



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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**Annual Rs. 100/-
For 3 years Rs. 250/-**

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Publisher and Printer : Printed by Dr. Nandkishore Garg for Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36, F.F. Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and Published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

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न मे पार्थास्ति कर्तव्यं त्रि ऽ लोके ऽ किंचन ।
नानावाप्तमवाप्तव्यं वर्त एव च कर्मणि ॥ २२ ॥

O Arjuna, in the spiritual worlds, the heavenly worlds and the material worlds there is no prescribed duty for me; neither anything to be obtained or unobtained; yet still I am engaged in prescribed activities

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 22)

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“The Left ruined West Bengal for 34 years. Do you remember what Congress leaders were saying about the Left till a few years ago.”

-Narendra Modi

“Due to power of the party’s workers under leadership of Shri Narendra Modi BJP has become focal point of politics of the country.”

-Amit Shah

Mesha Sankranti / Bihu / Vishu / Vaishakhi/ Puthandu/ Pana Sankranti / Pohela Boishakh: 13th April, 2016

Mesha Sankranti / Bihu / Vishu / Vaishakhi/ Puthandu/ Pana Sankranti / Pohela Boishakh is a festival celebrated across Indian subcontinent by the Hindu, the Buddha and the Sikh community. More recently, this festival is also celebrated around the world by the Hindu and Sikh diaspora.

This day marks the beginning of the New Year in most Hindu Solar Calendars.

For the Sikh community the Vaishakhi festival commemorates the establishment of the Khalsa.

Various Solar calendars followed in India e.g. Oriya calendar, Tamil Calendar, Malayalam Calendar and Bengali Calendar mark the first day of the year based on Mesha Sankranti.

In Odisha Mesha Sankranti is celebrated as Pana Sankranti.

In Tamil Nadu Mesha Sankranti is celebrated as Puthandu.

In Malayalam calendar Mesha Sankranti is celebrated as Vishu.

In Bengal, Mesha Sankranti is celebrated as Naba Barsha or Pohela Boishakh in West Bengal.

Mesha Sankranti is celebrated as Bihu in Assam.

People in the Punjab Region regard Vaisakhi as a harvest festival. The festival bears a great significance for the Sikhs because on the Vaisakhi Day in the year 1699, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh laid down the foundation of the Panth Khalsa that is the Order of the ‘Pure Ones’.

For Hindus, it is the start of the New Year, and is celebrated with requisite bathing, partying, and worshipping. It’s believed that thousands of years ago, Goddess Ganga descended to the earth and in her honour, many Hindus gather along the sacred Ganges River for ritual baths. The action is centered in the holy cities along the Ganges in north India.

Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj on Vaisakhi, in 1875.

Apart from the Sikhs and Hindus, Vaisakhi is an important day for the Buddhists as well and the name is Vesakha or Wesak. It commemorates the Birth, the Awakening and the Enlightened Passing Away of Buddha Gautama who was born as prince Siddharta. ■





Editorial...

In 36 years of its journey BJP has become the hope of the nation

Bharatiya Janata Party has completed 36 years of its journey on 6th April this year. It was on 6th April 1980 that BJP was formed in New Delhi with the resolve to re-dedicate to the goals of nation building. The Janata Party experiment having failed amid the controversy with regard to 'dual membership' raised by some vested interests, the members of the erstwhile Jansangh were left with no option but to form Bharatiya Janata Party. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was elected its first president who along with leaders like Shri LK Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Rajmata Vijaya Raje Scindia, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Shri Kushabhau Thakre, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari took steps towards an arduous journey which continues to inspire every karyakarta of the party. It symbolized the spirit of the leaders who were uncompromising on the issues of national interests and showed their political will in the face of every kind of turmoil and temptations. They accepted all the challenges as opportunities and were successful in winning the confidence of the people.

After winning the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 BJP has formed government at the centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. What is significant in this victory is that after three decades a single political party got clear cut majority in the Lok Sabha elections. It was a massive mandate for the party as BJP won 282 seats while NDA won 336 seats. Apart from this it has formed government in many states. Today it has got highest number of MPs, SC/ST MPs and MLAs in the country. It has made its mark from panchayat elections to parliamentary elections. In the process it has entered many new areas and the base of the party has expanded in almost every part of the country. The party has also consolidated its position where it already had stronger presence. Not only this, BJP has today become the largest political party in the world surpassing China's Communist Party's membership. These are remarkable achievements for a party which was founded in the atmosphere when Congress dominated the politics of the country.

BJP is credited for not only changing the dynamics of Indian politics but also for taking uncompromising stand on its stated ideological positions. The then Jansangh which merged itself with Janata Party in the national interest and to save democracy in the country also gave the ideological direction by presenting an alternative vision to the country. The challenge to the Congress dominance was posed by Jansangh both ideologically and electorally. The BJP successfully carried the legacy of Jansangh forward and laid the foundation of the development centric politics. It has made nationalism and democracy the core value of national politics and gave a fitting rejoinder to the divisive forces by taking uncompromising positions on the issue of nationalism and good governance.

Today BJP led NDA government has restored the faith of the people in the political system by creating an atmosphere of hope and trust in the country. In the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the country has entered in an era of new vision and innovative initiatives. While the world economy is reeling under global slowdown India has become the fastest growing economy in the world and work in the key sectors are progressing with rapid pace. At the global level India's position has been strengthened by Prime Minister's visits and the foreign policy envisioned by him has now started yielding results. The government is committed to the mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' and to the welfare of villages, farmers and poor. The priority of the government is to empower SC, ST, women and youth. In its 36 years of journey, BJP has become the hope of the nation and people are reposing their faith in BJP leadership. BJP has now the responsibility to build a strong, prosperous and vibrant India.

If Congress wanted, they could have stopped infiltration in last 50 years of their rule in Assam : Amit Shah



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah launched a blistering attack on the Congress and Smt. Sonia Gandhi on April 05 as he campaigned for the second and last phase of the Assam Assembly elections in Assam.

Shri Shah brought up Bangladeshi infiltration, a massive political issue in Lower Assam which votes in the next phase, alleging that the Congress' Tarun Gogoi government has left the border open to allow illegal migrants to enter so that they can be used as a vote bank. "These migrants then snatch away the jobs of the youth of Assam... If Tarun Gogoi or Congress wanted, they could have stopped infiltration in the last 50 years of their rule. The Modi government is at the Centre and a BJP government in Assam will ensure not a bird can fly across," he said.

He also hit out at the Congress president for asking Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, during her campaign, to give an account of his two years in government. "Sonijai, this is not the Lok Sabha elections but Assam's Assembly election. When we come here in

2019 (for the national election) we will give an account of all the work we have done and you don't have to ask us," Shri Shah said.

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' from the crowds, he said he was sure that the large voter turnout pointed to the ouster of the Congress from Assam and appealed to voters to ensure a similar trend in the next phase.

PALASHBARI RALLY

'Assam will discard Congress for a new BJP government'

The day after the first phase of voting in Assam, where a high turnout has raised the BJP's hopes, party president Shri Amit Shah was in the state raising issues that matter for the benefit of the people like— infiltration from Bangladesh, Assamese identity and Bhupen Hazarika – besides alleged corruption in the 15-year Tarun Gogoi government.

The audience chanted "Bharat Mata ki jai" as soon as Shri Shah was on stage. Shri Shah

added local flavor by referring to Bhupen Hazarika to send across a message of “poriborton”. He recited from Hazarika’s song *Bohagot jatiye snan korey, moliyon vastra holai*, which describes how a nation bathes in the springtime (when the Bihu festival is held) and discards its old clothes.

He told the audience that on May 19, when the results are out shortly after Bihu (April 14), Assam will discard the Congress for a new BJP government.

To boost the BJP’s position in Assam, the Centre has formed a committee to decide on a demand by six tribes for reservation. The BJP’s vision document promises ways will be found to include these six tribes without disturbing the existing reservation equation he said.

