

KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



'LET OUR MOTTO BE YOGA FOR PEACE,
HARMONY AND PROGRESS'

संसदीय बोर्ड



ABHINANDAN! ABHINANDAN!!



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah paying tributes to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on his Balidan Divas at BJP Headquarters in New Delhi



BJP National Working President Shri JP Nadda paying floral tributes to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on his Balidan Divas at BJP Headquarters in New Delhi



Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh performing Yoga on International Yoga Day in New Delhi



Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla along with other members of parliaments performing Yoga in front of Parliament Building in New Delhi on International Yoga Day



Union Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari along with others celebrating the International Yoga Day in Nagpur, Maharashtra



Maharashtra CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis along with Yoga guru Baba Ramdev performed yoga in Nanded, Maharashtra

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@narendramodi



Congratulations to Shri @ombirlakota Ji on being unanimously elected the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He has been associated with public life since his student days and has worked compassionately for the poor and downtrodden. My best wishes to him for the tenure ahead.

@RajnathSingh

Tributes to brave Air-warriors @ IAF_MCC, who lost their lives in the unfortunate An-32 crash on 03 June, 19 in Arunachal Pradesh.



They served the nation with confidence and courage. I salute their sacrifice in the line of duty.

@nitin_gadkari



Under the leadership of PM Shri @ narendramodi ji ,India is making progress in all the sectors. It is indeed the best time to invest in India.

facebook

I congratulate @ombirlakota on being unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. I am sure, under his leadership, all the members of the 17th Lok Sabha will be committed to the welfare of the people of India and write a new chapter of development and progress in the country. — **Amit Shah**



Many Congratulations to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for being elected in the @HeraldBritish poll as the most powerful person. This is for the blessings and love of the 125 crore people of the country for whom Modiji has dedicated his entire self and every moment. #ModiHaitoMumkinHai



— **Jagat Prakash Nadda**

On one hand, New India meets the aspirations of the poor and the middle class. The second leg of that New India is a corruption-free & honest India. An India where everybody gets equal opportunity and which engages with the world on equal terms & not from the position of weakness.



— **Piyush Goyal**



Courtesy: Social Media



KAMAL SANDESH PARIVAR
wishes a very happy
JAGANNATHA RATHA YATRA (4 JULY)
to all of its readers

NATION SET TO SCALE NEWER HEIGHTS

The massive mandate has come with massive responsibilities. It is the outcome of huge trust that the people have in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the BJP led NDA government and the credibility earned through vision and hard work in the last five years. It is the sense of responsibility and duty towards the nation that the Modi government is working tirelessly with the commitment to build a 'New India'. The 'speed, scale and skill' employed in getting results of a large number of innovative projects and programmes are getting worldwide recognitions paving the path for greater achievements at various levels. In the presidential address at the beginning of the current parliamentary session, the priorities of the government have been outlined. While the remarkable achievements of the Modi government in the last five years have been recounted with the promise of their continuance, the agenda for the future instils a sense of hope and trust in the people of India. The presidential address has re-assured the people of India that the Modi-government is moving ahead with a comprehensive framework, covering every sector of the economy while taking care of every section of the society with the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka

Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. Not only that the presidential address has dwelled over different sectors of economy and immediate requirements but also charted an environment friendly developmental path with futuristic approach and long term vision. The Modi government should be congratulated for its commitment for building a strong, prosperous and glorious India which can claim high position in the world in the days to come.

While the Modi government is laying the foundation of a great nation, the BJP organization is further strengthening itself with the launch of new membership drive seeking to increase 20 per cent membership in the coming months. As BJP has emerged as the hope of the people, the national aspirations are now reflected in the expansion and consolidation of the organization in different parts of the country. The Lok Sabha elections 2019 has manifested the expectations of the people in the entire nation with BJP breaking new grounds and getting massive supports in the newer areas. It is therefore the responsibility of the BJP that the support base is given ample representation in the organization and with this vision BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has once again initiated the process of membership drive with the aim of enrolling new members so as to further strengthen and consolidate the organization. As the largest political organization of the world, in the coming months, the BJP will further add up to its numbers and become much bigger organization thus becoming an example in itself.

As huge opportunity in terms of increasing its support base by serving the people in every nook and corner of the country awaits BJP, the appointment of Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda as its working president by the BJP Parliamentary Board is set to add

more energy and dynamism to the party. Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda who earlier served at different level in the party and as union minister in the last Modi government enjoys the reputation of an organization man who has risen from the ranks and represents experience, commitment and high ethos of the organization. The appointment of the working president once again reinforces the high principles and ideals of a democratic political party which BJP today represents in the country. There is no doubt that in the leadership of BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and BJP Working President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, the party will scale newer heights in the days to come. The remarkable achievements of the BJP led NDA government in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is set to enhance the credibility of the leadership and BJP will be able to consolidate it further in the days to come. The idea of 'Nation First, Party Next, Self last' will continue to inspire all the karyakartas in the service of Maa Bharati. ■

THE APPOINTMENT OF SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA AS ITS WORKING PRESIDENT BY THE BJP PARLIAMENTARY BOARD IS SET TO ADD MORE ENERGY AND DYNAMISM TO THE PARTY. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA WHO EARLIER SERVED AT DIFFERENT LEVEL IN THE PARTY AND AS UNION MINISTER IN THE LAST MODI GOVERNMENT ENJOYS THE REPUTATION OF AN ORGANIZATION MAN WHO HAS RISEN FROM THE RANKS AND REPRESENTS EXPERIENCE, COMMITMENT AND HIGH ETHOS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

 shivshakti@kamalsandesh.org

संसदीय बोर्ड बैठक

नई दिल्ली



JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA APPOINTED AS WORKING PRESIDENT OF BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party appointed former Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda as its National Working President on 17 June, 2019. The decision was taken at a meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Board, the highest decision-making body of the party in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal and other senior leaders and members of the Parliamentary Board.

Addressing a press conference after the appointment, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said the decision has been taken following a formal request from Shri Amit Shah to relinquish his post as

BJP National President following his appointment as Union Home Minister.

“As BJP President, Shri Amit Shah has served the party for the last five years in an exemplary fashion. The party won several elections in the States. In the Lok Sabha elections, too, it was Shri Amit Shah’s organisation that complimented the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s leadership and popularity. After the PM gave him a new responsibility as Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah had himself requested that he would be busy with his ministerial duties and someone else should be appointed BJP President,” said Shri Rajnath Singh, following the meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Board Chaired by the PM Shri Narendra Modi.

The Defence Minister said while most members of the Parliamentary Board were of the opinion that Shri Amit Shah should continue, he insisted that someone else be appointed.

LIFE SKETCH

Shri JP Nadda belongs to Himachal Pradesh. He has risen through the ranks in the ABVP, of which he was a part during his student days in Himachal Pradesh and Bihar.

He has held several important positions ranging from organizational posts at the District, State and National level; to Ministerial positions at the State and Central level. He is member of Rajya Sabha from Himachal Pradesh. Before the BJP leadership decided to make him Working President, Shri JP Nadda was in-charge of BJP's election campaign in Uttar Pradesh in the run-up to the 2019 General Elections, where the party decimated the opposition alliance of the Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and RLD and came out with flying colors in which the party bagged 62 and with ally 64 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state. Apart from handling crucial states for the BJP in the General Elections, Shri Nadda is also Secretary of the Parliamentary Board of the party.

EARLY LIFE

He was born on 02 December, 1960 to Dr. Narain Lall Nadda and Smt. Shrimati Krishna Nadda. He was educated at St. Xaviers School, Patna. Thereafter he did his B.A. from Patna College, Patna University and LL.B. from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla. On 11 December 1991, he married to Dr. Mallika Nadda. As a child, he represented Bihar State in the All India Junior Swimming Championship held at New Delhi.

POLITICAL CAREER

He started his political career as a student leader of the ABVP in Bihar. In those days his father was serving as the vice-chancellor of the Patna University. Shri J P Nadda was appointed as the President of the BJP's youth wing, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in 1991 at the age of 31.

POLITICAL CAREER

He started his political career as a student leader of the ABVP in Bihar. In those days his father was serving as the vice-chancellor of the Patna University. Shri J P Nadda was appointed as the President of the BJP's youth wing, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in 1991 at the age of 31.

- 1993-98, 1998 – 2003 and 2007 – 2012 he was elected as Member, Himachal Pradesh Legislative

Assembly (Three terms).

- 1994 – 98 he was Bharatiya Janata Party Legislative Leader, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- 1998 – 2003 Cabinet Minister, Health and Family Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Himachal Pradesh
- 2008–2010 Cabinet Minister, Forest, Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- April 2012 Elected to Rajya Sabha.



- May 2012 onwards Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.
- August 2012 onward Member, Court of the University of Delhi Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare.
- From May 2013 onwards Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Privileges.
- From 2014 onwards the Union Cabinet Minister of Health and Family Welfare till 23 May, 2019.
- 17 June, 2019 onwards the BJP National Working President.



Narendra Modi @narendramodi

Shri @JPNadda is a diligent Karyakarta of the Party, who has risen through the ranks due to his hardwork and organisational skills. Humble and affable, he is widely respected across the BJP family. Congratulations to him on becoming the Working President of the Party.

I am confident that under the leadership of Shri @AmitShah and Shri @JPNadda, and powered by the hardwork of our Karyakartas, the BJP will continue winning people's trust and serving our society. We remain committed to building a strong, developed and inclusive India.

"We were of the opinion that he should continue, at least till the organizational elections are over. But he insisted that someone else should take charge. In the discussion that we had, everyone unanimously agreed that Shri JP Nadda should be appointed as the Working President of the Party."

