

# KAMAL SANDESH

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₹20



**'POLL RESULT A CLEAR APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT POLITICS...'**

## Victory of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'



**BJP WIN SHOWS MODI MAGIC  
UNDIMINISHED**

**MODI GOVERNMENT'S THRUST ON  
AGRICULTURE IS CORE BEHIND  
THE VISION OF 'NEW INDIA'**

**MARK & DEENDAYAL :  
THE TWO APPROACHES**



After the oath taking ceremony of the first BJP Government in Tripura PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, the new CM of Tripura Shri Biplab Kumar Deb and others receiving the greetings of the people



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah flanked by other dignitaries are in a group photo after the swearing-in ceremony of CM Shri Neiphiu Rio, Deputy CM Shri Y Patton & other ministers in Kohima, Nagaland



Shri Amit Shah addressing a gathering after the inauguration of the "NaMo Yojana Sahayata Kendra" in Delhi to provide information regarding the welfare schemes of Modi government



Shri Conrad Sangma greeting BJP National President Shri Amit Shah after taking oath as the New CM of Meghalaya

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**@AmitShah**

I thank brothers and sisters of Tripura for their massive support to BJP. This is the victory of PM @narendramodi's politics of development and his commitment to the welfare of North-Eastern region of India.

**@nitin\_gadkari**



The key feature of the app "Sukhad Yatra" includes provision for the user to enter road quality-related information or to report any accident or pothole on the highway /4a (App can be downloaded from App store or Play Store).



**@sarbanandsonwal**

Offering a positive environment, using technology & innovation to ensure value addition and marketing of Assam's tea are the key focus of our Govt through SITA. We believe that the purple patch of Assam's tea is yet to come that can transform the economy of entire North East.

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People of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura have spoken! I thank the people of these states for supporting the good governance agenda and 'Act East Policy' of @BJP4India & our valued allies. We remain committed to working towards fulfilling the dreams & aspirations of the people. — **Narendra Modi**



The subsidy provided by the State Government helped Harish Mukati of Barwani District set up a Polyhouse and start rose farming, and thus emerge as a successful entrepreneur.

— **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**



#CabinetDecision : To tackle the menace of #AirPollution, Modi Govt approved Rs 1151.8 crore for the period 2018-20 to promote #AgriculturalMechanization for management of crop residue in #Punjab, #Haryana, #UttarPradesh and #Delhi.

— **Radha Mohan Singh**



Courtesy: Social Media



**Kamal Sandesh Parivar**  
wishes a very happy  
**RAMA NAVAMI**  
to its readers

# Victory of nationalism, good governance and development

**A**s the votes were counted on 3rd March 2018, it became clearer that people once again delivered a historic mandate in favour of BJP and its allies. The most glaring was the way the communists were routed in Tripura, their stronghold where they appeared to be invincibly ensconced for last 25 years. It was not only an electoral victory but an ideological one sounding the bugle of the triumph of nationalism, good governance and development. The long spell of communist rule in Tripura had left people cheated and state ruined economically. In Nagaland also NDA was able to form government with BJP winning 12 seats for the first time in the state. In Meghalaya, Congress numbers were drastically reduced and ousted from the power as an NDA alliance with BJP as one of its constituents formed the government. It is for the first time that the people of North-east have given massive mandate of BJP and its allies in seven out of eight states of the region. It is indeed a huge responsibility on the shoulders of BJP as North-east looks up to the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with hope and expectations. The region has to be put on fast lane of recovery from decades of neglect and apathy.

While communists were routed completely in Tripura, Congress could not win a single seat in Tripura and Nagaland. In Meghalaya too it was shown door by the people with a new government getting installed in its place.

When the communists are getting marginalized in the country's politics, Congress is not far behind. In fact there is a competition between the two to tread on a path inimical to the national interests. While the Congress ruled the country for a long time, communists got an opportunity to enjoy the fruits of power through backdoor under Congress patronage. Congress pursued a power-centric dynastic politics irresponsibly while the communists enjoyed power without any responsibility and accountability. Such acts on the parts of Congress and communists have brought them to such a passé that they have completely lost the trust of the people. It is unfortunate that without realizing this fact they continue to act arrogantly denigrating the people's mandate in attacking the most beloved Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi. The people have been teaching them lessons after lessons defeating them in elections after elections. But they remain oblivious to the fact that they neither have the trust of the people nor any credible agenda before the country. They only have negative anti-BJP and anti-Modi agenda which cannot induce a positive energy either in their party or in the country. The negativism of Congress and Communists combine has become a Frankenstein like phenomenon eating into their own vitals while leading to their destruction.

The people of North-east have given their support to the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", and "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat". The people have given their mandate to the special efforts made in the North-eastern states which has lagged behind in development and

remained neglected under different governments led by Congress and communists. The concept of "Astalakashmi" propounded by the Prime Minister and special focus of the central government in ushering an era of good governance and development is matching the aspirations of the people. The region now speaks in unison with the rest of the country making the progress and prosperity the main agenda of the people. The people voting massively to BJP catapulting it to be the main force in the region garnering more than 50 per cent votes in Tripura compared to 1.8 per cent in 2013 assembly elections and 12 seats in Nagaland may appear a miracle to all the political pundits across the country. But the sheer hard work of the karyakartas, their relentless struggle and sacrifice aided with sustained developmental works by the union government has resulted in the magic equations resulting in party winning overwhelming trust of the people in the region. As democracy wins and development thrives in the Northeast, the main credit goes to people for heralding a new era of transformative change in the region. ■

**WHILE COMMUNISTS WERE ROUTED COMPLETELY IN TRIPURA, CONGRESS COULD NOT WIN A SINGLE SEAT IN TRIPURA AND NAGALAND. IN MEGHALAYA TOO IT WAS SHOWN DOOR BY THE PEOPLE WITH A NEW GOVERNMENT GETTING INSTALLED IN ITS PLACE. WHEN THE COMMUNISTS ARE GETTING MARGINALIZED IN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICS, CONGRESS IS NOT FAR BEHIND.**

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



# BJP ends 25 year rule of Left in Tripura with a historic victory

## Also forms government in Nagaland & Meghalaya

**F**ollowing the announcement of assembly election results of Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya on 03 March, 2018 the North-East effectively became a BJP-NDA citadel. In what seemed an impossible feat for it till even a couple of years ago, the BJP ended the 25 year rule of the CPI (M) in Tripura ousting the deeply entrenched Left dispensation from its second last bastion. Finally, the Left citadel Crumbled after 25 years and BJP also formed the Government both in Nagaland and Meghalaya with its allies.

'Chalo Paltai' (let's change) was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's clarion call to voters in Tripura as he exhorted them to vote out the two decade old Manik Sarkar regime. The voters did just that. They voted overwhelmingly for the BJP to replace what Shri Narendra Modi termed was the "Manik" with

@AmitShah 

*Victory after victory is a positive sign. This has boosted our confidence even more for 2019.*

"HIRA" which, he said, stood for "Highway, I-ways, Roadways and Airways".

From being a negligible force five years ago when it witnessed all its candidates, barring one, lose their deposits and manage just 1.3 per cent vote share to now cornering around 50 per cent votes along with its allies and romping home to power with a huge majority of 43 seats in the 60-member Assembly, the BJP's feat in Tripura is undoubtedly mind boggling.

The BJP would be calling the shots in seven of the eight North-Eastern States now, a trend that started with the party's huge victory in Assam in 2016. It is

also the fructification of the ambition of the combine of PM Shri Narendra Modi and BJP National President Shri Amit Shah for the far-off North Eastern region. Nationally, the BJP's footprints have emphatically expanded to 22 of the 29 States. This is almost three fourth of the country, literally.

Just as in Assam, the BJP's juggernaut in Tripura rolled on ably by the BJP's organizational pointsmen both in the National level, the State level and also the Government at the Centre that focused on North-East as the 'Gateway to India' from its very inception.

So far as Congress is concerned, it has not only been blanked out in Tripura but also it has met a similar fate in Nagaland too. While the Congress' vote share in Nagaland declined from 25 per cent in 2013 to just 2 per cent now, the BJP's increased from 1.8 per cent to 14.4 per cent. Its tally of seats too increased from one to 12 seats.

### **'SUN IS RED WHEN IT SETS, TURNS SAFFRON WHEN IT RISES'**

Expressing his gratitude for the huge mandate, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi promised that BJP Government would return the trust reposed by the people of the North-East on the party with "principal investment plus interest of vikas" in the region. He said people in Tripura must have suffered a lot to decide leaving the old regime and express anger through ballot against the Left Government.

Addressing a huge gathering of jubilant BJP Karyakartas on 03 March, 2018 at the new BJP Headquarters at 6 A, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, the PM used a metaphor, "suraj jab doobta hain to lal hota hai aur ughta hai to kesariya rang leta hai (Sun is red when it sets, turns saffron when it rises)", to refer to the end of the Left rule in Tripura and the start of the BJP's era. He expressed surprise at the angry reactions of the Left leaders saying those who lecture on democracy should also have spirit of democracy to accept defeats.



Declaring that the 'chot' (violence) by the Left cadre against BJP workers have been responded with 'vote' by the poor people of Tripura. At the continuous dwarfing of the Congress, Shri Narendra Modi said soon there would be only one specimen Congress Chief Minister in Puducherry left in the country with Karnataka being next in line of the BJP's poll fire.

Shri Modi paid tributes to nine BJP workers killed in Tripura and also referred to killing of 24 party workers in Kerala, West Bengal and Odisha in last six months. Tripura is an example that even one drop of BJP workers did not go waste, he said.

Referring to the arrest of a corrupt businessman in a bribery and cheating case, the PM took a jibe at the Congress party for describing CBI and ED action as vendetta saying "it is not vendetta, it is mandata" (Government's mandate). The Prime Minister brushed aside Congress' vendetta charge saying "we are working for the well-being of the country.

He said Congress was never so down-sized as it is

today and recalled him telling Puducherry Congress Chief Minister V Narayanasamy that he was lucky as soon he would be "the only specimen Congress CM left in the country". As for the Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, Shri Modi said he was like an independent soldier. The PM said Congress will be defeated in Karnataka also.

In another remark against Congress leadership, the Prime Minister said on the one hand one party president Shri Amit Shah winning one victory after



another, on the other another party president moving up in the ladder but the party going down in its size. While hitting out at the Congress Shri Modi, however, cautioned party men to ensure that Congress culture does not inflict the BJP.

