



been paying attention for the development of Puducherry, Shri Shah said it had sanctioned the Rs 1,850 crore 'smart city' project to the UT capital, evoking applause from the audience. However, the Narayanasamy government was most corrupt, he charged.

I have never seen such a corrupt and worst administration as the one in Puducherry... it is the most corrupt, he said. His remarks come close on the heels of Puducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi seeking a CBI probe into alleged large-scale corruption in admission of students to PG medical courses in the UT. Shri Shah said at the national level, a comparative evaluation would show that the "historic decisions taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi have now elevated the nation to a great level." "Even the opposition could not say that there is corruption and malpractice under Shri Modi's leadership", he said.

The Modi government had implemented as many as 106 schemes so far to ameliorate the lot of weaker sections, women, youth, Dalits and scheduled tribes during the last three years. "Effective steps taken by the NDA regime through demonetization had led to checking of black money in the country," the BJP President said. India had emerged as a global leader in space technology as could be seen from the launching of 104 satellites

in one single mission recently, he said.

He also accused the previous UPA rule of having brought in damage to the reputation and image of the country through "policy paralysis. "Everyone knows how much decline the country had suffered in the economy and other sections during the UPA regime because of fall in various parameters of development," Shri Shah said. On the contrary, the Narendra Modi-led government is functioning in full agreement with the legal provisions, he said while listing its 'achievements'. He said by May next year, all the 18,000 villages would be brought under the rural electrification scheme.

The MUDRA scheme had enabled as many as 7.64 crore youth to get financial assistance to launch self employment projects across the country since the NDA government came to power, he said.

Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan, BJP National Secretary Shri H Raja, Member of Parliament Shri Mahesh Giri and party's UT president Shri V Saminathan were among others who spoke at the convention.

Amit Shah visits Auroville and offers prayer at Arunachaleswarar temple

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah offered worship at Arunachaleswarar temple in Tiruvannamalai on 27 June, 2017. Around 10:20 am, Shri Shah's helicopter landed at Tiruvannamalai Government Arts College in Tiruvannamalai. He was received by BJP Karyakartas and AIADMK MLAs.

Union Minister of State Shri Pon Radhakrishnan and BJP state president Shri Tamilisai Soundararajan were present. Representing Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswamy, HR and CE Minister Sevur S Ramachandran, while on behalf of TTV Dhinakaran, AIADMK MLA's Panneer Selvam, Thoosi MLA Mohan, Tiruvannamalai MP, Vanasaroja and other office-bearers welcomed him.

Later, Shri Amit Shah went to Ramana Maharshi Ashram located on Girivalam path. There he spent some time in mediation. After about 40 minutes,

he left to the Arunachaleswarar temple for worship. He was given Poorana-Kumba respect in the temple by the priests. He entered into the temple through Ammani Amman tower and worshiped at Arunachaleswarar temple.

BJP National President also paid a visit to the world famous Matrimandir Meditation Chamber in Auroville. Despite the venue being temporarily closed from June 5 to July 5 for renovation work, special arrangements were made for the BJP leader to meditate inside the chamber.

Upon reaching the meditation chamber at



8:50 am, Shri Shah was accorded welcome by president of Auroville Foundation Mohan Varghese IAS. According to sources, Shri Shah also discussed with the chamber authorities, matters regarding the preparatory works for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Matrimandir next year. Following his mediation at Matrimandir, Shri Shah held discussion with Karyakartas and BJP office bearers from both Puducherry and Villupuram. ■



GST comes into force amid historic midnight session of Parliament on 01 July

A DECISIVE TURNING POINT IN THE COURSE OF COUNTRY'S HISTORY

The Goods and Services Tax came into force at midnight of 1st July 2017, amid a historic midnight session in the Central Hall of Parliament. President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley addressed the gathering, before the President and the Prime Minister pressed a button to mark the launch of GST.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the day marks a decisive turning point, in determining the future course of the country.

He recalled that the Central Hall had been witness to several historic occasions in the past as well, including the first session of the Constituent Assembly, India's independence, and the adoption of the Constitution. He described GST is an example of Cooperative Federalism.

He quoted Chanakya to say that hard work can overcome all obstacles and help us accomplish even

the most difficult of objectives. He said that just as Sardar Patel had ensured political integration of the country, GST would ensure economic integration. Recalling the famous scientist Albert Einstein who said that income tax is the most difficult thing to understand in the world, he said that GST would ensure one nation, one tax. He said that GST would lead to immense savings of time and cost. Savings of fuel due to elimination of delays at State border crossings will help the environment as well, he added. The Prime Minister said GST would lead to a modern tax administration which is simpler, more transparent, and helps curb corruption.

He described GST as a "Good and Simple Tax" which would ultimately benefit the people.

The Prime Minister also quoted a shloka from the Rig Veda to describe the spirit of common goal, common determination, leading to mutual and shared benefit for the society. ■



GST roll-out – Complete transformation of the Indirect Taxation Landscape

WHY IS GST SO IMPORTANT?

The biggest tax reform since independence - GST - will pave the way for realization of the goal of One Nation - One Tax - One Market. GST will benefit all the stakeholders namely industry, government and consumer. It will lower the cost of goods and services, give a boost to the economy and make the products and services globally competitive, giving a major boost to 'Make in India' initiative. Under the GST regime, exports will be zero-rated in entirety unlike the present system where refund of some of the taxes does not take place due to fragmented nature of indirect taxes between the Centre and the States. GST will make India a common market with common tax rates & procedures and remove economic barriers. GST is largely technology driven and will reduce the human interface to a great extent. GST is expected to improve ease of doing business in India.

In majority of supplies of goods, the tax incidence approved by the GST Council is much lower than the present combined indirect tax rates levied [on account of central excise duty rates / embedded central excise duty rates / service tax post-clearance embedding, VAT rates or weighted average VAT rates, cascading of VAT over excise duty and tax incidence on account of CST, Octroi, Entry Tax, etc.] by the Centre and State(s).

JOURNEY OF GST AFTER THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

After the assent of the Hon'ble President on 8th September, 2016, the 101th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 came into existence. The GST Council was constituted on 15.9.2016.

Since its formation in September, 2016 the GST Council has held 18 meetings. The Finance Ministers of all the States or their representative along with

State and Central govt officials have participated in these extensive meetings and formulated the law and procedure to implement this historic tax reform. It was a mammoth task involving 27000+ man hours of intensive work. More than 200 meetings of the officers of the Centre and States took place in different parts of the country to expedite the implementation of GST.