He added, “State is not strong enough a word to define the state as we understand it. A state can’t be formed with the McMahon Line only. The state is formed by people who believe in Krishna and Ganga... even though they live in different regions.”

DHOLIA RALLY

‘BJP would beat its rival party on issues of corruption and poor governance’

The BJP is committed to uprooting the Congress from Assam and Karnataka, party president Shri Amit Shah said at an election meeting on Apr 02, 2016, reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “Congress Mukh Bharat” vision.

“With Uttarakhand gone, Assam and Karnataka are the only two big states left with the Congress,” Shri Shah told an enthusiastic audience at Dholia in Cachar district in Assam’s Barak Valley, adding the BJP would beat its rival party on the issues of corruption, poor governance and vote-bank politics. “I challenge Congress president Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi to give a commitment to stop infiltrators from across. They will not

as these infiltrators are vote banks of Congress,” Shah said at Ratabari in Karimganj district.

“AIUDF is the B team of Congress. The BJP would rather sit in Opposition for the next 50 years than support Ajmal. Gogoi and Ajmal target each other during the day while hob-nob with each other in the dark,” Shri



Shah said at a rally in minority-dominated Hailakandi.

Shri Shah and other BJP leaders such as external affairs minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and roads minister Shri Nitin Gadkari have also targeted the poor governance of the Gogoi government in the past decade despite former prime minister Manmohan Singh being elected from Assam.

“Both Sonia Gandhi and Gogoi should answer for this misrule. They say if BJP forms a government it will be run from Nagpur. I want to ask Gogoi whether his government was run from Italy,” Shri Shah said at a meeting in Borkhola, Cachar district.

BARAK VALLEY RALLY

‘BJP not to seek or extend support to AIUDF, Congress in Assam’

BJP president Shri Amit Shah said BJP would neither seek nor extend support to

...Continued on page 11

'Give BJP 5 years to correct misrule of 15 years of Congress'



Assam is now a diseased state and Congress must be uprooted to overcome it, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said on March 27, 2016 asking the electorate to vote for change in the upcoming assembly polls.

Prime Minister Shri Modi began his five-day public meetings in the state on March 27 and addressed rallies in Tinsukia, Majuli, Bihpuria Rangapara and Karimganj.

He started with a rally in Tinsukia where Shri Modi emphasized on the need for development in Assam and talked about bringing Assam back to its glory days.

"It has already been decided by the people of Assam to vote for BJP, but

make sure that the work is not half done. Please ensure that you bring the party to power with two-third majority so that the BJP government can work wholeheartedly to make Assam a leading state in the country," Shri Modi said addressing two election rallies in Upper Assam's Bihpuria and Bokakhat constituencies.

The presence of women in large numbers in the meetings is a clear indication that days of the Congress government in the state were over and it "does not stand a chance in the coming elections," he said.

The state was represented by the erstwhile Prime Minister (Manmohan Singh) for ten years but now its

people have to be reminded that they were represented by a former PM, he said. "I have three agendas. Development, fast development and all round development," he said at an election rally here as he hit the campaign trail and claimed his government had allocated many times more funds for state's infrastructure than the previous governments.

The PM also took a swipe at 79-year-old Gogoi who had called the Assembly election as a direct fight between him and Shri Modi, saying he can only pay his respects to the elderly leader. He heaped praise on BJP's chief ministerial candidate Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, describing him as one of his

best ministers.

"The leader of Congress who will turn 90 in a few years says his fight is with Modi. Respected Chief Minister, you are an elder and I am young. I pay my respects to you. In our culture, the young do not fight their elders and the elders give their blessings to them.

"My fight is not against Gogoi but against poverty, corruption and destruction of Assam. I am not fighting against any individual," he

Money was given from Delhi for building houses for the poor here. But that money has not been spent and is lying unused in the bank. If this continues there will be no development in Assam. Gas is produced in Assam. Do the poor get gas in their homes here? We have decided to provide 5 crore poor gas to replace their smoky cooking stoves.

said.

The PM said if Shri Sonowal becomes the Chief Minister, it will be his government's and his personal loss because Shri Sonowal is one of his best ministers and "a bright, capable and simple person". "There is only one 'anand' (joy) in Assam, it is Shri Sarbananda," he said.

He said the state was among the five most prosperous states after Independence but is among the five least developed states now and blamed successive Congress governments for this. "You give me five years, you give Sarbananda five years and BJP and its allies

will pull Assam out of its difficulty," he said.

Trying to connect with the crowd, he touched on his early days as a tea-seller, saying he sold their tea to energise others and due to his he shares a special bond with the people of Assam, a large tea-producing state.

Shri Modi appealed to Assam voters to give BJP and its allies five years to correct 60 years of Congress "misrule" in the state.

"Today after 60 years

under Congress rule, Assam has become the fifth poorest state in the country. No development, youth are unemployed today, no electricity and drinking water. Who brought about this condition of Assam?"

"Every village should get electricity for bringing in development, good education, to run mills and see TV. But even after 60 years of Independence even electricity poles have not reached 1000 villages in Assam," Modi said.

Noting that Assam has immense water resources, the mighty Brahmaputra and heavy rainfall, he said, "yet what can be more painful than

seeing people here do not have drinking water. The Congress government is responsible."

"Money was given from Delhi for building houses for the poor here. But that money has not been spent and is lying unused in the bank. If this continues there will be no development in Assam. Gas is produced in Assam. Do the poor get gas in their homes here? We have decided to provide 5 crore poor gas to replace their smoky cooking stoves", he said.

Highlighting a number of developmental schemes of the Centre, Modi projected his government as one "for the poor" as he spoke about the decision to allow small shops to remain open seven days a week.

Shri Modi said his government had electrified over 1000 of the 2000 Assam villages, where power had not reached yet.

Citing a CAG report, he said the Gogoi government did not provide answers to its queries on whereabouts of money and asked people to give their answer on 4 April through EVM machines. "Even a Prime Minister can inaugurate one, two or three project by pressing a button. You can start a new era of development by pressing the EVM button. Your power is more than that of a Prime Minister," he told the rally. "I ask you to give (chief ministerial candidate) only

...Continued on page 7

'We will create a new Bengal out of what has been ruined'

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 27, 2016 launched a direct attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Sushri Mamata Banerjee and said the "didi" has now become a "shahenshah" who has failed to bring about change and does not care about the state.

Citing the recent deaths due to crude bomb blasts in the state, PM said that villages of Bengal are manufacturing 'desi bombs'. "Industries have closed down but one industry is flourishing, industry to build bombs," he added.

Addressing a rally in Kharagpur, ahead of the Assembly Elections in the state, the Prime Minister said, "Development, development at a fast pace and development from all sides is my 3 point agenda."

Training his guns on the Mamata Banerjee-led Bengal government, PM Modi said, "If MUDRA scheme would have been initiated earlier, Saradha scam would have not happened."

He also came down heavily on the Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress by referring to the Saradha chit fund scam and the purported sting operation carried out by the portal Narada News that showed several Trinamool leaders, including former unions ministers, current state

ministers, and MPs allegedly taking bundles of cash. "First it was Saradha, now it is Narada," PM said.

PM further said that he was hoping CM Matama would bring about a "parivartan" (change) in Bengal after assuming power, but has destroyed Bengal in

and Congress for "challenging and insulting" the wisdom of Bengalis by coming together in election-bound West Bengal but fighting each other in Kerala which also goes to polls.

He also attacked the Trinamool Congress, saying the ruling party and the Left



the last five years.

"I was thinking that after 34 years of Left rule, Bengal's bad days will go and a 'parivartan' will come. I nursed this hope, but today looking at what has happened in Bengal in the last five years, if it took 34 years for communists to destroy Bengal, TMC has completely finished it in five years. Bengal has suffered in 34 years of communist rule and has been ruined and has fallen into a deep pit," he added.