Taking note of the BJP's performance in seven of the eight States (Mizoram excluded) of the North-East, the PM said in 'Vastu Shastra' (Hindu system of architecture) North-East is considered the most important direction as it is considered all too auspicious. If North-East is set aright entire building is considered perfect, he said adding today NE has taken leadership in the country.

Effusive in this praise for the leadership shown by Shri Amit Shah, the Prime Minister said NE polls have shown that elections could be won by organizational strength without showcasing too many faces, leaders or celebrities and pointed to the important role of local workers. He said in Tripura BJP contestants and workers were the youngest, barely completing 25 years. "Bal sena ne kamal kiya", he said.

The PM said the positive results were also on

account of the silent work done by the Central Government and Ministry like DONER which was a mobile one visiting NE once in a month and resolving issues in the region itself. Taking on the Congress regimes, he said his Ministers have made more visits to NE in last four years than those made in 70-years rule of previous regimes.

### **'POLL RESULT A CLEAR APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT POLITICS LAUNCHED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN NORTH EAST'**

Prior to PM Shri Narendra Modi's address, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressed the media persons saying the poll result is a clear approval of the development politics launched by the Prime Minister in the North East and a signal that the party would wrest Karnataka in the upcoming elections from the Congress.

Shri Amit Shah said outcome in Tripura, Nagaland and also in Meghalaya are against the Congress and the Left politics of non-performance. However, BJP's golden era, he said would begin only after the party scores victories in Karnataka, West Bengal and Odisha. He said these positive results augur well for the party's success in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

He also stated that victory after victory has boosted the confidence of the party and supporters. The BJP President thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his great leadership and governance in the country and said, "In 2014 Narendra Modi Ji had said western side of the nation has developed a lot but the same has not reached the eastern side yet. He immediately started his 'Act East Policy'. I believe this is the victory of his policies, stamped by the 3 states of the north-east."

Shri Amit Shah also added that now BJP will march towards Karnataka with this massive victory. While targeting on the left, BJP President stated that it has been proved that Left is not right for any part of this country.

Shri Amit Shah said, "Jahan tak Left ka sawaal hai, ye siddh ho chuka hai ki Left desh ke kisi bhi kshetra ke liye right nahi hai." Thumping the back of the party leaders, BJP President said BJP & NDA has governance in 21 states across the nation today. Mandate after mandate has been in the favour of Narendra Modi Ji and his government. ■



# Biplab Kumar Deb takes oath as Tripura Chief Minister

PM AND BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT ATTEND THE CEREMONY



**S**hri Biplab Kumar Deb, the 48-year-old Tripura BJP President was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Tripura's first Bharatiya Janata Party government in Agartala on 09 March, 2018. The swearing-in ceremony held at the Assam Rifles ground was attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, senior BJP leaders Shri Lal Krishna Advani and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and other leaders of the party.

Chief Ministers of BJP-ruled states like Shri Vijay Rupani (Gujarat), Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal (Assam) and Shri Raghubar Das (Jharkhand), besides others, also attended the function. Outgoing Tripura CM Manik Sarkar also attended the event.

Shri Jishnu Deb Burman, a member of the royal family, took oath as the Deputy CM of the State.

BJP ally Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) gets two berths in the 12-member ministry of

## Shri Biplab Kumar Deb: Profile

Born in 1969 in a middle class family in Tripura's Gomati District, in a village called Rajdhar Nagar, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb graduated from Tripura's Udaipur College in 1999 and shifted to New Delhi for his higher Studies and Masters. Soon after that he joined the RSS, where he was a volunteer for 16 years, training under prominent leaders.

Two years ago, he was called back home where he replaced Shri Sudhindra Dasgupta, the longest-serving BJP President in Tripura to become the youngest party President in any state. His efforts in building the party and driving it to a massive win were acknowledged by the top brass of the party and he was chosen to lead the state. He took oath as the 10th Chief Minister of Tripura on 09 March, 2018.

At present Shri Biplab Deb is the Youngest Chief Minister of India currently after Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

the new government.

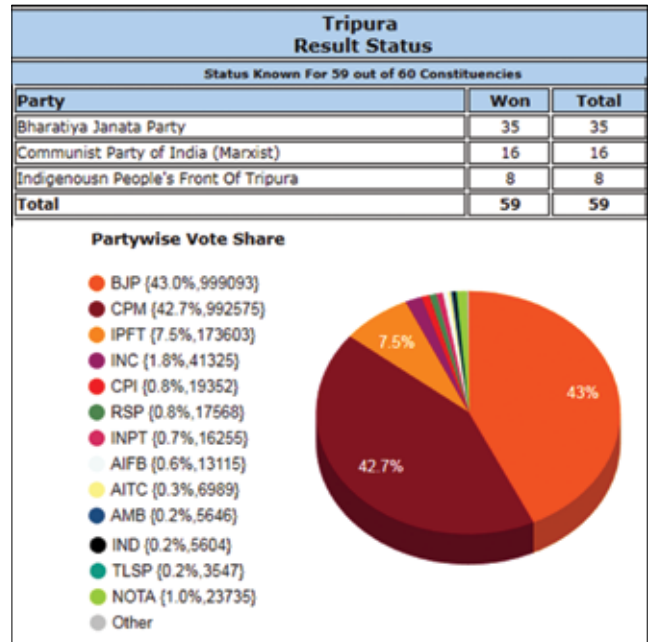
After taking oath Shri Biplab Kumar Deb said, "People inspire me and they are my Dal, Roti". He assured the people of Tripura of development, something which wasn't done by the previous government. He said, "I love the people of Tripura. I even love Manik Sarkar, but I am annoyed that they got so much time but didn't utilize the resources of the state to develop it. We will rebuild it from scratch."

To the 3.7 million people in Tripura he said, "Treat me as your son, brother, not as the CM,.". "Pull my ears to put me on the right track if I err in providing you good governance," he added.

PM Shri Narendra Modi said the BJP-led government will "be for those who voted for us and for those who did not." Addressing the Left Front leaders, he said that their long experience in running government in Tripura can guide the newly-formed inexperienced one.

Addressing the crowd, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said that the Tripura victory has strengthened BJP's goal of ruling 7 of 8 Northeast States.

Noteworthy, the BJP's arrival in Tripura following a spectacular electoral victory is a humiliating defeat for the unchallenged 25-year rule of the Left. The historic verdict dethroned the four times Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and demolished his almost impenetrable fortress. However, this time the Left could manage only 16 seats, down 33 from last time. The party now



rules only one state ; Kerala.

The BJP, which had won no seat in 2013, got 43 seats and with allies got 50 per cent vote share this time in the state.

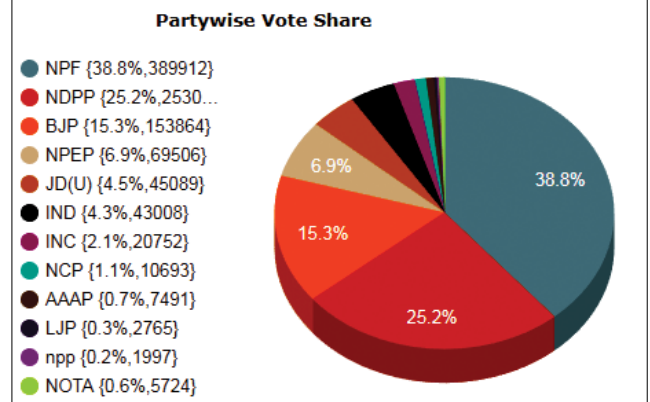
Earlier, BJP National General Secretary and North East in-charge Shri Ram Madhav and Chief Minister-Elect Shri Biplab Kumar Deb had just made a visit to the CPM party office that is going to be Manik Sarkar's home to invite him to the swearing in ceremony in state capital Agartala. Shri Manik Sarkar accepted their invite and attended the swearing in ceremony. ■



# Neiphiu Rio took oath as the new Chief Minister of Nagaland



Nagaland Result Status		
Status Known For 59 out of 60 Constituencies		
Party	Won	Total
Bharatiya Janata Party	12	12
Naga Peoples Front	27	27
Janata Dal (United)	1	1
National People's Party	2	2
Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	16	16
Independent	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>59</b>



**T**he NDA government led by Shri Neiphiu Rio, along with the council of ministers took oath on 08 March, 2018 at the Kohima Local Ground in Nagaland. In a first, the Chief Minister and council of ministers took oath in full public view. The venue holds significance as the announcement of Nagaland's statehood on December 01, 1963 was made from here by the then President of India Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

Governor Shri P.B. Acharya has administered the oath of office and secrecy to Shri Rio and the 11 ministers of his government, in the presence of the BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders. Among others Assam Chief Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu, Meghalaya Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma and

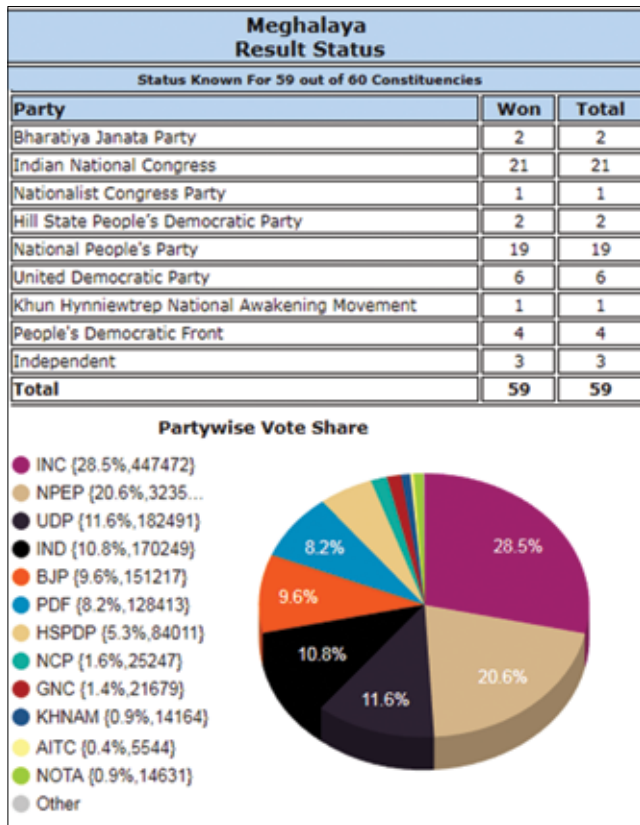
other leaders attended the ceremony. Thousands of common people also attended the ceremony.

