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Courtesy: The Hindu



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The wise should not create discord in the intelligence of the foolish who are attached to fruitive actions; being unattached he should perfectly perform all his prescribed activities, keeping them fully engaged — (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 26)

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“India cherishes the friendship with Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, we want to see democracy strike deep roots, people unite & economy prosper.”

-Narendra Modi

“When the Samajwadi Party Government comes, dalit is oppressed & when the BSP comes, dalit is used. Both parties have nothing to do with dalits.”

-Amit Shah

Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya : 22-26 June, 2016

Ambubachi Mela is held every year during the monsoon season, which happens to fall in around the middle of the month of June-July at Kamakhya Temple, in the northeastern state of Assam. Noteworthy, this Shakti Pithas is one of the oldest of the 51 Shakti Pithas in India.

The Ambubachi Mela is the most important festival of the Kamakhya Temple of Guwahati. The Ambubachi Mela is a ritual of Tantrik means. It is believed that the presiding goddess of the temple, Devi Kamakhya, the Mother Adi Shakti, goes through her annual cycle of menstruation during this time stretch.

During the Mela, the doors of the Kamakhya Temple remain closed for three days. It is believed that the Mother Earth becomes unclean for three days. During this time any kind of farming work is not taken on. Daily worships and other religious performances are also stopped during the Ambubachi Mela in Assam. After the completion of three days, the doors of the Kamakhya Temple are reopened. But the doors of the temple are reopened only after Devi Kamakhya is bathed and the other rituals are executed. It is then believed that the Mother Earth has retrieved her purity. This is purely a ritual of the Tantrik cult. On the fourth day, the devotees of the Goddess are allowed to enter the temple for worshipping Devi Kamakhya.

Every year lakhs of pilgrims, Sannyasins, black clad Aghoras, the Khade-babas, the Baul or singing minstrels, Tantriks, Sadhus and Sadhvis and common people from all corners of India, visit Kamakhya during the four day Ambubachi Puja. ■





Nation is set for a huge leap forward!

As BJP led NDA government completes two years in office under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi the nation looks forward with hope and confidence. While the world is reeling under global slowdown, Indian economy has emerged as the only bright spot registering highest growth rate in the world second time in a row. The fiscal deficit is under control and there is remarkable improvement in the 'Ease of Doing Business' environment. As no charges of corruption could be leveled against the government, the impeccable record of governance is studded with large number of brilliant initiatives at various levels. The work culture and use of new technology has further reinforced the faith of the people across the globe in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As all parameters of economy and social indicators are strengthened the status of India in the world has risen significantly. India has been taking a lead role on the issue of terrorism, black money and corruption while bilateral and multilateral trade and businesses have got a boost under various innovative projects of long term implications. India has positioned itself as a leader in almost every sector willing to engage with everyone on firm footing.

The achievements of two years should be seen in the background of the prevailing condition at the time Narendra Modi took oath of office as Prime Minister. The economy was hit by gloomy prospects in almost every field, inflation was uncontrolled with the widening gap of fiscal deficit. The situation was worsened by 'policy paralysis' as the government was unable to act on crucial issues. The daily reports of scams and corruption added to the woes and people lost their faith in the Congress led UPA government. In fact, entire system was questioned and the faith of the people in governance was shaken in the face of reports of loot and plunder of public money. The biggest achievement of the government is the manner in which the faith of the people has been restored in the system within a short span of two years. The damage done by the previous government was too huge but the hard work of Narendra Modi has brought the country out of that gloomy scenario and today the nation is looking forward to bright prospects. No one can deny the fact that today the country has a government which is decisive, which can take bold decisions, which has changed perception about India across the world and which has a leadership which is visionary and replete with political will and energy to act and perform. Now India is set to achieve great targets under a number of forward looking innovative schemes.

It is required that the pro-people programmes of the government should reach the masses. It's for the first time that villages, poor and farmers are on the top priority of the government and deprived and downtrodden sections of the society are given direct benefits. 'Vikas Parva' is being organized to make masses aware of these pro-people and pro-poor programmes. The people are participating in these programmes with full enthusiasm.

It is for the first time that an all embracing social security scheme, financial inclusion campaign under Jan Dhan Yojana and crop insurance scheme for the farmers have been launched which have given unprecedented security to the poorest of the poor in the country. There are reforms being witnessed in every sector with huge improvements in almost every area. The two years of hard work has given the country required momentum and it is time to consolidate the gains. The nation is set for a huge leap forward. ■

Dalits and poor to get free medical treatment : Amit Shah

Blowing the bugle for the 2017 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, BJP national president Shri Amit Shah said the party would win an absolute majority and Dalits will help it form the next government in the state. Accusing the ruling

Mahsammelan organised by BJP's Scheduled Caste Morcha in Lucknow on 4 June, 2016.

"BJP has maximum number of Dalit MPs and MLAs. It has maximum number of Dalit workers. The Prime Minister had said his government was of Dalits,

surgery upto cost of Rs 1 lakh.

Shri Shah also appealed each of Scheduled Caste MPs, MLAs, village pradhans, panchayat members and worker present in the event, to contact at least 100 Dalit persons and apprise them about the works that Modi government has done for benefiting Dalits and poor. Shah said that such exercise was important in view of 2017 Assembly elections.

Shri Shah said that Akhilesh government has not fulfilled the promises it had made in 2012 Assembly polls. "Laptops were given to students of one particular caste and religion. SP benefits one particular caste. BSP



Samajwadi Party of "crushing" the Dalits and opposition BSP of "using Dalits for its own gains", he said only a BJP led government could ensure their empowerment and growth.

"Had BJP not won 73 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2014, it could have not formed a majority government at the Centre. It was due to the Dalit community that the party came to power at the Centre and only Prime Minister Narendra Modi was working for their welfare," Shri Shah said, addressing a Swabhiman

backwards and the poor," he said, adding, "Consider that UP elections have started from today".

Shri Shah said that he would like to ask SP, BSP and Congress what they have done for Dalits. He also highlighted the works that Modi government was doing in the honour of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, which include development of memorials at places associated with the Dalit icon. Shri Shah also said the Central government was going to introduce a scheme in which Dalits and poor will get free medical treatment including medicines and

"BJP has maximum number of Dalit MPs and MLAs. It has maximum number of Dalit workers. The Prime Minister had said his government was of Dalits, backwards and the poor," he said, adding, "Consider that UP elections have started from today".

benefits another. If all the castes have to get laptops, it could be done by BJP only because Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vision of Sabka Saath-Sabka vikas," said Shri Shah.

He said that neither SP nor BSP were serious about development and only BJP led government could provide round-the-clock power supply, health services in villages, quality education and water in farms for irrigation.

Shri Shah said the benefits of various welfare schemes launched by the Centre were not reaching to UP people because "Akhilesh fears that he will lose power if benefit of these schemes reaches masses".

The BJP president said that UP government has yet not selected agency for implementing PM Crop Insurance Scheme even though sowing season has started. Shri Shah also said that Centre had sent Rs 2,700 crore for drought and flood affected farmers but around 80 per cent fund has not been distributed. "Yeh kisano ke paise aman-chaman me udate hain. Saifai me mahotsav karke logo ko gaana gaane ke liye bulaya jata hai," he said, adding Akhilesh has no moral right to continue in power.

He said that many people and journalists asked him after Assam elections win about party's CM candidate in UP. He said that symbol of 'lotus' will be party candidate in all the constituencies. Addressing the party workers, Shri Shah said that booth organization was needed to be strengthened to fight against casteism and communalism of SP and BSP. He said that BJP has 11 crore members, more than 1,000 MLAs, while NDA has more than 350 MPs and was ruling in 15 states. "But, the mission is

incomplete until BJP forms government in UP. If you want development of entire nation and rule of BJP in entire nation, then a BJP-led government with absolute majority is needed in UP," Shri Shah said. He also said that winning UP assembly polls of 2017 was important for winning 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

He said that SP and BSP supported UPA government that has no vision or direction. On the remarks of Opposition parties over PM's foreign visits, he said that Modi has toured lesser number of countries than former PM Manmohan Singh. "But, they have problem because people remained unaware when Manmohan visited foreign nations and read typed speeches.

