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*O Arjuna, just as the ignorant act attached to activities; even so the wise being unattached should act desiring to benefit the welfare of the world.*

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 25)

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“Time has come for India & Iran to regain their past glory of traditional ties. Time for us to march together!”

-Narendra Modi

“Assam's development and progress is our top most priority and our BJP led NDA government in state will leave no stone unturned.”

-Amit Shah

## Ganga Dussehra : 14th June, 2016

**G**anga Dussehra is also known as Gangavataran which means ‘the descent of the Ganga’, generally falls in the month of June. According to Hindu religious texts, the River Ganges originally flowed only in heaven and was residing in Kamandal of Lord Brahma.

In the form of a goddess, Maa Ganga was brought down to earth by King Bhagiratha in order to purify the ashes of his 60,000 ancestors, who had been burned under a curse from the great sage Kapila. The river goddess came down reluctantly, breaking her fall on the head of Shiva so that she wouldn't shatter the Earth.

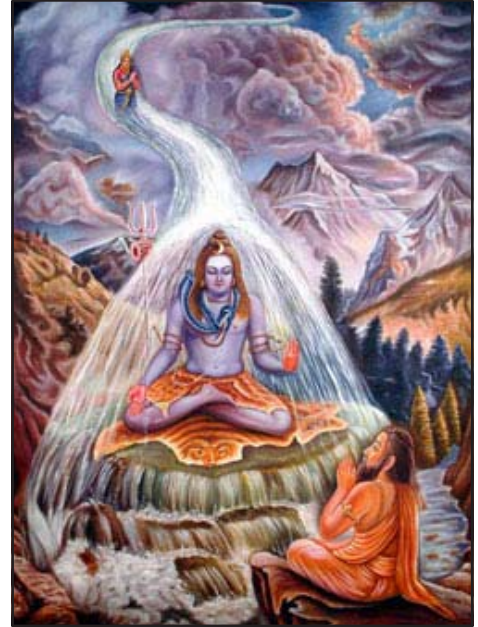
Before coming to the Earth, the Ganga along with her brought the purity of heaven to the Earth. By the time she reached the Bay of Bengal, she had touched the ashes of the 60,000 princes and fertilized the entire region.

On Ganga Dussehra devotees worship Goddess Ganga and take bath in Ganges. Taking bath in Ganges and offering charity or Dan-Punya on this day is considered highly auspicious.

It is believed that holy dip in Ganges on Ganga Dussehra day can purge all type of sins. Devotees flock to Allahabad/Prayag, Garhmukteshwar, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi to take a holy dip.

Ganga Dussehra celebrations are legendary in Varanasi. On Ganga Dussehra day thousands of devotees do Ganga Snan and participate in Ganga Aarti at Dasaswamedh Ghat. Those who live far away from the Ganges immerse themselves in whatever river, pond, or sea they can get to on this day.

Usually Ganga Dusshra is celebrated one day before Nirjala Ekadashi but in some years Ganga Dussehra and Nirjala Ekadashi might fall on the same day. Ganga Dussehra should not be confused with Ganga Jayanti when the Goddess Ganga was reborn.





## 'Kashmir ho ya Guwahati, Apna Desh - Apni Mati!'

It was a historic mandate! It was a massive mandate! It was victory of the issues consistently raised by BJP all through its struggle in Assam, it was not only an electoral victory but an ideological one. First time in its electoral history BJP was voted to form government in Assam – it was an emotional and a momentous moment for all those who struggled relentlessly to see this day. It was the result of decades of struggle written in the saga of sacrifice and commitment, a result of unflinching faith in ideology and leadership. It will go a long way in strengthening the resolve of every BJP activist who work tirelessly to see the lotus blooming in every part of India. The historic victory of BJP in Assam shows the increasing faith of people in BJP. While BJP has got overwhelming support of people in Assam, in West Bengal and Kerala it has marched ahead with significant increase in votes. The loss for Congress was immense, it lost two more states. In fact the people voted for the politics of development and refused to fall prey to the negative politics of Congress.

The results of the elections held in five states have once again established the power of democracy and strengthened the voice of the people. While people in Assam voted overwhelmingly in favour of BJP, the results in West Bengal and Kerala points to the fact that people are increasingly coming closer to BJP. The results are historic with a clear message for future. Once considered a party of the Hindi heartland now BJP has a pan-India presence and making inroads in newer areas rapidly. In West Bengal it has won six seats along with its allies and almost doubled its vote percentage over the last assembly elections. The results in Kerala are very encouraging for the party – while winning one seat it has come second in seven seats and polled more than 40,000 votes in many seats. It's a big achievement and it can be said that it is on its way to become a major force in Kerala. It's always difficult to make room between two well entrenched political formations but it is happening in both West Bengal and Kerala. While Left-Congress alliance has proved to be poor alternative for TMC, the polarized situation between LDF and UDF in Kerala appears to be loosening making space for BJP led alliance. If the momentum is maintained, it can be said that by Lok Sabha elections 2019 BJP will get unexpected result in both these states.

The Congress is declining day by day as its leadership's eyes remain closed to the reality. It is now paying price for its misrule, corruption and nepotism. Its faith in dynastic politics has eroded its credibility in the eyes of people and its unprincipled alliances have reduced it to be a party symbolizing everything wrong in Indian politics. It has become synonymous with opportunism and regressive politics in the country. This time it chose an ally in West Bengal and both have committed hara-kiri in the state by holding each other's hands. Congress and Communists have come together many times under their politics of opportunism but people have given befitting reply whenever they joined hands. Both parties are now trying to outdo each other in becoming a part of history books. Both are no more than relics of their past and people have thoroughly rejected them seeing no hope in them for future.

The rise of BJP in Northeast and South India is a stamp of approval on the

Editorial...

pro-people work of BJP led NDA government at the Centre under the leadership of Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister not only prioritized the work in the Northeast but gained the confidence of the people by his visits and programmes. At the same time the vision of BJP National President to expand the work of BJP in states having not so strong organizational base has paid dividend and the party has been able to build on the highly successful membership drive which catapulted the party as the largest political party in the world. It is in fact a dream come true for the lakhs of karyakartas who worked day and night to realize the vision of "Kashmir ho ya Guwahati, Apna Desh Apni Mati". Today BJP is in government both in Jammu & Kashmir and Assam. As people are reposing their faith on BJP in every part of the country, the responsibilities of BJP leaders and activists have increased manifold. A new India is in making under the dynamic leadership of Narendra Modi and BJP National President Amit Shah is working tirelessly to build a party for the future of India. People are welcoming these initiatives with their full support and overwhelming enthusiasm. India is moving towards its deserved place in the comity of nations. Let's welcome this transformation with open heart! ■

## Amit Shah launches "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana" for tribal families in Gujarat

**B**JP national president Shri Amit Shah on 15 May, 2016 launched the "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana" giving cooking gas connections to poor tribal families in Dahod district of Gujarat.

On the occasion Shri Shah said that five crore connections would be provided to rural areas across the country. "After coming to power, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had

launched a campaign asking the well-to-do people to give up LPG subsidy. So far, one crore people have obliged. This has helped this scheme to provide connections to people in rural areas," he said.



Shri Shah termed the new initiative a right tool for women empowerment as with gas connections, women will no longer be dependent on firewood and kerosene for cooking.

He slammed the UPA government for corruption in provision of gas connections which remained limited to urban middle class families.

"As soon as Shri Narendra Modi took over, he took steps to remove corruption and curb black marketing by direct transfer of Rs. 13,000 crore into the bank accounts of poor people. It's a huge step in curbing corruption and pilferage in the social welfare schemes in the country." The new beneficiaries enrolled for the scheme from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were given the gas connection documents by Shri Amit Shah, Chief Minister of Gujarat Smt. Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of Rajasthan Smt. Vasundhara Raje and Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

Addressing on the occasion Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said, "This financial year alone, one crore new connections will be provided for which Rs. 2,000 crore has been earmarked. In Gujarat, we will provide 25 lakh new connections, most of which will be targeted at rural beneficiaries". ■



# Sarbananda Sonowal takes oath as new Assam BJP Chief Minister



**S**hri Sarbananda Sonowal was sworn-in as the 14th Chief Minister of Assam at a gala event in Guwahati on 24 May, 2016. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, senior cabinet ministers of union government and tens of thousands of BJP Karyakartas.

The oath taking ceremony was held at the sprawling Khanapara rally ground in the city that was turned saffron with Bharatiya Janata Party flags fluttering all over.

Shri Sonowal, 53, took oath along with Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma in Assamese.