The Bharatiya Janata Party had entered into a pre-poll alliance with Shri Rio who floated the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) just ahead of the Assembly Elections. The BJP got 12 seats while the NDPP got 17 seats. The NDA government has taken over the reins of the North-Eastern state with the support of 34 MLAs.

The newly-mandated alliance government, comprising 34 elected members of the NDPP, BJP, National People's Party (NPP), JD(U) and an Independent, however, has decided to take the oath before the public.

Shri Rio has assumed the charge of Nagaland Chief Minister for the fourth time. He had served his three previous terms between 2003 and May 2014. ■

# Conrad Sangma took oath as new Chief Minister of Meghalaya



**M**eghalaya's first non-Congress government in 15 years took the oath of office on 08 March, 2018 with Shri Conrad Sangma taking charge as Chief Minister, following the Assembly election result that threw up a fractured mandate.

Earlier, with support of 34 MLAs in the 60-member Assembly, National People's Party (NPP) chief Shri Conrad Sangma met Governor Shri Ganga Prasad in Shillong on 04 March, 2018 to stake his claim to form the next government in the state. "We met the governor and submitted a letter of support from 34 MLAs: Two of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), 19 from the NPP, six of the United Democratic Party (UDP), four of the People's Democratic Front (PDF), two from the Hill State People's Democratic Party (HSPDP), and one Independent," Shri Sangma said.

The regional parties UDP, HSPDP and PDF have

@rajnathsingh



**Congratulations and my best wishes to Shri Conrad Sangma on being sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Meghalaya. I am confident that he and his team of ministers will put the state back on a development track.**

extended their support to NPP on the condition that Shri Conrad, the youngest son of former Lok Sabha Speaker PA Sangma, would be chief minister. Shri sangma, who is a non-elected member in the 60-member Assembly, was administered oath of office and secrecy along with his Council of Ministers. He now serves the state's 12th Chief Minister.

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah, Home Minister Rajnath Singh and others attended the ceremony in Shillong. ■

# 1,28,509 Affordable Houses Sanctioned for Urban Poor under PMAY

**M**inistry of Housing & Urban Affairs on February 28 approved the construction of 1,28,509 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs. 9,364 cr with central assistance of Rs. 1,928 cr. The approval was given in the 31st meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee in its meeting held here yesterday. The projects were sanctioned across 184 cities in the states of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry (UT).

Haryana has been sanctioned 62,451 houses in 33 cities and towns with an investment of Rs. 6,844 cr with central assistance of Rs.937 cr. Uttar Pradesh got 36,056 houses in 95 cities and towns with an investment of Rs. 1,287 cr and central assistance of Rs.541 cr. Chattisgarh has been sanctioned 28,029 affordable houses in 54 cities with an investment of Rs. 1,151 cr and central assistance of Rs.420 cr. Puducherry has been sanctioned 1,973 houses in 2 cities and towns with an investment of Rs. 83 cr with central assistance of Rs.30 cr.

The approval accorded was for construction of 51,940 new houses under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY (Urban),



15,033 in Uttar Pradesh, 10,572 in Chattisgarh, 2,049 houses in Haryana, 1,973 in Puducherry, A total 54,560 in Haryana, 4,552 in Uttar Pradesh and 17,457 in Chhattisgarh under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) component.

With the above proposed houses, cumulative houses under PMAY(U) would become 39,15,402 after final approval from CSMC. Further after subsuming projects of RAY scheme the total number of houses being funded under PMAY(Urban) would be 40,57,250 houses. ■

# 9.9% Growth in Foreign Exchange Earnings In January 2018 over January 2017

**M**inistry of Tourism estimates monthly Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through Tourism in India, both in Rupee and Dollar terms based on the credit data of Travel Head from Balance of Payments of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

FEEs during the month of January 2018 were Rs. 17,725 crore as compared to Rs. 16,135 crore in January 2017 and Rs. 13,671 crore in January 2016.

The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms in January

2018 over January 2017 was 9.9%, compared to the growth of 18.0% in January 2017 over January 2016.

FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of January 2018 were US\$ 2.786 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$ 2.370 billion during the month of January 2017 and US\$ 2.032 billion in January 2016.

The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in January 2018 over January 2017 was 17.6% compared to the growth of 16.6% in January 2017 over January 2016. ■

# Cabinet approves Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018

Offences worth Rs.100 crore or more will come under the purview of the Bill

**T**he Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 1 approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance to introduce the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2018 in Parliament. The Bill would help in laying down measures to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

The cases where the total value involved in such offences is Rs.100 crore or more, will come under the purview of this Bill.

The Bill is expected to re-establish the rule of law with respect to the fugitive economic offenders as they would be forced to return to India to face trial for scheduled offences. This would also help the banks and other financial institutions to achieve higher



recovery from financial defaults committed by such fugitive economic offenders, improving the financial health of such institutions.

It is expected that the special forum to be created for expeditious confiscation of the proceeds of crime, in India or abroad, would coerce the fugitive to return to India to submit to the jurisdiction of Courts in India to face the law in respect of scheduled offences.

If at any point of time in the course of the proceeding prior to the declaration, however, the alleged Fugitive Economic Offender returns to India and submits to the appropriate jurisdictional Court, proceedings under the proposed Act would cease by law. All necessary constitutional safeguards in terms of providing hearing to the person through counsel, allowing him time to file a reply, serving notice of summons to him, whether in India or abroad and appeal to the High Court have been provided for. Further, provision has been made for appointment of an Administrator to manage and dispose of the property in compliance with the provisions of law.

In order to address the lacunae in the present laws and lay down measures to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts, the Bill is being proposed. The Bill makes provisions

## Salient features of the Bill:

- Application before the Special Court for a declaration that an individual is a fugitive economic offender;
- Attachment of the property of a fugitive economic offender;
- Issue of a notice by the Special Court to the individual alleged to be a fugitive economic offender;
- Confiscation of the property of an individual declared as a fugitive economic offender resulting from the proceeds of crime;
- Confiscation of other property belonging to such offender in India and abroad, including benami property;
- Disentitlement of the fugitive economic offender from defending any civil claim; and
- vii. An Administrator will be appointed to manage and dispose of the confiscated property under the Act.

for a Court ('Special Court' under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002) to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender. A Fugitive Economic Offender is a person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued in respect of a scheduled offence and who has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution, or being abroad, refuses to return to India to face criminal prosecution. A scheduled offence refers to a list of economic offences contained in the Schedule to this Bill. Further, in order to ensure that Courts are not over-burdened with such cases, only those cases where the total value involved in such offences is 100 crore rupees or more, is within the purview of this Bill.

There have been several instances of economic offenders fleeing the jurisdiction of Indian courts, anticipating the commencement, or during the pendency, of criminal proceedings. The absence of such offenders from Indian courts has several deleterious consequences - first, it hampers investigation in criminal cases; second, it wastes

precious time of courts of law, third, it undermines the rule of law in India. Further, most such cases of economic offences involve non-repayment of bank loans thereby worsening the financial health of the banking sector in India. The existing civil and criminal provisions in law are not entirely adequate to deal with the severity of the problem. It is, therefore, felt necessary to provide an effective, expeditious and constitutionally permissible deterrent to ensure that such actions are curbed. It may be mentioned that the non-conviction-based asset confiscation for corruption-related cases is enabled under provisions of United Nations Convention against Corruption (ratified by India in 2011). The Bill adopts this principle. In view of the above context, a Budget announcement was made by the Government in the Budget 2017-18 that the Government was considering to introduce legislative changes or even a new law to confiscate the assets of such absconders till they submit to the jurisdiction of the appropriate legal forum. ■

## Cabinet approves 2% DA to Central Government employees

**A**fter 7th Pay Commission, 2 per cent Dearness Allowance was hiked for Central govt employees. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 8 has given its approval to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2018 representing an increase of 2% over the existing rate of 5% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise.

This will benefit about 48.41 lakh Central Government employees and 61.17 lakh pensioners.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs.6077.72 crore per annum and Rs.7090.68 crore in the financial year 2018-19 (for a period of 14 months from January, 2018 to February, 2019).

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission. ■

## Robust growth in manufacturing

**T**he Ministry of Finance states that the Second Advanced Estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on February 28 indicate a broad-based and significant acceleration of real economic activity as projected in the Economic Survey. Estimates for real GDP growth for 2017-18 have been revised upwards to 6.6 percent, compared with 6.5 percent in the First Advance Estimates. Similarly, real GVA growth for 2017-18 has been revised upwards from 6.1 percent to 6.4 percent. Real GDP growth for the third quarter is estimated at 7.2 percent, up from 6.5 percent in the second quarter; real GVA growth has accelerated from 6.2 percent in Q2 2017-18 to 6.7 percent in Q3 2017-18. In a statement, the Ministry of Finance states that the growth acceleration has been sectorally broad-based with manufacturing growth estimated at 8.1 percent for Q3 2017-18, up from 6.9 percent in Q2 2017-18; construction growth at 6.8 percent in Q3 2017-18, up from 2.8 percent in Q2 2017-18; and services growth projected to accelerate to 7.7 percent in Q3 2017-18 from 7.1 percent in Q2 2017-18. The Ministry states that the such robust growth in manufacturing and significant acceleration in construction mark a turnaround in the country's economic growth momentum. ■

# Fundamentals of Democracy

## GOVERNMENT BY DEBATE

**D**EMOCRACY has been defined as government by debate. The tradition of debate is old in our country. But such a debate can be fruitful only when each party carefully listens to what the other has to say and has the desire to accept the truth in it. If instead of trying to understand the other person's point of view we insist upon our own point of view such a debate must remain fruitless. When Voltaire said, "I do not agree with what you say, but I shall defend to death your right to say it," he was only accepting the fruitless part of the debate. Bharatiya culture goes beyond this and looks at debate as a means for the realization of truth. We believe that truth is not one-sided, and that its various facets can be seen, examined and experienced from various angles. Hence he who has the capacity to have a comprehensive view of the unity underlying all such diversities is a seer.