Although the BJP Constitution does not specifically prevent anyone holding an official post from simultaneously remain the Party President, Shri Shah has himself requested to be relieved of his duties as BJP President.

Shri JP Nadda's elevation to the post of Working President is the first of its kind in the history of the BJP. Under the current arrangement, Shri Amit Shah will continue to be the party National President and Shri JP Nadda is the Working President.

After being appointed Working President, Shri Nadda, in a series of tweets, said PM Shri Narendra

Modi's guidance has always been inspirational for him and under the Prime Minister's leadership the party has got huge support from people of the country. "I will try to strengthen the party as its worker...serving the party is like worship for me".

Thanking Shri Amit Shah, Shri JP Nadda said that under his leadership the party touched new heights which are exemplary and in the same way he will also serve the party.

While the BJP has won a historic mandate in the parliamentary elections, elections are due in three states ruled by it — Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana. The Delhi Assembly elections will follow shortly thereafter. Now, under the dynamic and proven leadership of party National President Shri Amit Shah and the Working President Shri JP Nadda the party will face the upcoming assembly elections in these states.



Amit Shah @AmitShah

भाजपा संसदीय बोर्ड द्वारा श्री @JPNadda जी को सर्वसम्मति से कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष चुने जाने पर उन्हें बधाई देता हूँ। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि उनके नेतृत्व में पार्टी निरंतर सशक्त होगी और हम मोदी सरकार की कल्याणकारी नीतियों और संगठन की विचारधारा को देश के कोने-कोने में पहुँचाएँगे।

Noteworthy, Shri Amit Shah had become the Party National President in July 2014 after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won the General Elections in May 2014 and formed the government at the centre. While Shri Rajnath Singh was the President of BJP in 2014, Shri Amit Shah was appointed as National President after Shri Rajnath Singh joined the government and became the Union Home Minister.

As per informations Shri Amit Shah will continue as BJP President till the organizational elections are over. All organizational elections at the block, district, state and national levels of the Party will be conducted hereafter. A fresh membership drive was also undertaken. The leadership has set a target to increase membership by 20 percent in all the states and party National President Shri Amit Shah appointed BJP National Vice President and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh

Chouhan as the National Membership Pramukh of this membership drive.

JP NADDA TAKES CHARGE AS WORKING PRESIDENT OF BJP

An enthusiastic welcome awaited Shri JP Nadda when he reached the BJP National Headquarters in New Delhi. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and other senior leaders of the party greeted him with flowers.

Before taking charge both Shri Amit Shah and Shri JP Nadda paid tributes to Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in the party headquarters.

Apart from Shri Amit Shah, all Union Ministers, BJP National Office Bearers, BJP National General Secretary (Org.) Shri Ram Lal, UP CM Yogi Adityanath and Deputy CM Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, former Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and others

T **Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh**
BJP Parliamentary board met today and it has selected Shri @JPNadda as the working president. He will remain the working president till the BJP's membership drive& org. elections are over.



Congratulations & best wishes to Naddaji for shouldering this new responsibility. 2/2

T **Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari**
Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. J.P. Nadda on becoming the National Executive President of the BJP. I am sure, under your leadership, the party organisation will expand more strongly. @JPNadda @BJP4India



congratulated Shri JP Nadda after taking Charge of the Working President of the party.

LIST OF BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

S.No.	Name	Term
1.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	1980-1986
2.	L. K. Advani	1986-1991
3.	Murli Manohar Joshi	1991-1993
4.	L. K. Advani	1993-1998
5.	Kushabhau Thakre	1998-2000
6.	Bangaru Laxman	2000-2001
7.	Jana Krishnamurthi	2001-2002
8.	M.Venkaiah Naidu	2002-2004
9.	L. K. Advani	2004-2005
10.	Rajnath Singh	2005-2009
11.	Nitin Gadkari	2009-2013
12.	Rajnath Singh	2013-2014
13.	Amit Shah	2014 to Present
14.	J P Nadda (Working President)	2019 to Present

T **Prakash Javadekar @PrakashJavdekar**
@BJP4India पार्टी का राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष बनाए जाने पर श्री @JPNadda जी को हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएं।

T **Dharmendra Pradhan @dpradhanbjp**
Congratulations to elder brother Shri @JPNadda on being appointed as the working President of @BJP4India. May Lord Jagannath bless him with immense success in his new role. His organisational skills will further strengthen the Party and help #BJP reach newer heights of success.

T **Vijay Rupani @vijayrupanibjp**
भाजपा संसदीय बोर्ड द्वारा श्री @JPNadda जी को @BJP4India के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष चुने जाने पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

T **Manohar Lal @mlkhattar**
भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता श्री @JPNadda जी को पार्टी का कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष बनाए जाने पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आपके मार्गदर्शन में कार्यकर्ता उच्च आदर्शों पर चलते हुए पार्टी के जनाधार को बढ़ाएंगे और हम प्रत्येक राज्य में सफलता के नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित करेंगे।

T **Devendra Fadnavis @Dev_Fadnavis**
Heartiest congratulations from Maharashtra to Shri @JPNadda ji on being elected as @BJP4India National Working President !

T **Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath**
माननीय श्री @JPNadda जी को @BJP4India के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष बनाये जाने पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। हमें विश्वास है कि आप भाजपा को अपने कुशल नेतृत्व से नई ऊंचाइयों पर ले जाएंगे।

T **Sarbananda Sonowal @sarbanandsonwal**
Many congratulations to Shri @JPNadda ji on being appointed as the new National Working President of @BJP4India. I believe that his leadership will carry forward our growth momentum and strengthen the organisational base across India.

T **Dr. Pramod Sawant @DrPramodPSawant**
Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to @JPNadda ji on being appointed as working president of @BJP4India.



Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda

Before taking over the charge as the National Working President of BJP I met the Hon'ble Prime Minister @narendramodi ji and expressed my sincere appreciation and gratitude.

All of us BJP Karyakartas will take the Modi government's policies to the last man standing on the queue.



NEW WORKING PRESIDENT MEETS LK ADVANI AND DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

After his appointment as Bharatiya Janata Party Working President, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda met and sought the blessings of senior Party leaders Shri Lal Krishna and Dr. Murlimanohar Joshi.

Later Shri Nadda tweeted, “. Met and sought blessings of former BJP National President, former Deputy Prime Minister and our mentor Shri LK Advani

ji. He is a source of inspiration for all of us. We always get inspiration to work with dedication for the country in your guidance.”

He also tweeted, “Today, I met and sought the blessings of our senior leader and former BJP President Dr. Murlimanohar Joshi. It is a matter of privilege that I got a chance to work as the national president of the party's youth wing under his leadership”. ■



BJP NATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS, STATE PRESIDENTS AND ORGANISATION SECRETARIES MEETING HELD

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN APPOINTED AS BJP NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP PRAMUKH

The Bharatiya Janata Party National Office Bearers, State Party Presidents and Organisation Secretaries meeting was concluded on 13 June, 2019 at the National Headquarters of the party in 6-A, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi. The Hon'ble BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji presided over the meeting. BJP National Office Bearers, all the State Party Presidents and Organisation Secretaries were present on the occasion.

On this occasion the BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah appointed BJP National Vice-President Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan as party Membership Pramukh and initiated the organizational drive.

BJP National Vice-President Shri Dushyant Kumar Gautam, BJP National Secretary Shri Suresh Pujari, Former BJP President, Rajasthan Shri Arun Chaturvedi and State General Secretary, Kerala Smt. Sova Surendran have been appointed as Sah-

Pramukh of Membership Drive.

MEMBERSHIP UNDER THIS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SHOULD BE 'SARVVYAPI' AND 'SARVSWARSHI': SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

We are proud that the Bharatiya Janata Party is the largest political party in the world. Our government is formed at the center with a massive mandate under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Hon'ble National President Shri Amit Shah has appointed me as the Pramukh of National Membership Programme. I express my gratitude from the heart towards the Hon'ble National President for this responsibility.

It is expected that all the party office bearers, public representatives and Karyakartas of the party should actively participate in this membership drive, as per the directions of the Hon'ble National President.

The 'Sangathan Parv' was inaugurated on 13



June, 2019 at the National Office bearers Meeting. According to the BJP Constitution, the party has to make more than 20 percent new members in this membership drive. In this regard, State Membership Pramukh, Sah-Pramukh, District Membership Pramukh, Sah-Pramukh, Mandal Pramukh and Sah-Pramukh will be appointed.

Membership under this membership drive should be 'Sarvvyapi' and 'Sarvswarshi' and special emphasize should be given under this drive in

relatively weaker booths. Try to make a member by contacting all sections, castes and communities under special membership campaign.

Membership campaign will be managed by contacting the people on mobile and as well as personally.

The membership drive will begin on 06 July, 2019 and will be concluded by 10 August, 2019. After this, active membership will be started which is to be completed by 31 August, 2019. ■



TMC MLA AND 12 COUNCILLORS JOIN BJP

A Trinamool Congress legislator and a dozen party Councillors joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on 18 June, 2019. Biswajit Das, the Trinamool Congress MLA from Bongaon North-West Bengal, became the sixth legislator to join BJP after the Lok Sabha election results.

With the 12 councillors switching sides, the control of Bongaon municipality effectively has gone from the TMC to the BJP.

Since the Lok Sabha poll results, TMC has lost control of five civic bodies in West Bengal. These are Bhatpara, Halisahar, Kanchrapara, Naihati and Garulia.