Both of them are largely credited for the BJP's massive electoral victory in the northeastern state.

Total 10 ministers took oath apart from Shri Sonowal. There will be six ministers from the BJP and four from its pre-poll allies - two from the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and two from the Bodoland People's Front (BPF).

Noteworthy, the BJP and alliance partners won 86 seats in the 126-member State assembly.

BJP senior leader Shri L K Advani, senior Union Ministers Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Nitin Gadkari were also present at the event.

Also present at the event were the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled states and leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) like Punjab CM Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Chandra Babu Naidu and Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

Former Congress Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, who ruled the state for 15 years before Shri Sonowal, also attended the ceremony. Shri Sonowal personally invited Shri Tarun Gogoi, to seat on the massive stage with the BJP's allies and also sought his blessings on the occasion. ■

## Government would transform the State through development : PM

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the large gathering at the swearing-in ceremony of the Council of Ministers of Assam. He congratulated the people of Assam and said that in Shri

walk shoulder to shoulder for development. He stressed the need for comprehensive and all-round development of the nation, and especially the eastern part of the country.

The PM began and ended his speech in Assamese,

Karyakartas Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "I promise to strive to make Assam free of Bangladeshi infiltrators, corruption and pollution."

He also promised to ensure social and financial security. "Our government will work towards ensuring social and financial security of every person living in Assam. And I assure you, we will not do anything that will bring sorrow to your mind," he said.

In his speech, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal invoked all the national heroes of the state – including Ahom dynasty founder Chao-lung Sukapha, General Lachit



Sarbananda Sonowal, they had a Chief Minister from the tribal community who is dedicated to serving society.

He expressed confidence that the new Government would serve the people of Assam and transform the State through development.

The Prime Minister said that the Union Government is working on the principle of cooperative federalism, and wants to give States maximum strength to enable them to progress. He said democracy is about bhaagidaari (participation), and said the Centre and the States must

thanking the people of Assam for voting BJP and promising that Shri Sonowal and his team will transform Assam. The crowd chanted "Modi, Modi."

Addressing the rally BJP President Shri Amit Shah congratulates the people on the big win.

"There are 14 NDA Chief Ministers here, and we are ecstatic that there is a BJP Chief Minister now leading Assam," said Shri Shah in his speech. Shri Shah promised a change in Assam within the next 5 years.

Addressing the

Barphukan (who inflicted the most crushing defeat on the Mughals in 1671), 16th-century saint-reformers Sankaradeva and Madhavadeva, Sufi saint Ajan Faqir, founder of modern Assamese culture Jyotiprasad Agarwala, and singer-lyricist Bhupen Hazarika.

Shri Sonowal also paid tribute to the martyrs of the anti-foreigners' movement of 1979-85. He said, "I also pay my tributes to all those belonging to the BJP and Sangh who had laid down their lives for the country," he said. ■

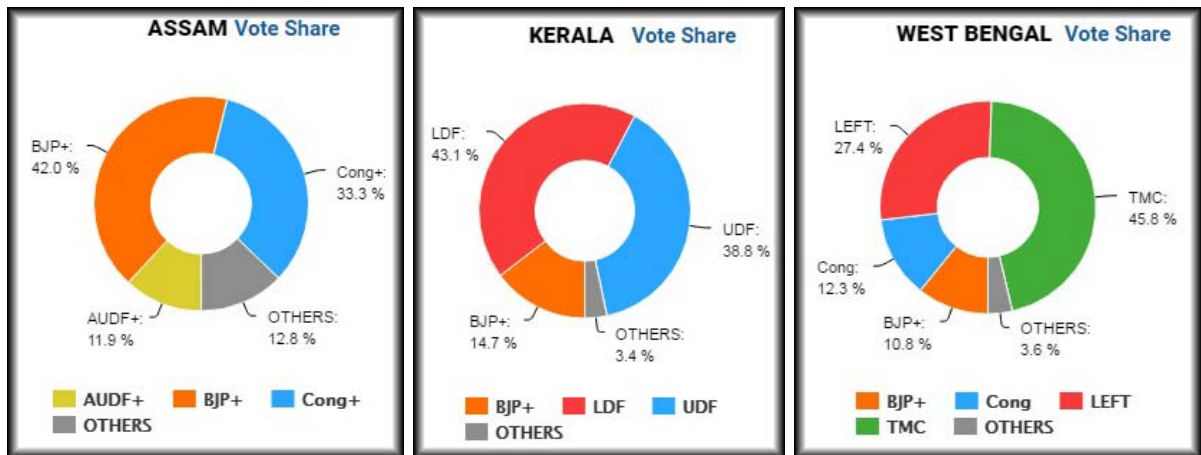
## BJP scripts history in Assam with massive victory, made in-roads in West Bengal and Kerala

**B**haratiya Janata Party created history on 19 May, 2016 in Assam ending the 15-year misrule of Congress party with a decisive mandate that vaulted it to power in the state and for the first time in the northeastern region of the country.

Even BJP made in-roads in Kerala, West

BPF 3.9% respectively. While BJP on its own polled a substantial 30 percent of votes, with its allies the total vote share for NDA has increased to 41%. The Congress received a vote share of 31%, down from 39.39% in the last assembly election.

The BJP-led alliance's two-thirds majority



Bengal and Tamilnadu where the party was traditionally not so strong organizationally. The election verdict is a morale-booster for the Karyakartas that comes as the Modi government completes its second anniversary at the centre.

The victory in Assam also means the BJP will get to play a decisive role in the politics of the tumultuous northeastern region of the country, where it has until now been a marginal political force. This time the BJP and its allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) won a combined 86 seats in the 126-member Assam assembly. On its own, the BJP won 60 seats, the AGP 14 and the BPF 12 seats. After being in office for three straight terms under Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, the Congress ended up with just 26 seats, feeling the sting of a popular desire for change. The BJP got a vote share of 30 % and its allies the AGP 8.1% and

in the State assembly has also debunked the theory of en-bloc voting by some groups. This is proven by the fact that the Bharatiya Janata Party won 15 out of the 49 Muslim-majority seats, says a media report. As per the report, "Of these 49 constituencies, the BJP won 15 seats, the Congress 14 and the AIUFD 12 and the NDA allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) five and Bodoland People's Front two".

In Assam BJP's Chief Ministerial candidate Shri Sarbananda Sonowal won a convincing victory in Majuli (ST) seat. BJP's state election convener Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma romped home with a record margin 85,935 votes over Congress candidate Niren Deka. However, the worst blow to the AIUFD was the defeat of its chief Badruddin Ajmal, who was being viewed as a possible kingmaker in case of a hung assembly. He was defeated in South Salmara seat by 16,723 votes.



In West Bengal, BJP's performance improved substantially and for the first time it will have three legislators on its own and with alliance six in a state where its presence was nominal.

The vote share of BJP in West Bengal was 11%. In this Assembly polls, BJP has almost doubled its vote share in the State from what it was in 2011 assembly election. BJP has not only garnered around 56 lakh votes, up from 19.5 lakh in 2011, it has made its presence felt in 262 out of 294 Assembly segments where the party polled more than 10,000 votes. As per the statistics available BJP has played spoilsport for the opposition Left Front-Congress alliance in more than 70 seats in West Bengal.

In Kerala the vote share of BJP with its allies was around 15% and 86-year-old veteran BJP leader Shri O. Rajagopal created history by winning the Nemom seat. BJP has not just won one seat in the state but it is second in seven and has polled more than 40,000 votes in at least 30 constituencies. Even BJP candidate like Shri P S Sreedharan Pillai scored 42,682 votes in Chengannur, a constituency dominated by Christians.

O Rajagopal gets tenth time lucky

Election after election, poll watchers posed a question to the party, that will BJP open an account in Kerala. At 86, in his tenth attempt, Shri O Rajagopal, the party's face in Kerala finally won his seat, from Nemom by a margin of 8,617



votes. After his win, he said, "BJP's success is an answer to Antony's jibe that BJP leaders can enter the Assembly only after obtaining visitors' passes." Several times in the past, Shri Rajagopal has come close to winning,

only to end up disappointed. He was runner-up in the 2011 Assembly election and the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP was also successful in maintaining its vote share in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

The performance in these elections also gives additional leverage to the BJP as Prime

**After 2014 this assembly election finally established BJP as a pan Indian party starting from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Arunachal. The victory in Assam and inroads in West Bengal and Kerala was special as it reflects the party's growing influence across the country and its stature as the dominant political force.**

Minister Shri Narendra Modi's proclaimed slogan of 'Congress Mukt Bharat' seemed to be materializing as the opposition Congress party was ousted from power in two crucial states of Assam and Kerala. The grand old Congress party is now left with power only in six states – Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

After 2014 this assembly election finally established BJP as a pan Indian party starting from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Gujarat to Arunachal. The victory in Assam and inroads in West Bengal and Kerala was special as it reflects the party's growing influence across the country and its stature as the dominant political force.