While framing GST Acts and Rules, enhanced 'Ease of doing business' for the taxpayers was a key consideration and accordingly the roles and responsibilities of the States and Central govt have been defined. In a short span of time, the GST council has cleared GST laws, GST Rules, Tax rate structure including Compensation Cess, Classification of goods and services into different rate slabs, exemptions, thresholds, structure for tax administration, etc. All the decisions of Council were taken with consensus. While formulating the Acts and Rules, extensive participatory consultations with trade and industry including other significant stakeholders were undertaken. Feedback was also obtained by posting draft Acts and Rules on the websites and inviting comments from the public.

On 29th March, 2017, the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India tabled four Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bills for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha namely The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Bill, 2017, The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) Bill, 2017, The Union Territories Goods and Services Tax (UTGST) Bill, 2017 and the GST (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017. They were passed by the Lok Sabha on 29th March, 2017 and by the Rajya Sabha on 6th April, 2017.

The GST Council has decided the final structure of GST as follows:

- The threshold limit for exemption from levy of GST is Rs. 20 lakh for the States except for the

Special Category, where it is Rs 10 Lakh.

- A four slab tax rate structure of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% has been adopted for GST.
- A cess would be levied on certain goods such as luxury cars, aerated drinks, pan masala and tobacco products, over and above the GST rate of 28% for payment of compensation to the states.
- The threshold for availing the Composition scheme is Rs. 75 lakh except for special category States where it is Rs. 50 lakh and they are required to file quarterly returns only. Certain categories of manufacturers, service providers (except restaurants) are out of the Composition Scheme.

OTHER IMPORTANT FEATURES OF GST

- GST envisages all transactions and processes to be done only through electronic mode, to achieve non-intrusive administration. This will minimise tax payers physical interaction with the tax officials.
- GST provides for the facility of auto-populated monthly returns and annual return.
- It also facilitates the taxpayers by prescribing grant of refund within 60 days, and provisional release of 90% refund to exporters within 7 days. Further facilitation measures include interest payment if refund is not sanctioned in time, and refund to be directly credited to bank accounts.
- Comprehensive transitional provisions for ensuring smooth transition of existing taxpayers to GST regime, credit for available stocks, etc.
- Other provisions include system of GST Compliance Rating, etc.
- Anti-profiteering provisions for protection of consumer rights.

ROLE OF GST NETWORK (GSTN) – IT BACKBONE OF GST

GSTN has been created as a section 25 private limited company with Strategic Control with the Government, to function as a common Pass-through portal for taxpayers. On this common portal, taxpayers will submit their registration applications, file returns, make tax payments, claim refunds etc.

GSTN has been provided with a robust IT platform and it will provide interface to 80 lakh taxpayers and thousands of tax officials. All filings under GST will be done electronically. While GSTN remains a front-end, at the back end, the IT systems of CBEC and different states interface with the GSTN IT network to provide a seamless end to end processing of tax returns for the taxpayers. 64,000 officials have been trained on the GST portal from February till June 2017. The GSTN IT systems have undergone load tests, performance tests, vulnerability tests, security and all other mandatory tests.

Enrolment of existing taxpayers of the State tax administrations and the Central Board of Excise and Customs to the GST system commenced on 8th November, 2016. More than 66 lakh taxpayers have activated their account at the GST portal.

GST envisages all transactions and processes to be done only through electronic mode, to achieve non-intrusive administration. This will minimise tax payers physical interaction with the tax officials.

GST Application on Payment has been operationalized. 25 banks have been integrated with the GST Common portal and will be providing e-payment and Over the counter payment facilities as well as payment through NeFT/RTGS and credit/debit card.

GST OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Government has stepped up its outreach programme through various events, workshops, media, television to reach masses. Field formations of CBEC, at all levels have been activated to carry out interaction with the trade and industry to help



them with the migration to GST and to clear their doubts. The field units of CBEC have run campaigns using mobile vans to reach the assesseees at their door-step to help them with the GST migration and transitional issues. A total of 4700 workshops have been conducted across India.

An extensive multi-media campaign through print and electronic media, outdoor hoardings, etc. has been carried out for informing, educating and assisting taxpayers and other stake-holders to enable a smooth transition to GST.

RE-ORGANISATION OF CBEC

Implementation of GST has necessitated reorganisation of the Central Board of Excise & Customs formations for administration of GST. The reorganisation involved bringing about structural changes and redeployment of human resources. Redeployment has been done to ensure outreach to the remotest corner. The Directorates which have significant role under the GST have been adequately expanded and strengthened.

The field formations have been restructured as 21 CGST & CX Zones, 107 CGST & CX Commissionerates, 12 Sub-Commissionerates, 768 CGST & CX Divisions, 3969 CGST & CX Ranges, 48 Audit Commissionerates and 49 Appeal Commissionerates.

TRAINING

For a smooth roll out of GST, it was imperative to carry out adequate capacity-building exercise and awareness. National Academy of Customs Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) have conducted extensive training programs. In the first phase, nearly 52,000 officers were trained during September, 2016 to January, 2017 through a multi-layered training programme across India. A Refresher Training was also conducted on updated Law, Rules and Procedures and a total of 17,213 officials were trained till 23rd June, 2017. Under the Accredited GST Training Programme, 20 institutes have been certified as 'Approved Training Partners' to impart

'quality training at reasonable cost' to members of trade/industry and other stakeholders. 2,565 participants have been trained so far (ongoing). NACIN have also trained 2,611 officers from 92 Ministries/PSUs trained so far.

Besides that, training resources such as 500 FAQs on GST have been released in English, Hindi and 10 regional languages. A number of Flyers on different topics of GST explaining the GST concepts, for dissemination to trade & industry, PPTs and Learning Videos for GST training and other training materials for the officials have also been released.

SERVICE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

A twitter seva started by the Government as an initiative to answer queries of the Tax Payers on a real time basis. The twitter handle askGST_GOI attracts thousands of taxpayer queries every day. A list of FAQs based on frequent questions asked on Twitter has been already got published. ■

Second Day after the roll-out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) with effect from 1st July, 2017 has passed without any major problems being reported from the field. The Central and the State Governments' officers are trying their best to provide the required and the correct information to the trade and industry. Revenue Department, Govt. of India has got encouraging reports from the roadside Dhabas and big Restaurants as well as from Kirana shops to Departmental Stores which, in turn, have started getting acclimatized to the new tax system.

Since 25th June, 2017, 2.23 lakh new dealers have entered the GSTN system by filing draft applications of which 63000 have also submitted full details, of which 32000 dealers have been granted fresh registrations also.

The Revenue Secretary, Government of India, Dr. Hasmukh Adhia has appealed to people not to circulate any unverified messages through social media.

Who is a Suitable Candidate?

| PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA

An article published in Organiser on 4 December, 1961 discusses about the merit of a candidates selected for elections by the political parties. We are publishing it for our esteemed readers.

The programme for the next General Elections, as announced early by the Election Commission, has been confirmed by the Government.