PM further launched a scathing attack on the Left

have 'destroyed' the state for the last 40 years as he sought people's support for BJP for once.

Showcasing that he respects the sentiments of all communities, the Prime Minister gave a pause to his address as 'Azaan' (call to prayer) was on. As soon as the prayer ended PM resumed his address as said, "Azaan chal rahi thi, hamare kaaran kisi ki puja, prarthna mein takleef nahi honi chahiye isiliye maine kuchh pal viraam le liya." "There shouldn't be any problem in anyone's

prayers because of us, that is why I paused for few moments," PM said.

Seeking public support for BJP, a new entrant in Bengal, Modi said, "I have come to assure you that your 40 years have been wasted and give me a chance once.

I assure you that we will create a new Bengal out of what has been ruined." The Prime Minister said he was not a man who would be dejected or gets bogged down but am "a person who works with hope and confidence to change the situation in the state. I have to change Bengal and take it to newer heights."

Seeking people's support for BJP, he asked them to keep Bengal's good foremost in this election and not look at candidates, their caste and whether they know or have met them but support the BJP. ■

...Continued from page 9

five years to correct the misrule of Congress for 60 years. Vote for BJP and our alliance partners to usher in a new era of development for Assam", the Prime Minister appealed.

"With you I want to bring development to Assam, provide job opportunities to the youth, electricity to villages. We have given funds for development of Assam's infrastructure, railway. To fulfill the dreams of the youth I ask for your blessings", he said.

He claimed the state government had been able to spend only one-fourth of the funds provided to it by the Centre.

"Please mark my words. Children will be taught 'A for Assam' after this election.... Assam is going to get a young chief minister after the polls," he said, while urging people to vote for BJP.

Later on Saturday, the Prime Minister campaigned in place. He urged the people to give a chance to BJP to rule the state and asked them to question what the current Congress government has done in the last 15 years.

"The people of Assam have the right to ask the government where their money went," he said. He announced that his party aimed at providing "education to the poor, employment to the youth and medicines to the senior citizens".

According to media reports Shri Modi will become the first Prime Minister to visit Majuli, an island located in between river Brahmaputra and Lohit. BJP's chief ministerial candidate Shri Sarbananda Sonowal is contesting from Majuli assembly constituency. ■

...Continued from page 7



either AIUDF or Congress for government formation in Assam. "We are prepared to sit in opposition for even 50 years than seek support from the two parties who have betrayed the people of Assam by not solving the problem of infiltration from Bangladesh and indulging in rampant corruption," Shah said at an election rally in Assam's Barak

Valley.

Assam cannot progress unless infiltration stops and "both Congress and AIUDF are not interested in solving this problem as they indulge in vote-bank politics." "This policy of vote-bank politics has endangered Assam's security and deprived employment opportunities to youths of Assam," he said. The BJP president also accused Congress and AIUDF of speaking

against each other "during the day and making secret deals at night".

"Both Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and AIUDF Chief Badruddin Ajmal are the same and we are against both the parties who have done nothing for the development of Assam but have neglected the poor of the state," he said. ■

What BJP is today is due to the austerity of millions of party activists who spent their entire life in taking its ideology forward : Amit Shah

BJP President, Shri Amit Shah addressed party workers and office bearers on the occasion of BJP Foundation Day at Mavalankar Hall, New Delhi. On the occasion, he called upon the party workers and office-bearers to expand party and its ideology with more diligence.

BJP President said, What BJP is today is due to the austerity of millions of party activist like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Lalkrishna Advani, Shri Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Kushabhau Thakre & many others and selfless martyrdom of millions of anonymous workers who spent their entire lives for the party in taking its ideology forward, today we salute and pay tribute to them. Expressing satisfaction with the party's growth, Shri Shah said, we feel proud today that the party started by 11 people has become World's largest political party with more than 11 crore members, we are in centre with full majority and we are serving people tirelessly in many states. He said, our objective is development of villages, poor and farmers under the leadership of Prime Minister,

Shri Narendra Modi and we are committed for this.

BJP President said, the journey of BJP so far can be divided into three phases, first - period from 1951 up to the emergency to give the country a better option adhering to the basic principle of India's unity and integrity

Congress' policies and ideology, the country would have gone on the wrong path very soon, and therefore, Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee laid the foundation of Jana Sangh in 1951 to provide an alternative political ideology. He said, Jana Sangh was not formed for any political



as Jana Sangh, second - a short time period from 1977 to 1980 as Janata Party to protect democracy in the country, third - journey as BJP from 1980 till now to work ceaselessly to meet the cherished dream of the country's development with ideology of Integral Humanism and cultural nationalism.

Shri Shah said, within 2-3 years of ruling of Congress after Independence, the people of the country began to realize that if they follow

interest or for power, but to keep intact the country's unity, integrity and cultural legacy. During the Emergency, when violating the civil rights at its extreme in the country, the plot was being hatched to undermine the democratic forces, then, to protect democracy in the country, to give a long life to democracy despite differences in ideology and to give a befitting reply to Congress' plot, we merged with Janata Party. He also highlighted how its

leadership quit power for their ideology and principles and did not think twice to give away power and form BJP this day in 1980 and laid the foundation of Bharatiya Janata Party because we

Kanyakumari, the Ram Janmabhoomi movement or whether it be the movement of Chetna Yatra against corruption. He said, our three generations have made their sacrifices to protect our

unmatched organisation before which all others in the world should look small.” Appealing to the partymen, Shri Shah said, for us, power is not a purpose, but a means and when we are in power,

we need to help light a lamp in the life of every poor by helping them benefit from the social security initiatives and schemes started by Modi government. He said, we have to be like a bridge between the people and the government. He said, we have always kept our country on top, dreamed of making our mother India as ‘Vishwaguru’, have set a target of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’ and we should not lose out on our unique identity at any cost.



“Today, I appeal to workers to make Bharatiya Janata Party such a strong party that in the next 25 years it should emerge victorious in all polls from panchayats to Parliament, build an unmatched organisation before which all others in the world should look small.”

believe in, ‘whether we remain in power or not, we will not ever compromise with our ideology.

BJP President said, since 1951, our all the mass movement are being devoted to protect nation’s unity, integrity and culture whether it be the movement of the ban on cow slaughter, the liberation of Goa, the satyagraha of Kutch, the movement of Hyderabad, yatra from Kashmir to

ideology, now it is our responsibility to protect, preserve and carry on this nationalist identity, it is our responsibility not to make or consider the current status of party as a pinnacle, but to take the party to greater heights. He said, “today, I appeal to workers to make Bharatiya Janata Party such a strong party that in the next 25 years it should emerge victorious in all polls from panchayats to Parliament, build an

BJP President, Shri Amit Shah said, we have taken three government schemes - ‘Namami Gange’, ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ and ‘Toilet in every household’ in our hand and we have to make these programme successful so that we can establish our party everywhere in the country.

He urged party workers and office-bearers to reconstruction a strong party and a strong India. ■

“Stand Up India” initiative launched to boost entrepreneurship among Dalits, Adivasis and Women

PM pays homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi April 5 launched the Stand Up India initiative, which aims to boost entrepreneurship among the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Women. The initiative envisages loans to at least two aspiring entrepreneurs from these categories. The loan shall be in the ten lakh to one crore rupee range. 5100 e-rickshaws were also distributed on the occasion.

The Prime Minister paid



revolution and as defence minister during the 1971 war, which brought about the

sense, he added.

Explaining his vision for converting job seekers into job creators, the Prime Minister said the Stand Up India initiative will transform the lives of the Dalits and the Adivasis. The Prime Minister said that India's development journey will be stronger when it is scripted by the poor. He urged the gathering to educate their children, and especially the girl child.