But, when Modi visits any country, lots of people give him warm welcome. When he is welcomed, it is a welcome for 125 crore people of the country and also of people of UP because he is MP from UP," Shri Shah said. ■

Amit Shah dines with Dalits at Jogiyapur village

In a bid to reach out to all sections of the society in Uttar Pradesh which goes to the polls early 2017, BJP national



president Shri Amit Shah visited Jogiyapur, a Bind-dominated village in Sevapuri Assembly segment in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency, and dined with OBCs and Dalits. Shri Shah's host was Shri Girija Prasad, a Bind, a community which is among the 17 MBCs which has been demanding Scheduled Caste status in U.P. and is electorally considered up for grabs.

Shri Shah made the stopover in Jogiyapur while he was on his way from Varanasi to Allahabad, where he addressed a rally.

Shri Shah was given a warm welcome on his arrival in the village by the party workers and villagers. The BJP president sat on the ground with the family members and shared the meal with them.

Noteworthy, Shri Shah had also taken a dip with Dalit Sadhus in the Kshipra River at Valmiki Ghat during the Ujjain "Simhasth Mahakumbh" in Madhya Pradesh. ■

With one of four MLAs in the country from BJP, party at historic high

Following its recent electoral wins, the BJP now has 1,126 MLAs nationwide to Congress' 881, a historic high and low points for the two parties respectively.

In 2014 for the first time, the BJP outnumbered the grand old party in terms of number of MLAs in all 29 states and 2 Union territories.

By the end of that year, the BJP had 1058 state level representatives while the congress had 949, both of which were historic. BJP had never had more than 1000 MLAs and INC never had less than 1,000 except in 1977 and 1979 elections.

In the recent elections in five states, the Congress lost its government in Assam and Kerala and finished third in Tamil Nadu securing 8 out of 41 contested seats. In West Bengal, the INC-Left alliance lost to the Trinamool Congress by a big margin. The only win came from Puducherry, where it will form government in alliance with DMK.

Although the BJP did not win a seat in Tamil Nadu, it had its first ever victory in Assam and its maiden entry in the Kerala state assembly.

Analysis of all state level representatives shows that BJP MLAs outnumber the Congress

In 2014 for the first time, the BJP outnumbered the grand old party in terms of number of MLAs in all 29 states and 2 Union territories. By the end of that year, the BJP had 1058 state level representatives while the congress had 949, both of which were historic. BJP had never had more than 1000 MLAs and INC never had less than 1,000 except in 1977 and 1979 elections.

in 12 states - Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar. Congress MLAs outnumber the BJP MLAs in ten states - Puducherry, Punjab, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and North Eastern states- except Assam and Tripura.

Eleven out of 31 chief ministers come directly from BJP or through alliance with regional parties, while the Congress has only 6 CMs.

However, the 'Others' remain the key players in the states; 2113 sitting MLAs of all states are affiliated to regional and Left parties which are the dominant force in Bihar, Delhi (NCT), Kerala, Odisha, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. 1276 sitting MLAs in the mentioned state are affiliated to regional parties whereas only 356 belong to the national parties. MLAs of the 'others' in the mentioned states had increased threefold from 415 in 1962 to 1276 in 2016. ■

(Courtesy: The Hindu)

India's economy accelerates in the March quarter of 2015-16 to grow at 7.9% **Government achieves 3.9% fiscal deficit target in 2015-16**

India's economic growth for fiscal year 2016 came in at 7.6%, in line with the official estimate

India's economy accelerated in the March quarter of 2015-16 to grow at 7.9%, buoyed by improved agricultural performance and growth in consumption.

The forecast of a good monsoon, due to make landfall on 7 June, together with the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission's recommendations on hikes for government employees (with sizeable arrears) will only further boost consumption demand in the economy.

Private consumption growth remained robust at 7.4% in 2015-16, though it was marginally revised downward from 7.6% estimated earlier.

Core sector data released by the industry department shows that while electricity generation and cement production picked up significantly, steel output also recovered sharply although it remained marginally in the negative in the fourth quarter.

On May 31, data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed India's economy grew at 7.6% in 2015-16 as estimated earlier, keeping the country the fastest growing major

The Indian economy also officially became a \$2 trillion economy at Tuesday's rupee exchange rate of 67.26 per dollar

economy for the second consecutive year.

The Indian economy also officially became a \$2 trillion economy at Tuesday's rupee exchange rate of 67.26 per dollar (although it has been nudging that number for some time).

While the Economic Survey has projected that the economy will grow within a wide band of 7-7.75% in 2016-17, finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley has expressed hopes of the economy growing over 8% in the year after the India Meteorological Department said the monsoon would be normal.

However, the Survey has cautioned that with the global slowdown likely to persist, chances of India's growth rate in 2016-17 increasing significantly beyond 2015-16 levels are not very high. "The wider range in the forecast this time reflects the range of possibilities for exogenous developments, from a

rebound in agriculture to a full-fledged international crisis; it also reflects uncertainty arising from the divergence between growth in nominal and real aggregates of economic activity," it said.

Government said that it has achieved the fiscal deficit target of 3.9 per cent of GDP in 2015-16.

"Fiscal deficit is 3.9 per cent of GDP or Rs 5.32 lakh crore in 2015-16," the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said while releasing the provisional accounts for the last financial year.

For 2016-17, the government aims to further bring down the fiscal deficit – the gap between expenditure and revenue – to 3.5 per cent.

The CGA further said revenue deficit during the last fiscal was 2.5 per cent of GDP.

As per the provisional data, the fiscal deficit in April was Rs 1.37 lakh crore, which is 25.7 per cent of the Budget estimate as against 23 per cent a year ago.

The fiscal deficit for the whole year is estimated at Rs 5.33 lakh crore.

Total expenditure of the government in April was Rs 1.61 lakh crore, or 8.2 per cent of the full-year estimate. ■

India Jumps 13 Positions to Rank 2nd on Ease of Doing Business : Study

India has jumped 13 positions from 2015 to rank second among 30 developing countries in 2016 on ease of doing business, according to a study topped by China.

According to 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which ranks top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide, a

(FDI) regulations in single-brand retail and this has paved the way for multinational firms to enter the market," Mukherjee said.

India's retail sector has expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8% between 2013 and 2015, with annual sales crossing the \$1 trillion mark, according to AT Kearney, a London-based

complex market for foreign retailers, where understanding dynamics at the state level is important," Mukherjee said.

"Infrastructure bottlenecks including labour laws, complex regulations, high labour attrition rates, and limited high-quality retail space remain areas of concerns for retailers," he said.

India's retail sector has also benefited from the rapid growth in e-commerce.

India is the world's second largest internet market and the increasing internet and smartphone penetration is contributing to the expansion of e-commerce.

As Indian consumers become more comfortable with shopping online, venture capital and private equity firms have boosted investment in the sector providing further momentum, the report said.

The GRDI analyses 25 macroeconomic and retail-specific variables to help retailers devise successful global strategies to identify emerging market investment opportunities.

The study is unique in that it not only identifies the markets that are most attractive today, but also those that offer future potential. ■

India's retail sector has expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8% between 2013 and 2015, with annual sales crossing the \$1 trillion mark, according to AT Kearney, a London-based business consultancy. India has also become the world's fastest growing economy. That coupled with a large population base and the easing of FDI regulations in the sector has made it an even more attractive market, it said in the ranking.

pickup in GDP growth and better clarity regarding FDI regulations have helped India achieve a second ranking.

"India's strong ranking reflects foreigner retailers' increased optimism in its retail market and its vast growth potential," said Debashish Mukherjee, a partner with AT Kearney and co-head of the Consumer Industries & Retail Products Practice for India and Southeast Asia.

"India has relaxed several key Foreign Direct Investment

business consultancy.

India has also become the world's fastest growing economy. That coupled with a large population base and the easing of FDI regulations in the sector has made it an even more attractive market, it said in the ranking.

"We expect to see e-commerce to propel India's growth and make it a more attractive proposition. However, there are some challenges as well. India remains a challenging and

Union Government increases MSP for Kharif Crops



The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Kharif Crops of 2016-17 season.

The prices would be effective from 1.10.2016. The higher MSPs would increase investment and production through assured remunerative prices to farmers.