Reacting after the results BJP National President Shri Amit Shah described the election results as the new beginning of politics of performance and showing of mirror to the Congress. He said the results are a stamp on two years of performance of the Modi government and a step towards Congress-free India. Shri Shah also said that positive politics has won and people have rejected negative politics.

Later addressing a gathering of jubilant party Karyakartas at BJP headquarter the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said this mandate will give BJP more strength and energy. The mandate endorses BJP's ideology of development. He said BJP is getting more and more support from the people.



**Union Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu:-**

Union Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said BJP's victory in Assam is a happy gift to the party and the Prime Minister on completion of two years of NDA government at the Centre. Today's result is a clear slap on the face of opportunistic opposition alliance. Assembly results clearly show that people of India are intolerant towards Congress party because Congress was not ready to accept the verdict of the people," he told reporters.



**Union Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj:-**

Union Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj said the Assam poll victory is a result of lifetime work of workers and leaders in building the organisation in the north east. These elections will be a major booster and give us a new momentum on the eve of assembly elections in politically crucial Uttar Pradesh. She said my heartfelt gratitude to the people of Assam for electing a BJP Government in the state. Profound greetings to the BJP workers of Assam. My greetings to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP president Shri Amit Shah, she said.



**Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi:-**

BJP leader Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has congratulated both PM Shri Modi and the party National President Shri Amit Shah for BJP's success in these polls. He said it will give the workers confidence to replicate the same in the upcoming elections, especially in Uttar Pradesh. He said the strategy adopted and hard work of workers has resulted in bringing about a revolutionary



change in the country's polity. For the first time from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Dwarka to Kamrup, BJP has emerged stronger.

**MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan:-**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave credit to the Prime Minister for BJP's performance. "It is a matter of immense happiness and I congratulate Prime Minister for the BJP's major victory in Assam. His personality and works are highly impressive," Shri Chouhan said in Bhopal.



**Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad:-**

Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad said the results indicated a pan-India rise of BJP, which he said is also because of the kind of governance people have seen in the last two years when party came to power at the Centre. He said that people have seen how corruption has been curbed and these issues have found resonance in these results.



**Union Minister Shri J P Nadda:-**

Union Minister Shri J P Nadda said the election results are encouraging for the party. The results clearly show that India is moving towards Congress-free India and the support with which BJP has won is really encouraging especially in Kerala where we have been able to have an impact and see to it that we emerge as a political force there. Similarly, the results in Assam and West Bengal are also very encouraging for BJP and certainly people have reposed their faith in the party, he said. ■



## Assam victory 'historic' and 'phenomenal', reflects growing support for BJP : Modi

From Our Correspondent

Addressing Karyakartas on impressive performance of BJP in Assam and other states at BJP Central Office in New Delhi Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 19 May, 2016 said BJP made debut in northeast today. Shri Modi hailed the Assam victory as historic and phenomenal and said the mandate reflects growing popular support for the party's ideology of development and effort to transform the lives of people. He said the mandate would provide new energy to BJP to further work for the upliftment of common masses.

Congratulating Assam BJP Karyakartas and leaders for the exceptional win he said this win is historic by all standards.

Congratulating BJP's Chief Ministerial candidate Shri Sarbanand Sonwal, the Prime Minister said, "BJP will do everything possible to fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Assam and take the state's development journey to new heights. Addressing BJP Karyakartas, he said the poll victory in Assam has made it clear that BJP is rapidly receiving popular acceptance in all parts of the country which augurs well for the democracy. He compared the mandate in Assam to the one received in Jammu and Kashmir and said it would have surprised many.

Extending heartfelt gratitude to voters, he said the poll results are very encouraging for BJP and NDA. The voters have enhanced faith in BJP. Formation of BJP government in Assam is equally surprising for some people as was the party's participation in government in Jammu and Kashmir.

The poll results have demonstrated that BJP's ideology of development and its tireless efforts to bring about a change in the lives of

common masses is being well accepted and supported by the people, he said.

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' by Karyakartas, he said, BJP is rapidly receiving popular acceptance in all regions of India and



this public support would give us more energy and encouragement.

Lauding the efforts of BJP workers in West Bengal for putting up a spirited performance, he said they will continue to raise people's issues there.

In Kerala, the persistence of the party has paid off today and we will become an even stronger voice of the people, Shri Modi said. "I salute all those who built the BJP in Kerala, brick by brick, decade after decade.

It is due to them that we are seeing this day," he added. Shri Modi thanked the people of Assam, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Puducherry and Kerala for their support and assured them we will always work hard and serve them. In his brief speech at BJP headquarters, Shri Modi also thanked party President Shri Amit Shah and his team as well as BJP units in the five states for working tirelessly.

# BJP two steps closer to 'Congress-mukt Bharat' : Amit Shah

*BJP National President Shri Amit Shah addressed a Press Conference on the excellent performance of BJP in Assam and good Performance in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pudducherry on 19 May, 2016 in New Delhi. He said Poll results show that a strong foundation of BJP has been laid for ensuring victory in upcoming elections. Excerpts;*



**A**ddressing the press conference BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said BJP has performed well in all five states. I thank the people of all states for their support. BJP's performance in assembly polls is in a way people's stamp on performance of Modi government in the last two years. Poll results show that a strong foundation of BJP has been laid for ensuring victory in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Shri Shah gave the credit to the mentorship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and said 'Congress-mukt India' is soon going to be a reality. He further said today, the country has moved two steps forward, giving impetus to our campaign 'Congress-mukt Bharat'.

Further hitting out at Congress, he said Assembly Election Results show that people who trying to disrupt Parliament and politicize issues have been shown doors by voters. In Kerala, BJP's vote share has increased from 6 to nearly 15%. In Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, we have maintained our vote share, Shri Shah added.

Shri Shah further applauded the hard

work of BJP workers and said, "Unmatched efforts and sacrifice of party workers in Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu has established a strong party base in these states".

Shri Shah congratulated party Karyakartas and other members for a thumping victory and creating history in Assam Assembly polls. Assam's victory is important in many ways, given that it is a border state. Government is committed to the development of the state," he said.

He further congratulated the Prime Minister, Chief Ministerial candidate Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and Shri Himanta Biswa Sharma and other leaders and workers for the Assam victory and praised the hard work of leaders in states like Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

He also congratulated workers and leaders of Gujarat for winning the Talala Assembly bypoll. The seat has been wrested from Congress.

On Bengal and Tamil Nadu, Shri Amit Shah said we accept the verdict of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu with all humility.

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Resolution Passed in BJP Parliamentary Board Meeting on 19 May 2016 after analyzing the results of five state assembly elections. Excerpts;

**T**he Parliamentary Board of the BJP thanks the people of the five States for the overwhelming support given by them to the NDA led by the BJP. While analyzing the results of these elections, the Parliamentary Board expressed satisfaction on the BJP led NDA forming a government in Assam for the first time ever. The vote share of the BJP has

increased manifold in Assam, Kerala and West Bengal, compared to the last assembly elections. Even in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the vote share of the BJP has increased.

The Parliamentary Board believes that these election results are an endorsement by the people of the development and welfare programmes of the Central government led



by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, which are focused on inclusive growth of all sections of society. These have benefitted the poor, farmers, workers, women, youth & the deprived. The Parliamentary Board appreciates the relentless efforts put in by the leadership and party karyakartas of Assam and complimented them for this spectacular victory resulting in two thirds majority for the BJP led NDA. This symbolises the growing strength of the BJP in the North East and recognizes the pan India presence of the BJP.

The Parliamentary Board also congratulated the party karyakartas in Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for their sincere and relentless efforts which have laid the foundation for the future expansion and growth of the party. In Assam, the party and its allies garnered 42% vote share and 86 seats in the current elections, as against a 10.7% vote share and 5 seats won by the BJP in the last elections. Even in West Bengal, the BJP along with its allies has won 6 seats and increased its vote share to 11% from 4%. The BJP has expanded its base in Kerala by increasing vote share from 6% to 15% in these elections and has entered the assembly. There has been an increase in vote share in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry also. This is a historic achievement. These election results also clearly reflect the acceptance of the BJP's ideology and policies of good governance and development, amongst the people from Kashmir to Kerala and from Kutch to Kamrup. The BJP is not only the central pivot of the nation's politics but its base has expanded to every nook and corner of the country.