Whatever the astrologers might predict, the people and the political parties have to be serious and business like in preparing to meet this great democratic challenge. Parties have finalised their list of candidates. While some of the order parties, notable the congress, experienced much difficulty in seeking an agreeable formula to satisfy the conflicting claims of factions and communal groups, the newer parties have had to make hectic efforts to find out 'suitable' candidates, to contest the elections on their symbol. A 'suitable' candidate is a term which is better understood than defend. However, for a correct appraisal of the political health of the country and the parties, it would be desirable to discuss some of the salient qualities of such a candidate.

A suitable candidate to a man of commonsense should be one who can represent the party's views in the legislature, who has been nursing his constituency and can claim to air the feelings of its people. As an individual he should be devoted to the people and as a member of the party he seeks to represent, he should be disciplined and dedicated to its cause. If he has any other qualifications they may add to his stature, but they cannot be substituted for these basic ingredients of suitability. But in India hardly any political party worries about these things. Their only consideration is that he should be able to win. Like race goes



they have no love for a particular horse. They will bet on one which has brighter chances of winning. But they forget that in politics their association with the winner does not end after the play. They have to carry the burden all through and it is through his medium that the party will be required to act in the legislatures and in the constituency. Most of the political parties today have

no grassroots.

The Congress which one day was a mass party in real terms has now ceased to have any hold on the masses. The newer parties have yet to work hard to endear themselves to the masses. Under these circumstances appeals other than those of the party have to be made. It is for this reason that the ex-rulers are being wooed by every party. Even minister have hesitated to oppose if any member of the ruling family is in the fray. And if they choose to go with the Congress, all other opposition candidates consider their chances of victory bleak. Even granting that the ex-rulers have the citizen's right to participate in the elections, it must be admitted that the present state of affairs is not happy. The situation cannot be mended by ex-rulers but by the people and by the various political parties. The ex-princely order must definitely be encouraged to take part in politics, but a ticket in the elections should not go to them by birth but by merit. People should also realise that a vote is not an instrument of expressing gratefulness to any candidate but a mandate to carry out their wishes. Caste and communal considerations also play a great part in the selection of candidates. Congress is the worst sinner in this respect, but other parties also cannot escape the odium. This also is due to lack of a sound and solid organisation. It is no use abusing casteism. Those who do indirectly rely on



it. Everybody in India belongs to some caste or community.

By accusing the other party of indulging in casteism or communalism, you throw an indirect hint and make an unconscious and subtle appeal to these sentiments in the rest of the society. Experience of the last elections shows that candidates who tried to arouse caste feeling invited the antagonism and the united opposition of the rest and thus lost badly. But still that consideration weighs heavily with political parties. If other basic qualifications are there, I would not mind to what caste the candidate belongs.

He cannot be a casteless human being at least not in India. But if the situation develops to such an extent that even Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had to forego his candidature only because he did not belong to the caste that numerically predominated in the constituency (this happened in a U.P. by-election, sometime back), it betokens a serious malady. The way out is to strengthen the party organisation, rather than accentuate appeal to caste considerations as the socialist doctor is trying to do by his promise of reserving sixty percent seats for backward castes and classes. Financial viability is another big factor that influences the choice of candidates. A number of people are given tickets for no other qualifications than their capacity to spend money. These people come in the field at election time and then hibernate for five years in the crowded bustles of Calcutta and Bombay. They do not come to the people to solicit their votes but to purchase it. For them no price is too high. All that they want is to grease their way to the parliament. For them it is a business deal. The parties, including the Congress, are so tight of fiancés that they are only too willing to oblige these aspirants for power and fame. The Congress has been reported to have struck a deal with some of the industrialists in Calcutta to give them some parliamentary seats if they promise to foot the election bill of the Assembly candidates. The Swatantra party is commonly charged as being

a party of Dalal Street. The financial stringency with the parties is so great that the Ganatantra Parishad has, just on that account, decided to merge with the Swatantra party. All these are factors that are likely to give a wrong direction to the politics of the country. If steps are not taken to mend them, powerful lobbies will emerge in the country's legislatures and political decisions will hardly be taken in an objective manner taking into consideration only the welfare of the people and furtherance of national interests. The parties that want to develop into major parties should be careful not to sacrifice principles for quick gains. People too have a duty, and if they exercise their franchise in a judicious and intelligent manner, they can also correct the distorted viewpoint of the political parties. The voter should not complain; he should command. He should not desire; he must demand. He should not grumble and grudge; but should assess and assert. The voter should see that he votes for a principle and not for a party, that he votes for a party and not for a personality, that he votes for a person and not for the purse. Let him consider the cause and not the caste; go with the worthy rather than with the winner. Choose the right man and see that the man you choose wins; that will be your victory. If you simply go as a camp follower of the man who has created an impassion that he win, you have already lost, whatever the result of the election be. Vote is a matter of conscience. Do not sell it. Do not destroy it. When you vote take a momentous decision, please do not take it just on the spur of the moment. Vote is an individual right to be exercised socially. It symbolises your freedom; use it freely. If you are a democrat do not be dictated by anybody but your conscience. Political parties that stand for the people also stand on the strength of the people. If the people want that nobody should bend them the people should lend them their strength. It is the people who are the architects of political parties, and through them of their political destiny. Let them succeed in the great test they are faced with. ■

Bal Gangadhar Tilak: A Prime Architect of Modern India

Bal Gangadhar Tilak born on July 23, 1856 in a middle class Chitpavan Brahmin family in Ratnagiri, was an Indian social reformer and freedom activist. He was one of the prime architects of modern India and probably the strongest advocates of Swaraj or Self Rule for India. His famous declaration "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it" served as an inspiration for future revolutionaries during India's struggle for freedom. The British Government termed him as the "Father of Indian Unrest" and his followers bequeathed upon him the title of 'Lokmanya' meaning he who is revered by the people. Tilak was a brilliant politician as well as a profound scholar who believed that independence is the foremost necessity for the well being of a nation.

Tilak was a brilliant student. He had an intolerant attitude towards injustice and had independent opinions from an early age. After graduating from Deccan College, Pune, in 1877 in Sanskrit and Mathematics, Tilak studied L.L.B. at the Government Law College, Bombay (now Mumbai). He received his law degree in 1879. After finishing his education, he started teaching English and Mathematics at a private school in Poona. He was among India's first generation of youths to receive a modern, college education, Tilak strongly criticised the educational system followed by the British in India. He protested against the unequal treatment of the Indian students compared to their British peers and its total disregard for India's cultural heritage. According to him, the education was not at all adequate for Indians who remained woefully ignorant about their own origins. He started the Deccan Educational Society with college batchmates, Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar for the purpose of inspiring nationalist education among Indian

students. Parallel to his teaching activities, Tilak founded two newspapers 'Kesari' in Marathi and 'Mahratta' in English.