The approved MSP is based on recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account the cost of production, overall demand-supply, domestic and international prices, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, the likely effect of the Price Policy on the rest of economy, besides ensuring rational utilization of production resources like land and water, while recommending MSPs.

The CACP being the expert body, its recommendations are generally accepted as such. However, in view of the gap in the demand and domestic supply of pulses and oilseeds, the CCEA has decided to give a bonus, over and above the recommendations of the CACP of Rs.425/- per quintal for Kharif pulses, namely Arhar (Tur), Urad and Moong, a bonus of Rs.200/- per quintal for Sesamum and a bonus of Rs.100/- per quintal for kharif oilseeds namely, Groundnut-in-shell, Sunflowerseed, Soyabean, and Nigerseed. This is expected to give a strong price signal to farmers to increase acreage and invest for increase in productivity of pulses and oilseeds. ■

For the first time in history, India will not have power deficit situation in FY17

For the first time in history, India has declared that it will not have any power deficit this year, a situation officials say is an outcome of the current government's initiatives to resolve burning issues like fuel scarcity. The country will have a surplus of 3.1% during peak hours and 1.1% during non-peak hours during 2016-17, latest data from the Central Electricity Authority shows.

The data, based on gap between demand raised and demand met, shows that June onwards the country will have more electricity than required. Half of the states will be surplus, while others may face shortage in varying degrees.

The NDA government says power surplus scenario as one of its big achievements. Coal output, which was stagnant for years, has increased significantly, helping many stranded power plants start generating electricity. The government has also launched a high. ■

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 so called progressive elements which are enamored of the idea of globalization and have become aggressive advocates of global markets say that the concept of specific national and cultural identities are fast becoming obsolete in the emerging world scenario. According to them there is no room for separate national identities or different and specific cultures. Everything will be steam rolled into one global entity. This is a dangerous idea though fascinating at the beginning particularly for Indians who, because of the shallowness of their understanding, confuse between the 'global family' and 'global market'.

It must be clearly remembered that from the Hindu point of view nations are vibrant, living organic entities which are not only relevant but also absolutely necessary for the new world order. Each nation is the expression of a Divine power and has a mission to accomplish. So longer that

mission is preserved and promoted the nation has a vital role to play not only for its own sake but for the sake of the well being of the entire humanity. Therefore nothing should be done in international relationships that will compromise the national identity and its specific cultural ethos. It is the harmonious cooperation of all living and flourishing nations' faithful to their own self that can make humanity richer, colourful, and lead it towards the glorious goal for which it is destined. Diversity cannot and should not be annihilated for the sake of uniformity. What is required is unity and not uniformity. This is a serious and profound issue which must be scrupulously kept in mind while considering and giving shape to our future amidst the complexities of international relationships involving technological and other exchanges.

The other day Dr. Amarthya Sen while addressing the International

Tagore Conference, organized by the Netaji Research Bureau and Kolkatta Museum of Modern Arts, said that poet Rabindranath Tagore considered the love for humanity more important than patriotism. In a sense what he meant was that internationalism is more important than nationalism. What is important in this statement is that Dr. Amarthya Sen believes these two concepts to be not only contradictory but also conflictual. This is an unwarranted assumption. It is true that Gurudev Tagore had his own reservation about nationalism. As a poet and a *Rishi* born in the Hindu tradition naturally looks upon the whole humanity as one family. Swami Vivekananda addressed the Cosmopolitan Assembly at the Chicago Parliament of Religion as "sisters and brothers". But it should be remembered that he was one of the most ardent and aggressive advocate of nationalism. In this context, it is important to clearly

understand the root cause of Tagore's suspicion about nationalism. It was the period when nationalism had become quite militant and aggressive in the European continent where each nation not only jealously guarded its own self interest but looked upon other nations with a hostile attitude and a conquering mentality. This had led to national chauvinism and also to bloody wars. It was this kind of negative nationalism that was in the mind of Tagore when he criticized nationalism. Nationalism in Europe was based on, political and economic, conflict and competition. The truth of Indian nationalism is totally different. It is true that India as a 'nation state' is of recent origin. It came under one constitution only after independence. Prior to that, though geographically and culturally looked upon as one entity; India was not governed by one constitutional authority. But India was one nation right from the earliest times. What united her was the cultural unity and not political or administrative machinery. Indian nationalism had been essentially cultural which unified it in a powerful bond of identity based on spirituality which in its outward manifestation had taken various forms and names. It was a tolerant, inclusive, courteous, friendly and generous culture which not only believed in peaceful

The Western civilization, primarily rooted in the biblical tradition and accepted by the Abrahamic religions believes that man is born in sin and that only faith in certain religious dogmas can save him from going to hell. According to Bharatheeya Philosophy man is essentially divine.

co-existence, but also welcomed even alien cultures with due respect and generosity. That is why in the long history of India, we never find Indian Kings and Emperors, Conquerors or Adventurers, stepping out of India and conquering and enslaving alien territories. Indian nationalism is qualitatively different from the recently emerged European and other nationalisms. Tagore was well aware and extremely proud of the culture of Bharat. He was never a critic of India's cultural nationalism. Therefore Amartya Sen's implied criticism of nationalism which he attributed to Tagore has really no legs to stand upon.

III

Integral Humanism (*Ekatma Manava Darshan*) is a term coined by the late Deendayal Upadhyaya to define India's 'Yuga Dharma' in the context of the present national and international situation. It was an attempt

to provide a philosophical frame work for the national reconstruction of post Independent India in the light of her own indigenous culture and tradition. As the term indicates, it is a humanistic philosophy with 'Man' at the centre. Any philosophy, for that matter, is meant for 'Man'. Difference between the various philosophies is basically because of the differences in their concept about 'Man'. Integral Humanism is about the Indian concept of 'Man' which is essentially different from the Western concept.

The Western civilization, primarily rooted in the biblical tradition and accepted by the Abrahamic religions believes that man is born in sin and that only faith in certain religious dogmas can save him from going to hell. According to Bharatheeya Philosophy man is essentially divine. The ancient *Rishis* addressed him as "Child of Immortality" (*Amrtasya Putraha*). As Swami Vivekananda told the Chicago Audience "it is a sin to call man sinner". The divinity in man is covered over by ignorance and illusion. So the Hindu Philosophy believes that the veil of ignorance should be removed so that the inner divinity will manifest itself. Religion and Education are the means for this. It is pertinent to remember that Swami Vivekananda has defined religion as "the manifestation of the divinity already in Man". He has

defined education as “the manifestation of the perfection already in man”. Shri Guruji prefers the term “Poorna Manav”- a perfect and fully blossomed man. In short Integral Humanism has kept as its goal a fully developed human being. Man is the product of a long evolutionary process. But the present man is not the ultimate goal of this process. Shri Aurobindo has made a profound study of man’s

Anandamaya (the physical, vital, mental, intellectual and blissful). Though termed differently and though each has its own specific characteristics, they are not entirely disconnected, but are so intimately interrelated that all these together constitute one integral whole. It is this integrated individual that is called “*Poorna Manav*”. Integral Humanism primarily looks at this “Man” as the centre of its philosophy. It is

to ensure that a perfect man is evolved. This can be achieved only when the society provides the congenial climate. Man is not an isolated being nor can he evolve to his full stature in isolation. It is because of that the philosophy of Integral Humanism takes into account the whole gamut of circumstances necessary for the full growth of all the individuals. This includes primarily the society which is constituted by the basic unit – family, and also the nation and ultimately the entire humanity. Integral Humanism as a philosophy is pragmatic enough to deal with all the problems and demands of the present times. That is why it is called the “Yuga dharma”

Integral Humanism as explained by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya envisages for the immediate future for man a fully integrated personality which includes the fullest development of the various dimensions of his being. Man is a multidimensional entity with the soul (*Atma*) as the core.

future and has categorically stated that the present man has to evolve into a “Superman”. Whichever way we may put it, Man’s destiny is to evolve until he becomes the embodiment of divinity, which is concealed within him. Integral Humanism as explained by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya envisages for the immediate future for man a fully integrated personality which includes the fullest development of the various dimensions of his being. Man is a multidimensional entity with the soul (*Atma*) as the core. *Atma* is an abstract entity which is encased within five different sheaths (*Koshas*). In the Hindu terminology they are *Annamaya*, *Pranamaya*, *Manomaya*, *Vijnanamaya* and

the total ‘Man’ in all his various dimensions, has to be treated as one single entity. While considering the well being of the man Integral Humanism takes an integrated view. Each constituent dimension as stated earlier, has its own characteristics, needs and demands. Only when these are met in an integrated manner, the man can grow to his full stature. Though it is the soul that is the core of his being, its fulfillment depends upon the integrated development of his physical, vital, mental and intellectual needs and demands.