Earlier, the Prime Minister interacted with the families of some of the beneficiaries, over a cup of tea. The beneficiaries explained how e-rickshaws would change their lives for the better. The Prime Minister exhorted them to ensure that they educate their children. The Prime Minister booked an e-rickshaw, and took a brief e-rickshaw ride towards the stage, making the payment for the ride through a cellphone. ■



homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary, and recalled his great contributions and service to the nation at crucial periods in various official capacities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said “Jagjivan Babu served as India's agriculture minister during the green

liberation of Bangladesh.” He said that he was an inspirational figure who had dedicated his life to the upliftment of the poor and the marginalised.

A lifelong struggle against untouchability and social injustice made Babu Jagjivan Ram a social reformer in true

Cabinet approves implementation of the rural housing scheme of *Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana* (Gramin)

The Union Cabinet on 23rd March chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of the rural housing scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin. Under the scheme, financial assistance is

19. The scheme would be implemented in rural areas throughout India except Delhi and Chandigarh. The cost of houses would be shared between Centre and States.

The Government in the President's address in the Joint Session of Parliament in

'Housing for All' by 2022. This proposal prepared by Department of Rural Development is to restructure the current programme on rural housing to achieve this objective to provide pucca house to all who are houseless and living in dilapidated houses. The urban component has already been approved on 25th June, 2015 and is under implementation.

Under the existing Rural Housing Scheme { Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)} implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, financial assistance of Rs.70,000/- in plain areas and Rs.75,000/- in hilly/difficult areas



provided for construction of pucca house to all houseless and households living in dilapidated houses.

The expenditure involved in implementing the project in a span of 3 years from 2016-17 to 2018-19 is Rs.81975 crore. It is proposed that one crore households would be provided assistance for construction of pucca house under the project during the period from 2016-17 to 2018-

May 2014 had announced that by the time the nation completes 75 years of its Independence (by 2022), every family would have a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24x7 electricity supply and access. Further, Union Minister for Finance, during the presentation of Annual Budget for 2015-16 has announced the intention of the Government to achieve

including IAP districts, is provided to the rural BPL households for construction of a dwelling unit. Since inception of the scheme, 351 lakh houses have been constructed, incurring a total expenditure of Rs 1,05,815.80 crore.

The new scheme will be a substantial augmentation of housing effort in rural areas while ensuring quality of the houses constructed. ■

Implementation of One Rank One Pension gets ex-post facto approval

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP). The benefit will be given with effect from 1st July, 2014. Pension will be re-fixed for pre 1.7.2014 pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension drawn by the retirees in the year 2013. Those drawing pensions above the average will be protected. The benefit would also be extended to family pensioners including war widows and disabled pensioners.

The implementation of OROP will result in enhanced pension for the pensioners/family pensioners of Defence Forces. The setting up of the Judicial Committee headed by Justice L. Narasimha Reddy will help in the removal of anomalies that may arise in the implementation of OROP order dated 7.11.2015.

Financial implications on account of grant of OROP including Pre-Matured Retirees (PMR) cases would be Rs. 10925.11 crore for payment of arrears and annual financial implication would be Rs. 7488.7 crore. Till 31st March, 2016, 15.91 lakh pensioners have been given the first instalment of OROP, which amounts to Rs. 2,861 crore. Information is being gathered for processing on priority basis, the cases of 1.15 lakh pensioners after filling in the gaps of information such as the length of service being assessed, etc. ■

India to become a power surplus nation in the coming 5-7 years : Moody

With the rising shares of solar capacities, India could turn into a power surplus nation in the upcoming 5 to seven years, as predicted by Moody's Investors Service (MIS). The expected development is likely to subject thermal power companies to challenges, with their capacity utilization undergoing a radical decline, as per the report.



Considering counter party risk issues as also the requirement for stable policy initiatives for cushioning long term investments, implementing renewable energy capacities would be a daunting task, as per the MIS statement. The renewable energy capacities' growth by 2022 is planned to augment around 175GW which is a major jump from the current 37GW, the report said. The unregulated power companies would receive the most intense impact of a rising share of renewable in India's energy mix. Being in a zone where they are bereft of any cost benefits from ratepayers, such companies have a greater exposure towards the market impact of clean energy tax and other such environmental regulations, as per Abhishek Tyagi, Moody's Vice President and Senior Analyst, stated the report. Current and future generation mix as also the way of adapting to the evolving policy environment would determine credit implications for individual Indian power generators, Tyagi said. Business risk of regulated entities like NTPC Ltd, Tata Power etc is likely to amplify in the long term. Contracted and availability based revenue would play out in the favor of such companies, whose whose power output is dominated by conventional sources, added the report. ■

India was born Secular

-By K R Malkani

Hindus will never stake their soul or body or property on religious controversy.

-Al-Biruni

Hindus think Muslims are communal. Muslims think Hinds are communal. And Congressmen think they alone are secular. Fortunately all these impressions are wrong. Had it been otherwise, secularism would not stand the ghost of chance in India. But the fact is that India has always been secular.

Indeed, throughout the freedom struggle, the word secularism was never a part of our political vocabulary. So much so that when the Constitution of India was framed and adopted, the word secularism did not occur in it even once. It was taken for granted as a fact of life. The term became current coin in India only after 1952 when our first General Election were held. It is very much a child of our electoral politics.

Secularism as a modern concept was born in the west. There was a time when the church ruled all Christendom. The Pop's writ ran in matter not only ecclesiastical but also temporal. Against this there was the revolt triggered by the Reformation.

The Christian princes heartily welcomed the new situation. They not only wanted freedom to marry or

The Indian tradition has been entirely different. Unlike the three semitic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) which have a fixed creed – for example, one God, one Prophet and one Holy Book-which must be believed in, Hinduism does not have any creed. It is polytheistic congress of religious beliefs and practices.

divorce as they pleased, but also the right to make war or peace, without any reference to the Pope. In the new redistribution of power the Church was confined to religious affairs and the princes assumed sovereign authority in temporal matters. This separation of Church and state was described in one word as 'secularism'. Actually, before long Governments in many countries came to acquire a decisive voice even in religious matters.

The Indian tradition has been entirely different. Unlike the three semitic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) which have a fixed creed – for example, one God, one Prophet and one Holy Book-which must be believed

in, Hinduism does not have any creed. It is polytheistic congress of religious beliefs and practices. You may believe in one god or a million gods or no god, and yet be a Hindu. As Al-Biruni, the great historian who came to India with Mahmud Ghazni, noted: "At the most they (Hindus) fight with words, but they will never stake their soul or body or property on religious controversy". Hinduism has never been an organized Church with an hierarchy and a central authority.

Since anybody could have any religious beliefs, nobody was called upon to subscribe to any particular set of beliefs. The state did not prefer one or the other school of religious thought, although the monarch encouraged and enjoyed Shastrarth, great religious debates. The first thing a king who conquered new territory did, was to warship the gods of the annexed region.

Since Hinduism was natural, and not a creedal, religion, modern science did not rock its boat: if anything, it only seemed to confirm Hindu perceptions. And since there had been no break with the past, there was neither a Dark Age nor any

renaissance. Politics and religion went their own independent ways. It was a state of perfect secularism. Interestingly enough, the only major case of departure from this norm was the Great Ashoka. He had a definite partiality for Buddhism. But his ministers effectively curbed his predilection by retiring him from the throne.

off his head." And cut off it was!

The mughals banned cow slaughter and drank only Gangajal. Indeed, basically, Mughals ruled India in coalition with Rajputs. Akbar's marriage with Jodhabai was a typical political-cum-matrimonial alliance. She not only retained her Hindu faith but very much

Indian tradition. In the affairs of the East India Company, trade was paramount and the missionaries ploughed a lonely furrow. When British rule was firmly established, there were some attempts at proselytization. But 1857 convinced them of the futility of an active religious feelings of all sections of the population.