Gangadhar Tilak joined the Indian National Congress in 1890. In the congress he maintained that simple constitutional agitation in itself was futile against the British. He wanted an armed revolt to broom-away the British. Following the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon, Tilak wholeheartedly supported the Swadeshi (Indigenous) movement and Boycott of British goods. But his methods also raised bitter controversies within the Indian National Congress (INC) and the movement itself.

During 1896, an epidemic of bubonic plague broke out in Pune and the adjacent regions and the British employed extremely rigorous measures to contain it. Under directives from Commissioner W. C. Rand, the police and the army invaded private residences, violated personal sanctity of individuals, burned personal possessions and prevented individuals to move in and out of the city. Tilak protested against the oppressive nature of the British efforts and wrote provocative articles on it in his newspapers.

His article inspired the Chapekar brothers and they carried out assassination of Commissioner Rand and Lt. Ayerst on June 22, 1897. As a result of this, Tilak was imprisoned for 18 months on Sedition charges for inciting murder.

His wife died in Pune while he was languishing in Mandalay prison.

In 1915, Tilak was released. He then returned to politics. Deciding to re-unite with his fellow nationalists, Tilak founded the All India Home Rule League in 1916 with Joseph Baptista, Annie Besant and Muhammad Ali Jinnah. By April 1916, the league had 1400 members that increased to 32,000 by 1917. ■

A Modern India is being created: PM Prime Minister`s successful foreign visit

Shri Narendra Modi from June 24 to June 27 made successful foreign visit to Portugal, US and Netherlands. During the visit bilateral relations touched new heights. He interacted with leaders, CEOs of the countries and also addressed people of Indian origin.

PORTUGAL

During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Lisbon, the two sides signed MoUs for creation of an India Portugal Space Alliance and for advancing collaborative research. These agreements will promote India's science and technology partnership with Portugal, towards the establishment of a unique Centre on the Azores Archipelago - the Atlantic International Research Centre.

This Centre will act as a research, innovation and knowledge hub for trans-atlantic and north-south cooperation. An international network of research and academic organizations will be created. The goal is to provide a shared environment to support research and foster new climate, earth, space and marine research.

With respect to space, cooperation is expected to include development and cooperation of next generation nano and micro satellites. On marine sciences, the project would enable India to study the atmospheric and ocean behaviour of the Atlantic and its linkages with weather patterns including the Monsoon.

PM interacts with Indian Community in Lisbon, Portugal

During his historic visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian community in Lisbon, and interacted with them. During his address, Shri Modi highlighted several aspects of the India-Portugal



partnership.

Shri Modi highlighted his meeting with António Guterres, who was also the former Prime Minister of Portugal. The Prime Minister spoke about yoga and holistic healthcare and appreciated the role Portugal was playing to further the message of yoga.

Prime Minister Modi said that India is now among the fastest growing countries in the world. Lauding the role of ISRO scientists, Shri Modi said, "In the field of space, our scientists have done great work. Recently 30 nano satellites were launched."

Earlier he also expressed sadness over loss of lives in forest fire in Portugal.

Prime Minister Modi also presented the Overseas Citizen of India card to Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa.

UNITED STATES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 25 and 26 stayed in United States of America. Both countries moved towards making stronger relations and agreed to counter terrorism. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 26 interacted with the Indian community in Washington DC.

He said that the Indian diaspora rejoiced whenever there was good news from India, and wanted India to scale newer heights. He appreciated the role played by the diaspora in contributing towards the American economy. The Prime Minister said that people in India are now getting opportunities and the right environment. He expressed confidence that soon, they would transform the country.

The Prime Minister asserted that in the last three years, there has not been a single allegation of corruption on the Union Government.

The Prime Minister spoke of the role of technology in reducing corruption. Elaborating on the benefits of Direct Benefit Transfer, he said this has helped in better targeting of subsidy and eliminated leakage to a large degree. The Prime Minister complimented families which have given up their LPG subsidy. He laid out the vision of providing LPG connections to 5 crore poor households. "When I think of a developed India, I think of a healthy India, particularly the good health of the women and children of our nation", he added.

The Prime Minister said that through technology-



driven governance, a modern India is being created. He said that when appropriate policies and governance are in place, the aspirations of the people of India can be achieved.

The Prime Minister spoke about terrorism, and said the world has now understood the threat it poses. In this context, the Prime Minister spoke of the surgical strikes carried out by India recently.

The Prime Minister also appreciated the role of the Ministry of External Affairs, and in particular, the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, in helping people in distress, across the world.

Earlier he also met and interacted with 20 top American CEOs at a roundtable meeting in Washington DC. He said, he said if America becomes stronger, India will be a natural beneficiary. He also added that India believes that a strong America is good for the world. He sought enhanced attention from the CEOs in areas such as women empowerment, renewable energy, startups and innovation. He suggested linking sanitary practices, products and technologies with the requirements of school going girls. He reiterated that his primary interest is improving the quality of life in India.



NETHERLANDS



Describing the Netherlands as India's "natural partner" in its economic development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the bilateral ties with the country's major trading partner will grow rapidly.

After the bilateral talks between Prime Minister Modi and his Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte, the two countries signed three MoUs in the fields of social security, water cooperation and cultural cooperation.

During the talks, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to climate change accord and strengthen cooperation in developing renewable energy.

Ahead of the talks, Mr. Modi who is here on the final leg of his three-nation tour thanked the key European nation for backing India's Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) membership.

"Because of your support India got the membership of the MTCR," Mr. Modi said.

India joined the MTCR as a full member last year. MTCR membership enables India to buy high-end missile technology and also enhances its

joint ventures with Russia.

"Ties between India and the Netherlands are very old. Our bilateral relations are very strong," he said.

He said that relations between India and the Netherlands are century old and the two countries will keep on moving towards stronger ties.

Mr. Modi said the Netherlands is the 5th largest investment partner globally and in the last three years it has emerged as the third largest source of FDI for the country.

In the joint address, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte said India's emergence as a global power is a "welcome development from both political and economic point of views."

"Political because of the values we share with respect of rule of laws and security," he said.

He commended India for its commitment to renewal energy and to the Paris climate agreement. He praised Mr. Modi for announcing major sustainable initiatives like 'Clean India' and 'Make in India'. "The Netherlands is a key partner to help India achieve its goals. India is now a global economic power. It is world's second biggest economy and Indian market has a lot of potential. We have a plenty to offer to India too," he said.