## DEMOCRACY WITHOUT SANSKARAS

There is no conflict between the individual and society; If it is present, it is an aberration. It is not necessary to curb the freedom of the individual in the interest of society. In fact unbridled liberty does not lead to the development of the individual, it leads to his ruin. Complete identification of the individual with society is itself a state of complete development for the individual. The individual is the medium and the measure of the completeness of society. The freedom of the individual and the interest of society are not contradictory. Democracy is but an instrument for the fulfilment of the duty of the people. The effectiveness of the instrument depends upon the feeling for the nation in the life of the people, consciousness of responsibility, and discipline. If these Sanskaras are absent in the citizen, democracy degenerates into an instrument of individual, class and party interest.

## CENTRALISATION OF POWER

The centralization of political, economic and social powers in one individual or institution is a hindrance in the way of democracy. Generally when power in a certain field gets concentrated in one individual that



individual tries directly or indirectly to concentrate in his hands power in other fields also. It is thus that the dictatorial governments of the Communists and the Khilafat were set up. Even when human life is integral and its various fields complementary to each other the units representing these various fields should remain separate. Normally speaking the various units of the administration should concern themselves with administration and should not enter the field of economics. A capitalist economy first acquires power in the economic field and then enters the political field, while socialism concentrates power over all means of production in the hands of the State. Both these systems are against the democratic rights of the individual and their proper development. Hence along with centralization we shall have to think of division of powers.

## DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

**DURING** Pandit Nehru's time India also raised the slogan of democratic socialism. We did not succeed in this because today the democracy and the socialism that we had been trying for are basically resting on a





# Machinism

## FIGHT AGAINST MACHINISM

IF we blindly follow the Western machine age neither sarvodaya nor socialism will be able to protect our culture, nor will we be able to solve the problems before us. We will have to fight this machinism on all fronts-political, economic, social and ideological. Our ideals will have to be Dharmarajya (Moral Rule), democracy, social equality and economic decentralization. A synthesis of all these could alone give us such a philosophy of life as would preserve us in the midst of all storms of today. You may call it Hinduism, Humanism or any other ism; this is the only way that accords with the soul of Bharat and can instil a new vitality in the people of his country. It can possibly guide even the whole world, which is at present standing at the cross-roads of confusion.

## PURPOSE OF MACHINE

THE machine was developed to increase man's productivity and decrease his labour. The machine is an aid of man, not a competitor. But when human labour became a commodity with a price on it, the machine became man's competitor. This is the defect of the capitalist's point of view. If machine replaces man and men dies of starvation, the purpose for which the machine was developed would be defeated. But the inanimate machine is not responsible for this. This defect belongs to a thoughtless economy. We must take into account the limitation of the machine when we decide upon its use.

## SELECTION OF MACHINE

THE machine should be selected with great care, for it affects the selection of all other implements. If we choose the right machine the labourer can become a producer, otherwise he may remain only a consumer. By and large we can say that we should use such machines as are in consonance with implements of production available in this country. Labour, Capital, Management, Material, Demand-all these should determine the machine to be used. It is said that necessity is the mother of invention. But today we consider the machine the focal point and think of changing everything else according to it. The entire system of production is centred round the machine. It is the inventions that are creating the necessities.

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

Western foundation and are therefore incomplete. These two thoughts express different aspects of life and the truths related to them. Their synthesis is possible, but only when our point of view is synthesizing. It would not be proper to press our entire life into the institutions and traditions of democracy as developed in the West, or into the ready-made moulds of socialism propounded by Marx and practised by Lenin, Stalin etc. The life of this country is higher than both these ideas. Instead of foisting Western politics on India we will have to develop our own political philosophy. While doing this we can benefit from the thinking done in the West. But we must neither be overwhelmed by it nor must we consider it the eternal truth.

## DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PARTIES

The definition of Swaraj includes three main things. The first is that the Government should be in the hands of those who are a part of the nation. The second special point is that the Government should be conducted in the Interest of the nation, which means its policies should be oriented towards national interest. And the third point is that such a Government should have its own strength to achieve the good of the nation. In other words it is wrong to even think of Swaraj without self-reliance. Even when the Government is in the hands of the nationals Swaraj would become meaningless if the Government comes under pressure or becomes a follower of some other nation. If the State is not self-reliant in respect of defence, free in respect of its policies and self-contained in respect of economic planning it could be pressurized into working against the interest of the nation. Such a dependent State leads to ruination. ■

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

# Kanchi Peeth Shankaracharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi no more

**J**agadguru Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya is no more. He died on February 28. Jayendra Saraswathi succeeded Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi as the 69th Shankaracharya of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam in 1994. Jayendra Saraswathi was born as Subramanyam to Mahadeva Iyer and Saraswathi Ammal on July 18, 1935. He completed schooling at Irulneeki primary school and at a middle school at nearby Aathichapuram village. Then he shifted to a vedha padasala at Thiruvanaikoil in Trichy. He visited the village on holidays and used to play normal games marble and 'killi-thandu' like other children of his age. Chandrashekarendra Saraswathi selected him as his successor, when Jayendra was just 19.

Saraswathi was head of the mutt established by Adi Shankaracharya in the 5th Century AD. He had his spiritual tutelage from 'Maha Periyava' and travelled the length and breadth of the country with his guru. He delivered religious discourse besides involving himself in various spiritual and social activities as well. Under his guidance, the mutt started several schools and hospitals. Jayendra Saraswathi ensured that the Mutt involved itself in various social activities. Thanks to his efforts, the mutt



today runs several schools, eye clinics and hospitals. He also managed to establish a direct connect with the people.

Although the mutt is primarily a religious organisation, Jayendrar, whose character was underpinned by a strident social consciousness, had both the conviction and courage to steer the mutt into territories into which it had not ventured before. Jayendrar found strength from his own inner conviction and the need for both the mutt and the Hindu religion to reach out to the poor and downtrodden. He was still strong on religious practices and their understanding — it was one of the reasons he was handpicked as the 69th pontiff of Kanchi mutt when he was just 19 years of age. It took enormous amount of courage for Jayendra Saraswathi to renounce the world including his parents at the age of 19 in order to become true spiritual guru. He travelled with his senior across India barefoot to spread awareness on Hindu culture.

But he could make the two unlike poles reside comfortably within him. And that is because he was also a man of vision, who had a grasp of his own destiny. ■

@narendramodi

"Deeply anguished by the passing away of Acharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Jagadguru Pujyashri Jayendra Saraswathi Shankaracharya. He will live on in the hearts and minds of lakhs of devotees due to his exemplary service and noblest thoughts. Om Shanti to the departed soul."

@AmitShah

Anguished to learn about the sad demise of Shankaracharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi ji of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. Generations will remember him for his teachings, wisdom and exemplary work towards educating the poor. Shankaracharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi ji was a spiritual beacon, who contributed immensely to the society and served mankind. My deepest condolences to his followers across the world. Om Shanti Shanti Shanti".

# Cabinet approves Establishment of NFRA for the auditing profession

**T**he Union Cabinet on March 1 chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and creation of one post of Chairperson, three posts of full-time Members and one post of Secretary for NFRA.

The decision aims at establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which is one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act, 2013. The inclusion of the provision in the Act was on the specific recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance (in its 21st report).

The decision is expected to result in improved foreign/domestic investments, enhancement of economic growth, supporting the globalisation of business by meeting international practices, and assist in further development of audit profession.

The jurisdiction of NFRA for investigation of Chartered Accountants and their firms under section 132 of the Act would extend to listed companies and large unlisted public companies, the thresholds for which shall be prescribed in the Rules. The Central Government can also refer such other entities for investigation where public interest would be involved.

The inherent regulatory role of ICAI as provided for in the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 shall continue in respect of its members in general and specifically with respect to audits pertaining to private limited companies, and public unlisted companies below the threshold limit to be notified in the rules.

The Quality Review Board (QRB) will also continue quality audit in respect of private limited companies, public unlisted companies below prescribed threshold and also with respect to audit of those companies that may be delegated to QRB by NFRA. Further, ICAI shall continue to play its advisory role with respect to accounting and auditing standards and policies by making its recommendations to NFRA.

The need for establishing NFRA has arisen on account of the need felt across various jurisdictions in the world, in the wake of accounting scams, to establish independent regulators, independent from those it regulates, for enforcement of auditing standards and ensuring the quality of audits to strengthen the independence of audit firms, quality of audits and, therefore, enhance investor and public confidence in financial disclosures of companies.

The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (Act) provides for imposition of penalties on members of the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of India (ICAI).

The ICAI had submitted a proposal to the Government for amendment to the Act to, inter alia, provide for registration of audit firms, procedure for taking necessary disciplinary action against audit firms (on the lines of such procedure for individual members) and imposition of penalties on audit firms. Section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013 provides for constitution of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) and sub-section (4) thereof confers powers on NFRA, for imposition of penalties on audit firms. ■



# BJP WIN SHOWS MODI MAGIC UNDIMINISHED



**I SWAPAN DASGUPTA**

**T**hree weeks ago, at the Central Hall of Parliament, BJP president Amit Shah told me quite categorically that the CPI(M) would be swept away from Tripura in this election. To be honest, I felt he was overstating the extent of the BJP surge in a State where it had polled less than two per cent of the popular vote in 2013 and had never won either an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat. That the BJP was dominating the anti-Left space and had squeezed out the Congress was apparent. But against the excitement and momentum the BJP campaign had generated was the organisational depth of the CPI(M) and its formidable election machinery. In the end, the intensity of accumulated resentment against 25 years of Left rule proved too powerful. Tripura witnessed one of the biggest electoral upsets by recording a

clear and emphatic victory, its coalition winning the endorsement of both the Bengalis and the tribal communities.

It has been customary for Middle India to pay little or no heed to the manner Indian democracy functions in the North-eastern States of India. Worse, there is an inclination to debunk its workings with dollops of condescension, as Congress leader Ashok Gehlot did when he brushed aside the Tripura outcome as indicative of the North-east's tendency to tilt in the direction of the Centre.

Why, therefore, should the Tripura verdict be viewed as different, apart, of course, from the sheer magnitude of the change?

To begin with, the battle in Tripura was not a clash between regional parties that are often inclined to negotiate their positions on the politics at the Centre. Initially it was viewed as a triangular battle between



the incumbent CPI(M), headed by a man who was often praised in Left-liberal circles as the most honest and unassuming Chief Minister in India, a weakened Congress and a rising BJP. True, the BJP had among its candidates a disproportionate chunk of erstwhile Congressmen – including a former PCC president. But that is not surprising considering that at one time the Congress was the only worthwhile opposition to the Left. Once the centre of gravity of anti-Left politics shifted away from the Congress – a process that began in 1996 when the Congress and Left teamed up at the Centre to keep out the BJP – there was an inclination of these activists to scour for new homes. In West Bengal, they rallied round Mamata Banerjee and the Trinamool Congress. In Tripura, they found a home in the BJP.