Noteworthy, earlier TMC legislator Sunil Singh and 12 councillors of Garulia municipality joined the BJP. On May 28, TMC legislator Subhranshu Roy, Bishnupur's Congress-turned-TMC MLA Tusharkanti Bhattacharya and Hemtabad's Communist Party of India (Marxist) MLA Debendra Nath Roy joined BJP



camp in New Delhi. On May 29, TMC legislator from Monirul Islam switched over to the BJP. On June 17, TMC MLA Sunil Singh quit Bengal's ruling party and crossed over to the BJP.

BJP National General Secretary Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya welcomed the MLA and councillors from Bengal. ■

Four Rajya Sabha members from TDP join BJP

The Telugu Desam Party received a major jolt on 20 June, 2019 as four out of its six Rajya Sabha members switched to the Bharatiya Janata Party. Former Union Minister YS Chowdary, CM Ramesh, G Mohan Rao and TG Venkatesh are the four leaders.

The four MPs submitted a letter to Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice-President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu seeking that they should be recognized as a separate group.

In a resolution, they wrote, "Inspired and encouraged by the impeccable leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji and the developmental policies being pursued by him in the overall interest of the nation, we have decided to merge with the Bharatiya Janata Party with immediate effect."

Welcoming them into the party, BJP Working President Shri JP Nadda said, "I assure them that our party believes in politics of positivism, inclusiveness. We will move forward with Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas



aur Sabka Vishwas."

The exit of four MPs comes as further bad news for an already beleaguered TDP, which won only 3 out of 25 Lok Sabha seats and 23 out of 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh in the recently-concluded elections. ■

OM BIRLA ELECTED LOK SABHA SPEAKER

BJP Lok Sabha MP and NDA nominee Shri Om Birla was on June 19 unanimously elected Lok Sabha Speaker with opposition parties, including Congress, Biju Janata Dal, Trinamool Congress and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam supporting his candidature. The second term MP from Kota in Rajasthan succeeded Smt. Sumitra Mahajan who did not contest the Lok Sabha election.

The PM, who as leader of the House, moved a motion for Shri Birla's election. Shri Birla has been a three-term MLA. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, welcomed the unanimous election of Shri Om Birla as the Speaker of the seventeenth Lok Sabha, in accordance with the highest traditions of the House.

Congratulating Shri Om Birla, in his address at Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister said that it is a proud moment for all the members to have such a distinguished personality as the Speaker of the House.

He said that Shri Om Birla has been in public life for years, starting as a student leader and has been continuously serving the society. He commended the role played by Shri Om Birla in the transformation and overall development of Kota, Rajasthan.

The Prime Minister also remembered his long association with the newly elected Speaker. He underlined Shri Om Birla's dedication to service and his contributions towards the rebuilding efforts in Kutch after the earthquake and Kedarnath after the floods. He added that the seventeenth Lok Sabha is getting a compassionate leader as its Speaker.

The Prime Minister assured the Speaker that he would receive full cooperation of the members in conducting the proceedings of the House successfully. ■

BRIEF BIO

- 2003-2014 Member, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly (three terms)
- 31 May 2004-2008 Appointed as Parliamentary Secretary (MOS) to the Govt. of Rajasthan
- May, 2014 Elected to 16th Lok Sabha
- 14 Aug. 2014 - 30 April 2016 Member, Committee on Estimates
- 1 Sep. 2014 - 25 May 2019 Member, Committee on Petitions
- Member, Standing Committee on Energy)
- Member, Consultative Committee, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- 3 July 2015 - 30 April 2016 Member, Sub Committee-III, Committee on Estimates
- May, 2019 Re-elected to 17th Lok Sabha (2nd term)
- National Vice-President: All India Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (for 6 years continuously);
- State President: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Rajasthan (for 6 years continuously);
- District President: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Kota (4 years);
- Vice President: National Cooperative Consumer Association Ltd., New Delhi;
- Chairman: Rajasthan State Cooperative Consumer Association Ltd., Jaipur (from June 1992 to June 1995); Kota Sahkari Upbhokta Wholesale Bhandaar Ltd., Kota (from 4 May 1987 to June 1995);
- Member: Coal India Ltd., New Delhi; Nehru Yuva Kendra, New Delhi;
- Joint Secretary: Rajasthan College of Commerce, Kota (Raj.);
- President, Students Association, Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Gumanpura, Kota (in year 1979 at the tender age of 17 years)



28% OF 7.06 MILLION JOBS FORMALIZED BETWEEN 2015 AND 2018 WERE DUE TO GST AND DEMONETIZATION: REPORT

The last four years saw an unprecedented momentum in formalization of jobs, a process that enhances the legally enforceable rights of workers as well as their prestige, emoluments and social protection.

The demonetization and goods and services tax (GST), these two steps by the Modi government 1.0 have played a big role in the formalization of jobs — cumulatively over 28% of 7.06 million jobs formalized between 2015 and 2018 were due to them, according to a study commissioned by Indian Staffing Federation (ISF). Only about 16% of India's estimated 500 million workforces is in the formal sector. The rest are in the informal sector.

The report, "Impact of Key Reforms on Job Formalization and Flexi Staffing", says that a total of 1.08 million jobs were formalized with the introduction of GST. Note ban contributed around 0.87 million into the formalization of jobs. Reform initiatives in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) contributed the most in the formalization of jobs at 1.28 million and 1.25 million, respectively, during 2015-2018. Initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY), under which the government shouldered employers' burden for mandatory EPF contribution for an employee earning up to Rs 15,000 a month, paid off.

Braving industry's opposition, the government had



in 2016 raised monthly wage threshold for enrollment under ESIC at Rs 21,000 from Rs 15,000 earlier. The introduction of fixed-term employment, initially for the textile and garment sectors and later for all sectors, also contributed significantly.

The study further said around 11.03 million jobs will be formalized in 2018-2021 as a result of current and imminent policies and reforms. Reforms in EPF and ESIC will drive formalization of jobs the most. The report revealed that flexi staffing industry has witnessed acceleration due to government's reforms since 2016. It said flexi workforce is expected to go up to 6.1 million by 2021 from 4.1 million in 2019. In 2015 and in 2018, the number of flexi workforce in the country stood at 2.1 million and 3.3 million, respectively. ■

Government reduces ESI rate to 4% from 6.5%

Government has reduced rate of contribution for medical care under the ESI (Employees' State Insurance) Act to 4% from 6.5%. Reduction in contribution will benefit all the employees and employers covered under ESI Scheme.

The reduction will bring relief to workers, encourage more to join formal sector, besides making establishments more viable. The reduced rates will come into effect from July 1. The first revision in ESI rates since 1997, however, has faced criticism from Left-backed trade unions. The Income limit for availing medical benefit for the dependent parents of an Insured Person covered under ESI Scheme has been enhanced from the existing Rs.5000/- per month from all sources to Rs.9000/- per month. ■

'BETTER RURAL ROADS LED TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA': WORLD BANK REPORT

A World Bank report has hailed India's rural road scheme, saying it has improved mobility, increased access to economic opportunities and boosted attendance of children in schools. It also claims the number of babies delivered at home has come down substantially in areas connected through rural roads, a major improvement in the health sector.

The report, submitted to the union rural development ministry on 19 June, 2019 evaluates the impact of the flagship Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in three states —Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan— based on data collected between 2009 and 2017.

Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had launched the PMGSY scheme in 2000 to improve connectivity in rural India. So far, more than 6 lakh kms of rural roads have been constructed across the states. To fund this scheme, the Centre earmarked Rs 0.75/ per litre cess on high-speed diesel.

According to the World Bank report, improved road connectivity has "triggered a shift from farm to non-farm employment" and "women stepped out of the house to take care of their farms", indicating better employment opportunities for the rural households.

"...As a consequence of PMGSY roads, the rate of primary employment in the non-farm sector increased by about 12 percentage points in the habitations studied," the study revealed. While most workers who switched to non-farm jobs were men, women



stepped out of their houses to take care of the farm because of better roads. The report concludes that the entry of women was the main factor behind the rise of employment in connected habitations.

The report says that the impact of better roads on employment had a relation with distance from urban centres. In places that are 10 kms away from a rural area, employment opportunity increased by 6 percentage points.

Another key aspect of the presence of roads could be seen in the education sector as on average, students in middle and high schools had "0.7 more years of schooling in 2017".

The report said PMGSY has changed the face of rural India along with schemes for housing, cooking gas and National Rural Livelihood Mission. ■



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BECOME PART OF A VIBRANT IDEOLOGICAL MOVEMENT

INTEGRAL HUMANISM REVISITED

Integral humanism is not a quick-fix solution for electoral success nor is it a convenient strategy for capturing power. It is not even a political philosophy devised to promote and support any political party. It is a comprehensive world-view which originated in India as a result of the profound insight of generations of wise men who are known as the 'Rishis'. It covers every spectrum of human life and its foundations are eternally sound and always relevant. It is from that rich philosophy that the great Indian culture evolved. Any truly nationalist movement can benefit from this all embracing philosophy. It is inclusive of spiritual as well as material progress of mankind.



P. PARAMESWARAN

Continue from 01-15 MAY, 2019 Issue...