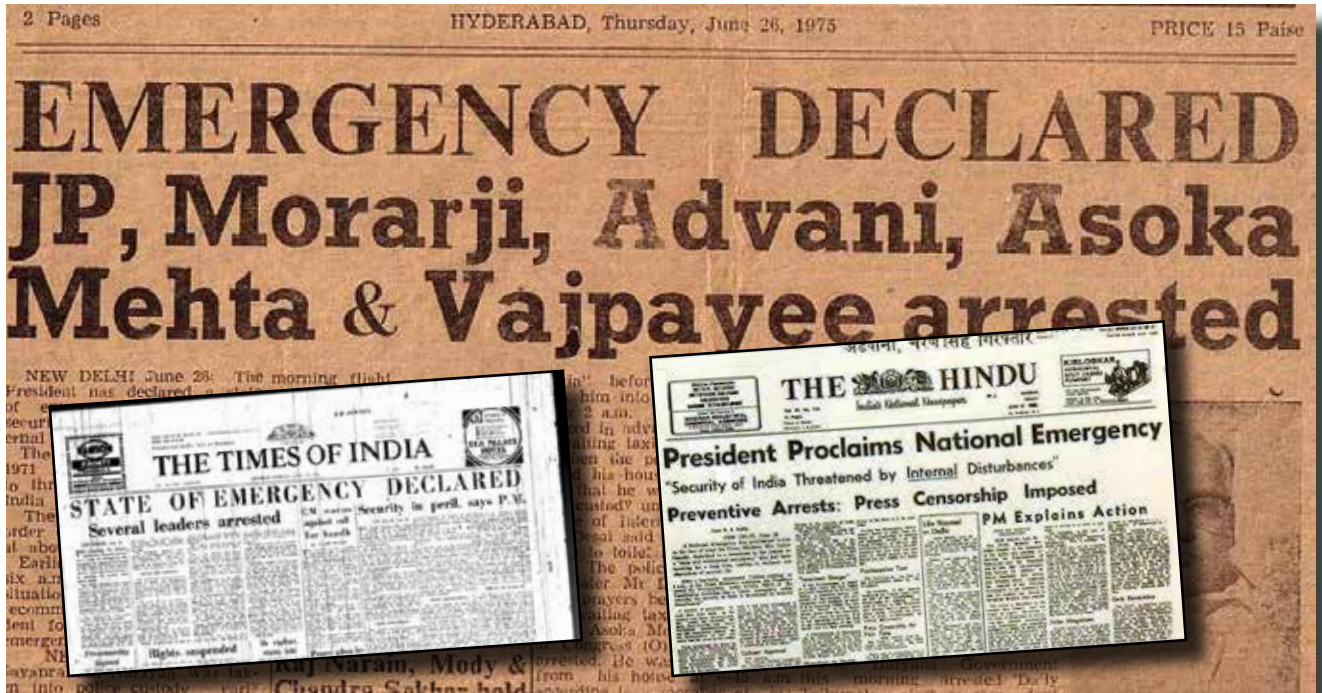
He said Europe is India's biggest trading partner and 20 per cent of India's export to Europe enters through the Netherlands. "So, for India, we are an entry (point) to Europe," he said.

The Dutch premier said the ties is only expected to grow in coming years.

"Today we are giving fresh impetus to ties by easing the flow of capital in both directions. I believe this is one of the many ways to boost ties in the next 70 years and beyond," he said.

This year, the two countries are celebrating 70 years of the establishment of Indo-Dutch diplomatic relations. Mr. Modi, during his day-long visit, will also call on King Willem-Alexander and meet Queen Maxima. He would also be meeting with CEOs of major Dutch companies and encourage them to join the Indian growth story. ■ (PTI)

“Forty Two Years Ago - The Emergency”



ARUN JAITLEY

It has become customary for the critics of any Government in India to casually use an expression “Undeclared Emergency”. Those making these exaggerated comments need to introspect their own roles during the Emergency. Most of them were either supporting the Emergency or were absent in any protest against the Emergency.

Emergency was an assault on all democratic institutions. It not only established the dictatorship of an individual, it created an environment of tyranny and fear in the society. Most institutions collapsed on their own. The Emergency was declared on the midnight of 25th – 26th June, 1975. The ostensible and the official reason was a threat to public order but obviously this was a phoney reasoning. The

real reason was that Mrs. Indira Gandhi had been unseated in an election petition by the Allahabad High Court and the Supreme Court had granted only a conditional stay of the High Court order. She wanted to continue in power and resorted to imposition of Emergency to enable this to happen. It would be in the fitness of things to remind those who loosely use a phrase “Undeclared Emergency” with what happened during that period.

The first Act after the imposition of the Emergency was the detention of the political opposition under the Preventive Detention Law. District Magistrates and Collectors were handed over blank detention forms to enable them detain thousands of leaders and workers of the political opposition. Just the name, father's name and address of each detainee was filled in hand. No grounds of detention existed in any case. Police stations were advised to



register identical FIRs arresting ordinary political workers under the Defence of India Rules after alleging that they were either members of banned organisation or were threatening to overthrow the Government. Nine High Courts in the country held that the detention order were justiciable and in the absence of the grounds of detention the same could be quashed. The Supreme Court decided otherwise.

In preparation for the Emergency, the Supreme Court had already been packed with pliable judges. Three seniormost judges of the Supreme Court were superseded and those believing in the social philosophy of the Government were in control of the court. The Supreme Court held that an illegally detained detainee had no judicial recourse during the Emergency. Justice H.R. Khanna was the only dissenting judge. Pre-censorship was imposed on the entire news media. Not a word could be published in the newspaper without going through the censor. An officer of the censor stayed in the premises of every major newspaper. The entire activities of the opposition were blacked out and the media contained only governmental propaganda. Many of those who now complain of an “Undeclared Emergency” were either active or reluctant supporters of the emergency regime.

Both the Constitution of India and the provisions of the Representation of the People Act were retrospectively amended so that each ground on which Mrs. Indira Gandhi’s election had been set aside could be statutorily reversed. The pliable Supreme Court upheld the retrospective amendments to the provision of the Representation of the People Act by upholding the power of Parliament to amend any law retrospectively. The opposition members of both the Houses of Parliament stood detained. The numerical strength of Parliament was reduced. This gave to the Government an opportunity to amend the Constitution through a procured two-third majority in Parliament. A Parliament elected for a period of five years extended its own life beyond five

years by amending the Constitution. Opposition Governments in some States were dismissed and India witnessed virtually a single individual rule. All ingredients of an absolute dictatorship existed. There was no personal liberty, no press freedom, the Parliament became a farce, the highest Court became subservient to the dictatorship and there was no room for dissent. This now was an ideal opportunity for the dictator to perpetuate her family and, therefore, the younger son of the Prime Minister, Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, was proclaimed as the de facto successor. The country witnessed forced sterilization, mass scale uprooting of the poor including the minorities from their homes and misuse of the mass media.

A dictatorial regime is often misled by its own propaganda. It becomes consumer of its own propaganda with nobody else believing it. It misled itself to believe that the people were in support of the dictatorship.