Each has to be studied and understood correctly and in due proportion. Provision has to be made for the total development of each in order

Naturally it must lay down the guidelines for a practical restructuring of all the areas of human life. In today’s situation, dominated by the Western paradigm, this is a Herculean task. It may be comparatively easy to enunciate a philosophy, but to work out and apply it in the individual and collective life, requires collective thinking and action by the best minds of the country through ceaseless effort involving repeated trial and error. It should be stated to the credit of Deendayalji, that he has broken the path for this eventual transformation. It is up to us to earnestly follow up this philosophy through serious effort to its ultimate fulfillment.

To continue...

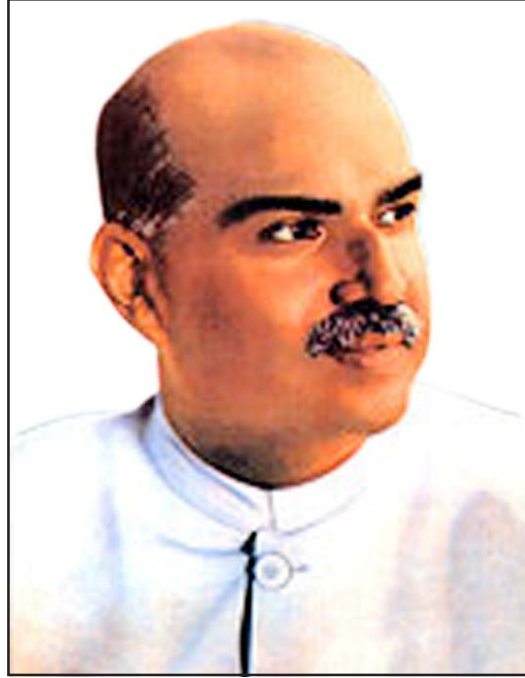
Dr. Syama Prasad : The Ideal Leader

-Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's public speeches outside Bengal were mostly in Hindi. When he first attended the Session of the Hindu Mahasabha, he could not speak in Hindi. But he promised to learn the language and the following year he spoke in Hindi. Of course it could not be expected of him to use grammatically correct Hindi. But he could always express himself correctly, and on most occasions was quite forceful. When He Insisted On Hindi

He had written his presidential address to the inaugural concenction of Bharatiya Jana Sangh in English. But he wanted it to be distributed to the delegates in Hindi. But time was short. It was 20 October. The address was to be read the next day at ten in the morning. Besides, the Subjects Committee too was meeting on the 20th. But he was very keen about the matter. Consequently not only the Presidential address but the manifesto also was translated into Hindi, And through the untiring zeal of the workers of the Arjun Press, both of them could be printed to be presented in time to the delegates. However, Dr. Mookerjee did not read the address. As was his prac-

tice he spoke ex tempore. His speech was more expressive than the translation.



He preferred 'Khatarnash' To 'Sarvanash'

In his Hindi speeches Dr. Mookerjee would freely use Sanskrit words. Therefore, he never found any difficulty in finding the correct word. And because of Sanskrit his style was chaste too. However, he would not use the word "sarvanash", but say "Khatarnash" instead. It was a word that he had coined. He always thought that he was using a wrong word. But we hesitated to point out the mistake. One day, of course, when in a casual chat language

happened to be the topic under discussion, I pointed to him that "Khatarnash" was not the proper word. It would be correct if he used, 'sarvanash' or 'satyanash'. He thanked me for the suggestion, but said, "Don't you see that there is a shade of difference between 'Khatarnash' and 'sarvanash'?" Yes, the difference is there.

It was this difference that distinguished Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee from the host of opposition leaders in the country. Dr. Mookerjee was vigilant and always drew the attention of the Government and people to the dangerous potentialities of any wrong policy or step. But he was neither a prophet of doom nor a cynic. And therefore he coined perhaps consciously a new work 'Khatarnash', 'Sarvanash' means total destruction while 'Khatarnash' (though a hybrid word with Persian Khatra and Sanskrit nash) indicated the danger and the possible harm if steps to avert it were not taken. If this difference is understood and appreciated the purpose of opposition will not be a senseless criticism of the Government but a constructive contribution to the formulation of the nation's policies. It is only on this score that the

opposition can seek justification for its existence. The task of the opposition is not to mislead but to lead. Its functioning should not be negative but positive. It must not allow the Government to be complacent or negligent. But it should not create a scare or demoralise the people.

“Jana Sangh At Least Has Not Lost Its Head”

In the first General Elections the Congress swept the polls. Most of the opposition leaders had been defeated. Parties that had promised a change of Government to the people were routed. In that atmosphere one gentleman approached Dr. Mookerjee and said that the future of democracy in India was dark. Dr. Mookerjee asked him two questions. 1. Have you faith in democracy? 2. Do you resolve to work actively in politics? The gentleman replied in the affirmative to both these questions. Then how could the future of democracy in India be dark? Said Dr. Mookerjee, and added, “It will be dark only if we do not work or if you have no faith. Where there is faith, there is no darkness. It must be bright.”

I found that was really the man who could lead. We occasionally meet people who are called “leaders” but who hardly inspire confidence in the people. On the contrary if you go to them with the confidence of youth you come back with the diffidence of age. Dr. Mookerjee was not one of them. When we met

him, he did not bemoan the defeat. He reminded us of the hard work that must be put in if we wanted to succeed, and then said, “Jana Sangh at least has fared better. All other parties have lost their heads, but your president has succeeded.” Yes that was the bright side of the otherwise gloomy picture, and it inspired us to make the future brighter.

A Beacon Light

Today, after twelve years of Dr. Mookerjee’s death the country is passing through harder times. We have no Mookerjee amongst us. But his spirit is alive. If there are people who talk to you in terms that predict a dark future for the country, dismiss them as faithless and purposeless fellows. After all we are the builders of our future. We are not simply passive on lookers but active participants in the building of the country’s

history. If those in power commit mistakes it is our duty to correct them and not merely to derive a demonic satisfaction in their failure or rest content with pointing out that they have committed mistakes. And along with that it is our task to organise the people so that they assert democratically to replace the Government as it becomes incapable of shouldering the burden entrusted. Dr. Mookerjee has given us this constructive outlook. He was the leader of the Opposition aimed to be in power. If we keep that objective constantly before us and have faith in our mission, the opposition will always be responsible. It will not be a clog in the wheel but an added motive power to the governance of the country. The attitude alone will make democracy a success and safeguard national interests. ■

(Organiser, 4 July, 1965)

Shahdol BJP MP Dalpat Singh dies in Gurgaon hospital

BJP MP from Shahdol (Madhya Pradesh), Dalpat Singh Paraste, passed away at a hospital in Gurgaon in Haryana on June 2, 2016. He was 66. He suffered brain hemorrhage while returning from a programme on May 27. He was five-time MP. He is survived by wife, four daughters and two sons. ■



TELANGANA

'BJP will be a major political force in Telangana'

Bharatiya Janata Party national president Shri Amit Shah has said that BJP would emerge as a major political force in Telangana State by 2019.

Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad on May 29, 2016, Shri Amit Shah said that the BJP would strengthen itself across both the Telugu speaking States of Telangana

office when several states were facing drought, Shri Amit Shah said the party was only giving a report of its work to the people. "Do you see celebration in this? This is not a celebration. I feel, taking government's work to people through the press, interacting directly with people, giving an account as per its mandate is not celebration," he told reporters.

Alleging that Rahul Gandhi only made media statements and indulged in symbolism, he said the NDA government helped improve the lives of the poor. Rahul Gandhiji only



and Andhra Pradesh and the outcome of 2019 elections would surprise everyone. He said that the BJP's alliance with Telugu Desam Party would continue in both AP and Telangana. He said that the BJP was focusing on strengthening the organisation right from village to State levels.