In 1921 we made the mistake of mixing up religion with politics when India's freedom movement was linked to the demand for the restoration of the Khalifa of Islam. (Be it said to the credit of Jinnah that he opposed the programme). The partition of India can be directly traced to the religious passions a roused by that issue.

In 1921 we made the mistake of mixing up religion with politics when India's freedom movement was linked to the demand for the restoration of the Khalifa of Islam. (Be it said to the credit of Jinnah that he opposed the programme). The partition of India can be directly traced to the religious passions a roused by that issue. But otherwise it was a very secular movement, based on Swadeshi, taking up issues like Khadi and salt tax laws, the ex-change rate and Indianisation of the services.

Even the Muslim rulers did not establish Islam as the state religion of India. Though many of them came from the rough steppes of Central Asia and gave India a harsh administration, they were basically political rulers and not religious zealots. One day when Alla-ud-din Khilji's attention was drawn to a Hindu religious procession passing below his place, he expressed his inability to stop it. The much maligned Mohammed Tughlaq was accused by Muslim historians of being an 'adorer of Hindus'. He met yogis studied Sanskrit and took part in Holi festival. When on one occasion, the chief Qazi named some hindu leaders as conspiring against the Government, his reaction was: "This man desires the destruction of the empire. Cut

Hinduized Akbar himself. Though Aurangzeb reversed this liberal tradition, he retained Jaipur and Jodhpur as the pillars of the state. He did not touch Shivaji in captivity for fear of displeasing Jaipur. And he trusted only Hindus to guard his private apartments.

Shivaji rose in revolt against the bigotry of Aurangzeb: but he never offended Muslim religious susceptibilities. He killed Afzal Khan for political reasons - but he built him an impressive tomb on the spot for courteous reasons. He never desecrated a mosque. And though he married as many as seven times - mostly for political reasons - he was too conscientious to accept the captive daughter of the subedar of Kalyan.

The British followed the

When India became free, we gave ourselves a Constitution that gave equality of status to all its citizens without any differences of caste, class or creed. It is significant that though the wounds of partition were still fresh, nobody suggested anything less than full citizenship rights for Muslims. Nobody so much as whispered that Muslim could not be entrusted with crucial offices like those of President, Prime Minister and Army Chief of Staff.

To continue...

Kamla Advani is no more

Shri Lal Krishna Advani's wife Smt. Kamla Advani, who was his companion for 51 years, passed away due to heart failure at AIIMS on April 6. Smt. Kamla Advani (83) has been survived by her husband, a son and a daughter. She had been suffering from age related problems for some time.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a number of leaders, including BJP president Amit Shah, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Congress president Sonia Gandhi, party's vice-president Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Samajwadi Party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav, expressed condolence on her demise.

Recalling his interactions with Kamla Advani, Shri Modi said his thoughts are with the Advani family in this hour of grief. "Deeply pained and saddened by Kamla Advani's demise. She always inspired and motivated karyakartas and was LK Advani's pillar of strength," Shri Modi tweeted.

"Deeply saddened by the demise of Kamla Advani. My heartfelt condolences to Advani's family. May God give strength to bear the great pain," Shri Amit Shah said.

Union Home Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri DV Sadananda Gowda, Shri JP Nadda and Shri Prakash Javadekar, were among the many who expressed grief over her death. Kamla, who married L K Advani in 1965, was a social worker and always provided strength to Sh. Advani in his political activities.

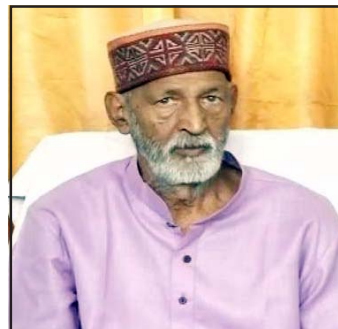


Former BJP MP Lal Muni Chaubey passes away

Former BJP MP from Buxar Shri Lal Muni Chaubey died due to prolonged illness at AIIMS, New Delhi, on March 25. He was 73. Shri Chaubey represented Buxar parliamentary constituency four times in Lok Sabha from 1996 to 2009. He had also been an MLA from Chainpur seat of Kaimur district thrice in the Assembly. "Chaubey's death has caused an irreparable loss to Bihar and the party. His death caused a void in state's politics which will be difficult to fill up. He was a source of inspiration for party workers for his honesty and simple life style," Bihar BJP President Shri Mangal Pandey told .

Union ministers Ram Vilas Paswan, Radha Mohan Singh, Ram Kripal Yadav, Giriraj Singh Bihar's former chief ministers Lalu Prasad, Rabri Devi and Jitan Ram Manjhi and senior Bihar BJP leaders Shushil Kumar Modi, Nand Kishore Yadav, Prem Kumar, others mourned the death of Shri Chaubey.

Shri Chaubey, who hailed from Kaimur district, was elected for the first time from Buxar Lok Sabha constituency in 1996. He represented the seat continuously till 2009, when he lost to RJD leader Jagadanand Singh by 2,000 votes. He was also health minister in Karpuri Thakur government. As health minister Shri Lal Muni Chaubey banned the private practice of government doctors Shri Chaubey was first MLA in Bihar Vidhan Sabha who resigned from the assembly to protest against Indira's emergency and joined the movement led by Jai Praksh Narayan(JP).



A state without a budget

- Arun Jaitley

President's Rule has been imposed in the State of Uttarakhand. Article 356 of the Constitution can be invoked only if the President is satisfied that there are grounds for believing that the governance of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution.

The Congress party in the State of Uttarakhand split after a section of the leadership alleged that they were dis-satisfied both with the Chief Minister and the central leadership of the Congress party. The split was on account of reasons internal to the Congress party. Nine Members of the Congress party in the Legislative Assembly decided to vote against the Appropriation Bill which provides for the budget of the State. On 18th March 2016, it appears that 35 Members voted against the Appropriation Bill and 32 in favour. These 35 Members comprised of 27 from the BJP and 9 rebel Congress men. There is documentary evidence both prior and subsequent to the Assembly Session to suggest that these 35 Members asked for a Division of Votes. The proceedings of the Assembly circulated in writing establishes the charge that a Division was asked for and

yet it was claimed that the Appropriation Bill has been passed without a vote.

There are strong facts to suggest that the Appropriation Bill was actually defeated. As a consequence, the Government had to resign. Two further consequences flow out of this. Firstly, the Appropriation Bill sanctioning expenditure from

In any case, all facts surrounding the alleged discussion and passage of the Appropriation Bill clearly indicate its non-passage. There is a cloud and a serious doubt about the Appropriation Bill. There is a complete breakdown of the Constitutional machinery in as much as the Government, which should have resigned on the 18th of March with the failure of Appropriation Bill, has decided to continue. As of today there is no Appropriation Bill certified by the Speaker which has received assent of the Governor. If it is Speaker's case that the rebels voted in favour of the Appropriation Bill and, hence, it has been passed, then the rebels could not have been disqualified.

1st April 2016 was not approved and, secondly, if the Appropriation Bill was defeated, the continuation of the Government subsequent to 18th March 2016 is unconstitutional. It is to be noted that till today, neither the Chief Minister nor the Speaker have forwarded a certified copy of the Appropriation Bill to the Governor. Obviously, there is no assent of the Governor to the Appropriation Bill.

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Having plunged the State

...Continued on page 22

They made Supreme Sacrifices for India's Security & Prosperity By Amba Charan Vashishth

At a time when shouting slogans for India's "barbadi and "Pakistan zindabad" are being put on premium and national politicians are rubbing shoulders with such anti-national elements in the name of right to freedom of expression, two unique publications by the Human Resource Development Ministry on the life and times of our military heroes who gave their life so that India and her citizens were safe. Inspired by the HRD Minister Mrs. Smriti Z. Irani, National Council of Educational Research & Training has come out with "Veer Gaatha" in English narrating the hair-raising accounts of the unique bravery and supreme sacrifices made by our great soldiers of all ranks to give a bloody nose to the aggressors.