The situation resembles one that prevailed at the beginning of the British colonial rule over India. The context was one of contact and confrontation between two radically different civilizations, India representing the oldest surviving civilization of the East and the British representing the comparatively new Western civilization. Even though the imperialists came under the garb of traders, their real motive was to establish an empire and exploit its rich resources to enrich themselves. Along with the East India Company came the Christian Missionary also. Each supporting the other; the company establishing trading centers first and their rule subsequently while the missionaries 'harvested the souls' of Hindus by converting them to Christianity. To serve both the

purposes they started educational institutions to win over the minds of the people. As education spread and conversion increased, Hindus began to realize the gravity of the situation and started reacting. There were three kinds of reactions or responses. The immediate beneficiaries of the British rule who were taken into the Establishment got enamored of the white man's culture and considered it superior to their own. They became "White Sahibs" and became their native ambassadors. There were others who saw a mortal threat to the indigenous civilization and strongly reacted by adopting the policy of total rejection of the western system, lock, stock and barrel. In the mean while, another section grew up who got educated in the western system but were not totally taken in. They were proud of the ancestral heritage. By evaluating the situation they came to the conclusion that the approaches, outright rejection or total acceptance, were neither good nor practicable. They became the exponents of a middle path of standing firmly rooted in the culture of the soil, accept and adopt

whatever is good and desirable from the new and alien civilization. Present situation resembles more or less a similar scenario. Globalization is the order of the day. Its impact all over the world is terrific. India is no exception. But unlike other countries, India is continental in size, gigantic in population and incomparably strong in its cultural and civilizational wealth. How a country like India is going to deal with the challenge of globalization is crucial not only to India but to every other country. So it is the onerous duty of the Indian leadership to seriously think over the situation and play its leading and decisive role for the benefit of the entire humanity.

One of the crucial factors to be taken into account in the present global context is the role of technology. Technology, though, apparently only a tool to make use of its impact, is so powerful that it can totally change the very texture of a culture on a civilization. Technology is knowledge, it is power, it is wealth, and in short it signifies what is meant by the word development. The whole

world is after development, mostly in terms of economic development. Those who possess the latest technology are the most powerful. It exerts unparalleled influence over the minds of leaders and rulers in all the countries of the world whether developed, developing or underdeveloped. There is a mad rush for acquiring the latest technology, but technology does not come alone, it brings a whole world of complicated relationships, cultural, political, educational and what not. As a matter of fact, one of the root causes of the present civilizational clash is technological superiority or inferiority. Along with other countries of the world, India is naturally in the competitive market of the technological trade along with all the baggage it brings in. India needs development but in her context development cannot be thought as separated from the ancient age-old cultural heritage, values and systems.

The real challenge before India is how much and what kind of modern technology she needs, she can adopt without jeopardizing her own cultural uniqueness. In this case also there are people advocating three different options- total acceptance, total rejection, or selective absorption. The choice we make will change the course of history.

It has to be done after careful study, proper evaluation and with great far sight in which the most mature; wise and unbiased minds of the country have to exercise their capacities. This is a critical phase not only for India but for all mankind.

There are certain considerations which have to be born in mind in this context. Cultures are organic systems and have their own law of "being and becoming". They are qualitatively different from machines. While dealing with machines you can borrow from other machines and fit in to your own without injuring the functioning. But in organic system such borrow and fit approach will not work. It will destroy the system itself. So a mechanical approach will not do in this case. It is here that the danger in inter-cultural contact lies, particularly if one of the two is aggressive and dominating and the other submissive and tolerant. In the present global situation where the western paradigm is still the dominant one and India, though emerging in to lime light, is still at the receiving end. There is every danger of India becoming a borrower and a debtor thereby forgoing her ability and capacity to be an equal partner, much less an independent and equal contestant.

Another consideration is that unlike in the case of mechanical transplanted a selective borrowing of "nuts and bolts" which you are free to choose and fit, in an organic entity even a small part from another organic system comes along with some other aspects develops incompatibility, which may be injurious. Take the case of technology. If you blindly borrow a sophisticated technology, there are two dangers, one, there is bound to be conditionalities attached to bargain, another that might bring along with it much wider spectrum of not only the technological but also the cultural values .

That is what is presently happening. If this goes too far then we will be facing the danger of losing our cultural ethos and value systems along with our national identity.

When we look at the entire world scene, along with our national predicaments and the chances ahead, Shri Aurobindo's guidelines will be highly useful.

"The principle I have affirmed results both from the necessity of our nature and the necessity of things, of life, fidelity to our own spirit, nature, ideals, the creation of our own characteristic forms in the new age and the new environment, but also a strong and masterful dealing with external influences which need not be and in the nature of the situation cannot be a total rejection; therefore there must be an element of successful assimilation. There remains the very difficult question of the application of the principle, the degree, the way, and the guiding perceptions. To think that out we must look at each province of culture and, keeping always firm hold on a perception of what the Indian spirit is and the Indian ideal is, see how they can work upon the present situation and possibilities in each of these provinces and lead to a new victorious creation. In such thinking it will not do to be too dogmatic.

Each capable Indian mind must think it out or, better, work it out in its own light and power, as the Bengal artists are working it out in their own sphere, and contribute some illumination or effectuation. The spirit of the Indian renaissance will take care of the rest, that power of the universal Time - spirit which has begun to move in our midst for the creation of a new and greater India." ■

To be continued...

(Page no-393-94, the foundation of Indian Culture, Shri Aurobindo)

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE (6 JULY 1901 - 23 JUNE 1953)

HOW JANA SANGH WAS BORN

— SHRI GURUJI

IT IS ABOUT 16 years that I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Shyamaprasad Mookerji at Nagpur. The training classes of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh were going on and I had been put in charge of the same by Param Poojneeeya Dr. Hedgewar who, on his return from Poona, took ill and was confined to bed in his residence. Dr. Mookerji was returning from Bombay, where he had gone to attend some meeting of the Hindu - Mahasabha, -- and had broken journey at Nagpur especially to meet Param Poojneeeya Dr. - Hedgewar. But due to the latter's illness, there could be only a brief meeting, more in the nature of a social visit, enquiring after his health, and nothing of importance could be discussed. The main point for discussion was whether, and how far, the Sangh would participate in the political activities of the Hindu Mahasabha. But except for a short-question, and a shorter answer explaining why it was imperative that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh be wholly out of the political embroils, nothing more could be spoken.

MY FIRST IMPRESSION

What, however, impressed me was the open-mindedness: and readiness to understand with sympathy a view differing from his own, evinced by Dr. Mookerji. He seemed to be open to - conviction and ready to acknowledge the force of an argument though it militated against his own cherished views. By this quality of those who have intrinsic greatness in-born in them, Dr. Mookerji captivated my mind even at this first meeting, and ever since I have been cherishing the highest regard for him. This regard, became deeper, for throughout his stay I had occasion to discuss, at times with some vehemence, so many questions and aspects for keeping the R.S.S. an independent body without any political activity controlling it from outside for its own purposes, and I found --that he maintained an even balance of mind, never allowed himself to be perturbed, and exhibited a rare readiness to enter into the spirit of all I was trying to explain.

After this occasion (May, 1940) I had many opportunities of meeting him and exchanging views on the various



Dr. Mookerjee with Shri Guruji at the RSS Annual Function in Calcutta, 1952. Also seen in the picture is Shri Eknath Ranade

burning topics touching the life of our people. Though latterly he had resigned from the Hindu Mahasabha because he honestly felt that political parties could not afford to ignore and cutcast the non-Hindu communities residing in the country, I found he entertained very high regard for that sublime soul and inspiration of that body, the indomitable hero-patriot. SwatantryaVeer Barr. V D. Savarkar. I had on many occasions heard him refer to Swatantrya Veer with such genuine emotion as to feel moved. When Shri Savarkar was standing his trial on the charge of being one of the conspirators involved in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Mookerji used to speak with great feeling about grave injustice of putting a patriot of the truest ring in this disgraceful position. He was certain that it was sheer vindictiveness on the part of those in power calculated to crush the popularity of those who did not toe their line and being subservient to them.

RESIGNATION-WHAT NEXT?

Then came the last phase of Dr. Mookerji's life. Unable to keep himself in the smug chair of a Minister when countless millions of our countrymen were being uprooted and subjected to indescribably inhuman treatment by East Bengal, Pakistan, and driven out to find what refuge they could in our part of the country, he resigned the post and proved-what had been proved as his 'strong character time and again that service of the people was his sole principle. ■

(This article written by Sri Guruji was published in the Organiser on third death anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee)

YOGA AND YOU

stronger body, healthier mind



NARENDRA MODI

Dear Friends,

On 21st June, 2019, the world will come together to mark the 5th International Day of Yoga.

I write to you with two sincere requests.

First, make Yoga an integral part of your lives.

Second, enrich the Yoga Day by participating in it with your entire office team.

YOGA: MORE THAN JUST EXERCISES

Yoga is not merely a set of exercises.

Yoga is a handy passport to fitness and wellness.

It is a journey from 'me' to 'we', bringing synergy between the mind, body and intellect. Yoga fosters oneness with our families, our society, and all the flora and fauna with whom we share our beautiful planet.

SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT

The beauty of Yoga is that it is both simple and convenient. Yoga does not need elaborate equipment or large grounds. All that is needed is some empty space, a mat and lots of diligence. While it is advisable to practice Yoga in the mornings, you can also practice Yoga during short breaks. If you desire, you can try Asanas in between every few hours.

YOGA AND YOU

You have reached spectacular heights on the professional front but in high-pressure jobs, high stress closely follows. Those deadlines, those presentations, the gruelling travels... they can take a toll on your mind and body. Not to forget, the constant pressure to deliver the best results, lest your competitor get ahead.

Yoga and meditation are the panacea to these problems.

The moment you say hello to Yoga, you will say goodbye to stress.

HEALTHY BODY CREATES A STRONG MIND

At the positions in which you work, I am sure you are required to take several important decisions that will have long lasting implications for the coming years. A wavering mind can't take these decisions with precision and clarity, and add to this an unhealthy body, then it is a recipe for disaster.

By embracing Yoga, your mind will get much sharper.

This will lead to better concentration, greater creativity, more intelligence and sharper intuition. You will be able to make better decisions and create the best impact!