The people have resoundingly rejected the opportunistic alliances of the Congress. The Congress strategy to pursue fringe and disruptive politics in Parliament only for political reasons and opposition to the development agenda of the BJP government, has been rejected by the people in the four large States. The people of India have elected politics of development against the obstructionist approach of the Congress.

During the last 60 years, the Congress has

only promoted the political culture of mis-governance and corruption and the people of India are thoroughly disillusioned. In the last Lok Sabha elections, the people defeated the Congress and in the current assembly elections also they have rejected the policies of the Congress. This has brought the Congress down electorally to an historically all time low while the position of BJP is at an all time high. The electoral standing of the Congress has been reduced to less than the regional parties whilst the BJP has successfully emerged as a national party with ever growing presence in all parts of the country.

The BJP led NDA has been victorious in the bye-elections in Gujarat, Jharkhand and Meghalaya. Even in the bye-elections for two assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, the vote share of the BJP has seen an unprecedented growth.

The people of India have accepted the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's policy of rural development, economic growth, transparency and good governance. The people of North East have welcomed the initiatives taken in the last 2 years by the BJP government for the overall development of their region which was deprived of growth and progress for decades.

Two years ago, the BJP had pledged to expand its organisation and strengthen its presence in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the results of these elections demonstrate that the party has been able to convert the growing organisational strength into electoral support of the people.

The BJP pledges to provide good governance and development oriented administration to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Assam. The BJP will provide constructive opposition in Kerala, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, to protect the interests of the people of these States. The Parliamentary Board has congratulated Shri Amit Shah, the national President and all the karyakartas of the BJP for this resounding success. ■

# Modi govt is pro poor, pro business

By Amit Shah

On 26 May, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will complete two years in office. It is a proud moment for all of us.

We were elected to power on a pro-poor mandate. Unfortunately, thanks to the fiscal irresponsibility of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), the Modi government inherited a bankrupt exchequer. This, when the UPA inherited a booming economy with single-digit inflation from the previous NDA government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. They bequeathed exactly the obverse to us.

Consequently, we have had to spend most of the last two years fixing the mess, particularly in creating a rules-based enabling environment to rid corruption and revive the morale of the Indian business community. Alongside, the Modi government has undertaken a series of economic reform initiatives.

- Eliminating discretion in allocation of natural resources, it adopted auctioning to allocate natural resources like coal and telecom spectrum.
- It also reformed the subsidy regime to restrict the payouts only to the

most deserving; this has been achieved through the direct benefit transfer, using Aadhaar to identify the beneficiary.

- To facilitate financial inclusion, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.
- Foreign investment rules in various sectors were liberalized.
- Banking sector reforms have been initiated to make public sector banks more competitive.
- To tackle the bad debt problem, the government passed a new legislation on the bankruptcy code to facilitate time-bound resolution of insolvency.
- In a taxpayer-friendly initiative, our government ended UPA's tax terrorism and embarked on an ambitious reform agenda to recast and clean up the tax administration
- To tackle corruption, the government has initiated a massive overhaul of processes employing information technology and grievance redressal systems.
- The government gave a big push to cooperative federalism by accepting and implementing the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission (FFC)

The government has many more reform initiatives in the works. Unfortunately, several of them – like the constitutional amendment bill to implement the goods and services tax (GST) – have been derailed due to the politics of obstructionism practiced by the Congress. But we will not be, as PM Modi has often stated, disheartened and will continue to press ahead with our initiatives – especially since the ones already implemented have already begun delivering tangible results.

- There has been an increase in the production of electricity, coal, urea and ethanol.
- Economic growth has begun to revive and this year, the Indian economy is projected to grow at 7.8%, the fastest for any country in the world.
- Retail inflation has been brought down from over 8% to around 5%, enabling the Reserve Bank of India to cut rates and bringing down the EMI (equated monthly instalment) burden of consumers and lower the cost of borrowing for Indian business.
- The government has removed bottlenecks and facilitated restarting of stalled projects; their

share has fallen from 8.3% in 2013-14 to 6.9% in 2014-15.

- The government restored fiscal balance, resulting in global rating agencies such as Moody's recalibrating India's sovereign rating classification from stable to positive.
- The country's foreign currency reserves have shown a sharp increase.
- The global competitive index put out by the World Economic Forum shows that in the last financial year India has moved up 16 spots to 55th in the world.
- The government's plan for financial inclusion has resulted in 218.1 million unbanked people joining the banking network. And I am proud to share that the balance in these accounts is Rs.37,616.58 crore; it shows the big heart of our poor brothers and sisters—it should serve to inspire all of us to contribute to nation building.
- We have revived the moribund roads sector and the country is building 18km of roads a day; our government has effected a sharp increase in investments in railways, even as we are seeing an increase in traffic in our ports as business revives.
- The government is cleaning up the public

distribution system to ensure better targeting of social benefits to the people. One good example of this is Pahal, visualized by PM Modi and implemented by petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan, wherein the cooking gas subsidy is transferred directly to the consumer; it has eliminated leakages, saving Rs.14,672 crore to the government in 2015-16. The Pahal experience will go long way in weeding out the corruption in benefit delivery to the poor.

- Our government has been able to increase domestic LPG connections; we are now delivering this green fuel to even poor households under the Ujjwala scheme.
- One singular achievement of our government has been its ability to tackle corruption. Till PM Modi assumed the job, India was wedded to the idea of an exception-based regime which only encouraged corruption and crony capitalism and worse, denied merit.

NDA has achieved all of this by creating transparent systems which are slowly transitioning the country to a transparent, rules-based regime. The best example is the idea of coal and spectrum auctions proposed by PM Modi. The discretionary allocation of coal blocks was

the cause of a major scandal during the UPA regime, which required the intervention of the courts. Our government initiated coal auctions, leading to the elimination of government discretion and also resulting in substantial gains to the national exchequer.

Similarly, the Modi government has refocused public policy to the hitherto ignored rural India. This year's budget was mostly focused on addressing their problems, which have been worsened by two back-to-back droughts. Besides stepping up spending for this sector, our government has also undertaken a structural overhaul of Indian agriculture—bringing in a crop insurance scheme which would protect our farmers against any unanticipated risks—with the intent of substantially improving the income of our farmers; it will also stimulate rural demand, which in turn should benefit Indian industry.

At the same time, the Modi government has worked hard to create an enabling environment to revive business and encourage entrepreneurship. The Make in India campaign is encouraging foreign companies to invest in India, creating more opportunity for Indian business to grow.

Considering the limited employment opportunity in government, NDA has worked to encourage



entrepreneurship among the middle- and lower-income classes. This has been achieved by extending loans under Mudra. Similarly, the NDA has focused on public policy for the encouragement of women and Dalit entrepreneurs under the Stand Up India initiative.

When the Modi government took charge two years ago, it inherited empty coffers, limiting its ability to generate resources to fund the pro-poor programmes we are committed to. Not surprisingly, it focused on mending the economy and in reviving economic growth to generate the desired resources to fund social programmes. The driving ideology of the Modi government has been one of "pro poor and pro business".

Unlike the previous government, we don't pay lip service to our commitment to the economically disenfranchised in our great country.

From the beginning we have walked the talk and delivered, despite attempts by our political opponents, led by Congress, to distract us. The verdict in the just-concluded assembly elections reaffirms the people's faith in the Modi government and its rejection of the politics of obstructionism pursued by the Congress. ■

## Wi-Fi services at three more Railway stations inaugurated

The Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu inaugurated on May 20 the High Speed Wi-Fi services at Patna (Bihar), Ranchi (Jharkhand) & Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) Railway Stations through Video Conferencing from Rail Bhawan, New Delhi for the commuters at these Railway Stations. The Wi-Fi facility for the visitors & rail users at these stations has been commissioned by RailTel in association with Google for providing high speed state of the art world class internet experience to the commuters. Chairman, Railway Board Shri A.K. Mital, Member Engineering Shri V.K. Gupta, M.D. RailTel Shri R.K. Bahuguna, and other board Members were present at Rail Bhawan to grace the



occasion. Various dignitaries were also presented at the respective above mentioned Railway Stations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu said that as the India is heading towards digitalization, Internet has become the basic need of every individual for which they are entitled to. He said that to bring the railway stations to world standard and to keep pace with the latest technology, provision of high speed WiFi is the first step in this direction. He said that so far this facility has been provided at 19 Railway Stations which will be extended to 100 Railway Station in the coming one year. He said that after completion of this project of providing WiFi facility at all 400 stations, it would be the biggest WiFi service in the world. He said that Indian Railways have been taking lot of measures to improve the facilities for the railway users and the coming time will also bring lot of new facilities which will make the railway passengers feel proud. ■