Secondly, in the two months between the results of the Gujarat Assembly elections and Saturday's results from Tripura, the media had been systematically broadcasting the apparent retreat of the BJP and the simultaneous advance of a 'rejuvenated' Congress under Rahul Gandhi. The gains made by the Congress in Gujarat, its wins in three by-elections in Rajasthan and its success in retaining two seats in Madhya Pradesh were cited as evidence of a growing mood shift that would culminate in the BJP's defeat in the 2019 general election. It was this reading of the public mood that was also a factor in the very convoluted (and largely media) campaign to link the scams of diamond trader Nirav Modi to the BJP Government and even the Prime Minister.

What Tripura has demonstrated is of considerable significance. Apart from indicating that the BJP has enough political reserves to mount an extremely successful campaign in an area where it barely had a presence, the victory suggested the continuing attraction of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government at the Centre. Exit polls have indicated that the support for the BJP was particularly marked among the youth, suggesting they associate the party with the yearning for a better life. BJP campaigners have also suggested that women voters too gave exceptional support to the BJP. Both these trends reinforce the findings from the Gujarat elections.

Thirdly, despite putting on a brave face and pointing to the Congress' relatively better performance in Meghalaya, there is little doubt that the Opposition to

the BJP is shell-shocked. That it was the formidable CPI(M) that suffered a crushing defeat has only made it worse. Mamata, for example, admitted quite openly that she would have been happy had the CPI(M) won in Tripura. It is likely that the Tripura outcome will have a direct bearing on the outcome of the Prakash Karat-Sitaram Yechuri difference. It will perhaps even tip the scales in favour of the incumbent general secretary and encourage a larger anti-BJP mahagathbandhan.

On the other hand, the smaller regional parties that have limited national ambitions could, however, be tempted to gravitate towards the BJP and the National Democratic Alliance. My feeling is that the Tripura verdict will encourage a move towards bipolarity

**On the other hand, the smaller regional parties that have limited national ambitions could, however, be tempted to gravitate towards the BJP and the National Democratic Alliance. My feeling is that the Tripura verdict will encourage a move towards bipolarity – BJP versus anti-BJP – for the 2019 election.**

– BJP versus anti-BJP – for the 2019 election. This implies that the BJP has to persevere relentlessly in its bid to enlarge its social base, particularly the poorer sections that have not been traditional supporters of the party.

In short, the next 12 months has to witness the Modi Government has to work overtime to ensure maximum delivery of its Central schemes. People will renew their mandate for Modi once they are convinced that the direction of governance is positive and that the quality of their lives is improving. The Prime Minister's cult following is based on a combination of both hope and performance. And a fierce sense of integrity. ■

*(The writer is Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha & a Senior Columnist)*

# PM interacted through PRAGATI for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation

**T**he Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on February 28 chaired his twenty-fourth interaction through PRAGATI - the ICT-based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

The first twenty-three meetings of PRAGATI have seen a cumulative review of 208 projects with a total investment of Rs. 9.46 lakh crore. Resolution of Public Grievances has also been reviewed in 17 sectors.

Today, in the twenty-fourth meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed the progress of the Kedarnath reconstruction work in Uttarakhand. The State Government presented the progress of works through drone imagery.

The Prime Minister reviewed the progress towards handling and resolution of grievances related to the Delhi Police. He stressed on the importance of improving the quality of disposal of grievances.

The Prime Minister reviewed the progress of ten infrastructure projects in the railway, road, power, petroleum and coal sectors, spread over several



states including Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. These projects are cumulatively worth over 40,000 crore rupees.

The Prime Minister reviewed the progress in implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Matri Vandana Yojana. ■

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## Ayurveda Doctors and Yoga Teachers for Rural Areas

**M**inister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on March 6 said, "The National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy - 2002, envisages integration of AYUSH systems of medicine with the Healthcare Delivery System. Mainstreaming of AYUSH is one of the strategies in National Health Mission (NHM) which seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care in order to improve the existing health care delivery system."

He added, "Government of India has adopted a strategy of Co-location of AYUSH facilities at Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and District Hospitals (DHs), thus enabling choice to the patients for different systems of medicine. The engagement of AYUSH Doctors



/ paramedics and their training is supported by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, while the support for AYUSH infrastructure, equipment / furniture and medicines are provided by Ministry of AYUSH under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM)."

Further, under NAM, there is provision of AYUSH Wellness Centres including Yoga & Naturopathy which also envisage engagement of Yoga manpower. ■



# Modi Government's thrust on agriculture is core behind the vision of 'New India'

**DR. SHIV SHAKTI BAKSHI**

**F**ocus on farmers, agriculture sector and rural India is the new mantra for India's quest all round development. The realisation is dawning that if India has to move on a high growth trajectory, revolutionising agriculture sector is of utmost importance. And it cannot be done without creating a new agricultural eco-system. The budget this year has done exactly what is so urgently required, it has given a huge impetus to agriculture sector aiming to revitalize agricultural sector aimed at improving the lives of the farmers and rural poor. The goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022, so much crucial in achieving high growth targets now appears within reach and set to transform agricultural sector and the lives of millions of farmers.

The vision of 'New India' envisaged by the Prime Minister aims at doubling the farmers' income by 2022 as its core component. The budget moves in this direction by further strengthening the initiatives taken in earlier budgets and promises to move forward towards creating a comprehensive and inclusive agricultural eco-system. The decision to offer MSP at 1.5 times the cost of the farming is set to revolutionise the agricultural sector while transforming the lives of the farmers and strengthening the base of Indian economy. This path breaking announcement is aided by new initiatives in agricultural activities including fisheries, animal husbandry, bamboo farming and other allied areas aiming to substantially supplement the farmers income. The budget is full of initiatives which might convert the agricultural sector currently passing through a phase of crisis into a profitable enterprise.

It would be wrong to assume that the policy makers of our country were oblivious of the dependence of majority of people on agriculture, but different governments were seen wanting in prioritising this sector with well-set ambitious as well as achievable targets.

Despite agriculture being a state subject, the central government is required to intervene through the central sector and centrally sponsored schemes to improve the lots of a vast majority of people. The progress of India is dependent on the growth of rural India where majority of people live and seek their livelihood. The approach of the governments hitherto has been to focus on urban sector which led to imbalances in economy and neglect of rural sector resulting in agrarian distress and farmers' suicides.

The lack of a visionary approach towards agriculture, farmers and rural sector resulted in making agriculture unprofitable with large number of people giving up farming and migrating to urban centres for jobs. The need to change this scenario with pro-farmer and pro-poor approach was felt in achieving balanced and sustainable economic growth. The investments in rural and agricultural sector not only bring smiles on the faces of millions of the people, it will also strengthens the foundation of economy and paves the path for overall high growth in the economy. The economy can only move forward when the most underprivileged and deprived people in the society are empowered. It was most probably within this perspective that the Modi government started investing heavily in rural sector by making significant provisions in budget outlays in agriculture and rural sector.

The budgets over the last three years have aimed at changing the overall approach towards agriculture by assuming it an enterprise where the farmers can realise higher returns for their produce. The strategy is to somehow reduce the input cost for the agriculture and enable the farmers to get better prices by reforming the entire eco-system empowering the farmers in selling their crops at the best possible prices. The country has achieved a record food grain production of around 275 million tonnes along with around 300 million tonnes of fruits and vegetables but to ensure that the farmers gain immensely from such record production, government's

effective initiatives are required. In this context the historic announcement in the budget to ensure MSP at one and half times of the cost of production will go a long way in making farming an attractive enterprise. In his budget speech Finance Minister Arun Jaitley summed up the impact of the decision in following words:

“I am pleased to announce that as per predetermined principle, Government has decided to keep MSP for the all unannounced crops of kharif at least one and half times of their production cost. I am confident that this historic decision will prove an important step towards doubling the income of our farmers.”

But the biggest challenge is to ensure that farmers are the main beneficiary of this historic decision. Even in the face of increased MSP the price of the crops may sometime go down and in view of such circumstances some safeguard mechanism will have to be created to rescue the farmers from such an unfavourable situation. In such a situation the budget talks about creating a mechanism whereby the difference between MSP and the prevailing lower prices will be provided to the farmers protecting them from any loss in the process. Such assurances can only be made by a government which aims at revitalizing the agriculture sector and make farmers confident of their return. If the government is able to work out such a mechanism than the agriculture sector is set to become a booming sector in the country.

One of the biggest problems the farmers face is in marketing his produce. To ensure that farmers get optimal returns of their produce, apart from creating mechanism in implementation of MSP, the existing agricultural marketing system requires massive overhauling. While MSP procurements cater to selected commodities within a limited geographical reach, the agriculture marketing suffers from policy distortions, fragmentation resulting from large number of intermediaries, poor infrastructure, lack of vertical integration and stranglehold of official mandis. The budget has rightly emphasised the need to strengthen e-NAM further by extending the coverage to 585 Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) from existing 470 now. As for the small and marginal farmers the budget also promises to upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) which will be electronically linked to e-NAMs and exempted from the

regulations of APMCs enabling farmers to directly sell to consumers and bulk purchasers. It will immensely strengthen the hands of small and marginal farmers who are not in position to transact directly at APMCs and other wholesale markets. It will further empower around 86% of the farmers who are small and marginal ones.

The Modi government has given special emphasis on enabling farmers in making price-based decisions by making provisions in the budget for creating an institutional mechanism by developing appropriate policies and practices for price and demand forecast. The budgetary provisions of a corpus of Rs. 2000 crore for developing and upgrading marketing infrastructure in 22000 GrAMs and 585 APMc will further empower the small and marginal farmers. It is heartening to note that the task of connecting all eligible habitations with all weather link roads has been mostly completed and the idea to connect habitations to agriculture and rural markets (GrAMs) will further increase the accessibility for the farmers living in habitations dispersed along remote areas.

One of the most innovative decisions announced in the budget is to promote cluster based farming. The agricultural areas of the country need to be reorganized as per current and future requirements and clusters with specific crops can be developed on scientific lines. The announcement to identify and develop districts as per their specific agricultural produce on the lines of industrial sectors will definitely lead to an organized and planned reorientation of agriculture sector in the country. It may lead to setting of a chain from production to marketing making the entire sector advance and ready to meet challenges of food processing, preservation, value addition, transportation and marketing.