THE POSTURE PROBLEM

Long hours in the office, long hours on the seat bring with it a long list of postural problems.

Again, there is no better posture improver than Yoga! It can help you avoid slouching or hurting your back through bad posture. Several Asanas

are such that your back related problems will reduce significantly.

YOGA - THE FAMILY BOND ENHANCER

Quite importantly, Yoga augurs well for deepening familial bonds.

In the midst of your packed routines, finding quality family time or time for hobbies may not be as simple. In such a scenario, try practicing Yoga together as a family. It would definitely mean quality family time!

YOGA AND A YUGA (ERA) OF HAPPINESS

It is unbelievable how Yoga, which began in India thousands of years ago has become so popular on the world stage. Yoga's endearing quality-of furthering oneness has gone a long way in creating a Yuga (era) of happiness and brotherhood.

In a world where ideologies of hate can potentially divide brother from brother, Yoga stands as a unifying force. In a time where health ailments, especially stress related ailments are rising, Yoga is giving relief and joy.

I am confident that Yoga will continue to enhance happiness and harmony in our society, which will benefit generations to come.

I hope you would embrace Yoga. You will see the difference.

I am also sharing a set of animated videos of me practicing various Asanas. Those can be a good place to start, if you want to learn.

Happy Yoga practicing! ■

(Writer is the Prime Minister of India)



5TH INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2019 CELEBRATED ACROSS THE WORLD

LET OUR MOTTO BE YOGA FOR PEACE, HARMONY AND PROGRESS: PM MODI

Kick-starting the global celebrations of the fifth edition of International Yoga Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation by participating in a mega event at Prabhat Tara ground in Ranchi, Jharkhand on 21 July, 2019.

Setting the stage for International Yoga Day, which is being celebrated on a global scale from 2015, PM Shri Modi has been sharing an Asana a day on social media urging people to join the movement.

PM Shri Modi extended good wishes to people, in India and across the globe on International Day of Yoga. "Today, lakhs of people have gathered in different parts of the world to celebrate Yoga Day. I thanked media to play an important role in promoting Yoga," he said.

"In today's changing times, our focus must be on Wellness as well as protection from Illness. That is the power we get with Yoga, that is the feeling of Yoga and

the ancient Indian philosophy," he added.

While addressing the event he said, "Now, I have to take the journey of modern yoga from the cities to the villages, to the poor and tribal's house. I have to make yoga an integral part of the life of poor and tribal. Because it is poor who gets the most pain due to illness".

He said, "I thank people across the world for joining #InternationalDayofYoga celebrations. World over, the first rays of the Sun are being welcomed by dedicated Yoga practitioners, it's a beautiful sight. I urge you all to embrace Yoga and make it integral part of your daily routine.

He said, "Yoga is ancient and modern. It is constant and evolving. For centuries, the essence of Yoga has remained the same: Healthy body, Stable mind, Spirit of oneness." "Yoga provides a perfect blend of knowledge, work and devotion," he added.



President Shri Ram Nath Kovind said, "I'm happy that like previous years, we are celebrating Yoga Day this year too. It's not just an event, but a way to make yoga an integral part of our life".



Amit Shah and JP Nadda perform Yoga at Rohtak & Delhi

The Centre along with state governments has organised various yoga programmes across the country. Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah participated at an event in Rohtak and Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was seen in the national capital at a morning yoga session at Rajpath. Bharatiya Janata Party Working President Shri J P Nadda, BJP National General Secretary (Org) Shri Ram Lal and other senior leaders of the party performed yoga opposite the BJP headquarters on Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg in New Delhi.



PM Modi said, "We all know the importance of Yoga very well. It has always been an important part of our culture. But now we all have to take the practice of Yoga to another level," reports news agency ANI.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Raghubar Das and various other ministers were present in the event. Around 30,000 people participated in the event.

The theme of 5th International Yoga Day 2019 is "Climate Action".

The word "Yoga" is derived from the Sanskrit root 'yuj' meaning "to join", "to yoke" or "to unite". Yoga is based on an extremely subtle science which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. Yoga works on one's body, mind, emotion and energy.

Last year, around 50,000 people participated in the International YogaDay event organised at Dehradun-based Forest Research Institute.

The first International Day of Yoga was observed all over the world on June 21, 2015, when over 30,000 people including Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi performed yoga at the Rajpath in New Delhi.

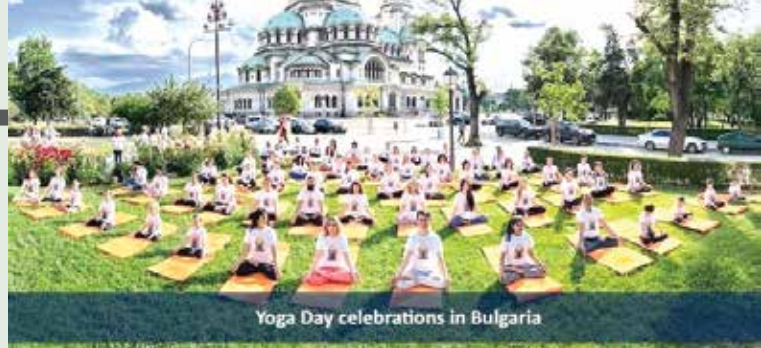
The idea of International Day of Yoga was first proposed by Prime Minister Shri Modi during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 27 September 2014.

PM MODI INTERACTS WITH PEOPLE AFTER PERFORMING YOGA

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacts with people after performing yoga at Prabhat Tara ground in Ranchi on International Day of Yoga. ■



Yoga Day celebrations in Saudi Arabia



Yoga Day celebrations in Bulgaria



Yoga Day celebrations in Laos, Vietnam



Yoga Day celebrations in Cologne, Germany



Yoga Day celebrations in Bhutan



Yoga Day celebrations in Israel

World celebrates International Yoga Day

Entire world is marking the International Day of Yoga with great fervour. People from all age groups and all walks of life are joining Yoga Day celebrations and furthering the movement.

Millions of people from across the planet, including from the latest entrant Switzerland, will bend over backwards on to 21 June, 2019 celebrated International Yoga Day (IYD).

Since its inception in 2015, when the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, the ancient spiritual practice has been celebrated widely, with more countries holding their breath to join in each year. Close to 77 lakh people have already taken the pledge to "make yoga an integral part of their daily life" on the IYD

website.

The theme for the fifth year of its celebration is 'Climate Action'. A ceremony has been organised at the United Nations headquarters followed by a panel discussion.

In India, all the state governments, central ministries, PSUs, armed forces and security forces and central universities participated in local events. Navy officers stretched themselves on the decks of submarines and INS Virat. In Jodhpur, close to the international border with Pakistan, BSF personnel focused on their breath under the guidance of yoga guru Baba Ramdev.

In Delhi alone, as many as 300 centres, including BJP headquarters, performed yoga. ■

My Government wants to make the people conscious, capable: Ram Nath Kovind

On June 19, President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed to the members of both houses of parliament seating together. In his address, he highlighted government policies and plan for upcoming year. He said that that his Government wanted to make the people conscious, capable, well-provided. Here, we are giving summary of Presidential address for our esteemed readers:



- During the last five years, the countrymen have come to believe that the Government is always with them, working to improve their lives and to enhance their Ease of Living. Based on this wealth of people's trust, a fresh mandate was sought.
- People of the country have long waited for the basic amenities of life. But now the conditions are changing. My Government wants to make the people conscious, capable, well-provided and unfettered to such an extent that that they do not feel the "Burden, Force, or Absence" of the Government in their daily life. Empowering every person in the country is the main goal of my Government.
- Three weeks ago, on 30th May, immediately after swearing-in the Government has started working towards building a New India. A New India:
 - Where equal opportunities to progress are available to every person;
 - Where life of every person becomes better and their self-esteem is enhanced;
 - Where brotherhood and harmony bind the people with each other;
 - Where the foundation built on our ideals and values becomes stronger; and
 - Where the benefits of development reach every region and the last person standing in the queue.
- It is a matter of pride for every Indian that when our country completes 75 years of independence in 2022, we would have achieved many national goals for building a New India. To pave the way for the golden future of New India, my Government has resolved:
 - On this path of a New India, the rural India will be strong and urban India will also be empowered;
 - On this path of a New India, the entrepreneurial India will

attain new heights and the dreams of young India will also be fulfilled;

On this path of a New India, all systems will be transparent and the prestige of honest countrymen will increase further;

On this path of a New India, infrastructure for the 21st century will be built and all resources for creation of a powerful India will be mobilised.

In the light of these resolutions, in a short period of 21 days, my Government has taken many decisions aimed at the welfare of farmers, soldiers, students, entrepreneurs, women and other sections of society and have also started implementing them. Initiatives have also been taken to enact several new laws.

- A decision has been taken to increase the income support to farmers who are our Annadaata, by extending the coverage under 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi', to every farmer in the country. To enable the farmer brothers and sisters who work day and night in their fields to lead a respectable life after attaining the age of 60 years, a 'Pension Scheme' for them has also been approved.
- Livestock is invaluable for farmers. They have to spend a lot of money for treatment of cattle-related diseases. To reduce this expenditure, my Government has also decided to start a special scheme with an allocation of Rs 13,000 crore.
- For the first time, a Government has taken note of the economic security of small shopkeepers. In the very first meeting of the Cabinet, a separate 'Pension Scheme' has been approved for small shopkeepers and retail traders. About 3 crore small shopkeepers in the country will benefit from this scheme.
- It is our duty to secure the future of children of those who guard the border, and ensure peace and security

for everyone. Inspired by this sentiment, the amount of scholarship under the 'National Defence Fund' has been increased for the children of our brave soldiers. For the first time, sons and daughters of the State police personnel have also been included in this scholarship.