So far, in all 21 officers and men in the army have been decorated with the Param Vir Chakras in our wars with Pakistan in 1947-48, 1965, 1971, 1999, With China once in 1962 and in peace-keeping operations in Congo (1960-64) and in Sri Lanka (1987-90). 14 PVCs were awarded posthumously and 7 of the heroes received these in person. One PVC has gone to an Air Force Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon

during 1971 Indo-Pak war and rest have gone to the Army.

The other organ of HRD ministry, the National Book Trust (NBT) has come out with the story of these great brave-hearts in comics form in

with Pakistan to through out the aggressors from the Kashmir Valley, Congo operation in 1961, India-China war 1962, India-Pakistan war in 1965, India-Pakistan war in 1971 that culminated into the birth of independent nation of Bangladesh, Siachen Conflict 1987, Srilanka Operation 1987 and the Kargil Conflict 1999. The Kargil operation marked the only instance where the aggressor Pakistan was sent home with a bloody nose and every inch of the sacred soil of India was recovered.

Param Vir Chakdra (PVC) is the highest Wartime Gallantry Award for most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air. Instituted on the first Republic Day January 26, 1950, the Award came into retrospective effect from August 15, 1947, the day India won her independence.

The first recipient was Major Somnath Sharma, the hero of Badgaon, who led India's stiff resistance to prevent Pak invaders capture Srinagar airport. He alongwith one JCO and 20 other ranks stemmed the Pak army advance. Even when the enemy was just 50 yards away,



Hindi displaying the various phases of their life and sacrifices. Each book has been devoted to one PVC awardee.

The present NDA government led by Shri Narendra Modi, both the books are a right step in the direction of in the impressionable minds of our students the spirit and zeal to do something for the country. Veer Gaatha sings in words the exemplary brave and extreme sacrifices of our 21 brave soldiers of all ranks of the Army and Air Force right from the 1947-48 first war

in his last message to the Army Headquarters, Major Somnath Sharma stated: "We are heavily outnumbered. We are under devastating fire. I shall not withdraw an inch but will fight to the last man and the last round". These are now part of the Army lore. "He has set an example", stated the citation, "of courage and qualities seldom equalled in the history of the Indian Army.

Veer Gaatha has reproduced the Citation that was read at the time of award-giving ceremony giving the details of the extraordinary bravery shown by each recipients. It also details the postal stamps issued by the government in their honour.

NBT comic books are dedicated to each hero giving a chilling account of the great sacrifices made for the country.

Infusing courage in his men Lance Naik Karam Singh told in chaste Punjabi, "Jadon assin itthe jaan de daange tan saadi keemat wadh javegi" (When we give our lives here, then our value will increase).

Company Quarter Master Havildar Abdul Hamid was awarded PVC for his remarkable achievement in turning about 7 US made Patton Tanks then considered invincible with his recoilless guns in Khem Karan Sector during 1965 war with Pakistan. He continued fighting till he was mortally wounded by enemy shell.

Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon communicated

his steel strong determination saying, "I am behind two Sabres, I won't let them get away".

In his letter 2/Lt. Arun Khetrapal wrote to his father Brigadier Khetrapal from the war front just five days back, "Over here we are having a good time". When his tank was partially destroyed and his superior ordered to abandon it, Khetrapal politely refused to comply saying, "No Sir, I will not abandon my tank. My gun is still working and I will get these...."

Indomitable spirit of the immortal hero in Lt. Manoj Kumar Pandey was discovered from his personal diary where in his own hand

he wrote:

"If death strikes before
I prove my blood
I promise (swear)
I will kill death."

Granadier Yogender Singh Yadav has been the youngest recipient of Param Vir Chakra. Born on May 10, 1980 and recruited at the age of 16, he achieved martyrdom in his teens on 3-4 July, 1999.

All these chilling accounts of the bravery of these great sons of India send out only one message to the present generation: Duty above self. These also make us recall to the memory Lord Tennyson's poem where who wrote:

"Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die." ■

...Continued from page 20

into a serious Constitutional crisis by continuing a Government which should have quit after the failure of the Appropriation Bill, and further complicating the crisis the Chief Minister started allurements, horse-trading and disqualification with a view to altering the composition of the House. After the Assembly has been put under suspended animation and the decision has been made public, the Speaker has decided to disqualify some Members. The Constitutional breakdown has been compounded further by this action. On 18th March the majority was declared to be a minority and vice versa, and on 27th March the composition of the House was attempted to be changed in violation of the Constitution to convert a minority into a majority. This is an unprecedented case of a Speaker declaring a failed Appropriation Bill as passed and then failing to certify falsehood. This leaves the State without any approved financial expenditure with effect from 1st April 2016. What better evidence do we need of a breakdown of Constitution? The Congress Government of Uttarakhand was murdering democracy every day from the 18th of March till the 27th of March. It is now incumbent upon the Central Government to ensure that steps are taken under Article 357 to authorise expenditure of the State with effect from 1st April 2016. ■

PM attends Nuclear Security Summit & India-European Union Summit



PM Shri Modi five-day visit of Belgium, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia started on the First day of his trip while staying in Brussels. Shri Modi attended the India-EU Summit and the same day also held bilateral talks with his Belgian counterpart Charles Michel. Prime Minister Narendra Shri Modi also paid tribute to the victims of the Brussels terror attacks in which over 30 people, including an Indian, lost their lives. He laid a wreath at the Maalbeek Metro station in the Belgian capital where a suicide bomber blew himself up killing scores of passengers, including Indian Raghavendran Ganeshan.

While addressing Indian community in Brussels(Belgium) He described the Indian Community as the "Lokdoot" of India.

The Prime Minister said that despite the huge threat, the world is not able to deliver a proportionate response to terror – and terms such as "good terrorism" and "bad terrorism" end up strengthening it. Shri Narendra Modi described how India has faced this scourge for forty years, which many described as a mere law and order problem for a long time, until 9/11 happened. He declared that India would not bow to terror. Shri Narendra Modi said he has spoken to many world leaders and emphasized the need to delink religion from terror. He recalled the Global Sufi Conference in New Delhi recently, where liberal Islamic scholars had denounced terrorism. He said this approach was essential to stop radicalization. The right atmosphere had to be created

to end terror, he added. The Prime Minister regretted that the United Nations had not been able to come up with a structured response to terrorism. He said the UN has not been able to fulfill its responsibility in this regard, and had not come up with a suitable resolution. He warned that institutions which do not evolve appropriate responses to emerging situations, risked irrelevance. The Prime Minister also mentioned that the whole world which is passing through an economic crisis, had recognized India as a ray of hope. He said India has become the fastest growing large economy in the world, and this is not because of good fortune. He said this has happened despite two successive drought years. He said that this is the result of good intentions and sound

policies.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the Nuclear Security Summit 2016 in Washington on April 2. Several issues of global importance were discussed at the event.

PM Modi and PM Abe met on the sidelines of the summit. In line with the Special Strategic and Global Partnership with Japan, discussions were held in a very cordial atmosphere. PM Abe thanked PM Modi for the excellent hospitality during his bilateral visit to India in December 2015. He described his visit to Varanasi as unforgettable.

PM Abe acknowledged that under PM Modi's leadership, the Indian economy was now serving as the engine of global growth.

The two leaders reviewed the decisions taken during PM Abe's visit and expressed satisfaction at the strong pace of implementation. PM Abe conveyed that a survey Mission will be coming from Japan in May to take forward the Convention Centre project in Varanasi. They also discussed measures to promote further trade and investment.

PM thanked PM Abe for Japan's strong participation in the International Fleet Review.

The two leaders also discussed the continuing threat of terrorism and the need for the International community to eschew selective approaches. They also reviewed global and regional issues.

PM Abe said that he was greatly looking forward to PM Modi's bilateral visit to Japan later this year.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi also met the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Justin Trudeau.