# Integral Humanism Revisited

✍ P. Parameswaran

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

The situation resembles one that prevailed at the beginning of the British colonial rule over India. The context was one of contact and confrontation between two radically different civilizations, India representing the oldest surviving civilization of the East and the British representing the comparatively new Western civilization. Even though the imperialists came under the garb of traders, their real motive was to establish an empire and exploit its rich resources to enrich themselves. Along with the East India Company came the Christian Missionary also. Each supporting the other; the company establishing trading centers first and their rule subsequently while the missionaries 'harvested the souls' of Hindus by converting them to Christianity. To serve both the purposes they started educational institutions to win over the minds of the people. As education spread and conversion increased, Hindus began to realize the gravity of the situation and started reacting. There were three kinds of reactions or responses. The immediate beneficiaries of the British rule who were taken into

the Establishment got enamored of the white man's culture and considered it superior to their own. They became "White Sahibs" and became their native ambassadors. There were others who saw a mortal threat to the indigenous civilization and strongly reacted by adopting the policy of total rejection of the western system, lock, stock and barrel. In the mean while, another section grew up who got educated in the western system but were not totally taken in. They were proud of the ancestral heritage. By evaluating the situation they came to the conclusion that the approaches, outright rejection or total acceptance, were neither good nor practicable. They became the exponents of a middle path of standing firmly rooted in the culture of the soil, accept and adopt whatever is good and desirable from the new and alien civilization. Present situation resembles more or less a similar scenario. Globalization is the order of the day. Its impact all over the world is terrific. India is no exception. But unlike other countries, India is continental in size, gigantic in population and incomparably strong in its cultural and civilizational

wealth. How a country like India is going to deal with the challenge of globalization is crucial not only to India but to every other country. So it is the onerous duty of the Indian leadership to seriously think over the situation and play its leading and decisive role for the benefit of the entire humanity.

One of the crucial factors to be taken into account in the present global context is the role of technology. Technology, though, apparently only a tool to make use of its impact, is so powerful that it can totally change the very texture of a culture on a civilization. Technology is knowledge, it is power, it is wealth, and in short it signifies what is meant by the word development. The whole world is after development, mostly in terms of economic development. Those who possess the latest technology are the most powerful. It exerts unparalleled influence over the minds of leaders and rulers in all the countries of the world whether developed, developing or underdeveloped. There is a mad rush for acquiring the latest technology, but technology does not come alone, it brings a whole world of complicated

relationships, cultural, political, educational and what not. As a matter of fact, one of the root causes of the present civilizational clash is technological superiority or inferiority. Along with other countries of the world, India is naturally in the competitive market of the technological trade along with all the baggage it brings in. India needs development but in her context development cannot be thought as separated from the ancient age-old cultural heritage, values and systems.

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

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

There are certain considerations which have to be born in mind in this context. Cultures are organic systems and have their own law of "being and becoming". They are qualitatively different from machines. While dealing with machines you can borrow from other machines and fit in to your own without injuring the functioning. But in organic system such borrow and fit

approach will not work. It will destroy the system itself. So a mechanical approach will not do in this case. It is here that the danger in inter-cultural contact lies, particularly if one of the two is aggressive and dominating and the other submissive and tolerant. In the present global situation where the western paradigm is still the dominant one and India, though emerging in to lime light, is still at the receiving end. There is every danger of India becoming a borrower and a debtor thereby forgoing her ability and capacity to be an equal partner, much less an independent and equal contestant.

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

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

When we look at the entire world scene, along with our national predicaments and the

chances ahead, Shri Aurobindo's guidelines will be highly useful.

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

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

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

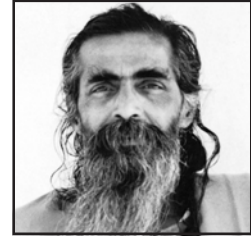
To continue...



Shat-Shat Naman!

## **Guruji Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar**

**(19 February 1906 – 5 June 1973)**



**S**hri Guruji, the second Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), was born on 19 February 1906. 'Guruji' was not his original name. This name was used out of regard, by his students in Banaras Hindu University where he taught. He is better known by this name even today throughout the Sangh and the nation. His name was Madhav Sadashivrao Golwalkar. His father's name was Sadashivrao and his mother was Lakshmibai. They lived in Nagpur.

From August 1931, Madhavrao began teaching at Banaras Hindu University. During this period, many of his hidden talents came to light. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya noticed his talent as well as his deep affection for the students, and grew fond of him. It was through a Swayamsevak from Nagpur, Shri Bhaiyyaji Dani, who was sent there as a student by Doctorji, (Dr. Hedgewar, the founder of RSS) that Shri Guruji came into contact with the Sangh. He also became the Palak (guardian) of that Shakha. Meanwhile, having seen Shri Guruji from closer quarters, Doctorji tried to maintain contact with him. Recognizing his extraordinary working capacity and intellectual talents, he started

delegating greater responsibilities to him. In 1934, Shri Guruji ably discharged the duties of Sarvadhikari (officer-in-charge) of Sangh Shiksha Varga (Officer's training camp) in Akola.

In Nagpur, Shri Guruji's, life took an altogether new turn. In Doctorji, he saw a personality intensely motivated and dedicated to the nation. Shri Guruji was also closely observing Doctorji, who had put his heart and soul into this work. From 1938 onwards, Shri Guruji identified the work of Sangh as the sole mission of his life. In the close company of Doctorji, he focussed his entire attention on the activities of Sangh. This also relieved Doctorji of his worries.

Under Sri Guruji's inspiring, fearless and indomitable leadership, RSS grew by leaps and bounds. In town after town, the Sangh Pracharak would arrive with a few letters of introduction to local leaders, whether belonging to Congress, Hindu Mahasabha, Arya Samaj or whatever. He would put up himself in the local bhavan of any of these organizations or in a temple or with any well-wisher. His job, often as teacher, would bring him in touch with many

students and teachers. Any existing local Hindu volunteer organization would promptly merge with the new RSS shakha. With help from local well-wishers and guidance from his seniors in the RSS, the shakha would grow into a social magnet, attracting promising young men and local VIPs alike, regardless of their cast, class or sect. Soon it would be the strongest organization in town.

Before long it would produce energetic young men to carry the message of Sangh to other towns and even villages. At a time when RSS was growing like wildfire, Sri Guruji said: "if I were to spend just one day in each shakha, even a life-time would not suffice to cover the whole country". In 1973 in Nagpur he participated in the evening Sangh Prarthana on 5th June and there after breathed his last at around 09.00 PM. For 33 years he toured the country, guided swayamsevaks, met dignitaries, social and religious leaders, politicians, thinkers old and young and wrote thousands of letters giving guidance in varied fields of life. We pay our tribute to Guruji on his punyatithi. ■

# The election results 2016

By Arun Jaitley

**T**he results of the five State Assemblies which went to poll in the last two months are on expected lines.

The most important political analysis emerging from the results is a significant setback to the Congress party. It lost both the States of Kerala and Assam. In Kerala, it lost because its government was mired in corruption scams. In Assam, its traditional policy of encouraging illegal immigration as a source of vote bank invited a popular wrath.

The strategic alliance between the BJP, AGP and the BPF highlighted this historical blunder of the Congress. In Tamil Nadu, it was a laggard in the DMK-Congress alliance. Its poor strike rate pulled the DMK alliance down. In West Bengal, the alliance with the Left was an ideological compromise.

It proved counter-productive. Post 2014 General Elections, the Congress has increasingly adopted fringe positions. It didn't behave as a natural party of governance. Its obstructionism was blended with its leader's "rent a cause" approach. The Congress is, today, threatened with being pushed increasingly to the margins. Will it be the main challenger

**The Congress is, today, threatened with being pushed increasingly to the margins. Will it be the main challenger to the BJP led NDA in 2019, or will it stand behind a hotchpotch combination of ideologically disparate regional groups? What is the nature of 'surgery' the party leaders are now talking about? Will the Congress evolve into a structured party with a galaxy of leaders or will it remain a dynastic party?**

to the BJP led NDA in 2019, or will it stand behind a hotchpotch combination of ideologically disparate regional groups? What is the nature of 'surgery' the party leaders are now talking about? Will the Congress evolve into a structured party with a galaxy of leaders or will it remain a dynastic party?