- One of the biggest challenges of the 21st century is – the growing water crisis. Over time, the traditional and effective practices of water conservation in our country are disappearing. Houses have come up over ponds and lakes, and the vanishing water sources have accentuated the water crisis for the poor. In view of the growing impact of Climate Change and Global Warming, water crisis is likely to aggravate further. Today, the need of the hour is that the way the country has shown seriousness about 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan', the same seriousness be shown in 'Water Conservation and Management'.
- We must conserve water for our children and future generations. The creation of the new 'Ministry of Jalshakti' is a decisive step in this direction, which will have far-reaching benefits. Through this new Ministry, the systems related to water conservation and management will be made more effective.
- My Government is fully conscious of the crisis in the drought-hit areas and stands by every affected citizen. With the support of State Governments and Sarpanches at the village level, it is being ensured that farmers are assisted and the scarcity of drinking water is tackled.
- Large scale investments have been made to strengthen rural India. In order to enhance agriculture productivity, an investment of Rs. 25 lakh crore will be made in the coming years.
- To double the income of farmers by 2022, several steps have been taken in the last 5 years. Be it the decision to increase the MSP, or approval for 100 percent FDI in food processing; be it completion of the irrigation projects pending for decades or extension of 'Crop Insurance Scheme'; be it the 'Soil Health Card' or 100% Neem coating of urea; my Government has taken many decisions, appreciating such numerous small and big needs of the farmers. The Government has made the agriculture policy both production-centric as well as income-centric.
- An important link in these efforts is 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi'. Through this, an amount of more than Rs. 12,000 crore has been disbursed to the farmers in just three months. An estimated expenditure of Rs. 90,000 crore is likely to be incurred annually on this scheme since every farmer has now been brought in its ambit.
- Now the storage facility will be provided to the farmers near their village through the 'Grameen Bhandaran Yojana'.
- The benefit of cooperatives in the agriculture sector is being availed by the farmers in the dairy business. In other areas of agriculture also, the target is to create 10,000 new 'Farmer Producer Organisations' to benefit the farmers.
- Today, India is second in the world in fish production. Our country has the potential to attain the first place. A separate Department has been constituted for integrated development of fisheries. Similarly, a special fund has been created to develop infrastructure related to fishing industry.
- We can achieve our constitutional objectives only by liberating the poor families of the country from poverty. During the last five years, the schemes implemented in the country for the welfare of farmers, labourers, divyangjan, tribals and women have achieved wide spread success. Only by empowering the poor can they be rescued from the vicious cycle of poverty. That is why the Government has adopted an approach to empower the poor, deprived and weaker sections through provision of housing, healthcare, essential amenities of life, financial inclusion, education, skill and self-employment. This is in harmony with Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's concept of Antyodaya.
- Comprehensive work is underway for the development of 112 'Aspirational Districts' in the country. 1 lakh 15 thousand most backward villages of the country are in these districts. With the development of education and healthcare facilities and infrastructure in these villages, there will be a positive impact on the lives of crores of poor families.
- Under 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana' so far about 26 lakh poor patients have availed treatment in hospitals. In order to provide medicines at affordable rates, 5,300 'Jan Aushadhi Kendras' have also been opened. It is our endeavour to provide medicines at affordable rates to people residing in far-flung areas through these Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- The objective is to set up about 1.5 lakh 'Health and Wellness Centres' in all rural areas by 2022. So far, about 18,000 such Centres have already been operationalised.
- Our countrymen can learn a lot from tribal communities. Our tribal brothers and sisters live in harmony with the environment and nature and maintain a beautiful balance between development and tradition. In New India, every effort will be made to create an inclusive and sensitive system in the interest of tribal communities. Many schemes

have been implemented for all-round development of tribal areas. Work is in progress to provide 'Learning to Earning' facilities to the youth residing in the forest areas. In tribal dominated areas, 'Eklavya Model Residential Schools' are being set up for children. The thrust is on value addition and marketing of forest produce through Van Dhan Kendras.

- The 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign has brought down female foeticide and improved the sex ratio in many districts of the country.
- Rural women are the biggest beneficiaries of freedom from smoke through 'Ujjwala Yojana', vaccination through 'Mission Indradhanush' and free electricity connections under 'Saubhagya' Yojana. Women are also being given priority in the registration of houses built under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' in the rural areas. Under this scheme, nearly 2 crore new houses will be built in the villages during the next three years.
- Self-employment opportunities are being made available to rural women through 'Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Rashtriya Aajivika Mission. Under the 'Rashtriya Aajivika Mission', loans amounting to more than Rs 2 lakh crore have been disbursed so far to 3 crore women in rural areas.
- To secure equal rights for every sister and daughter in the country, eradication of social evils like 'Triple Talaq' and 'Nikah-Halala' is imperative. I would urge all the members to cooperate in these efforts to make the lives of our sisters and daughters better and dignified.
- In the last five years, attempts have been made for developing the skills of the youth, providing them financial support for start-ups and self-employment, and making available adequate number of seats for higher education. The amount of scholarship has also been increased by 25 per cent.
- The Government has made provision of 10 per cent reservation for youth from economically weaker section of the general category. This will enable them to get more opportunities in employment and education.
- To enable the youth of all strata of society to fulfil their dreams, timely provision of financial resources is being emphasised. Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojna', about 19 crore loans have been disbursed for self-employment. An effort will now be made to cover 30 crore people by expanding this scheme. A facility for entrepreneurs to avail loan up to Rs. 50 lakh without any guarantee will also be introduced.
- Today India has joined the league of countries with most

number of start-ups in the world. To improve the start-up ecosystem, the Government is simplifying the rules. This campaign will be further expedited. Our goal is to establish 50,000 start-ups in the country by 2024.

- Research is being encouraged in higher educational institutions. To further strengthen this effort, it is proposed to establish a 'National Research Foundation'. This proposed foundation will work as a bridge between different Departments of the Central Government, science laboratories, higher educational institutions and industrial institutions.
- To enable various higher educational institutions of India to find a place in the top 500 educational institutions of the world, they are being encouraged through grant of autonomy and financial assistance.
- My Government is striving to increase the number of seats in the country's Higher Education System by one-and-a-half times by 2024. With this initiative, 2 crore additional seats would be available for the youth in higher educational institutions.
- It is our responsibility to provide appropriate opportunities, environment and quality education to enhance the talent of children. In this regard, the 'Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme' will be started.
- In order to attract children early enough, at the school level, towards technology, suitable infrastructure is being created. Through the 'Atal Innovation Mission', the work of establishing 'Atal Tinkering Labs' in about 9,000 schools across the country, is progressing rapidly. Similarly, 'Atal Incubation Centres' are being set up in 102 universities and other institutions.
- To identify the players at the state and district level, it has been decided to widen the 'Khelo-India Programme'. Under this, 2,500 talented players have been selected, and are being trained. Now this facility will be provided to 2,500 new players every year.
- The sports infrastructure in the country will be modernised as well as expanded. A new system is being evolved to make available modern infrastructure and facilities to the players. It is our endeavour that our players win high accolades in the sports world and enhance the prestige of our country.
- Economic development plays the most vital role in improving the lives of our countrymen. Today India is among the fastest growing economies in the world. Inflation is low, fiscal deficit is under control, foreign exchange reserves are growing and the impact of Make

In India is clearly visible.

- India is now on the way to become the world's 5th largest economy in terms of GDP. To maintain the high growth rate, reform process will continue. It is our objective to make India a 5-trillion dollar economy by 2024.
- Work is underway in full earnest to transform India into a Global Manufacturing Hub. Keeping in view Industry 4.0, a New Industrial Policy will be announced shortly. In 'Ease of Doing Business', India has leap-frogged 65 positions during the past 5 years, from a ranking of 142 in 2014 to 77. Now our goal is to be among the top 50 countries of the world. In order to achieve this, process of simplification of rules will be further expedited in collaboration with the States. In this sequence, necessary amendments are also being brought in the Companies Law.
- Taxation regime plays an important role in accelerating economic development. Along with continuous reform, simplification of taxation system is also being emphasised. Exemption to persons earning up to Rs. 5 lakh from payment of income tax is an important step in this direction.
- Similarly, indirect tax system is also being made simple and effective. With the implementation of GST, the concept of 'One country, One tax, One market' has become a reality. Efforts to further simplify the GST will continue.
- Keeping in view the interests of small traders, my Government has launched a New Pension Scheme for them. 'National Traders Welfare Board' will be constituted shortly, and 'National Retail Trade Policy' will be formulated to promote retail business. Accident insurance of up to Rs. 10 lakh will also be provided to all traders registered under GST.
- MSME sector provides a strong foundation to the country's economy, and plays a critical role in employment generation. Several steps have been taken to ensure smooth cash flow to enterprises run by small entrepreneurs. In order to ensure that entrepreneurs associated with MSME sector do not face any problem in accessing credit, the credit guarantee coverage is being enhanced to Rs. 1 lakh crore.
- Good governance reduces corruption, enhances self-respect of the citizens and enables them to optimally utilize their talents and capabilities.
- My Government will make the Zero Tolerance Policy against corruption more comprehensive and effective. The mission to eliminate corruption from public life and Government services will be implemented with greater zeal. Towards this objective, Minimum Government - Maximum Governance will be further emphasised. In addition, use of technology will be maximised to reduce Human Interface. Appointment of Lokpal will also promote transparency.
- The campaign against black money will be taken forward at a faster pace. During the last two years, 4 lakh 25 thousand Company Directors have been disqualified and the registration of 3 lakh 50 thousand suspicious companies has been revoked.
- The 'Fugitive and Economic Offenders Act' has proved effective in controlling fugitive economic offenders. Now we are receiving information in this regard from 146 countries, including Switzerland. Of these, we have concluded agreements with 80 countries for automatic exchange of information. We are now receiving information about all those who have stashed black money abroad.
- The impact of 'Real Estate Regulation Act' or RERA is clearly visible in curbing black money transactions in real estate sector and protecting the interests of the customers; providing huge relief to the middle class families.
- 'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' is among the biggest and most impactful economic reforms undertaken in the country. With the coming into force of this Code, banks and other financial institutions have been able to settle directly or indirectly an amount of more than Rs. 3 lakh 50 thousand crore. This Code has also curbed the tendency of wilfully defaulting on loans taken from banks and other financial institutions.
- Under the 'Direct Benefit Transfer', funds from more than 400 schemes are being directly credited into the accounts of beneficiaries. During the last five years, Rs. 7 lakh 30 thousand crore have been transferred through DBT. So far, not only has DBT prevented Rs. 1 lakh 41 thousand crore from falling into wrong hands, but it has also enabled deletion of names of about 8 crore ineligible beneficiaries. DBT will be further expanded in the coming days. I would urge the State Governments to use DBT in more and more schemes.
- My Government's continuous endeavour has been to build infrastructure in an eco-friendly manner. Along with concrete, greenery has been made an integral part of the highway and expressway projects. For supply of electricity, optimal utilisation of solar energy is being stressed. Household and industrial wastes are also being used in road construction.
- In the 21st century economy, the pace and spread of