Shri Shah also claimed that the performance of BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre during the last two years was exemplary. He said that the BJP has launched a 15-day long campaign on May 26 to reach the masses so as to enlighten people about the Central schemes and also take their feedback on Central Government's performance. He said that the previous Congress regime was indulged in scams worth nearly Rs. 12 lakh crore. However, BJP has ensured a corruption-free government during the last two years.

Dismissing Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi's criticism that the NDA government was celebrating completion of its two years in

makes statements. I want to ask him, what happened to that Kalavati at whose house you stayed. We have tried to provide electricity and also gas to her. He just got a photograph taken (with her), he said.

Kalavati Bandurkar, a Vidarbha farmer widow shot to fame after Rahul Gandhi visited her in 2008 and narrated her plight in Parliament.

Asked about Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge's criticism on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, he said PM Modi made less number of visits abroad in comparison to his predecessor Manmohan Singh. "I want to make it clear that Prime Minister made few visits than Manmohan Singh. But, the problem was nobody came to know in the country or in that country when he (Singh) visited. He used to read two pages of his speech in English. Sometimes even pages changed. He used to read Thailand's (speech) in Malaysia and Malaysia's (speech) in Thailand. Modiji is

welcomed wherever he goes...," he said.

Asked whether BJP would reach out to regional parties like TDP and TRS for passing bills in the Rajya Sabha as equations of strength were set to change, he said everybody in Rajya Sabha should support the government's development agenda irrespective of party politics.

"BJP's effort is to see that everybody should support the development agenda in Rajya Sabha irrespective of party politics. It is true that it will benefit us if the strength of our friends increases on every issue of development," Shri Shah said. On the Union Cabinet reshuffle, he said, "It is for the Prime Minister to decide. When it happens, you will get information."

When asked about measures to deal with drought situation in states, he said the prime minister has held separate meetings with chief ministers (of affected states) instead of organising a meeting all of states. "The Centre understood the needs of each state for taking drought-relief measures," he said.

To a query on return of Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir, he said there were no differences between BJP and its ally PDP on the issue. "(J&K CM) Mehboobaji also said Kashmiri Pandits should reside there. There are no differences between the two parties," he said.

On the steps taken to bring back black money, he said the NDA government in its first Cabinet meeting itself had decided to hand over the issue to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) against Congress government which allegedly withheld information on the matter for long.

Shri Shah also said that the issue of announcing a chief ministerial candidate for Uttar Pradesh elections has not been discussed.

Asked if there is a possibility of alliance between BJP and TRS, he said, "No such application has been received from TRS so far. We will think of it if somebody says. We feel BJP is going to emerge as a major force in Telangana. You can see in 2019 elections."

Shri Shah asserted that the BJP was

committed to the development of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. To a query on the promise of special status to Andhra Pradesh, he said there was an "administrative problem" on the matter in wake of 14th Finance Commission's recommendations. "There is some administrative problem on special status due to the 14th Finance Commission. But, we will resolve it...and we will work in the direction of the promise that was made in Parliament. We alone have not made the promise, that was made in Parliament of the country," he said.

The promise of special status to Seemandhra (new Andhra Pradesh) was made by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the floor of Parliament at the time of passage of Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act 2014. Shri Shah also gave a detailed account of the number of achievements of the NDA government in two years on various fronts.

BJP President Unveils 'Veer Savarkar Jyot' at Cellular Jail

The 'Jyot' would serve as a 'Prerna Sthan' for coming generations: Amit Shah



The Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah unveiled a specially designed Veer Savarkar Jyot to commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of 'Swatantra Veer' Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, at the Cellular Jail, Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 31 May 2016.

Veer Savarkar Jyot has been erected by The Indian Oil Foundation at the Cellular Jail in Port Blair as a lasting tribute to Veer Savarkar's immense contribution to India's freedom struggle. This 'Jyot' will be a permanently lit flame inside the premises of Cellular Jail, Andaman and Nicobar Islands with the help of LPG supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., free of cost for this project. Speaking on the occasion, Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah said that the great sacrifice of Veer Savarkar, and the exemplary courage and tolerance which he exhibited during his period of imprisonment at the Cellular Jail, is still a major inspiration for us today.

He stated that this was the biggest day of his life as the 'Jyot' would serve as a 'Purna Sthan' for the coming generations. During this special programme, Minister of State (IC) for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lt Gen Shri AK Singh, MP, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, were present. Also present on occasion were Shri B Ashok, Chairman Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Shri Verghese Cherian, Director (Human Resource) IOCL, Shri Rajesh CEO Indian Oil Foundation and other senior officials from Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration.

Sardar Patel Kisan Mahasammelan at Jhushi, Allahabad

'BJP will uproot SP and BSP from Uttar Pradesh'

Drawing a contrast between scam-tainted UPA government and unblemished NDA-led Centre, which completed two years in office, BJP national president Shri Amit Shah on 31 May, 2016 said the party will uproot the Samajwadi Party



and BSP from Uttar Pradesh in the 2017 Assembly polls.

Addressing the Sardar Patel Kisan Mahasammelan at Jhushi, Allahabad, UP Shri Shah said, "Two days ago, Congress vice-president had sought to know what were the achievements of the Modi government, which recently completed its two years. Let me enumerate what this government has achieved, drawing a contrast with the decade-long period when his own party was in power".

"Congress had put in the seat of power a 'mauni baba' (an apparent reference to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh). We have given the country a PM who is ready to communicate on every important issue. "While you (Congress) were in power, financial irregularities to the tune of lakhs of crores of rupees had come to light. Modi government is unblemished even after completing two years in office," he said.

The BJP president, who was addressing the massive 'Kisan Sammelan', stressed that the 2014 Lok Sabha election results had only partially enabled the party to reach the benefits of development to Uttar Pradesh. The state had 20,000 villages with no electricity when our party assumed power in the country. In two years, we have electrified 8,000 of these and are confident of bringing power to the remaining ones by 2018, he said.

"However, many efforts of the Modi government are not

...Continued on page 23

PM-visit garners support for India's entry into NSG group

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was on five days tour of five countries (Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, Mexico & USA) from June 5 to June 10. During his visit to Qatar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held talks with Qatar Emir Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha. India and Qatar signed seven bilateral agreements.

Some important agreements are following:

- **MoU on cooperation in tourism.**
- *Agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in custom matters.*
- **MoU on Finance Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and Qatar Financial Information Unit (QFIU).**
- **MoU for investment in National investment & infrastructure fund.**
- **MoU in the field of youth and sports.**
- **MoU on cooperation in skill development & recognition of qualifications.**
- **MoU on cooperation in the field of health.**

Ahead of the talks, Shri Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Emiri Diwan. Shri Narendra Modi also met Qatari business leaders at a roundtable in Doha, praised role of Emir of Qatar in promoting India-Qatar business ties.

Addressing Indian workers at a medical camp in downtown Doha, Shri Modi said he was aware of the issues being faced by Indian workers and the companies that bring them here. He would take up issue during talks with Gulf nations.

Swiss back India's bid for nuclear group membership

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reached Geneva in Switzerland on June 6 after completing his Qatar visit. During his stay in

Switzerland he succeeded in getting the backing of Switzerland in India's bid to become a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) ahead of the group's crucial meeting. The two countries also resolved to



strengthen cooperation in combating tax evasion and black money.

Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann announced his country's support to India's membership in the 48-member grouping after holding comprehensive talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister also held a business roundtable with Swiss CEOs in Geneva. The focus was on deepening the economic ties as the CEOs across several sectors joined the meeting. A virtual who-is-who of the Swiss business including ABB, Lafarge, Novartis, Nestlé, Rieter, Roche etc. joined the Round Table with PM.

Addressing the business leaders the Prime Minister said that India's economy is growing rapidly and the coming together of our development needs and Swiss strengths can be beneficial. He told that he is glad that the

economic linkages between the two nations are strong and vibrant. The Prime Minister said that India is not just a market of 1.25 billion, we have skills and a government which



is open to business. He added that India wants to have manufacturing of global standards and hence the Swiss model of skill development is very relevant to it.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister reviewed the multifaceted bilateral ties between India and Switzerland with the Swiss President Schneider-Ammann. Collaboration in trade, technology, skill development, renewable energy were discussed during the talks. The Prime Minister shared the views that the common commitments, values, people-to-people and economic ties will take India-Switzerland relations to new heights. A group of Indian scientists and students at CERN also met the Prime Minister in Geneva.