An era of sycophancy always suffers from a dichotomy. A dictatorial regime is often misled by its own propaganda. It becomes consumer of its own propaganda with nobody else believing it. It misled itself to believe that the people were in support of the dictatorship. It, therefore, committed the ultimate error of ordering an election which witnessed a rebellion against the Emergency regime.

Today I wonder if those who routinely use the expression “Undeclared Emergency” introspect and ask themselves a question “where was I during those nineteen months and what was my publicly declared stand at that time?” ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance & Defence)

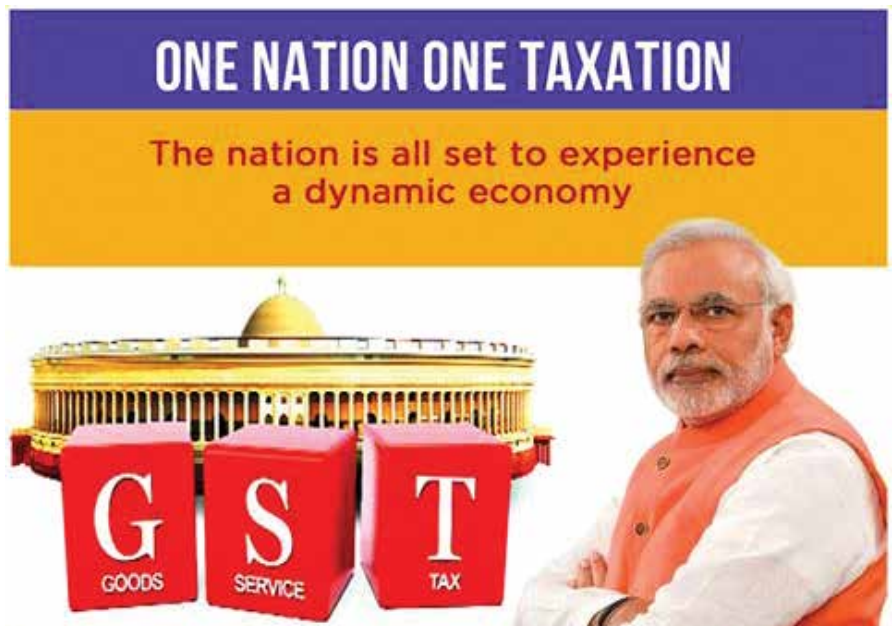
Modi again recasts the two trillion behemoth market architecture

DR R BALASHANKAR

India loves Modi, India loves GST. This seems to be the unanimous message coming from across the country weeks after the historic tax reform in goods and services sector was introduced on July 1. The market has smoothly adapted to the new tax regime. One India One Tax has become a soul stirring slogan, and in every part of the country there is heartening enthusiasm to get the system work.

This mainly is the result of the trust people have in Prime Minister Narend Modi's leadership. The Prime Minister and Finance Minister have carried out the biggest ever socio-economic reform, between November 2016 and July 1, 2017, eight months that witnessed the most revolutionary demonetization and GST that have both impacted the life of every single Indian and came out successfully without much disruption or retribution. There is no parallel in world history for undertaking such momentous economic decisions in such quick succession. To transform a society that equals the population of Europe plus US plus Australia plus South America is history in itself. By the end of the day even such compulsive anti-BJP elements like the CPM in Kerala becoming the most vociferous supporters—The Kerala CPM government organized district level GST melas to sell the new reform to the masses—is in itself commendable. There was no market chaos. There was no spiraling of prices. In fact price of many items including automobiles and consumer durables

fell and in clearance sales consumers all over the country enjoyed a bonanza. The miles long check post traffic jams disappeared overnight. In a day the whole country enjoyed seamless smooth passage of goods and services. Transportation became more cost effective and promising and time saving. The whole country as one market a country of the size and density of the 130 crore is in itself mind boggling. And attractive and enticing to any investor. The investment in the IT sector is expected to be gigantic in the next



five years.

This will help better distribution, preservation and keeping the freshness of products. This reduces scope for cheating the consumer, unfair profiteering and arbitrary pricing of goods at local levels. It enables free movement of goods and services throughout the country reducing the chance of goods getting perished at the production centres because of the earlier restrictions from state to state movement. This leads to better marketability of fruits, vegetables



and other goods produced in farms. This will ensure better remuneration to farmers for their produce.

The hero of GST is undoubtedly Arun Jaitley. It was his messianic perseverance, negotiating skill, patient and generous approach in dealing with states that made it possible for all the 35 states with conflicting political ideologies and traditional rivalries to come on board on a reform that was stuck for nearly two decades on slug fights. It was his credibility and assurance that convinced the states that they would benefit and that the centre will foot the bill. For instance, according to Kerala CM, Pinaray Vijayan the state will gain Rs 1500 crore annually and create an egalitarian society. The state which opposed demonetization harshly is now one of the brand ambassadors of the new regime. Common man is the ultimate beneficiary. And this will almost double tax collection, bring more people under the tax net and erase disparities and discrimination in the distribution.

The motivational impact and communication skill of Arun Jaitley helped a lot. News channels and journals ran special features to educate the public. Social media too played a major role. That is why prophecies of doom, impending financial crises and trader unrest did not carry much weight. Even the former Finance Minister P Chidambaram did everything in his capacity to delay, frustrate and fail the GST roll out. He tried to spread rumours, create scare and predicted that the nation was not prepared, systems were not in place and that the economy will collapse. Instead, the Sensex boomed, traffic snarls came to end and proved the government was better prepared than the private sector. As Jaitley said, "there will be challenges initially, there can be hiccups even in the most perfect tech but the beauty of a perfect tech is that it removes those hiccups as soon as possible. This is a reform that is in interest of common man, traders, industry and the whole country. You need to be patient." Narendra Modi and Jaitley together have brought about a colossal transformation in the way we deal and transact business. For centuries we were familiar with an archaic system inherited from the Mughals and the British. The BJP government has

given it a nationalist, integrational, non-exploitive, fair and leveling reformation that will change the economy beyond recognition. This will spur growth by over two per cent, make trade and transactions smooth and transparent.

This has the additional political messaging of Team India for growth. States believe that they gain without the pain of collecting too many complicated taxes. This will endear them to their political constituency. Opposition ruled states like Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana seemed more hopeful of the gains. Like the Parliament, Kerala assembly held a midnight session to roll out GST. Concerns about e-way bills, registrations, forms are haunting the trading class.

The motivational impact and communication skill of Arun Jaitley helped a lot. News channels and journals ran special features to educate the public. Social media too played a major role. That is why prophecies of doom, impending financial crises and trader unrest did not carry much weight.