The Prime Minister said new energy and dynamism has been imparted to relations between the two countries, since Mr. Trudeau assumed office. He spoke of immense possibilities for further expanding the relationship in the economic sphere.

The Canadian Prime Minister congratulated Prime Minister Modi for his intervention during the NSS dinner yesterday, and said Canada and India can be leaders in

PM Modi's intervention during the dinner hosted by US President Barack Obama



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi made an intervention during the dinner hosted by US President Barack Obama, on the theme of nuclear security threat perceptions.

Appreciating the US President for putting the spotlight on nuclear security, the Prime Minister said he had, by doing so, done great service to global security.

Referring to the recent terror attacks in Brussels, the Prime Minister said that Brussels shows us how real and immediate is the threat to nuclear security from terrorism. Shri Narendra Modi called for focus on three contemporary features of terrorism: First, today's terrorism uses extreme violence as theatre.

Second, we are no longer looking for a man in a cave, but we are hunting for a terrorist in a city with a computer or a smartphone. Third, state actors working with nuclear traffickers and terrorists present the greatest risk.

Noting that terror has evolved and terrorists are using 21st century technology, the Prime Minister observed that our responses are rooted in the past. He said terrorism is globally networked, but we still act only nationally to counter this threat. He added that the reach and supply chains of terrorism are global, but genuine cooperation between nation states is not.

The Prime Minister said that without prevention and prosecution of acts of terrorism, there is no deterrence against nuclear terrorism. He urged everyone to drop the notion that terrorism is someone else's problem and that "his" terrorist is not "my" terrorist.

The Prime Minister said nuclear security must remain an abiding national priority, and all States must completely abide by their international obligations. ■

Modi gifted a gold-plated replica of the Cheraman Juma Masjid to King Salman of Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a gold-plated replica of the Cheraman Juma Masjid to King Salman of Saudi Arabia, he was



underlining the trade links that existed between India and Saudi Arabia since the first millennium BC. But the Masjid is also the symbol of the peaceful entry of Islam into the Indian subcontinent followed by centuries of harmonious coexistence with religions.

Cheraman Juma Masjid in Kodungallur Taluk of Kerala is said to be the first mosque in India, constructed in the seventh century.

efforts towards non-proliferation. Prime Minister Modi also spoke of India's thrust towards renewable energy. He mentioned smart cities, urban infrastructure and skill development as areas where Canada could further deepen its engagement with India. He also mentioned India's progressive policy in the hydrocarbon sector, and sought Canadian cooperation in the areas of coal gasification and underground mining of coal. Prime Minister Trudeau accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India.

Prime Minister Modi met the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, Mr. David Cameron. Both leaders recalled Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the UK last year, and Prime Minister Modi said that ties between the two countries had become richer and deeper.

Defence cooperation came up for discussion and Prime Minister Modi mentioned that the UK could be a partner in the Make in India initiative, especially in the defence sector. Visa issues also came up for discussion.

While leaving Washington DC for Saudi Arabia after attending NSS 2016 PM tweeted, "My Washington DC visit was full of fruitful meetings & interactions. We have discussed an issue of great global importance". Narendra Modi calls for taking the India-Saudi economic relationship beyond export & import

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on April 2nd interacted with 30 Saudi CEOs and Indian business leaders in Riyadh. He described India and Saudi Arabia as old friends, ready to take bold new steps to a golden future.

Emphasizing the strength of ties between the two countries, he recalled King Salman mentioning that he was taught by an Indian teacher.

He said India had a unique combination of democracy, demography and demand, and several policy initiatives had been taken over the last two years to spur growth and progress.



Speaking about the health sector, he said there was tremendous scope for investment in the manufacturing of medical devices. He said India's health sector which is globally extremely cost competitive, offers immense scope for health tourism. He added that Indian nurses, present in large numbers in the Gulf,

are a testament to our well-trained manpower.

He called for taking the economic relationship beyond export and import, to technology transfers and joint investment.

He assured Saudi investors that retrospective taxation was a thing of the past, and his Government believes in a predictable long term taxation regime. He mentioned petroleum, renewable energy, infrastructure, and defence manufacturing, as possible areas for Saudi investment.

He said Saudi investment in fertilizers, warehousing, cold chain facilities and agriculture, would be a win-win partnership, as it would ensure good quality food products for Saudi Arabia.

He said India and Saudi Arabia should look at working together in the field of cyber-security.

PM visits L&T workers' residential complex in Riyadh

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the L&T workers' residential complex



in Riyadh. L&T is part of a consortium that is building a section of the Riyadh Metro. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister appreciated the efforts made by the workers for the project, and said "your hard work has brought me here."

He said that the work being done by Indian workers abroad, not only earns money, but also raises the stature of India. He said

Indian workers were fondly remembered in various parts of the world where they had completed many prestigious projects. He said that in future, the Riyadh Metro too would similarly evoke memories about Indian workers who had contributed to its construction.

The Prime Minister said he often gets to know about Indians working abroad through letters he receives from their relatives. He added that he shares both their joys and their sorrows, through these letters. "I feel I am a part of your family," he said.

The Prime Minister mentioned the "e-migrate" initiative of the Union Government, which would facilitate people who wished to work abroad.

He said more "worker resource centres" would be opened, and the MADAD portal was a way to immediately reach the Union Government. The Prime Minister said that India has the capacity to give the world the manpower it requires.

The gathering of over a thousand workers, cheered enthusiastically on many occasions as the Prime Minister spoke. The Prime Minister later mingled with the assembled workers, and shared snacks with them.

PM visits TCS all-women IT and ITES Centre, Riyadh

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi also paid his visit to the All Women IT and ITES Centre of Tata Consultancy Services in Riyadh. The Prime Minister was given an overview of the operations, and interacted with the all-women workforce, who enthusiastically welcomed and greeted him.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that it is a big message for the world that he is meeting with the people who are, in a way, the pride of Saudi Arabia.

Shri Narendra Modi said that in today's competitive world we have to unite our strengths both natural and human, for optimum progress. He said that when women power becomes a part of the development

journey, it gathers fresh momentum. He said that the atmosphere he is witnessing at this



Centre today, appears to be a harbinger of a positive force for the world. He invited the

women IT professionals to visit India, and said their visit will make a huge impact even in India.

The Prime Minister emphasized the role of technology in governance, and said e-governance, for him, means easy governance, effective governance, and economic governance.

The Prime Minister invited them to see the “Narendra Modi App” and even share their views on women empowerment in India.

“Vande Mataram. Matri Devo Bhavah” wrote the Prime Minister on the message board at the Centre. ■

Top Saudi honour to PM is another global recognition of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’: Amit Shah

Top Saudi honour to PM came as another global recognition of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’ and inclusive development effort of Modi government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party congratulated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on being conferred Saudi Arabia’s highest civilian honour, Sash of King Abdulaziz Sash (Special Class). The Award is conferred by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. It is a special honour conferred by Saudi Arabia to PM Narendra Modi.

Commenting on this honour being conferred to the Prime Minister, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said, “This is a matter of pride for the entire nation.

It illustrates the fact that the guiding principle of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’ has resonated all over the world and is being widely appreciated.”

The BJP President added, “The fact that Saudi Arabia has conferred this award is worth taking note of. Saudi Arabia is a very important nation in the geo-politics of the

world and home to the holiest Islamic pilgrim centres. The importance of Saudi Arabia in the world’s cultural milieu is immense.”

Shri Amit Shah termed this award as one more fitting recognition for the progressive and dynamic foreign policy of the NDA government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi.



Commenting on the Prime Minister’s Saudi Arabia visit Shri Amit Shah noted, “It was a historical visit with historical outcomes. Comprehensive discussions on broadening economic and people-to-people contact will benefit not only India and Saudi Arabia but also the entire world.” Shri Amit Shah recalled the historical trade

ties between Saudi Arabia and India and expressed confidence that the economic partnership between the two nations will grow even more.