For the BJP, this election marks a significant geographical expansion. There were not many takers in 2008 for the idea that BJP can form its own government in Karnataka. Karnataka was then seen as a gateway to the South. We are now on a comeback trail in Karnataka. We have since, a coalition government in Andhra

Pradesh and are increasingly pushing the politics of Kerala to a tri-polar position. We are unquestionably the largest party in Bihar. In our Eastward movement, we will now form a government with a comfortable majority in Assam. We are already a part of the two coalition governments in the North East and have made a sizeable seat and vote presence in West Bengal. We seek to work in cooperation with the Governments of the regional parties.

The Left has ideologically become irrelevant globally. The political and economic models that they espoused have been widely rejected. In India, it is their battle for an ideological survival. Their victory in Kerala is the result of an unpopular government losing an election and an opponent winning by default. Their marginalization in West Bengal, a State they ruled for 34 years, is significant. Extreme positions espoused by a few in the Universities of Jadhavpur and JNU cannot be a mainstream agenda of India.

For us in the Central Government it will be an opportunity to work closely with all the five elected State Governments for the larger welfare of the people.

*(The writer is Union Minister of Finance and I&B)*

# The charge of the BJP brigade

**M. Venkaiah Naidu**

**A**s the BJP has expanded its footprint to pan-India scale, from Kerala to Assam, alarm bells are ringing not only in the Congress, which has virtually been reduced to a regional party, but other regional parties too over the existential dilemma they will face in the 2019 election

The ongoing speculation on the likelihood of a new political front in the wake of the spectacular showing by the Bharatiya Janata Party in Assam and improvement in its vote share in other States, clearly indicate that alarm bells have started ringing not only in the Congress, but other regional parties too over the existential dilemma they are likely to face in the 2019 election.

By scoring a landslide victory along with its allies in Assam, the gateway to the North-East, and significantly increasing its vote-share in Kerala, the BJP has scripted a new milestone in the country's political landscape. It also showed that despite the negative politics indulged in by its political rivals against the BJP, people are sagacious enough to separate wheat from chaff.

The attention-grabbing victory in Assam is not a simplistic outcome of anti-incumbency due to the 15-

year misrule of the Congress. It would be naïve to pin down the success to a single reason. Its seeds were sown many years ago. Thanks to the relentless hard work of committed cadre of the BJP, the electoral strategy chalked out by party president Amit Shah and the people-centric policies of Prime Minister

unequivocally repudiated the false theory propagated by the BJP's detractors that the party is anti-minority. The BJP is a nationalistic organisation, which never believed in discriminating among the people in terms of 'minority' and 'majority', and has always believed that every citizen of India has equal rights as

**By scoring a landslide victory along with its allies in Assam, the gateway to the North-East, and significantly increasing its vote-share in Kerala, the BJP has scripted a new milestone in the country's political landscape. It also showed that despite the negative politics indulged in by its political rivals against the BJP, people are sagacious enough to separate wheat from chaff.**

Narendra Modi, the lotus has bloomed in the pivotal north-eastern State.

Of course, the youthful Sarbananda Sonowal and Himanta Biswa Sarma played a stellar role in steering the party to a resounding victory.

It would be relevant to note that, while the total tally of the alliance is 86, the BJP's score has rocketed from five in 2011 to 60 seats now. Its electoral partners – Asom Gana Parishad's went up from 10 to 14 and that of Bodo People's Front remained more or less constant at 12 – also did well. These numbers put in perspective the remarkable success achieved by the BJP.

The Assam result has also

enshrined in the Constitution. With Muslims comprising 34 per cent of the population in Assam, BJP candidates have won in several Muslim-dominated constituencies, clearly vindicating the party's stand – that people want development and better living conditions and are not interested in the politics of appeasement.

The electoral alliance stitched by the Left Front and the Congress in West Bengal failed to carry conviction or credibility with the people, who obviously saw it as a self-serving, opportunistic tie-up to grab power. The communists and the Congressmen have apparently

failed to read the minds of the voters and thought that a Bihar-type experiment would yield rich dividends.

The foes-in-Kerala-and-friends-in-West Bengal strategy not only showed the moral bankruptcy of the communists and the Congress, but also their desperation to come to power by hook or crook. But the voter, who smartly outwitted them and

of the BJP and its allies went up to 14.4 per cent in Kerala, while there was a marginal increase in Tamil Nadu from 2.2 to 2.8 per cent. However, the party's nominees were in second place in four seats and in third place in 30 constituencies, pushing the People's Welfare Front led by Vijayakanth to fourth place.

As the BJP expanded its footprint to pan-India scale

nationalistic party.

All the talk of cobbling up a disparate group of parties to form a new front shows the anxiety in the Opposition ranks over the electoral success of the BJP, which is conquering new territories under the inspiring leadership of Modi and the savvy strategy of Shah.

Though it would be premature to comment the 2019 election, I am sure that any attempt to bring together different parties with the sole aim of defeating the BJP would end in failure like all such previous experiments.

It should also be remembered that no other leader in the country has the pan-India appeal or charisma of Prime Minister Modi, who, the people have realised, does not believe in mere slogans but in delivering on promises to significantly transform their lives.

Jan Dhan, free LPG connections to the poor and Mudra Bank are a few examples of how the schemes of the NDA Government are making a difference and lighting up the lives of millions of people across the country.

As more and more success stories of the common man emerge from across the country, the march of the BJP would be unstoppable, irrespective of the formation of a front or a coalition. ■

*(The writer is Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Parliamentary Affairs)*

**The Congress, which was dominating the national political discourse, has become totally marginalised even as the BJP has taken the centre-stage. It should be noted that while the BJP is ruling across 45 per cent of the geographical area and 35 per cent of population, the Congress is ruling over a mere six per cent of the population as it lost all the important States.**

rejected their marriage of convenience, had the last laugh.

As mentioned earlier, one of the biggest takeaways for the BJP and an eye-opener for others is the support extended to the party by minorities in Assam. By getting 10.2 per cent vote share in the recently concluded election in West Bengal, the party bagged three seats and made its presence felt in several other constituencies across the length and breadth of West Bengal, holding out the hope of a rosy future.

In Kerala, the BJP created history by making its debut, with party veteran O Rajagopal winning the Nemom Assembly constituency. The vote share

from Kerala to Assam, the Congress has been virtually reduced to a regional party. The Congress, which was dominating the national political discourse, has become totally marginalised even as the BJP has taken the centre-stage. It should be noted that while the BJP is ruling across 45 per cent of the geographical area and 35 per cent of population, the Congress is ruling over a mere six per cent of the population as it lost all the important States.

Victories in Andaman, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Kanyakumari and Jammu & Kashmir shows that the BJP has acquired pan-India status and is truly a national party. It was always recognised as a



# India's Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD), Successfully Flight Tested

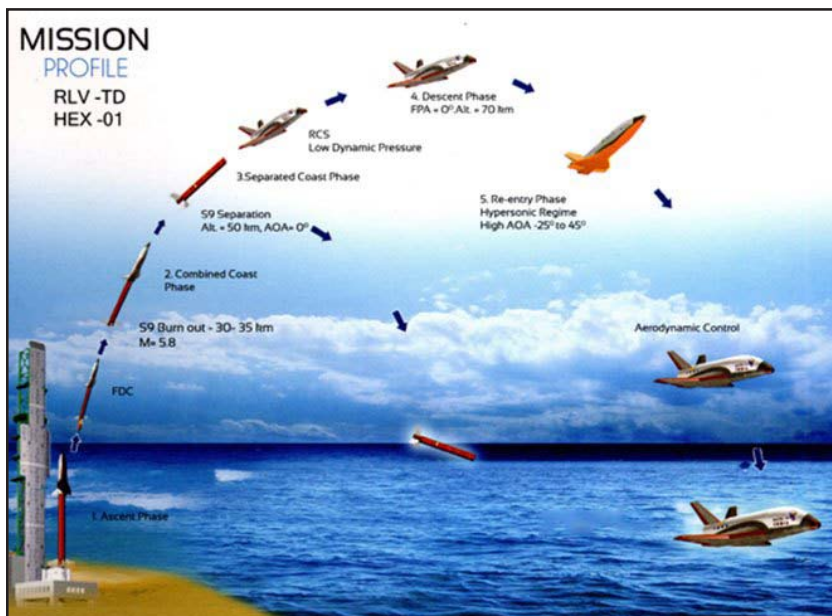
**I**SRO successfully flight tested India's first winged body aerospace vehicle operating in hypersonic flight regime on May 23.