These concerns are being adequately addressed at the local level, if one is to go by the reports so far. The Prime Minister symbolically rolled out the new indirect tax regulations at midnight to mark the beginning of economic liberation of India. The most momentous aspect is that it brings the country's dollar two trillion economy and the 1.3 billion consumers into a single market. The trade, industry and the general public have apprehensions but hope, above all faith in the Prime Minister that anything he does is for the common good. For building a stronger, better India. This is the real game changing factor in these times of great economic architecture recast. ■

(The writer is Member, BJP Central Committee on Training, and Committee on Publications and former Convener BJP National Intellectual Cell and Editor Organiser.)

GST is not just a Tax Reform but is a Social Transformation

I GOPAL KRISHNA AGRAWAL

Initial anxiety and apprehension with regard to GST rollout is largely owing to lack of awareness and information about the new tax regime. The apprehension is with regard to its implementation. People are worried about how they will be registered, how they will avail benefits of input tax credits, the anti-profiteering clause and how the reduced taxes shall be passed on to the consumers. These are concerns that are being addressed through processes of instructions and consultations. I myself am travelling to many places for awareness programmes. There will be many regional meetings with trade bodies and professionals to create awareness about GST.

This is not just an economic measure; it means a social reform, by ushering in a more transparent, tax compliant society. For the consumer, it would reduce prices of manufactured goods, for the Government it would mean increased tax collection and fiscal consolidation and creation of a much simpler system to administer through GST network (GSTN).

The experience of demonetisation shows that popular sentiment in India is for a transparent corruption free economy where opposition to a tax compliant regime is waning with the time.

Conceptually, no one has a problem with the GST. It does away with the multiplicity of tax structures subsuming 18 central, state and local taxes, it results in a reduction of indirect taxes for the consumer, it creates ease of doing business by online registration, filling of returns and assesment. It is the only mechanism through which we can create one tax one market. We are looking at an objective, online, transparent and compliant tax system.



For the businessmen who are already registered under excise or VAT, the migration is simple and online. Once registered they have to only capture transaction carefully at the point of supply with full details. Rest; returns, input tax credit etc will be automatically extrapolated by the GSTN.

Traders etc, who's turnover is below 20 lacs are exempt under GST. Those traders and



manufacturers etc. between Rs 20 to 75 lakh turnover have an option of Composite Scheme. They just have to pay one/two per cent GST only and not avail input tax credit. They don't have to issue separate chalangans for transaction of less than Rs 200 each. It benefits the small and medium enterprises.

The most important thing in the GST is to capture the initial transaction in all its details and the rest of the system falls into place beautifully. It just needs to be understood properly. We are trying to benefit the consumer through anti-profiteering which basically translates into tax benefits being transferred to them. And there is a separate authority for this. Similarly, the Government would have a better system to administer besides having a wider tax net.

People who are protesting are those who are unaware. There are a lot of rumors and misinformation being circulated through social media, my request is that people should not rely on them and only go by expert advice. Government is very proactive and GST is an ongoing work in progress, any anomaly found is being taken care of at the highest priority.

There are a lot of misapprehensions. For instance, some people are comparing GST with sales tax only. What is being misconstrued is that GST subsumes other taxes. When GST is higher than sales tax, as in the case of real estate, i.e. 4 per cent sales tax earlier, and about 12 per cent GST now. If floor rates are not reworked, considering input tax credit on steel and cement etc. which was not available earlier, the consumers may be taken for a ride. The anti-profiteering clause kicks in here and the benefits get transferred to the consumer.

Many of the protests are also emanating from those who do not want the country to move towards better tax compliance. That has been the problem with our economy, an overwhelming percentage of transactions are outside the system. That is why over 58 per cent of the Nation's wealth is being captured by only one per cent of people. The BJP was mandated to usher in a transparent,

corruption-free system. GST is a big step towards that. I think by and large people will support us.

We received similar support from the people in case of Demonetisation. People supported us because they know that there are two types of leakages, one is in the tax collection system and the second is in the delivery mechanism. This has led to vast sections being impoverished while a few have flourished. We have plugged the delivery system leakages through directly transferring of benefits to the intended beneficiaries by linking the Jan Dhan scheme through Aadhaar numbers and mobiles (JAM). The second leakage plug will come through GST when all business transactions will move through the formal system and the basic cost of a product will be exhaustively checked.

We are all very sensitive and active to common mens problems. Government has kept on hold the implementation of tax deduction at source, which was creating initial complexities. Government has also come out with clarification on MRP, so that consumers are not taken for a ride.

We are confident that the common people will support us. In any case, we have a migration period where the reality of the new tax regime will sink in. Initial apprehensions will die down. We are all very sensitive and active to common mens problems. Government has kept on hold the implementation of tax deduction at source, which was creating initial complexities. Government has also come out with clarification on MRP, so that consumers are not taken for a ride. ■

(The writer is BJP National Spokesperson on Economic affairs)

The old India was economically fragmented, the 'New India' will create One Tax: Arun Jaitley

Preliminary text of Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley's address at the launch of Goods & Service Tax from Central Hall of Parliament

His Excellency, the President Honourable Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Vice President Honourable Shri Hamid Ansari ji, The Prime Minister Honourable Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Honourable Smt. Sumitra Mahajan ji, Our Former Prime Minister and the senior leader of the country Sri HD Deve Gowda ji, everyone from the Members of the Council of the Ministers, the Ministers of the State Governments, Officials, Members of the Parliament and other dignitaries assembled on this historic occasion, we have assembled today for an important moment in the journey of a great Nation. We are in the process of making history with the launch of Goods and Services Tax. At the midnight hour We will be launching one of India's biggest and most ambitious Tax and Economic Reform in history. The GST maybe a destination tax, but for India it will begin all together a new journey. Its a journey where India will awake to limitless possibilities, to expand its economic Horizons, and loftier political visions. The old India was economically fragmented, the 'New India' will create One Tax, One Market and for One Nation.

It will be an India where the Centre and the States work together cooperatively and harmoniously towards the common goal of shared prosperity. It will be an India which will write a new destiny. The GST is an important achievement for the whole country. The unanimity of the support for the Constitution

Amendment at the consensus-based work of GST Council highlights that India can rise above narrow politics and speak in one voice for larger national interest. The quality and the maturity of the debate leading to the Constitution Amendment and in the GST Council underscores this point that India can collectively think and act with maturity for a broader purpose.

The constitution says that India is a Union of States. The Union is strong if both the States and Centre are strong. That is the real meaning of Cooperative Federalism. While in enacting the GST neither the centre nor the states give up their Sovereignty. They have pooled their sovereignty to make joint decisions for indirect taxation.