Appreciating the overall foreign policy of the NDA government, Shri Amit Shah affirmed, “Under the leadership of Shri

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Towards Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat...

In the National Executive meeting held in New Delhi on 19-20 March 2016, General Secretary's report was presented by BJP National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ramlal detailing the journey of the party in last three years. The report covered the period between 23 January 2013 to 24 January 2016. It is to be noted that Shri Rajnath Singh was elected as BJP National President on 23 January 2016 and after he became the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah became the National President on 09 July 2014. The period saw BJP getting massive victory in Lok Sabha elections under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. Apart from winning many state assembly elections BJP also become the largest political party in the world. It was a momentous journey for the party as it received huge support from the people and got the opportunity to play a historic role in shaping the future of India. We are publishing the full text of the report in a series for our esteemed readers:



With the slogan of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas" Bharatiya Janata Party contested Lok Sabha election in the country. Chasing the target of Mission 272+ BJP alone won 282 seats. Following is the detailed analysis of the elections:-

Total seats	:	543
Total Scheduled Caste seats	:	84
Total Scheduled Tribe seats	:	47

Seats won by BJP

· Total seats won	:	282
· Scheduled Caste MPs	:	40
		= 47.61 percent Scheduled Caste seat
· Women seats	:	06
· Scheduled Tribes MPs	:	27
		= 69.44 percent Scheduled Tribe seat
· Women seats	:	02
· Seats won by BJP Women Candidates	:	28
		= 10 percent in all seats won by BJP

NDA (282 + 54 = 336)

- Seats won by NDA excluding BJP : 54
- Scheduled Caste seats won by NDA excluding BJP : 09
- Scheduled Tribes seats won by NDA : 02
- Women seats won by NDA (excluding BJP) : 02
- Scheduled Caste seats won by NDA : 62.02 %
- Scheduled Tribe seats won by NDA : 70.73 %

Congress could not win even a single seat in the following states in 16th Lok Sabha elections:

1. Delhi
2. Goa
3. Gujarat
4. Himachal Pradesh
5. Jammu & Kashmir
6. Jharkhand

7. Nagaland 8. Odisha 9. Rajasthan
 10. Sikkim 11. Tamilnadu 12. Tripura
 13. Uttarakhand 14. Andhra Pradesh

Congress could not win even a single seat in the following UTs

1. Andaman & Nicobar 2. Chandigarh
 3. Dadra Nagar Haveli 4. Daman & Diu
 5. Puducherry 6. Lakshadweep

Thanking people in Vadodara - Varanasi

Immediately after the declaration of election results, Shri Narendra Modi addressed a large public meeting in his constituency in Vadodara in Gujarat. He expressed his gratitude for the massive victory of BJP in all the 26 seats in Gujarat and said that his government will work for everyone; from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kutch to Kamarup. Bowing to the people in humility, he said that his government will be dedicated to good governance.

The very next day, Shri Narendra Modi reached Varanasi where people extended him a warm welcome. After performing Puja at Kashi Vishwanath temple, he took part in Ganga Aarti at the famous Dashashwamedh Ghat. Thanking the people of Varanasi during his speech, he expressed gratitude for their faith and support.

Shri Narendra Modi elected as the leader of BJP Parliamentary Party

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi was formally elected as leader of the Parliamentary Party on May 20, 2014. Shri Modi, before entering the Parliament house bowed his head down at the staircase and became emotional during his address in the Parliament house. Terming the party as Mother, Shri Modi said son can never bring any favours to his Mother; he can only do the service.

He also reminded the newly elected MPs of their responsibilities and asked them to be prepared to fulfill people's hopes and expectations. A meeting of NDA was convened immediately after this and Shri Modi was once

again formally elected as its leader. He expressed gratitude towards all the alliance partners.

Oath-taking ceremony

Following the glorious victory of BJP led NDA Shri Narendra Damodar Das Modi took oath at the forecourts of the Rashtrapati Bhawan as 15th Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014. The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee administered oath of office to Prime Minister Shri Modi along with 23 Cabinet ministers, 10 Ministers of State (independent charge) and 12 Ministers of State.

At this historic moment the entire forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhawan was packed with more than 3500 dignitaries including head of States of SAARC countries. Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Nawaz Sharif, President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahindra Rajpakshe, President of Afghanistan Mr. Hamid Karzai Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sushil Koirala, Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Shering Topme and President of Maldives Mr. Abdullah Yamin Abdul Gayum specially participated in this function.

BJP led NDA Government ushers a new era of hope and trust

A new era of hope and trust commenced with the oath of office by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The country is marching towards development oriented politics by new work culture, corruption free governance and people friendly system and programs. He is dedicated for the development of villages, poor, farmers, downtrodden by working indefatigably for 18-20 hours daily with new vision, fast pace and transparent policies. He is continuously inspiring the youth by his unique initiative for not only towards jobs but also towards entrepreneurship.

A completely new picture of India is emerging. People are marching towards golden future with great confidence.

The Prime Minister has presented a new image of India during his foreign visits and he has been successful in shifting the global

paradigm towards India. He has not only created diplomatic and economic relations with China, Japan, England, France and Germany along with our neighbouring countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka but provided new dimensions to the relations at personal level. Be it uniting all countries on the issue of terrorism or growth oriented agenda, in the words of US President Mr. Obama, Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as a 'Man of Action'. This was the reason that 177 nations endorsed International Yoga Day on his request within such a short span of time. This is a matter of great pride for us that Yoga day was observed in 192 countries on June 21 last year with great zeal.

The Prime Minister has established contact and dialogue with People by travelling extensively through-out the country. From celebrating Diwali with the soldiers in Kashmir to making trips to the North East, he is engaged in realising the dream of strong India by inaugurating and laying foundations of various schemes in different parts of the country. In addition, he has always called upon the MPs to strengthen the democracy by rising above the partisan politics and he led by example by his participation in discussions and continuous presence in the parliament. Barring a few cases,

the productivity of parliament has also increased significantly. Every citizen can now see a new ray of hope by the untiring efforts of the Prime Minister.

Shri Amit Shah becomes BJP National President

On July 9, 2014, the then National President Shri Rajnath Singh announced the name of Shri Amit Shah as new Party President at BJP headquarters in New Delhi. Shri Singh, while resigning from his post after becoming Home Minister in line with the principal of 'one person, one post' said that Shri Amit Shah would be the new party president from then onwards. Subsequently, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Shri Shah by offering sweets. Congratulating Shri Shah, Shri Rajnath Singh said that the party has achieved unprecedented success in Uttar Pradesh under his leadership.

He possesses special organizing capabilities and he is expert in Management and strategy making. He said that the name of Shri Amit Shah was decided unanimously in the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting. The party karyakartas started celebrations across the nation as soon as Shri Shah became the party President.

To continue...

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Narendra Modi, the NDA government's foreign policy has led to record foreign investment coming to India and enhanced India's prestige on the world stage. Relations with existing friends have significantly improved and at the same time avenues of cooperation with other regions and nations have been accelerated at a historical pace. At the same time, India has risen to the occasion and helped every Indian in duress be it in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya and Yemen to name a few."

The Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia also illustrates the importance of the PM personal rapport to deepen ties with the West Asia. A sizable Indian population is working in Saudi Arabia. This time the Prime Minister visited L&T Workers' Residential Complex where he shared snacks with the workers. This gesture has been uniformly hailed. He raised the issue of Indians serving sentences for minor offences and the Saudi Government has agreed to look at these cases sympathetically and constitute a review mechanism with immediate effect. It may be recalled that during his UAE visit in August the Prime Minister met Indian workers and visited the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi.

Shri Narendra Modi always believes that India's diversity and harmony is India's strength and will make India the leading economic superpower of the 21st century. ■