PM Modi arrives in U.S.A

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6 began his three-day US visit by laying a wreath at the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers and paying

homage to Indian-American astronaut late Kalpana Chawla at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington.

Shri Modi met U.S President Shri Barack Obama in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington on June 7.

During Shri Modi's visit to USA Backing India's bid to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the US has said by becoming the member of the elite grouping the country would be in a stronger position to be a "good citizen" on proliferation related issues."Having gone down the path of the civil nuclear agreement with India, and having invested a significant

amount of time in building up our cooperation with India as it relates to nuclear security," said Deputy National Security Advisor, Benjamin Rhodes.

According to India's daily news paper 'The Hindu' reported " A senior Obama administration official said that the US is committed to helping India build its defence capabilities until it could be the "net provider of security" in the Asia-Pacific region; There is a recognition that as India grows and develops the capacity to protect its interests, not just in immediate region, but also broadly throughout Asia Pacific particularly in the Indian Ocean region.

It is in the US interest to build India that capacity until it can truly be the net provider of security." Prime Minister also addressed US Congress. ■

MTCR agrees to admit India

The foreign visit of Sh. Narendra Modi improved India's chances of ending its nuclear pariah status and joining the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a body that controls global nuclear trade. On June 6 the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), a key anti-proliferation grouping, agreed to admit India.

Indian officials said to the media that India's candidature was not opposed by any of the 34 countries in the MTCR. The deadline for raising any objections of reservations to India's candidature was on June 6.

Now all eyes are on India's pitch to join the NSG, preliminary discussions for which will begin next week in Vienna. ■

Narendra Modi receives the highest civilian honour of Afghanistan

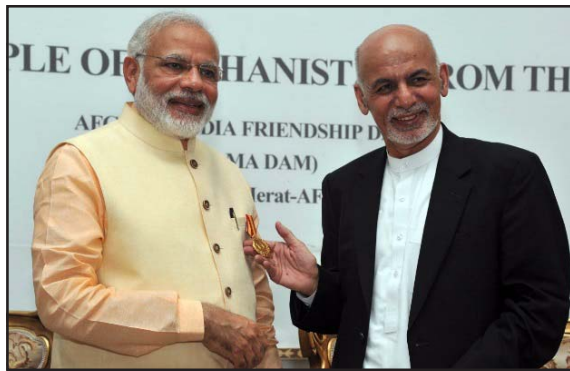
In a Press release BJP national spokesperson, Shri M. J. Akbar on 05 June 2016 informed that Bharatiya Janata Party and BJP President, Sh. Amit Shah warmly congratulates Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for receiving the highest civilian honour from Afghanistan President, Ashraf Ghani: The Amir Amanullah Khan Award. Our nation is proud of this honour to our Prime Minister.

The BJP also salutes those heroes who made the Afghan-India Friendship Dam in Herat possible with dedication and sacrifice beyond the call of duty: engineers, workers, diplomats, managers, security personnel and so many more. We especially remember those who gave their lives in the struggle against that perennial evil of terrorism. We recall that two years ago it was at Herat that terrorists struck at our mission in order to destabilise the subcontinent on the very day that the Modi government was being sworn in; there have been attacks on our missions in Kabul and Jalalabad as well.

This is the second such award that our PM has received in recent weeks: the Custodian of the Two Holy

Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud bestowed the King Abdulaziz award, again the highest civilian honour of his country, upon Prime Minister Modi. This is an unique achievement. No Indian PM has received these awards.

This also marks



international recognition of, and rising applause for, the architecture of Prime Minister Modi's new foreign policy. Prime Minister Modi is creating alliances for prosperity with India as a nodal hub.

Sabka saath, sabka vikas has, in addition to being the theme national governance, acquired an international dimension - with geopolitical dividends. Prime Minister Modi has infused creative energy into bilateral and trilateral relations that had become dormant, or a repetition of the familiar, with a dynamic that is both visionary and pragmatic.

These awards are, equally, recognition of PM Modi's foreign policy as a force for peace and stability in a region marked by sustained turbulence.

Indo-Afghan relations have always had cultural breadth; they have now also acquired economic depth. The

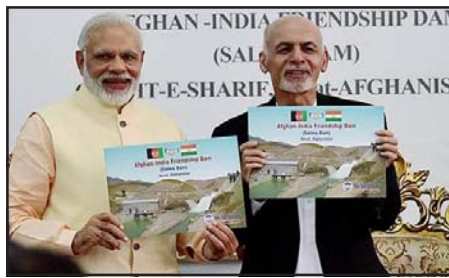
Rs.1700-crore dam is concrete evidence of what Prime Minister, in an evocative phrase, has described as a will that is boundless and a friendship that is timeless. The Friendship Dam is evidence that no "outsider" seeking "domination" can

become an obstacle or a wall between friendly nations such as Afghanistan and India.

As Prime Minister Modi told Afghans, "your dreams are our duty." He recalled the memorable words of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, who came to India from this region and settled in Ajmer, we must seek the affection of the sun, generosity of the river and hospitality of the earth. This is the inspirational message that is also at the essence of the Prime Minister's belief, reflected equally in his conviction, learnt from our ancient philosophical heritage, that the world is one family. ■

PM inaugurates Afghan-India Friendship Dam

During his stopover in Afghanistan while on tour of five nations Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 4 jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam) with President of Afghanistan Dr. Ashraf Ghani at Chist-e-Sharif in Herat province in Western Afghanistan today. Afghan-India Friendship Dam is a Multipurpose project planned for generating 42 MW of power, irrigating 75000 hectares of land, water supply and other benefits to the people of Afghanistan. Salma Dam is a landmark infrastructure project undertaken by Government of India on river Hari Rud , in Herat province of Afghanistan. The project was executed and implemented by WAPCOS Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.



The project is located 165 km east of Herat town and connected with earthen road. Due to security reasons Indian engineers and technicians involved with the project have been reaching the site once in a month by helicopter service provided by Government of Afghanistan. All equipment and material were transported from India to Bander-e-Abbas port of Iran via sea and then along 1200 km by road from there to Islam Kila border post at Iran-Afghanistan border and then further 300 km by road from the border post to the site. Cement, steel reinforcement, explosives etc. were imported to Afghanistan from neighboring countries. The gross capacity of the Dam is 633 Million M3. The height of the Dam is 104.3 Mt, length 540 Mt and width at the bottom is 450 Mt.

Rs.1775 crore project was funded by Government of India and took more than ten years to complete. The successful completion of the project represents culmination of years of hard work by 1,500 Indian and Afghan engineers and other professionals in very difficult conditions. ■

...Continued from page 19

yielding results because of non-cooperative attitude of the Akhilesh Yadav government. UP is lagging behind BJP-ruled states as, for more than a decade, power has been in the hands of either Mayawati's BSP which is known for rampant corruption or the SP which is notorious for patronising goons," Shri Shah said.

He said, "The BJP is acutely aware of the key contribution of the state in its resounding success in the last Lok Sabha polls. But for the 71 seats which we got from the state, we could not have got an absolute majority in the Parliament.

I urge the people to uproot both SP and BSP when the state goes to polls early next year. This will enable us to complete our unfinished tasks in the state".

He said that the BJP government at the Centre managed to do in two years time what the Congress failed to do in 60 years - provide bank accounts to 21 crore people.

He also said that the Samajwadi Party's days are numbered as the BJP is confident of forming the govt in Uttar Pradesh in 2017.

Senior party leaders of BJP, UP State Unit President Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, BJP national secretary Shri Siddharth Nath Singh and a number of Lok Sabha members, were present in the rally. BSP MLA Shri Praveen Patel joined BJP at the farmers' rally. Patel was the BSP MLA from Jhusi from 2007-2012 when the party was in power in the state. ■

Modi and Indian Exceptionalism

By Anirban Ganguly

The Prime Minister has laid the foundation for a grand narrative of India. He has spoken about the country being civilisationally distinct, but his concept of Indian exceptionalism goes beyond harmonising with the world and aims to weave coalitions of cultures.