In a large and complex Federal System of Multi-Party Democracy With the Centre, 29 States, 2 Union Territories with legislatures, and wide divergent interest we have implemented a Constitution Amendment and brought in a large tax reform, displaying a high point of Indian politics. We have done this at a time when the world is facing slow growth, Isolationism and lack of structural reforms. With the GST India has shown that these forces can be overcome through the display of inclusion, openness and boldness. For this all Member of Parliament, The State Governments, all political parties, State Finance Ministers and the dedicated team of Officers of Centre and State Governments, Who contributed to this, deserve to be appreciated and thanked. ■



Decision to reduce Tax Rate on Fertilizers from existing 12% to 5 % under GST taken in the interests of the Farmers



Ministry of fertilizer decided to reduce GST rate of fertilizers from the existing 12% to 5%. It is noteworthy here that the decision was taken in the interests of the farmers.

The above decision was briefed by Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar on 30th June 2017. The Government has also taken up with the Industry to pass on the benefit to the Farmers, the Minister informed.

Shri Ananthkumar said that farmers would benefit to the tune of Rs. 1261 crores under GST regime. Under the new GST rates announced by the Council, average weighted MRP will decrease to Rs. 5909/ Ton (or Rs. 295.47/ 50kg bag) as compared to the existing All India weighted Average of Rs 5923/ Ton (or Rs. 296.18/50 kg bag).

Consequent to the ushering in of the GST regime, Shri Ananthkumar informed, there will

be a uniform MRP of Rs.295.47 per 50 kg bag across the country except couple of States where additional VAT is charged on the natural gas as Natural gas has not been brought within the ambit of GST. However, even in these States, MRP will reduce by Rs 3 per 50 kg bag. Similarly, MRP of P&K Fertilisers, for which the prices are not administered, are also expected to come down on an average basis as the incidence of tax will be lower than the existing tax on an average, the Minister added.

The GST regime, apart from integrating the entire fertilizer market into a single market, will also deter inter-state smuggling of fertilizers which may be currently happening due to differing levels of taxes and consequently MRPs in different adjoining States. The GST would realize the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'One Nation, One Market, One Tax', Shri Ananthkumar said. ■

If the children in our family are interested in sports, they should be given opportunities.:PM

P rime Minister Shri Narendra on June 25 in his radio programme of 'Mann Ki Baat' interacted with the people of the country. While interacting he greeted the people on rath yatra and eid. The prime Minister also mentioned some incidents of people participation in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Here are highlights of the address:

- The chariot festival of Lord Jagannath, the Rath Yatra, is being celebrated in several parts of the country with great piety and fervour. This festival is now also celebrated in some parts of the world.... few would know that in English, there is a word, 'juggernaut' which means, a magnificent chariot, that is unstoppable. In the dictionary, the etymology of the word 'juggernaut' traces its roots to the chariot of Lord Jagannath.
- The underprivileged of the country are deeply connected to Lord Jagannath. Those who have studied the life and works of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, would have observed that he had wholeheartedly praised the Lord Jagannath temple and its traditions, since, social justice and social equality were inherent to these. Lord Jagannath is the God of the poor.
- In this holy month of Ramzan, I came across a very inspiring incident at Mubarakpur village of Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. About three and a half thousand families of our Muslim brethren reside in that little village and in a way, form a majority of its population. During this Ramzan the villagers decided to get together and construct toilets. Now, to construct these household toilets, the government gives financial assistance, under

which, they were provided a sum of 17 lakh rupees. You will be pleasantly surprised and happy to know that, during this holy month of Ramzan, these Muslim brothers and sisters, returned this money to the government, saying, they would construct these toilets with their own labour and their own money.

- Recently I came across a wonderful incident, which I would like to share with you. This happened in the Vizianagaram District of



Andhra Pradesh. The district administration there undertook a huge task with people's participation. From 6 a.m. on the 10th of March, till 10 am of the 14th of March. A hundred-hour non-stop campaign. And what was the objective? To construct 10,000 household toilets in 71 gram panchayats in those hundred hours. And my Dear Countrymen, you will be happy to learn that the administration and the people together did construct 10,000 toilets in hundred hours successfully. 71 villages became ODF. I congratulate the people in the government, government officials and the



citizens of Vizianagaram district on this great accomplishment of achieving this feat through immense hard work and setting a very inspiring example in the process.

- Shri Prakash Tripathi reminiscing about the Emergency, has written, presenting 25th of June as a Dark period in the history of Democracy. Prakash Tripathi ji's commitment to democracy is praiseworthy. Not only is Democracy a system, but also a 'sanskar'- a part of our ethos. Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty. One needs to be constantly alert about our Democracy, that is why we must also keep remembering the events that inflicted harm upon our democracy.
- The believers of democracy fought a prolonged war, and the great nation that India is, where the spirit of democracy pervades the very being of all its people, the strength of that spirit was demonstrated when the opportunity of elections came. We have to further fortify that legacy.
- Every Indian today, is proud and holds his head high. 21st June 2017 – Yoga has permeated the entire world.
- In China, Yoga was practiced on the Great Wall of China, and on the World Heritage site of Machu Picchu in Peru, at 2400 metres above sea level. In France, yoga was performed in the vicinity of the Eiffel Tower. In Abu Dhabi in UAE, more than 4000 persons participated in mass yoga. In Herat, in Afghanistan, on the India Afghan Friendship Dam, Salma Dam, Yoga added a new aspect to India's friendship. In a small country like Singapore, programs were organised in 70 places, with a week long campaign. On the occasion of International Day of Yoga, the UN released ten stamps. A 'Yoga Session with Yoga Masters' was organised at the UN headquarters. The staff of the UN and diplomats from across the world participated.
- Today, India's flag is flying high not only on earth but also in space. Just two days ago,

ISRO launched 30 Nano satellites with the 'Cartosat-2 Series Satellite.' And besides India, these satellites are of France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and America, nearly 14 such countries. And with India's Nano Satellite Mission, we will get a lot of help in the field of agriculture, farming, and dealing with natural disasters. We are all aware that a few days ago, ISRO has successfully launched the GSAT-19. And of all the satellites launched by India, this was the heaviest satellite. The newspapers of our country have compared it with elephantine

In China, Yoga was practiced on the Great Wall of China, and on the World Heritage site of Machu Picchu in Peru, at 2400 metres above sea level. In France, yoga was performed in the vicinity of the Eiffel Tower. In Abu Dhabi in UAE, more than 4000 persons participated in mass yoga.

weights. You can well imagine the magnitude of the achievement of our scientists in space.

- There is no dearth of talent in our country. If the children in our family are interested in sports, they should be given opportunities. They should not be forced off the playing fields to be locked in rooms with books. They should study as well, if they can do well in studies, they should certainly do so, but if they have the potential and the inclination to do well in sports, that should be encouraged and supported by the school, college, family and all the people around them. Each one should nurture dreams for the next Olympics. ■

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Shri Amit Shah

BJP National President

Shri Arun Jaitley

Union Minister of Finance & Defence

Shri Radha Mohan Singh

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APPEAL

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