In this experimental mission, the HS9 solid rocket booster carrying RLV-TD lifted off from the First Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan

around Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound). The vehicle's Navigation, Guidance and Control system accurately steered the vehicle during this phase for safe descent. After successfully surviving a high temperatures of re-entry with the help of its Thermal Protection System (TPS),

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the ISRO scientists, on the launch of India's first indigenous space shuttle RLV-TD.

"Launch of India's first indigenous space shuttle RLV-TD is the result of the industrious efforts of our scientists. Congrats to them. The dynamism and dedication with which our scientists and ISRO have worked over the years is exceptional and very inspiring", the Prime Minister said.



Space Centre, Sriharikota at 07:00 hr IST. After a successful flight of 91.1 second, HS9 burn out occurred, following which both HS9 and RLV-TD mounted on its top coasted to a height of about 56 km. At that height, RLV-TD separated from HS9 booster and further ascended to a height of about 65 km.

From that peak altitude of 65 km, RLV-TD began its descent followed by atmospheric re-entry at

RLV-TD successfully glided down to the defined landing spot over Bay of Bengal, at a distance of about 450 km from Sriharikota, thereby fulfilling its mission objectives. The vehicle was successfully tracked during its flight from ground stations at Sriharikota and a shipborne terminal. Total flight duration from launch to landing of this mission of the delta winged RLV-TD, lasted for about 770 seconds.

In this flight, critical technologies such as autonomous navigation, guidance & control, reusable thermal protection system and re-entry mission management have been successfully validated.

ISRO acknowledges the support of Indian Coast Guard and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) for the mid-sea wind measurement and shipborne telemetry respectively in this mission. ■

# Historic deal with Iran to develop the Chabahar port signed

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's two-day (May 22 & 23) visit to Iran has left far reaching impact on India's relations especially economic and

Agreement among Iran India and Afghanistan was also signed during the visit. At trilateral agreement Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani was present. The

interaction between our defence and security institutions on regional and maritime security.

Foreign policy experts give much more importance



strategic with central Asia. It was first visit by any Indian Prime Minister in last 15 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani signed 12 agreements. The most important agreement took place between the leaders is India's investment of \$500 million into developing Iran's Chabahar port, considered an important port leading to Afghanistan and onward to Central Asia. A trilateral Transport and Transit

trilateral agreement opens new routes for India, Iran and Afghanistan to connect among themselves. India and Iran also share a crucial stake in peace, stability and prosperity of the region. They also shared concerns at the spread of forces of instability, radicalism and terror in our region.

They agreed to consult closely and regularly on combating threats of terrorism, radicalism, drug trafficking and cyber crime. They also agreed to enhance

to Chabahar project deal. They consider it more than commercial deal.

The world renowned magazine 'Time' writes "Chabahar is located near the Iran-Pakistan border, and is a little over 60 miles from the Pakistani port of Gwadar that is being developed by the Chinese. The proposed transit route through Iran and Afghanistan also appears to be a response to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) announced last year." (FOC) ■

# Comrade Sitaram Yechury's historic blunder

By M J Akbar

**C**PI went into terminal decline when it compromised with the Congress in 1969-1970. In 2016, CPM is being destroyed because it abandoned principle in search of a cheap return ticket to power.

Marxists like to believe that they read, and therefore understand, history. Perhaps. But the jury is still out on whether they learn anything from the past. The historical amnesia of Comrade Sitaram Yechury, now head honcho of

the reds. Such was the CPI's enchantment with Mrs Gandhi that it even supported the Emergency, justifying dictatorship, censorship and the imprisonment of every Opposition leader with phrases left over from half-clever argument. The party withered into irrelevance.

Conversely, the CPI(M), led by Jyoti Basu, Promode Dasgupta and E.M.S. Namboodiripad pursued a vigorous anti-Congress line, including during

of stature who single-handedly postponed the Congress ebb by two decades. Sitaram Yechury cut a deal with Rahul Gandhi. Little remains to be said. It took the CPI more than a decade to collapse. The CPI(M) has managed to do that in three months.

Important CPI(M) leaders realised that a huge mistake had been committed, although they kept their views private. Tripura's quiet and impressive chief minister Manik Sarkar refused to campaign for this unwise alliance in Bengal. But even he probably never realised that the cost would be so high.

Voters, of course, did not buy this deal, or the silly explanations that were put out to camouflage it – for instance, that this was an arrangement rather than an alliance, or that it had been propelled by grassroots demand. The grass showed how rooted it was to principle. The bigger story is that Marxist cadres rejected this compromise of everything they had stood for, of legacy and commitment, and displayed their indifference on polling day.

What astounds me is not that the CPI(M) leaders were blissfully unaware of what voters thought, but they had no clue about what their cadres wanted. This is evidence of how far the present leadership has moved from its own members. This would have been utterly unbelievable in the time of Jyoti Basu. Yechury and his ilk have never fought an election, unlike Jyoti Basu, who never lost one.

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the CPI(M), has turned Bengal from a red fortress into a red graveyard. His party was born in 1964, when it split from the parent CPI. Three years later, the CPI(M) faced its first electoral test in Bengal, and won 43 assembly seats. Today, it has been reduced to 26. This number would have been lower if a few of their candidates had not scraped through. The CPI went into terminal decline the moment it compromised with the Congress in 1969-1970. CPI veterans like S.A. Dange were persuaded by Delhi's fashionable leftist fellow-travellers that the Congress under Mrs Indira Gandhi had become a faintly pink version of

the Emergency. The reward was spectacular in Bengal, where the CPI(M) surprised even itself by winning a stunning victory in the 1977 assembly elections. From 1977 till 2011 the party was impregnable in the state, peaking in 2006 – just before its first fall.

In 2011, the CPI(M) was defeated by the laws of incumbency that can afflict any political organisation. In 2016, it has been destroyed because it betrayed its own ideology, and abandoned principle in search of a cheap return ticket to power. At least Comrade Dange and his colleagues like Hiren Mukherjee and Indrajit Gupta compromised with Mrs Indira Gandhi, a leader

Simplistic theories, which would have been laughed out of the Politburo by an earlier generation, got traction in 2016.

The silliest of them was apparently the most persuasive. Someone put out a "Theory of Numbers". The argument went that elections are nothing but arithmetic. If you add the CPI(M)'s vote in 2011 to the Congress support, then the sum is larger than Mamata Banerjee's vote. Presto! Triumph! I have no idea what the CPI(M) leaders have been imbibing, but this arithmetic became conviction with candidates. Until the exit polls brought the first troubled look on their faces, they were strutting about planning what they would do after they won – and these plans were not good news for the health of Mamata Banerjee's or the BJP's supporters. The incredible arrogance of 2011, when they refused to believe they could lose, was back.

That Rahul Gandhi should have promoted such malarkey is not surprising. What beggars belief is that the top echelons of a serious and apparently politically literate party should fall for this fallacy. Elections are not about arithmetic alone; they include algebra. There is always an "X" factor which captures the electorate's imagination and turns the tide in one direction or the other. Numbers follow the tide; the tide does not follow numbers.

There is a second element that challenges such facile assumptions. The Congress is not what it was. Today it has become toxic. Proven corruption has stained the reputation of its

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top leaders beyond recognition. The dynasty in charge, having already outlived its utility, has been accused directly of feeding from this corruption. Did the CPI(M) think that Bengal's voters would be outraged by the sight of some Trinamool leaders taking cash for election expenses, but ignore the names of Congress leaders in the AgustaWestland helicopter scandal? Don't people know the difference between a pickpocket and a dacoit?

The Congress was a toxic ally in Tamil Nadu as well. It won only eight seats out of 41 whereas the DMK took half the seats it contested. In effect, the DMK handed over 33 seats to Jayalalithaa on easy terms. In Kerala, the Indian Union Muslim League, which is well organised, held on to much of its territory but the Congress effect cost it a few seats. It is also absurd to believe that the presence of the Congress insures the Muslim vote. Thirty-four per cent of Assam's electorate is Muslim. And while we must await details for deeper analysis, a cursory

look indicates that it is impossible for the BJP to win as many seats as it did without getting a good percentage of the Muslim vote. Yes, rhetoric and allegation play their part in electoral persuasion, but why should a good section of Muslims not feel angry about corruption, or economic stagnation, or inefficient governance?

In Bengal, the Muslims stayed with Mamata Banerjee because she offered the rice and roads that they wanted, which is a rational decision. Her victory will confirm her party as the establishment for the foreseeable future. It is the opposition space that will be in contest in the coming three to five years. With the Congress in a daze, and Marxists in a wreck, that opposition space could be increasingly occupied by the BJP.