urbanization will continue to increase. Development of urban infrastructure in cities and suburbs will pave the way for economic progress and enhance employment opportunities. My Government is tirelessly working for a modern India, by providing world-class infrastructure and public amenities in villages as well as cities. Special emphasis is being accorded to improving connectivity in the North-East, hilly and tribal areas. In addition to increasing the ease of living of citizens in the North-East; tourism, agriculture and other allied sectors will also benefit from better connectivity. Effective steps are being taken to expand organic farming in the North-East.

- Under the 'Bharatmala Project', construction or upgradation of about 35,000 kilometers of National Highways is to be undertaken by 2022. In addition, under the 'Sagarmala Project', a network of good quality roads is being constructed in coastal areas and areas adjoining ports.
- Along with the highways, Government is also working extensively in the area of Railways, Airways and Inland Waterways. Under the 'UDAN Scheme', air connectivity to smaller towns is being expanded rapidly.
- Urban transport infrastructure is being created to cater to present and future requirements. My Government is developing a transport system, which is not only fast and safe, but is also environment friendly. For this, special emphasis is given to Public transport. Metro rail network is being expanded rapidly in several cities. The facility of 'One Nation, One Card' has been launched to realize the dream of seamless mobility. Similarly, electric vehicles are being promoted to reduce vehicular pollution. The network of electric charging stations is also being expanded rapidly.
- Modern amenities like gas-grid and I-Ways are being developed at a rapid pace. PNG based domestic fuel and CNG based transportation systems are being developed. In modern India, we are accorded a special emphasis on production of bio-fuel. Prior to 2014, about 67 crore litres of ethanol was being blended. This year, we have set a target of about 270 crore litres for ethanol blending. Enhancing the use of blended ethanol will not only benefit our farmers but also safeguard the environment. Further, it will reduce import of petroleum products thus saving foreign exchange.
- My Government is fully devoted to make the flow of Ganga uninterrupted and pollution free. Recently, encouraging evidence of revival of aquatic life at several locations along Ganga have been reported. This year, during the

Ardhakumbh in Prayagraj, the cleanliness of Ganga and amenities provided to the devotees have made news throughout the world. My Government has enhanced the dignity and self-esteem of every person who contributed towards the successful organization of Ardhakumbh by honouring them.

- Under the 'Namami Gange' scheme, my Government will further accelerate the campaign for closure of drains releasing effluents in the river Ganga. On the lines of river Ganga, the Government will also endeavour to clean up other rivers such as Kaveri, Periyar, Narmada, Yamuna, Mahanadi and Godavari.
- My Government is making earnest efforts for conservation of forests, wildlife and the environment. In recent years, forest and tree cover has increased by more than 1 per cent. During the last five years, protected areas in the country have also increased. In 2014, the number of protected areas in the country was 692, which has now gone up to 868. To address the challenges posed by air pollution, 'National Clean Air Programme' has been started in 102 cities.
- Solar energy plays an important role in reducing the adverse effects of Climate Change and Global Warming. Proactive efforts of India have resulted in the formation of the International Solar Alliance. Through this organization, India is contributing significantly to the development of solar energy in the developing countries of the world.
- Space Technology plays a central role in improving the lives of the common man, providing early-warning of impending disasters, identifying location of natural resources, providing signals to various means of communication and ensuring national security. It is the endeavour of my Government to maximize the use of space technology for human welfare. Several facilities such as roads, houses for poor, farming or equipment for fishermen have all been linked to space technology.
- Space technology has helped us in further strengthening our security at land, air and water. Our expertise in accurate weather forecast has improved. This was evidenced during the recent 'Cyclone Phani' that struck the eastern coast of the country. Due to accurate information and timely preparation, large scale destruction to life and property was averted.
- India is marching forward to assume a leadership role in unravelling and comprehending the mysteries of space. Our scientists are involved in the preparations for the launch of 'Chandrayaan-2', which will be India's first

spacecraft to reach the Moon. We are also making rapid progress towards achieving the goal of sending the first Indian in India's own 'Gaganyaan' by 2022.

- With the successful testing of 'Mission Shakti' a new dimension has been added to India's capability in space technology and security-preparedness. For this, today I once again congratulate our scientists and engineers.
- The role of technology in the field of security is expanding continuously. Keeping this in view, work is in progress to establish three joint service agencies for space, cyber and special forces. These collaborative efforts will strengthen the security of the country.
- New India is rapidly moving towards occupying its rightful place in the world community. Today, India has acquired a new image and our relations with other countries have become stronger. It is a matter of immense pleasure that in 2022, India will host the G-20 Summit.
- The world community enthusiastically supported India's proposal to declare June 21st as 'International Day of Yoga' by the United Nations. At present, several programmes associated with International Day of Yoga are being organized with great enthusiasm in various countries, of which the most important events will be held tomorrow, the 21st June.
- The world community supports India's position on various issues such as climate change, economic and cyber-crime, action against corruption and black money and energy security. Today the whole world stands with India on the issue of terrorism. Designation of Masood Azhar, responsible for dastardly terrorist attacks on our soil, as a global terrorist by United Nations, is a major testimony to this fact.
- My Government's "Neighborhood First" policy is an evidence of our approach of according priority to South Asia and countries in the adjoining region. India will play a crucial role in the progress of this region. Accordingly, trade, connectivity and people-to-people contact are being encouraged in this region. The presence of Heads of States and Heads of Governments of 'BIMSTEC' countries, Kyrgyzstan – the current chair of 'Shanghai Cooperation Organisation' and Mauritius during the swearing-in of the new Government is a reflection of this policy.
- My Government is also conscious of protecting the interests of Indians living and working abroad. Today an Indian, if caught in any crisis abroad, is confident of receiving timely help and relief. Several services ranging from passports to visas have been made easy and accessible.

- New India will be sensitive and also, economically prosperous. But for this to happen, nation's security is of utmost importance. My Government accords top most priority to national security. Therefore, effective steps are being taken to tackle Terrorism and Naxalism.
- India has amply demonstrated both her intent and capabilities, first through surgical strikes and then through air strikes after the Pulwama attack at terrorist hideouts across the border. In future too, all possible steps will be taken to ensure our security.
- My Government has decided to implement the process of 'National Register of Citizens' on priority basis in areas affected by infiltration. Security along the border will be further strengthened to prevent infiltration.
- While on the one hand, Government is working to identify the infiltrators, on the other, it is also fully committed to protecting the victims of persecution due to their faith. In this regard, efforts will be made to amend the Citizenship Act while protecting the linguistic, cultural and social identities.
- My Government is making efforts with complete dedication to provide a safe and peaceful environment to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. The recently concluded peaceful elections to local bodies and to Lok Sabha have bolstered our efforts. My Government is committed to take all necessary steps for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.
- My Government is resolutely working to eradicate the menace of Naxalism from the country. Considerable success has been achieved in this direction during the last 5 years. The area affected by Naxalism is reducing continuously. In the coming years, development projects will be expedited in these areas, which will benefit our tribal brothers and sisters residing there.
- My Government is rapidly taking forward the work of modernisation of the army and the armed forces. India is going to receive the delivery of first 'Rafale' fighter aircraft and 'Apache' helicopters in the near future.
- Special emphasis is being accorded by the Government to manufacture of modern armaments under 'Make in India'. The policy of indigenously manufacturing weapons such as modern rifles and cannons, tanks and combat aircrafts is being carried forward successfully. 'Defence Corridors' coming up in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu will further strengthen this mission. While fulfilling our security requirements, export of defence equipment is also being encouraged. ■



PM ATTENDS SCO SUMMIT IN BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

TERRORISM, AFGHANISTAN AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION MAIN ISSUES OF THE SUMMIT

P rime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 14 participated in the SCO Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The summit was divided into two portions. The first portion was the restricted format which was meant for the members and then after that was the expanded format where the observers also joined in. India participated as a full-fledged member of the SCO.

Prime Minister, very graciously thanked the Kyrgyz President for hosting the summit and for the excellent arrangements. He also thanked President Putin; congratulated him for the next summit which will be hosted by Russia, so he expressed his best wishes for the next summit also.