From Tokyo to Madrid and from St Petersburg to central Java, a renewed interest in civilisational India is unmistakable. It is only the intellectually purblind, the negatively motivated and the debunker of civilisational India who doubt or cast aspersion on those who speak of the rise of India as a civilisational state.

In the last two years, through a dynamic, calibrated and strategic outreach to the world, India aspires to weave a grand narrative of its own. Those who laugh off such a hope and aspiration as misplaced and irrelevant will do well to wait for the day when the need for a grand narrative and the aim of pursuing such a goal will be considered and counted as legitimate and rightful. In some measure, that time has arrived.

The nearing second international Yoga day and the growing number of Yoga enthusiasts who shall fill every park and public space

across the world on June 21, is a good occasion to reflect on the increasing interest in India, in its systems of knowledge, of practice and of thought. Across the world, the keenness to know and engage with India is palpable.

The Heidelberg summer school at the South Asian Institute (SAI), for example, is increasingly becoming

years, pointed out that the traditional healing systems of India were a repository of knowledge which needed to be re-explored and preserved and was enthusiastic and hopeful that with the efforts of the Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, such a thing would now be

The nearing second international Yoga day and the growing number of Yoga enthusiasts who shall fill every park and public space across the world on June 21, is a good occasion to reflect on the increasing interest in India, in its systems of knowledge, of practice and of thought. Across the world, the keenness to know and engage with India is palpable.

popular, one has often read of its popularity in the last few months. The demand for India's languages, the interest in its art forms and in its traditional medicine and healing systems have seen a large number attend the Heidelberg summer school from across Europe and the world. There is a growing demand for replicating more such experiments across the continent, despite the challenges of resources and of a rapidly changing demographic scenario.

A senior academic in SAI, who has worked on India for

proactively worked upon. He wanted his students to visit India, to see these traditions for themselves and absorb these.

There is hope in the affirmative approach that is now being taken to reach India, civilisational India, across the globe. This affirmative approach has gathered momentum and credibility because Prime Minister Narendra Modi's incessant and unflinching approach is one, which, while reiterating the importance of strategic convergence, also recognises and lends equal

weight and attention to the need for a civilisational convergence, especially with India's potential civilisational allies.

In central Spain, for example, at one of the oldest universities in the ancient town of Valladolid, when the professors were explained the innovative Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), undertaken by the Ministry of Human Resource

seems to have a renewed hope in their efforts to study and internalise India. This itself is heartening and augurs well for those who toil and hope to see a fresh Indian narrative emerge on the world scene. Though the road ahead is a long and hazard filled one, the beginning has been made, despite resistance and roadblocks from a voluble and powerfully entrenched section in the academia and

Institutes were becoming monotonous, often overbearing and at times without life some observed.

Similarly, in Southeast Asia, as Kishore Mahbubani, a professor at the National University of Singapore noted, India's relation with this region was a match that was made in heaven, and one needed to pay sufficient attention to it. What was needed was a long-term policy to rejuvenate India's deep cultural bonds with the region. In a region where India's civilisational footprints cannot be missed, where the Trimurti is still revered and celebrated – Indonesian President Joko Widodo, for example, is encouraging efforts by Indonesians to link to and discover their civilisational past – there is hope for a rejuvenation.

In Russia, the still lingering admiration and amazement at civilisational India is hard to miss. One met young scholars who were eagerly learning Indian languages, conversing in Bengali and Sanskrit, and rejoicing at the thought that the possibilities may soon multiply.

Development, there was a palpable interest and positive inquisitiveness on how the university could involve itself in such an initiative and how its faculties could engage with young minds in India.

While a certain blinkered and communist ideology dyed section has only worked to deconstruct civilisational India and continues to oppose any genuine attempt at articulating an Indian grand narrative, the intelligentsia across the world at large – not those whose minds have already been polluted or conditioned through years of association with the breaking India type of intellectuals –

beyond.

In Russia, the still lingering admiration and amazement at civilisational India is hard to miss. One met young scholars who were eagerly learning Indian languages, conversing in Bengali and Sanskrit, and rejoicing at the thought that the possibilities may soon multiply.

Senior indologists and India experts in Moscow, for example, called for setting up an India institute – an institute that could be named after BR Ambedkar, Ashoka or Swami Vivekananda with the aim of promoting the study of India. The Confucius

I have argued that in the last two years, the founding blocks, or the foundational pillars of creating an Indian grand narrative have been erected. For a civilisational state to rise and to re-invent itself, it is essential to create an engaging grand narrative. My friend, scholar and thinker Rajeev Srinivasan, for example, has spoken of the need to articulate "Indian exceptionalism" and work towards it through the formulation of a grand narrative that essentially traces, articulates and recalibrates the rise of India as a civilisational state. There is

a need to make a distinct and well-thought out position for “Indian exceptionalism.”

In the last two years, through his projects at home, initiatives, and outreach abroad, Prime Minister Modi has done something distinctly along those lines. He has laid the foundation for the creation of a grand narrative and through his articulations and exhortations, has often pointed at the crystallisation of “Indian exceptionalism.”

He has spoken about India being civilisationally distinct, he has spoken of the unique worldview of Indian civilisation – especially its environmental consciousness and conflict avoidance

propensities, and he has described India’s past position in the comity of nations while indefatigably describing its present potentials and capabilities.

However, for Modi, it is also an Indian exceptionalism that seeks to harmonise itself with the world, with its neighbours and seeks convergence and civilisational allies while aiming to weave coalitions of cultures. It encourages and welcomes the rise of many powers in a multi-polar world, and emphasises interconnectedness rather than expansionism. Indian exceptionalism, as Modi seeks to articulate it, does not aim

at widening faultlines or in lighting fires across civilisations, or in hectoring and denigrating other collectivities while trying to fulfil one’s quest for paramount and unrivalled power.

It believes in a partnership cemented on the power of faith and friendship with a civilisational basis. Prime Minister Modi’s articulations and engagements specially on the external front has inaugurated the era of Indian exceptionalism – that process is unmistakable and irreversible. ■

(The writer is director, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi)

World stunned by India’s economic growth rate : Amit Shah

BJP national president Shri Amit Shah on 02 June said the world is stunned by India’s rate of economic growth and also hailed as unprecedented the government decision to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif crops.

“The growth rate of 7.9 per cent during the last quarter of 2015-16 is not only highest in India in the recent years, but it is also higher than those of China, US, Russia and Brazil,” Shri Shah said, adding that India’s economic feat has stunned the world.

Lauding the government’s move to hike the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of kharif (summer) crops, particularly pulses, he said: “The Bharatiya Janata Party welcomes this step by the government and on behalf of crores of farming families thanks Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the same.”

“This step by the government would help increase the production of pulses in the country. This in turn would decrease our dependence on imports and would save foreign exchange,” he added.

He said the Modi government has shown during the last two years as to how a “corruption free and transparent government” is run.

“During the Congress rule, every other day a new scam would surface. The Congress government had become synonymous with corruption,” he said.

Shri Shah said that at present prestigious institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are praising India, global investors are “making a beeline” to the country and the Foreign Direct Investment was “continuously increasing”. ■

Mrigen Sarania becomes first BJP mayor of Guwahati Municipal Corporation

Two weeks after a BJP-led government took over in Assam, the ruling party took control of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), with its councillor Mrigen Sarania elected as the new city mayor. With the



election of Mrigen Sarania as mayor on June 8 BJP got its first mayor in Guwahati.

The Congress, which had won the GMC elections two years ago, had lost majority after one of its councillors, Nilakshi Talukdar, resigned from the party during the Assembly polls, bringing the party's strength in the 30-member Corporation to 15.

It was further reduced to a minority when the BJP and AGP won four city constituencies in the Assembly polls. The four MLAs and the Guwahati Lok Sabha MP have one vote each in the corporation.

"It is a historic moment for the BJP, which has taken over the only municipal corporation of the state without an election. Our party, which has been given a massive mandate by the people in the Assembly elections, will work towards development of Guwahati city," said senior BJP leader and Minister for Guwahati Development Himanta Biswa Sarma.

"The BJP is also going to take control of the NC Hills Autonomous Council soon," he added.