Every leadership puts up a brave, or at least stoic, face after defeat, so there are no instant reactions. But that does not mean that there will be no reaction at all. Marxists will analyse, even if it is the last thing they do. The Left vote has halved to 19.7 per cent; you would have got very long odds from any bookie for such an eventuality. If our comrades shout murder, they will be only marginally correct. The fact is that their demise in Bengal is mainly suicide. Mamata Banerjee merely let them bleed to death.

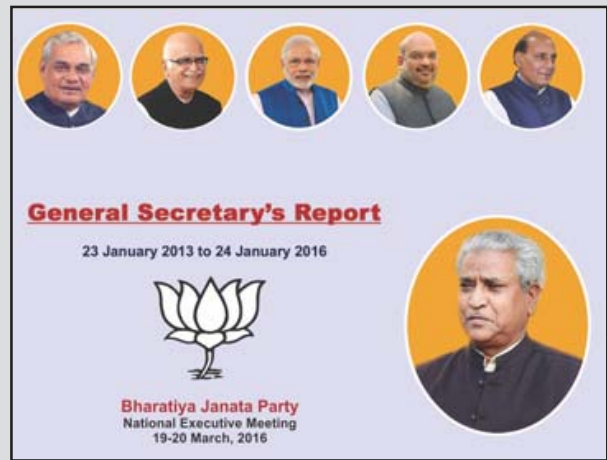
If Bengal's communist movement matured in the coffee shop and adda sessions of Calcutta's College Street, then it has been fatally wounded by the leftists of Delhi's cafe society. ■

*(The writer is BJP National Spokesperson)*



## 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:*



### OTHER PROMINENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Laid foundation of a world class institution on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.
- Constituted a commission for nomadic tribes.
- A historic Nagaland Agreement signed (with NSCN)
- Within hours of a devastating earthquake in Nepal on April 25, 2015 'Operation Friendship' launched and made relief and rescue material reach the affected areas and families.
- Brought an end to a border dispute with Bangladesh which was lingering on for the last 40 years and entered into a historic agreement.
- Gave a befitting response to Pakistan on border.
- Successfully conducted a peaceful operation to rescue Indian nurses stranded in Iraq, 4741 Indian citizens from Libya and Yemen and 1947 citizens of other 48 countries.
- Effective steps taken to repeal 892 old laws.
- A Rs. 2000 crore programme launched to provide harmless fuel by giving free LPG connections to poor. A unique step towards women empowerment and their health security.
- In the Rail budget launched Antodya Express by attaching Deendayal passenger compartments.
- Rs. one hundred crore each provided for celebration of Birth Centenary of Pandit Deendayalji Upadhyaya and 300th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Gobind Singhji.
- Special emphasis has been laid on agriculture and rural areas in the current budget. Historic increase has been made in schemes benefitting village, poor, farmer and labour in the budget allocation for the next financial year. After independence it is for the first time that greatest increase has been made in the budget proposals for these sectors.
- Economy effected in consumption by introducing neem-coated urea, land welfare boosted and an end to black

market in urea ushered in.

- By introducing "Empowered Farmer, Prosperous Farmer", "When Village progresses, country progresses", "irrigation to every field" (Per Drop, More Crop), Deendayal Village Electrification schemes, 100 percent electrification of villages will be achieved by May 2018.
- Demand for One Rank, One Pension pending for decades was accepted and arrears released.
- Sanction granted for the construction of a National War Memorial.
- Complete ban on cow slaughter has been introduced in many States.

**DISASTER RELIEF :** Government and the organization have extended instant relief in any type of disaster in the country and abroad. Party actively participated in extending relief during fierce floods in Assam, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

In BJP ruled States many public welfare schemes are being implemented. A positive change for the better because of the success of these efforts is now getting manifest in many States. Many States have recorded special increase in the income of poor, in rate of agricultural development, in female child birth rate, in health , water resource development etc.

During the last one year on the organizational front BJP has emerged as the world's largest political party. The BJP-led NDA has emerged as a decisive, credible, corruption-free administration with a clear-cut direction and goal. This image has made the country proud in the comity of nations.

#### **ORGANISATIONAL ELECTIONS**

- It was the year of election. Elections at the State and national level were completed. On January 24, 2016 Shri Amit Shah was unanimously elected the National President of the Party.
- So far organizational elections have successfully been completed in 21 States.

#### **PROGRAMME AT EVERY BOOTH**

Now three programmes as per the national plan of the party and three programmes as per

the State plan shall be conducted every year in every booth. The outlines will be declared in the meeting of the Executive.

#### **COORDINATION**

- Meeting for co-ordination between the Central and the State Unit at the Central level.
- For co-ordination between government and the organization a meeting by the Prime Minister with General Secretaries and office-bearers of the Party.
- Occasionally meetings with the party and like-minded political and social organizations were held. This created a healthy atmosphere.

PM's Foreign visits have strengthened foreign policy

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's foreign policy initiatives have resulted significant gains in last 20 months. His "Act East" policy has witnessed enhanced engagement with countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, South Korea, Japan, Fiji and other island countries and Australia. Japan has now become a very important partner in our infrastructure development plans. Energy security is another important aspect of foreign policy of BJP government. Closer ties with oil rich countries in Middle East, resolution of outstanding commercial disputes, supply agreements for nuclear fuel with Canada and Australia, investments in nuclear energy are some of the steps in this direction. Regular meetings of Indian and Chinese leaders have enhanced bilateral relations. India's relations with developed Western countries like USA, UK, Germany and France have attained new heights and we are now having closed cooperation on issues of terrorism, India's security concerns etc. All these countries are also actively engaged in our initiatives like "Make In India", "Digital India", "Start-up India".

Engagement with global business leaders is also one of the important aspects of Prime Minister's foreign visits. India's participation as a partner country (along with Germany) at Hannover Messe and "Digital India" conclave at Silicon Valley, USA, are two prime examples.

Third and equally important aspect is engagement with Indian Diaspora. Since he has become PM, Shri Modiji has addressed major community events in several countries such as USA, Australia, Canada, China, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, UK, Mauritius etc. In UK, unprecedented crowd of 60000 people turned up in bitter cold at historic Wembley Stadium to listen to our PM. Not only NRIs of all the religions, regions, languages turned up in large numbers in these events, but the involvement of local politicians, policy makers, business leaders too was very impressive. In Canada and UK, the Prime Ministers of those respective countries addressed these Diaspora events, while in US, Canada and UK, large number of political leaders including state premiers, Congressmen, members of parliament were present in these events.

#### PUBLICATION

The meetings of the editors of all the party journals were held twice at the national level in New Delhi. In these meetings National President Shri Amit Shah and National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal were present. New workplan was prepared for the publications of entire country. The party journal Kamal Sandesh is being published fortnightly in Hindi and English regularly with a circulation of 47,000 copies. In 18 states, state level journals are continuously published in various languages with combined circulation

of around 450000 copies. In the national council meeting held in Delhi Kamal Sandesh special issue 'Yuva Bharat' was released by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and National President Shri Amit Shah. On the punyatithi of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya the book 'Yuvaon ke Deendayal' was lunched on 11 February 2016. A huge work is going on for ideological enrichment.

#### IT, Website and Social Media Management Department

Apart from facilitating communication between the largest political membership base in the world of around 11 crore people and the party leadership, it also conducted engagement and expansion drives like membership/volunteers' programs and digital campaigns for state and local body elections. After the formation of the BJP led NDA government at the centre in 2014, it also engages in research work related to governance schemes, programs and achievements and communicates them to the public. The national IT department team now professionally manages all digital operations of the party on a day to day basis that includes maintaining official social media pages and handles, an internet TV named Yuva TV to stream party programs, website, content creation and dissemination to volunteers and members.

*To continue...*

#### 250 manual scavengers and their family members empowered for self employment

Under the ambitious scheme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their family members, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment distributed course completion certificates, Driving Licenses and Employment Letters to the 250 successful trainees here today. Training was given in various trades under self employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers. Most of the Commercial Motor Driving Trainees have been employed by various online cab services and NGOs. Financial Assistance for purchase of commercial vehicles has also been arranged in collaboration with Delhi SC, ST, OBC, Minorities, Physically Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (DSFDC). Shri Gehlot also distributed loan sanction letters to the beneficiaries for E-rickshaw which have been financed through DSFDC. He said that his Ministry has trained 200 women for commercial motor driving skills along with self defense in Delhi alone. This unique initiative will meet the objective of social & economic empowerment of women by creating job/self employment opportunities for them. The Minister also said that the self defense skills taught to the trainees will not only provide self confidence for the women drivers but also give a sense of security to the women passengers, particularly those who travel in odd hours. ■