Another important initiative is to extend the Kisan Credit Card facilities to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers. It will address their problem of working capital requirements. There is no denying the fact that Kisan Credit cards have immensely empowered the farmers and liberated them from the usurious stranglehold of the local money lenders and made them self reliant to a great extent. The farmers engaged in the field of fisheries and animal husbandry are the new beneficiaries of this scheme which is set to increase their productive capacity. Apart from this, the announcement of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development





Fund (FAIDF) for fisheries and Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) for financing infrastructure requirements of animal husbandry sector will definitely prepare this sector for a huge leap in the days to come. Similarly the re-structuring of National bamboo Mission with an outlay of 1290 crore will not only help the bamboo farmers but open a new avenue for the entire agriculture sector supplementing the income of the farmers in a big way while creating new employment opportunities in this sector.

One more highly innovative decision is to install solar pumps for irrigation purpose but the most encouraging side is that it may be used for earning extra income for the farmers. If this scheme really works then it may lead to revolutionize this area which currently faces the

**The budget also talks about a vibrant, responsive, market-oriented and globally competitive agricultural ecosystem. The attempt to enhance allied agricultural activities like horticulture, dairying, poultry, piggery and small ruminant husbandry activities may help in substantially increasing the farmers' income.**

electricity problem and struggles with high cost diesel pumping sets and power cuts. It will not only solve the power problem, it will increase productivity and add to the farmer's income through the sale of surplus solar power to the distribution companies.

These initiatives may go a long way in creating a new agro-ecosystem in the country. While the need for a second green revolution is being felt in the face of stagnating growth in the agriculture sector, boosting productivity is also a major challenge. Although India appears self-sufficient in food grain production, it has yet to reach optimal productivity level matching the global standards. The situation can be understood from the fact that second crop is grown in less than

40 per cent of the land and it's even as low as 25 per cent in some states. The successive budgets under Modi government have focussed on irrigation, seeds, technology and a shift to high value farm products such as fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, chicken and fisheries for boosting productivity in a sustainable manner. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Har Khet Ko Paani, Per Drop More Crop and Watershed Development under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is creating a sound framework for effective use of water in irrigation. Apart from irrigation facilities, creating rural roads and other infrastructures, soil health card scheme, crop insurance scheme along with social security scheme initiated by Modi government have given new confidence and security to the farmers and rural poor in India.

The budget also talks about a vibrant, responsive, market-oriented and globally competitive agricultural ecosystem. The attempt to enhance allied agricultural activities like horticulture, dairying, poultry, piggery and small ruminant husbandry activities may help in substantially increasing the farmers' income. The focus on addressing the problem arising from traditional way of landholding patterns, record keeping and innovative methods of leasing land for farming may pave the way for use of advance methods and technology in agriculture sector. The budget also talks about making available crop loan facilities to the lessee cultivators without compromising the rights of the landowners thereby opening new doors of opportunities for the section of the farming community who hitherto have remained neglected. It may also empower lessee cultivators to explore new avenues and pursue farming on a firm ground.

In the fast changing economic scenario, the budget has attempted to engage with policy initiatives connecting diverse fields within a strategy framework. In dealing comprehensively with the Indian objective to eliminate poverty in all its dimensions, the budget has a transformative agenda not only for the agriculture sector, but entire economy. It has to be accepted that without revolutionising agriculture, the growth trajectory of eight per cent-plus in the coming two to three years may not appear achievable. And as the budget seems to have recognised this fact, its claim of having an alternative economic vision and much-needed policy framework may not be disputed. ■

# REVIEWING ADVANCEMENT, ADVANCING REVIEW

## PRAGATI

(Continue from Last Issue...)

**VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE  
& DHIRAJ NAYYAR**

Issues flagged by Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, related to clearances for a project by the national highways and for the Navi Mumbai airport, respectively, were also taken up. In all, six central government projects involving more than a dozen ministries and thirteen states, stymied because of delay in various actions and permissions, were addressed. Some of the problems were resolved during the course of the meeting.

The Prime Minister also dealt with impediments to the school toilet programme and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, and issued directions accordingly. These directions, incidentally, are retained in the PRAGATI system, to ensure follow-up until the matter has been finally resolved.

Till June 2017, nineteen PRAGATI meetings had been held and 167 central and state government projects, worth 28,31,000 crore and delayed for years because of various bottlenecks, had been assessed and fast-tracked. Most were critical infrastructure projects of the railways, national highways, power, coal, and civil aviation. Also, thirty-eight flagship programmes and grievances of sixteen ministries/departments had been reviewed.

At the second PRAGATI meeting on 22 April 2015, the Prime Minister had a discussion with the Indian ambassadors to Myanmar and Thailand, on the India—Myanmar—Thailand trilateral highway. The overall development of the North East hills, he pointed out, was contingent on speeding up infrastructure projects to improve connectivity. In this context, he also discussed railway undertakings in Assam and West Bengal. In a later meeting, he would describe the Rih—Tedim road project in Myanmar as one of the cornerstones of India's Act East Policy and urge timely completion.

The Prime Minister emphasised that PRAGATI interactions were meant to break the silos between various government agencies that impede decision-

making and the idea behind the scheme was to find ways to speed up government processes. He suggested, for instance, that satellite technology could be employed to expedite identification of tribal habitations, so that tribals could get the land titles mandated long ago by the Forest Rights Act of 2006.

Public grievances figured in the second PRAGATI meeting as well, relating to LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) distribution and BSNL services. Both departments were admonished and told to set up systems so that such problems did not arise in future, but the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas also got a pat on the back for some of its people-friendly initiatives.

At the very next meeting on 27 May, the Prime Minister was able to say that PRAGATI seemed to be speeding up decision-making and inculcating a spirit of problem-solving and swift implementation. He was seriously miffed, however, at the perceived 'atmosphere of indifference vis-a-vis the unconscionable delay in pension and retirement benefits for ex-servicemen.

Infrastructure development has figured prominently in every PRAGATI meeting. One of the specific issues which attracted his attention was the delay in the modernisation and expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant. He told the Steel and Heavy Industries ministries to sort it out.

By the fourth session, the Prime Minister was able to compliment state governments for having got their act together to expedite projects. However, he was dismayed at the snags created by long-drawn out litigation and suggested that highlighting the fallout of these hold-ups while pursuing the cases in court might help.

His approach has been eminently practical, judging from his interventions. While discussing road and rail links in Odisha, he pointed out that a slew of major festivals were coming up in Odisha (Nabakalebara), Madhya Pradesh (Simhastha) and Maharashtra (Kumbh), so exemplary arrangements for transportation, as well as sanitation and security, should be worked out to handle the footfall.

One of the schemes which caught his eye was the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System



(CCTNS). He was given a demonstration, through live videoconferencing with three police stations in Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, at the end of which he demanded an enhanced level of sophistication and told the states to accord the system a high priority.

A range of public grievances have figured in the meetings, notably corruption in the railways, inefficiency in the postal department and delays in the disbursement of scholarships and in the delivery of passports. He wanted to know why students were not getting their fellowship and scholarship payments on time and also asked about the progress of Aadhaar-linked disbursement of benefits to students. With regard to passport services, the External Affairs and Home Affairs ministries were told to hold a joint workshop to examine ways of expediting clearances, for quicker processing of applications.

Postal services cropped up twice, with the Prime Minister insisting that timely delivery of policy benefits, money orders, savings account interest and letters was non-negotiable, because it affected the poorest sections of society. Pointing out that the importance of postal services was on the rise, he asked whether the officials responsible for lapses had been held accountable and what measures had been taken to beef up the postal services.

He found a large volume of complaints related to e-commerce, such as booking of tickets and hotel reservations and said the National Consumer Helpline would have to augment its capacity to address them within ten days. Likewise, telecom customers had red-flagged poor service quality, connectivity and non-functioning of landline connections. The income tax department also came in for scrutiny because of taxpayers' complaints. The railways were told that the flurry of complaints related to corruption would have to be addressed with the strictest possible action against erring officials. They were also directed to institute a single telephone number for all grievances and queries.

The deluge of complaints by labourers and EPF beneficiaries put the EPFO, ESIC and labour commissioners on the mat. The Prime Minister observed that in a democracy, labourers should not have to struggle to receive their legitimate dues. He also asked the Labour Ministry to introduce a system whereby finalisation of retirement benefits for employees could begin a year in advance. In case of an untimely death, a time frame for processing claims should be set in stone

and officers held accountable.

Over time, it became clear that public health was among the hot topics for the PMO. He has reviewed the quality of service under CGHS (Central Government Health Service), the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, efforts towards reduction of the Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate (IMR and MMR), and Mission Indradhanush for universal immunisation of children. He suggested that youth organisations such as NCC and Nehru Yuva Kendra be drafted in the immunisation outreach effort.

The Prime Minister also brought up the Ease of Doing Business rankings and asked all chief secretaries and secretaries to study the World Bank's report of October 2016 and analyse the scope for improvement in their respective departments and states. Progress in this regard is subject to weekly review, and the latest rankings saw India catapult into top hundred for the first time ever, a very rare rise of thirty rankings seen by any country.

Other schemes which came up for audit were mobile connectivity in backward areas, particularly those affected by extremism, Direct Benefit Transfer under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and end-to-end computerisation of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the 'waste to wealth' initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission, installation of solar pumps across the country, flood preparedness, e-NAM or the National Agriculture Market, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana.

At one point, the Prime Minister told everyone present (digitally or physically) that speed of implementation should not be limited' to projects reviewed under PRAGATI, but should span all pending projects. The subtext of the remark was doubtless that the culture of bureaucracy would have to change so that project implementation and outcomes were not contingent on relentless oversight.

PRAGATI represents both a departure from the status quo mindset and progress in the direction of a new work ethic, one that emphasises effective yet flexible decision-making, mandates a constructive approach to problem-solving, and galvanises delivery mechanisms. PRAGATI is truly fast-tracking India's progress. ■

*(The above article is taken from recently published book 'The Innovation Republic'.*

# Marx & Deendayal: The Two Approaches

(Continue from Last Issue...)