While Mrigen Sarania was elected Mayor

uncontested, Nilakshi Kalita Medhi was elected the new Deputy Mayor without any opposition. Jalukbari MLA Sarma and Guwahati (East) MLA Siddhartha Bhattacharyya were also present during the election.

"I'm grateful to all the councillors for unanimously supporting me. We know the expectations of the public are very high after we came to power at Dispur. Though we won't be able to magically change things overnight, it will be our responsibility to try our best to live up to the expectations in the next two years," Shri Sarania said. ■

BJP wins in Madhya Pradesh Ghoradongri Assembly by-poll

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has emerged victorious in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly by-poll election of the Ghoradongri constituency. BJP candidate Mangal Singh Dhurve won the seat by 13182 votes. The counting was done in 17 rounds. Elections had been conducted in the constituency on May 30.

The constituency had seen a voter turnout of 74.48%, out of which 76.59% were male and 72.27% female. Dhurve won the Ghoradongri seat (Scheduled Tribes) by defeating his closest contender Pratap Singh Uiquey of the Indian National Congress. A total of seven candidates were in the fray for the election.

The constituency has 2,19,404 voters including 1,12,313 men, 1,07,083 women and eight third genders. In 2013 Assembly polls, BJP candidate Sajjan Singh had won the Ghoradongri seat and this time as well, the party has managed to retain the seat.

On the victory, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, Mangal Singh's win is the win of local citizens, voters and local Karyakartas. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah tweeted, "Congratulations to CM Shri @ChouhanShivraj, state president Shri Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan & all Karyakartas on winning Ghoradongri bypoll." ■

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:



MORCHA

Mahila Morcha

The National Executive meetings of the BJP Mahila Morcha were held from time to time and the members have taken the decision to expand the organisation and to publicise the welfare schemes announced by the Modi government for the benefit of the common people and specially the women. The Morcha launched Nari Samman Yatra in the country and also successfully achieved the target set for induction the Mahila members during BJP National membership drive.

OBC Morcha

For the first time the OBC Morcha was created for expanding the base of party among the backward classes of the society. After its inception the OBC Morcha expanded its organisation nationwide. National President of OBC Morcha Shri S.P. Singh Baghel travelled various states of the country and addressed several gatherings and interacted with the people to know the problems of the backward

class and invited them to join the party for all round growth and development.

Yuva Morcha

The Yuva Morcha participated in the membership drive of BJP and expedited the drive. To publicise the achievements of the Narendra Modi government and to make all people aware about five best schemes of the government the Yuva Morcha started the Pancha Kranti Abhiyan (Yoga Kranti, Koushal Kranti, Nirman Kranti, Kanya Shakti Kranti and Swachhata Kranti) throughout the country and hundreds of meetings were organised to make it successful. In the India First-BJYM National conference organised in Vrindavan recently, around 12,000 representatives participated. It was inaugurated by the BJP National President Shri Amit Shah and concluded with the address of Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley. To expose the anti national elements the BJYM organised this type of conferences in Vrindavan, Shimla, Gujarat, Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Mumbai and

some places of the country.

Kisan Morcha

The Kisan Morcha organised Kisan Sammelans and interacted with various Kisan Sanghs of the country regarding the problems faced by the farmers. Morcha National President Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar visited various states where Farmer Suicides took place and states where flood and draught damaged farmers' crop. Various meetings were organised in different states to publicize different farmer friendly schemes of Modi government like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Krishi Sichi Yojana etc. To avert the problems faced by the farmers the Morcha also organised Kisan Jagaran Saptah and also led demonstrations and submitted memos with regard to farmers' issues to authorities in various states.

Minority Morcha

The BJP led NDA government has done many things and carried out various welfare measures for the minorities of the country. For the awareness of the minorities regarding the schemes of the Modi government like Swatch Bharat, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Mahila Surakshya Bima Yojana, and schemes launched by the Ministries of HRD, Minority affairs and Skill Development, the Minority Morcha organised several programmes in various states and encouraged the minorities to join the party in large numbers. As a result, a large number of minorities got associated and took membership of the party during the membership drive.

SC Morcha

The SC Morcha organised its National Executive and the Dalit Mahila Sammelan in Delhi. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah inaugurated both the programmes and unveiled a Souvenir of the Morcha during the National Executive. BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal and other senior leaders of the party were present in these meetings. Apart from it the Morcha also organised the meeting of NDA Ministers and a convention of NDA Members of Parliament in Delhi. On 14 April the Morcha also

celebrated the Jayanti of Dr. B R Ambedkar in all the states and in central level. On 26 November the Morcha organised several programmes to celebrate the Constitution Day. ST Morcha

On the occasion of the Birth Centenary of the famous freedom fighter Rani Gaidinliu the ST Morcha organised a programme in Senapati district of Manipur on 08 October 2015. On 17 November 2015 the Morcha organised programmes at Mangarh Dham, Bansbada in Rajasthan to pay tributes to the Tribals who were treacherously killed by the British rulers. The Morcha also submitted a memo to the central government to declare Mangarh as a National memorial and the state government assured the Morcha to build a Tribal museum at Mangarh. The Morcha also arranged meetings and training programmes of the Scheduled tribes across the country to create awareness amongst them regarding the welfare schemes of the BJP government.

Appeal

Entire nation has expressed remarkable faith in the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. We all have the responsibility of that faith on our shoulders. The government and the organization are fully committed to realize the dreams of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' by fulfilling the aspirations of the people. India is moving rapidly on the path of development. The change in the work culture is visible and the government machinery is enthusiastically engaged with result-oriented work. Many unique projects started in the context of overall development of the country are now yielding results. Closed and stalled projects are being revived and the atmosphere of gloom and negativity has ended. Whether it is farmer or labourer, skilled or non-skilled, employed or unemployed - all are in the priority list of the government. Special programmes and projects are going on for the welfare of all including villages, poor, farmers, youth, dalits, scheduled tribes and women. Modi government has heralded an era of hope and trust in the country.

Every BJP karyakarta is committed in

making a developed, prosperous, corruption free and glorious India by engaging in nation building works. In the leadership of National President Shri Amit Shah the organisation is expanding in the newer areas and the work towards giving shape to a well organized, committed and target oriented organisation is going on effectively. It is not new for our karyakartas to accept emerging challenges in the changing circumstances. Along with being the largest political organization in the world we present wonderful examples on the parameters of excellence. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had said in his first address

from the ramparts of the Red Fort that the destiny of our nation is in the welfare of the entire world, our organization is continuously working in that direction. All of us who have taken the pledge of serving and worshipping Maa Bharati are engaged in achieving that great ideal. The voice of opposition will continue to come on our way. We should be firm in our endeavours.

ध्येय के आलोक से ही, है प्रकाशित पंथ अपना।
 राष्ट्र को सर्वस्व अर्पित, क्या रहा अब शेष अपना।।
 दीप जीवन का जला कर, मातृभू की अर्चना है।
 चिर विजय की कामना, कर्म ही आराधना है।।

End

Amit Shah praises Centre, Maharashtra govt for Skill India programme

BJP President Shri Amit Shah on 05 June, 2016 lauded the Union government for taking definitive steps towards addressing the problem of unemployment among youth and creating visible difference in the first two years of its reign.

He was speaking at an event in Pune on the skill development initiatives taken up by the Modi government at Delhi and the state government in Maharashtra with Shri Devendra Fadnavis at the helm.



Shri Shah told the audience, “I am associated with Narendrabhai for several decades now. The man has exceptional ability to foresee the future and has a strong will to address the problems facing citizens. In launching the programme of Skill India, he has turned one of the challenges faced by the country into its biggest opportunity”.

The programme, Shri Shah said, was working at several levels. While the Skill India was to create a force of trained workers, other initiatives like Make in India and Start up India would boost the entrepreneurship among the youth and step up manufacturing so that the workforce gets employment.

“In the last one year, a total of 20 lakh individuals in the country have undergone skill development training. The government has also started Mudra Yojana under which aspiring young entrepreneurs were provided non-collateral loans in the range of Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh so that they can set up their own businesses. All these efforts have borne fruits and boosted the GDP of the country – which is now among the highest in the world,” said Shri Shah, adding that India’s economy is in the best shape ever. ■