The essential discussions revolved around terrorism, Afghanistan, the economic issues especially the opportunities that there are for economic cooperation. As far as terrorism is concerned there

need felt for close cooperation among the member countries including using the platform of RATS – Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure based in Tashkent.

On the Afghanistan issue, Prime Minister reiterated well known Indian position that any process in Afghanistan should be Afghan led, Afghan owned and Afghan controlled and as a friend of Afghanistan India reiterated its commitment to working for the peace and stability of that country.

Economic issues were covered also in the discussions and some issues which really came up apart from the need for better connectivity including what Prime Minister mentioned about North South Corridor, Chabahar Port which has become operational and is available.

He also touched upon things like renewable energy, environment protection and solar energy. He said India has its strengths and is ready to work with

List of documents exchanged during the visit of Prime Minister to Kyrgyz Republic	
S. No.	Declaration/Agreements/MoUs
1.	Joint Declaration between India and the Kyrgyz Republic on Strategic Partnership
2.	Road map on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Kyrgyz Republic for the Five-Year period (2019-2024)
3.	Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and the Kyrgyz Republic
4.	Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between National Security Council Secretariat of India and Office of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic
5.	Protocol to Amend Article 26 of India-Kyrgyzstan Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)
6.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Health
7.	MoU between DRDO and Kyrgyz India Mountain Biomedical Research Centre
8.	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between National Security Guards of India and National Guards of the Armed Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic
9.	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between National Defence Academy of India and Kyrgyz Military Institute of the Kyrgyz Republic
10.	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between High Altitude Warfare School (Gulmarg), Indian Armed Forces and Joint Mountain training Centre of the Armed Forces of the Kyrgyz Republic
11.	Memorandum of Cooperation between Export-Import Bank of India and the Investment Promotion and Protection Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic
12.	MoU between India and the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation on Information and Communication Technology
13.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Consumer Affairs of India and Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic on cooperation in the field of Legal Metrology.
14.	Memorandum of Understanding between Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) of India and National Institute of Strategic Studies (NISS) of the Kyrgyz Republic
15.	Memorandum of Understanding between Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Himachal Pradesh and Kyrgyz National Agrarian University (KNAU)

the countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization to improve their energy basket and work for common good in terms of climate change.

Prime Minister used the acronym HEALTH, he introduced the acronym HEALTH. The acronym stands for.

- H for Health Care Cooperation
- E for Economic Cooperation
- A for Alternate Energy
- L for Literature and Culture
- T for Terrorism free Society
- H for Humanitarian Cooperation.

So that essentially was the Prime Minister's message. it summed up really India's approach which is very constructive, and creates a very positive agenda and positive feel about the entire SCO process.

The cultural element also gets very strongly reiterated and we need to work closely especially considering that there are so many commonalities between India and most of the countries of Central Asia. There were also series of documents and agreements which were signed on that day.

Some of the important outcome documents that came out of the summit were the document of the Anti-Narcotic Strategy and the program of action. Other documents were assigned were on healthcare, on environment and on sports cooperation.

Other than that there were the general administrative agreements. In total 14 decisions were signed by the Council of the Heads of States.

On the sidelines of the SCO Summit, PM Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with world leaders. ■

India and Maldives sign several MoUs

PM Narendra Modi was conferred with Maldives' highest honour accorded to foreign dignitaries, "The Most Honourable Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked his two days foreign visit in neighborhood. In the first leg he reached Maldives on June 8. During the visit he addressed the Maldivian Parliament. He also met President Ibrahim Solih, following which a number of agreements were signed including budgetary support by India for development projects in Maldives. Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Maldivian President jointly inaugurated two defence projects - a coastal surveillance radar system and composite training centre for the Maldives National Defence Forces or MNDF. PM Narendra Modi was



conferred with Maldives' highest honour accorded to foreign dignitaries, "The Most Honourable Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen".

'Cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka'

Prim Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Sri Lanka on June 9. It was his first foreign trip after re-election and paid homage to those died at St Anthony's Church Easter Sunday attack. Before reaching Sri Lanka he visited Maldives on June 8.

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe welcomed Shri Modi at the Bandaranaike International Airport. Media wrote that the prime minister's visit to St Anthony's Shrine was not only a mark of solidarity but also an attempt to pacify the nervousness witnessed in Sri Lanka. Shri Modi's visit was also aimed at aiming diplomatic ties in order to curb terrorism. Shri Modi paid tributes to the victims of the deadly terror strikes at the church and said the "cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka".

"I am confident Sri Lanka will rise again. Cowardly acts of terror cannot defeat the spirit of Sri Lanka. India stands in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka," said Shri Modi.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Sri Lanka's top leadership including President Maithripala Sirisena and the two sides agreed that terrorism is a "joint threat" that needs collective and focussed action, weeks after the



island nation witnessed the worst jihadi attack.

Shri Modi was the first foreign leader to visit Sri Lanka after the deadly Easter terror attacks in April. His visit is considered as a sign of India's affirmation of solidarity with Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the attacks.

"President Sirisena and I agreed that terrorism is a joint threat that needs collective and focussed action. Reiterated India's commitment to partner with Sri Lanka for a shared, secure and prosperous future," Shri Modi tweeted after his talks with President Sirisena.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said that the two leaders discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest. A banquet was hosted in honour of Prime Minister Shri Modi by President Sirisena. ■

PM NARENDRA MODI VOTED 'WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL LEADER 2019'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi beat Russian President Mr. Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping and US President Mr. Donald Trump to emerge as the 'World's Most Powerful Person 2019' in the reader's poll conducted by UK-based British Herald magazine. PM Shri Modi will be featured on the cover page of the July 15 edition of the magazine which earlier featured New Zealand's PM Jacinda Ardern in the May-June issue and Putin in its March-April issue.

"More than 25 world icons were in the nomination list and a judging panel of experts named four final candidates for the prestigious title," the British Herald magazine wrote in an article. "Unlike regular voting system, the British Herald readers

had to vote through a mandatory one-time password (OTP) process to validate their vote. Surprisingly, while the voting was on, our website crashed as many voters were trying to vote for their preferred leaders, generating about three million hits in a week," the magazine said.

The poll which closed on 22 June, 2019 declared PM Modi to be the winner with 30.9% of the votes ahead of Putin (29.9%), Xi (21.9%) and Trump at 18.1%.

Interestingly, the website crashed during the voting due to overwhelming traffic as netizens rushed to the website to vote for their favourite leader. The website got as many as 3 million hits during the poll. The voting page on the magazine's website received 2.5 million hits in the



first week of June.

Modi raised his profile as a world leader in recent years. He has emerged as a key figure in the Asian region who is seen active with his act east policy. His effort to tackle climate change has been seen positively by the world, as warming affects millions of his country's rural citizens," the British Herald wrote in the article declaring Modi as the winner of the poll. ■

GOVT WILL BRING BIGGER OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSFORMATION IN NEXT 5 YEARS: PM

The Narendra Modi government in its second term is looking to do much more than it did during its first tenure. The next five years will present a bigger opportunity for transformation than the government had in the last five, the PM Shri Narendra Modi said in a meeting with economists and chief executives of India Inc at the Niti Aayog on 22 June, 2019. This was part of a series of meetings that the PM lined up ahead of the Union Budget to be presented on July 5. In line with the goal to be a \$5-trillion economy in five years, the PM reiterated that the country needed to benchmark itself with the global best practices, an official who attended the meeting said.

The institutional structure designed for a different era had become sort of a burden and that must change, according to the PM. Lateral entry in the government was among the ideas discussed to break from the past.

The issues flagged by economists and experts included

a case for "single-minded pursuit" to boost economic growth, sources said. The subject of discussion ranged from macro-economy and employment to agriculture and water resources; exports to education and health. There were suggestions from the industry on further liberalisation in the banking and insurance sectors as well as fast-tracking the disinvestment process. Creation of jobs, improving exports amid trade wars and initiating structural reforms figured in the interactive session.

Around 40 economists and corporate chiefs attended the meeting. The industry believes that this government would like to work more closely with the private sector in its second term, he said.

During the meeting, the PM Shri Modi indicated that the government would be engaged with the public for their inputs on two landmark events — 75 years of Independence and 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. ■



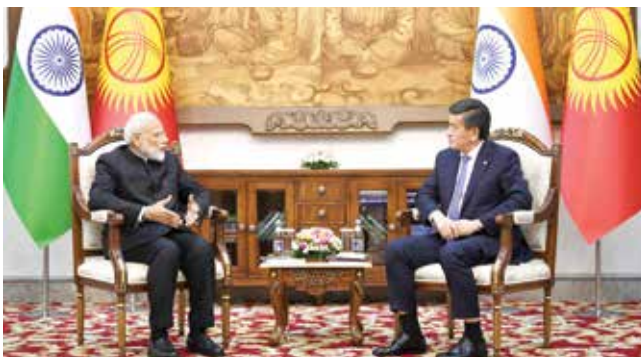
President of Maldives Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih presenting Maldives Highest Honour Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen to PM Shri Narendra Modi in Male, Maldives



PM Shri Narendra Modi and the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Maithripala Sirisena at the ceremonial reception in Colombo, Sri Lanka



PM Shri Narendra Modi with other SCO leaders in a group photograph at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



PM Shri Narendra Modi meeting the President of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



PM Shri Narendra Modi chairing the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog in New Delhi



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with other experts in a group photograph after a fruitful interaction with economists and experts on the themes of macro-economy and employment, agriculture and water resources, exports, education, and health in New Delhi

Glimpses of Yoga Day celebration in Ranchi