## I D.B. THENGDI

**F**or this, it is necessary to change the current capitalist value-system, which debases both the exploiter and these-plaited, demolish the structure of capitalism under which a worker no longer feels himself to be anything but an animal; and enable him to separate finally from the animal world, to leave the conditions of animal existents behind him, and enter conditions which are really human. Being liberated from the bondage of material seeds man will cherish the vision of the 'realm of freedom' beyond which "begins that development of human power which is its own end." Mr. H.S. Sinha has ably shown in his 'Communism and the Gila', that the inspiration of Marx was in ethics, and he used economics as his instrument. But in his zeal to change the world - instead of merely interpreting it, he allowed himself, as for as the solutions were concerned, to be completely pre-occupied with the then current maladies of the industrialised west dominated by the inhuman capitalists and the anachronistic Church, and tried to generalise his conclusions which were partly valid in the immediate context. Hence his error of judgement regarding the efficacy of the Western parliamentary democratic system, trade unionism and cooperative movement; capacity of capitalism to adjust itself with the changed level of mass consciousness; the role of proletariat; the potentialities of the peasantry; and the inherent strength of social organism, such as, nation and family. But for such lopsided pre-occupations, Marx was certainly capable of giving a comprehensive thought to the problems of the entire humanity and working out solutions which could have been more universal in nature.

## IV. INTEGRALISM

Deendayal ji did not suffer from any such inhibitions. As a leader of a national political party he was called upon to offer solutions to immediate national problems and he did it in a commendable way. But this role did not overshadow his thinking process in his evolution of the theory of Integral Humanism.

Only a mind that attains universality can conceive of remedies that are universal in character. In fact, his comprehension was not confined to the human species. He expected human consciousness-without suffering from homocentricism. He had a vision of the world-state enriched by the growth and contribution of different national cultures, and of Morava Dharmo enriched by the perfection of all religions, including Marxism. He had realised that the identification of an individual with different organisms, ranging from family to the universe, was only an outward manifestation of the evolution of his consciousness.

The more developed the consciousness, the larger and higher would be the organism with which one is identified. But this being a process of subjective evolution, the higher level of consciousness does not preclude the previous lower levels. It is inclusive, not exclusive, in character. One can be equally and simultaneously attached to all the organisms without doing injustice to anyone of them. This is an integral view of things. Every human being must be considered in an integrated way; the body, mind, intelligence and soul of a person must not be thought of as separate entities.

Integralism is the special characteristic of Panditji's Humanism. While he appreciated the utility of appropriate socio-economic order in any scheme for human happiness, he laid greater stress on the moulding and development of human consciousness, in absence of which no social ordeal, howsoever meritorious, can yield its desired results. According to Marx, life is not determined by consciousness, but consciousness of men that determines their being, but on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness. Pandit ji, on the other hand, believed that while life or social being and consciousness act and react upon each other, it is consciousness that is more decisive. Integralism and consequent stress on development of consciousness distinguish his approach from that of Marx.

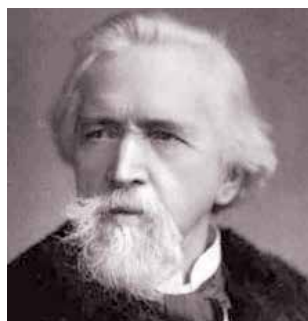
For example, both- Marx and Pandit ji considered statelessness as an ideal condition of any society. Marx also considered the State as an expression of man's selfalienation. But Because he considered

mind as only a superstructure on matter, he conceived of the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' as the transitional phase. For Deendayal ji, the effective instrument was Dharma consciousness. The ideals of the nation constitute 'Chiti', which is analogous to the soul of an individual. The laws that help manifest and maintain Chiti of a nation are termed as Dharma of that nation implying that every social organism has its own Dharma.

## V. THE TWO APPROACHES

Both of them were against exploitation and the system that gives rise to it, Pandit ji said:

"But one thing is clear, that many institutions will yield place to new ones. This will adversely affect those who have vested interests in the old institutions. Some others who are by nature averse to change will also suffer by efforts of reconstructions. But diseases must be treated with medicine- therefore, we shall have to discard the status quo mentality and usher



in a new era. Indeed our effort at reconstruction need not be clouded by prejudice against, or disregard for, all that is inherited from our past. On the other hand, there is no need to cling to past institutions and traditions which have outlived their utility.

Marx advocated bloody revolution for destroying not only the superstructure but also the foundations of the existing social order; Pandit ji stood for mass awakening, mass education and mass mobilisation through appropriate sanskaras with a view to alter the superstructure, leaving intact the eternal foundation of Dharma.

Both these thinkers visualised full development of all the faculties of every individual. But while Deendayal ji considered man in an integrated way, Marx, under the influence of the then prevailing

objective conditions, treated man as an economic being. In fact, Marx was against the power of money, against the sense of possession. He wanted man to be liberated from the lust for wealth and the bondage of economic factors. But, in practice, he emphasised mainly the economic aspect of human existence. This has caused lopsidedness in his theory.

Deendayal ji was a bitter critic of corruption and perversion in the field of religion. But he did not throw away the baby along with the bathwater. The Western tradition of anti-religious intellectuals and the nauseating picture of the Christian Church turned Marx against religion and he declared crusade against all religions about some of which he had no intimate knowledge.

Integral Humanism believes in the Pffirality in the midst of a single mankind in the form of different national personalities. It simultaneously believes that internationalism is the outward manifestation of the development of human consciousness from the earlier stage of nationalism. Marxism is the embodiment of notional nihilism. 'The proletariat has no father-land'. According to Lenin, "Socialism's aim is not only to abolish the fragmentation of only into small states and to end all distinctions between nations, not only to bring the nations closer together but to bring about fusion". This is based upon the ignorance of the strength of the nation-concept. Let it be remembered that nationalism has always been strong even in countries under communist governments. It has been the case even during periods of actual communist revolution.

It is a shallow view of Russian history which sees Bolshevism as an alien excrescence grafted on the Russian body politic by a handful of power-grabbing conspirators without roots in the past. The triumph of the Bolshevik Revolution was no once inevitable; but Bolshevism as a movement was an indigenous, authoritarian response to the environment of Tsarist absolutism which nurtured it." "Chinese Communism" Malcolm D. Kennedy observe "is a child of Chinese Nationalism, which means a determination to shake off foreign domination." This also holds good for Communism in Vietnam and other developing countries. ■

*(To be continued...)*

***(The writer was an eminent thinker & Founder-General Secretary of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh)***

# Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal

| VASANT NARGOLKAR

(Continue from Last Issue...)

## HINDI AT THE UNO

**T**here are some more areas of agreement in the thinking and views of Gandhi, Lohia and Deendayal. All three, for Example, never approved of the slavish mentality exhibited by some anglophiles who think that Indians can never do without English. Though Gandhi himself wrote, whenever necessary beautiful English in a biblical style, he never encouraged the use of English in preference to the regional languages or Hindustani. It is well known that Lohia and his followers had started an Angrezi Hatao (Banish English) campaign. Deendayal echoed those very sentiments when he categorically stated that the need for one's Own language (Swabhasha) can never be fulfilled by a good language (Subhasha). It was indeed good for promoting a sense of self-respect among Indians in this respect that Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Minister For Foreign Affairs in the present Janata Government, spoke in Hindi in November 1977 at New York, while addressing the United Nations General Assembly. All vestiges of colonial rule, which are inconsistent with the self-respect of newly independent States, must thus be abolished one by one.

Gandhi's contribution to the Indian and world thought Systems was his ideology of Sarvodaya. Lohia spoke of "Seven Revolutions, while Deendayal evolved integral Humanism" as an ideological basis for Jan Sangh, his own political party.

## LOHIA'S SEVENFOLD REVOLUTION

Lohia believed that a crusade against all types of injustices should be simultaneously started. Revolutionaries all Over the world were engaged in struggles of one kind or another. Lohia Briumerated Seven Types of revolts and appealed to the Indian people to initiate or consolidate the efforts to raise

them. The "Seven Revolts" are:

1. A revolt to establish complete equality between men and women.
2. A revolt against the economic, political and social inequalities based on the colour of the skin,
3. A revolt against the traditional concept of caste based on birth, and in favour of special opportunities for the backward.
4. A revolt for overthrow of foreign ruler, for freedom and for the establishment of a democratic government,
5. A revolt against the inequalities in accumulation of capital, for economic equality and planned increase in production,
6. A revolt against interference in the private life of citizens and in favour of a democratic System of Government, and lastly.
7. A revolt against conventional and nuclear weapons and for recognition of satyagraha as a legitimate Weapon.

If all these seven revolutions succeed, they will usher in, Lohia thought, an Era of inner peace and material prosperity for the whole of mankind.

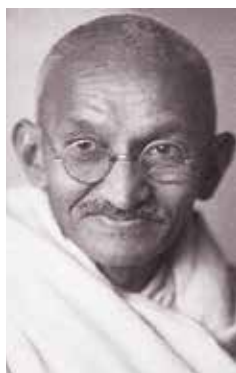
## DEENDAYAL'S INTEGRAL HUMANISM

Deendayal's "Integral Humanism" was a great improvement on the old objectives of the establishment of a \*\*Hindu Nation\*\* and the promotion of "Bharatveya Culture." Very late in his life, Shri M. N. Roy had named his philosophy as "Radical Humanism." Shri Aurobindo on the other hand had used the adjective "integral" to qualify knowledge in his FDCPum opus *The Life Divine*. An integral knowledge is knowledge of the truth of all sides of Kistence both separately and in the relation of each to all and the relation of all to the truth of the Spirit', Puoplo all Over the world aro familiar with the word "Humanism", Humanism is O movement projecting a system of thought which concentrates

upon human interests and the mind of man, Father than upon the external world of nature or upon religious ideals’.

Deendayal was to have developed, his idea of “Integral Humanism” and written about it elaborately, but unexpectedly, his life was cut short. Like Gandhi, he wanted to spiritualize politics. The way to human welfare can be found only if we take all aspects of life and the human being into consideration. Life is an integrated whole. Therefore, we must have a philosophy of life which must try to reconcile many pairs of apparent opposites in life. Man is not only the body. He has a mind, an intellect and a soul. Man’s Progress means the balanced development of these entities residing in his body. The four purusharthas prescribed by Hinduism place before men four objectives according to the integrated view of life, Marx emphasized the economic aspect

of man’s life, while Freud declared the sex instinct as all important. But according to the Hindu View of life, Dharma which leads to the ultimate objective Moksha and subordinates Artha and Kamma lo itself, is the most important constituent



of a cultured life. Deendayal felt that this Vory intégrationist View of life should prevail while dealing with other Opposites in life Such as, for example, the individual and the State, capital and labour, majority and minorities, one’s nation and the world and lastly, even men and nature. Deendayal’s “Integral Humanism” is thus a philosophy of life which advocates a balanced, integrated progress of man towards the achievement of vor higher and nobler human ideals.

## SOCIALIST ASHRAMS

Being originally a Marxist, a Socialist and therefore a rationalist, Lohia WIS not at first much enamoured of the religio-spiritual ideals of life. And yet he was a radical humanist, an integral humanist and even

a Sivodayiti all rolled into one. His views on ends and means, non-violence, class strugglü, difference of caste and colour, nationa= lism, internationalism, war, political freedom, social and economic justice and equality woré sa unorthodox and advanced that he considered himself a world citizen and pleaded for the establishment of a world government. The process of logical thought, however, must have led him to think of the spiritual aspect of lile ulsoOnce when asked by Gandhi, Lohia said that he did not believe in God. But later in 1952, in a speech, he narrated the beautiful story of Kumar Nachikata from the Kathopanishad and said :

“This debate between the desirable and the pleasurable, the Freyas and the Shreyas, which Nachiketa and Yama hold. ..is entrancing....How fascinating these and similar verses are. When One Comes across such a Verse, which is a bar of gold, one closes one’s eyes. sits back and relaxes and moditates for hours and hours on that single verse.

Whether Lohia knew it or not, his appreciation of the Upanishadic Story in such glowing terms shows that the spiritual bug had then bitten him also. On another occasion, while speaking on the doctrinal foundation of socialism, he Stressed the need for a Socialist Code of conduct. From the following passage taken from that speech of his, it is obvious that a Socialist also wants to give sufficient importance to the training of the spirit. Lohia said:

“There is also a need for ‘Socialist ashrams’ at least one in each state, to which members of the Party could repair in times of spiritual need.....It is in the Indian tradition to build ashrams for the training of the Spirit and the spread of a doctrine.”

## SELF-REALIZATION, THE ULTIMATE GOAL

Gandhi was engaged in so many varied activities for full fifty years, but his life was an indivisible

whole. All his activities ran one into another, But the Supreme goal of his life was self-realization through "incessant toil in the Service of my country and there-through of humanity." Apart from truth, non-violence, satyagraha, decentralization of the means of production as well as of political power and brotherhood of man, Gandhi's true message to India and to the whole World lay in this SPIRITUAL UGO is that man's ultimate goal is self-realization through the Service of humanity. He was quite conscious of it all throughout his life and used to express it thus sometimes:

"What I want to achieve-what I have been striving and pining to achieve... is self-realization, to see God face to face to attain moksha, I live and move and have my being in pursuit of this goal. All that I do by way of speaking and writing and all my ventures in the political field are directed to this end."

Gandhi was in a special category of leaders. He

was out and out spiritual in his view of life. It has been truly said that one such walks the Earth once in ten centuries.

It will thus be seen that so far as their personality and life-styles, as well as missions and messages were concerned, there was much that was common between Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. An integrated view of life, cultural tolerance, non-violence, resort to appropriate technology, decentralized democracy. World peace and World government are the principal messages that these great Sons of India have left for their own country and to a certain extent for the whole world also. It is now up to the Indian people to translate some of these inspiring ideals into reality within a reasonable period of time and set an example to other nations of the world. ■

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

## Uma Bharti launches 2nd project of Swajal Yojana in Rajasthan

**U**nion Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Sushri Uma Bharti on February 27 launched the Swajal pilot project at Village Bhikampura, Karauli, Rajasthan. Besides ensuring the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year, the project would also generate employment.

Sushri Uma Bharti urged the people to own the project that will be started soon. She reminded that it is the death anniversary of Chandrashekhar Azad and the government is trying to fulfil his dream of Swaraj.

She inaugurated the pilot Swajal Project at Bhikampura with a budget of more than 54.17 lakh rupees. Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply. Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government and the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community. The Operations and management of the project will be taken care by the local villagers.

As per the plan, four reservoirs will be constructed

in the village and common tap connection will be given to almost 300 households. Bhikhampura village has scarcity of drinking water and villagers have to walk to at least 3 kilometers to collect it. During the lean season, water is supplied by tankers. The new project will ease the lives of the people and ensure that potable water is available for every individual round the year.

Hon'ble Minister also reviewed the progress of the various schemes in the district. Karauli is one of the 115 aspirational districts with the aim of ensuring overall development by proper implementation and convergence of central and state government in the district.

She reviewed the progress in 6 key sectors including health, nutrition, education, skill development, agriculture, financial inclusion and basic infrastructure and suggested the officials to take necessary action to expedite for early implementation of the program. MDWS will closely monitor the progress. ■





## PM MODI STRESSES ON PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THEIR DUTIES

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said empowered citizens are one of the strongest pillars of democracy and government has tried to inform and empower the citizens by using various mediums in the last four years. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a new building of Central Information Commission in New Delhi Shri Modi said transparency and accountability are very important for democratic and participative governance and a transparent system ensures accountability towards the public. He said, "Ask, Listen, Interact, Act and Inform" are the five pillars of the Information Highway.

— (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, March 07, 2018)

## PM MODI REVIEWS PREPARATIONS FOR NHPS LAUNCH

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 06 March, 2018 reviewed the preparedness for the launch of Ayushman Bharat — the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) — announced in the Union Budget 2018. PM Shri Modi said, "At a high-level meeting, we had extensive deliberations on aspects relating to Ayushman Bharat. It is our commitment to provide top quality healthcare to the people of India". The NHPS will provide a medical cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.

— (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, March 07, 2018)

## INDIA WILL MAINTAIN RAPID GROWTH RATE, SAYS ARUN JAITLEY

Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley on March 04, 2018 said that India will most definitely retain its position of a 'fast growing economy' in the coming decades. "We (India) are looked at as one of the bright spots in the world and over the next one or two decades our potential to retain that position of a fast growing economy, as China did in the last three decades," Shri Jaitley said while addressing students at the 17th convocation of Jammu University. He also said that the economy today is market-determined and this trend is likely to grow.

— (THE TIMES OF INDIA, March 05, 2018)

## 87 CRORE BANK ACCOUNTS, 86 CRORE MOBILE NUMBERS LINKED TO AADHAAR

Around 80 per cent bank accounts and 60 per cent mobile connections in the country have been linked with Aadhaar a month before the expiry of the 31 March deadline. While 87 crore of the 109.9 crore banks accounts have been linked, 85.7 crore of the total 142.9 crore mobile connections have been verified. Earlier, Government decides to make the linking of PAN, Bank Accounts, Credit Cards, Mutual Funds and Social Welfare Benefits with the 12-digit unique identity number mandatory.

— (THE TIMES OF INDIA, March 05, 2018)

## PM MODI LAUNCHED PROJECTS WORTH RS 1,000 CRORES IN DAMAN

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Daman in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and inaugurated projects worth Rs 1,000 crores and addressed a public meeting. He launched a helicopter service between Daman and Diu, and an Air Odisha flight service connecting Ahmedabad in Gujarat with Diu. He laid the foundation stones for projects including a water treatment plant, an electric sub-station, a municipal market, a footbridge among others.

— (THE ECONOMIC TIMES, February 24, 2018)

## DIU BECOMES FIRST ENERGY SURPLUS UNION TERRITORY

The harnessing of solar energy has made Diu the country's first energy surplus Union territory and a model for an effective way for people to harness this renewable energy source. In just three years, Diu has made rapid progress in solar power generation. The Union territory has an area of just 42 square kilometres. Despite scarcity of land, solar power plants have been installed over more than 50 acres. Diu generates a total of 13 megawatts of electricity from solar power generating facilities daily. Around 3 MW is generated by rooftop solar plants and 10 MW by its other solar power plants.

—(THE ECONOMIC TIMES, March 09, 2018)

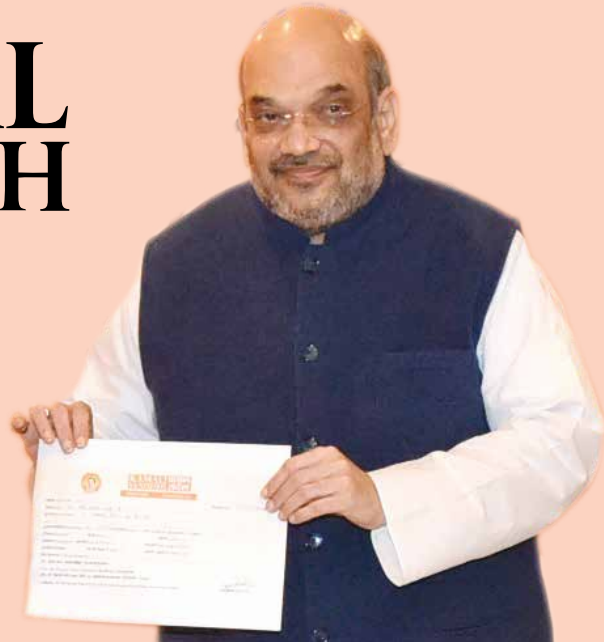
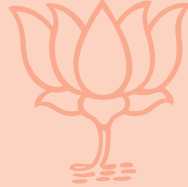
(Compiled by Pankaj Anand)



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**KAMAL SANDESH - DEDICATED TO NATIONAL CAUSE**



PM Shri Narendra Modi interacting with the ambassadors of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan on International Womens' Day



PM Shri Narendra Modi launching the National Nutrition Mission and expansion of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying tribute to Shri Aurobindo at Aurobindo Ashram in Puducherry



PM Shri Narendra Modi reviewing the progress of preparations towards the launch of 'Ayushman Bharat' in New Delhi



BJP State president Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa along with other senior leaders presenting a plow to the PM Shri Narendra Modi before the Davanagere rally in Karnataka



Shri Amit Shah addressing a meeting of leaders of OBC community in Gulbarga, Karnataka



The BJP Parliamentary Board felicitates PM Shri Narendra Modi after the resounding victory of the party in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya assembly elections



PM Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, other senior BJP Leaders and the CMs of BJP ruled states are in a group photograph at BJP Chief Ministers' Council Meeting in Party HQ, New Delhi