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BJP National President, Shri Amit Shah paying floral tribute to Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar on the occasion of his 125th Birth Anniversary at 11 Ashok Road on April 14, 2016



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O Arjuna if ever I would not engage in prescribed activities certainly all men would follow My path in all respects. – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 23)

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“eNAM’s launch is a turning point for our agriculture sector. Farmers & consumers will gain through this initiative.”

-Narendra Modi



“Due to corruption of DMK,AIADMK & Congress,a state like Tamil Nadu with such a strong potential is left far behind”

-Amit Shah

Akshaya Tritiya : 9th May, 2016

Akshaya Tritiya, also known as Akha Teej, is a holy day for Hindus and Jains. It falls on Vaishakha third Tithi of Shukla Paksha and one of the four most important days for Hindus. The word “Akshaya” means the never diminishing in Sanskrit and the day is believed to bring good luck and success. It is believed that if you do charity on this day you will be blessed. The day is considered auspicious for starting new ventures. The legend is that any venture initiated on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya continues to grow and bring prosperity. The most popular story regarding the celebration of Akshaya Tritiya is that Lord Karishna and Sudama were friends during their childhood. Sudama was poor and once he went to Krishna to ask him for some financial help as a friend. Sudama didn’t have anything else except the pouch of fried rice and he felt ashamed when he gave it to Karishna. But he was overwhelmed by the hospitality shown by Lord Karishna but he couldn’t ask his friend for financial support which led him to go home empty-handed. When he arrived at his home he saw that his run-down hut was converted into a palace and his family was wearing royal attire. Sudama knew that this was the blessing of his friend Krishna who blessed him with more wealth than he needed or could ever imagine. This is why Akshaya Tritiya is associated with material gains. In Hinduism, Akshay Tritiya was the day when Ganesha, the god of wisdom, started writing the epic Mahabharata to Ved Vyas’s dictation. This day is traditionally celebrated as the birthday of the Hindu sage Parashurama, the sixth Avatar of Lord Vishnu. According to Hindu tradition, on this day the Treta Yuga began and the river Ganges, the most sacred river of India, descended to the earth from the heaven. It was on this day that Goddess Annapoorna devi was born. Kubera received his wealth and position as custodian of wealth and property with Goddess Lakshmi on this day, by praying to Lord Shiva. In Mahabharata, Yudhishtira receives the Akshaya patra, which he uses to serve food for all the needy in his kingdom. Goa and Konkan regions, Akshaya Tritiya is considered one of the most sacred days of the year. In Orissa on Akshay Tritiya farmers start ploughing their land and construction of chariots for Rath Yatra begins at Jagannath Puri. In Bengal, on the day, “HalKhata” - a ceremony to start the new audit book is performed - with the worship of Ganesha and goddess Lakshmi. This day is most auspicious day for the Jat farming community. Early morning, a male member of a Jat family goes to the field with a shovel. All the animals and birds encountered on the way to the field are omens and predictions for rains and crops. Followers of the Jain religion consider Akshaya Tritiya to be a holy and supremely auspicious day. It is associated with Lord Adinatha, also known as Rishabhadeva, first of the twenty-four Tirthankaras.

HAPPY AKSHAYA TRITIYA





Gram uday se Bharat Uday

The nation has celebrated 125th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on April 14 this year. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Mhow, the birthplace of Babasaheb and paid glowing tributes to his contributions to the nation. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah went to Haridwar and addressed a public meeting to pay tributes to Babasaheb. Entire nation joined hands in the celebrations and a new resolve was seen among the people to create a *samras samaj* with a nationalist vision and equitable approach. Babasaheb is remembered as the chief architect of the Indian constitution, a social revolutionary and a Dalit thinker. A multifaceted personality, Babasaheb contributed immensely in the national life and enriched it with his ideas which were ahead of his times. He was a visionary and thinker par excellence and fearlessly fought against caste discrimination, untouchability and various forms of social evils. He continues to inspire the nation and his ideas are guiding light for future generations.

The launching of the programme 'Gram Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyan' on 14th April, the birth anniversary of Babasaheb is a fitting tribute to his memory and teachings. The Abhiyan is set to conclude on 24th April, the Panchayati Raj Divas. Starting from the birth anniversary of Babasaheb the Abhiyan aims to involve state governments and village panchayats on a large scale to come together and strengthen the efforts towards social harmony, rural development and farmers' welfare measures. The Abhiyan is set to conclude with the address of Prime Minister in Jamshedpur to select panchayat representatives and will be beamed live to all the panchayats. It is a big step towards making panchayats a vehicle of creating samajik samrasata at the grass root level and usher in an era of development which will in turn empower people in the villages and enhance their living standards. The need to create awareness among the people and involve them at the level of planning and execution is always required in realizing the dream of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. The manner in which the Abhiyan has been conceptualized, it will instill a sense of belongingness to the people about the developmental efforts and make them ready for taking responsible initiative while making the system more transparent and accountable.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making efforts to find solutions of the problems at the ground level for which empowering and strengthening the villages, poor and farmers have been prioritized in his policies. Never before any government had allocated such a huge sum for the development of villages, poor and farmers as it has been done now under his visionary policies. It is for the first time that the focus has been shifted to rural development and village panchayats have been made the vehicle of change in the rural areas. A large number of innovative schemes have been launched in agriculture sector to increase productivity and to equip every farmer with new technology while making agricultural loans and other related capitals accessible to him. Similarly the social security of the poor have been ensured through easily accessible insurance schemes at very small premiums while the Jan Dhan Yojana which has been launched with the aim of financial inclusion has won widespread

Editorial...

appreciation for its huge success. The 'Grama Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyan' is set to consolidate the gains through these schemes and prepare ground for future achievements. All these schemes will go a long way in realizing the dreams of Babasaheb who had the interest of the deprived and depressed sections of the society highest in his mind. While political equality has been ensured through the principle of one individual one vote, he talked about social and economic equality as well. It is through the persistent efforts and by following the principle of Antyodaya that the nation will be able to herald an era of political, social and economic equality. The BJP led NDA government is working in the direction of achieving political, social and economic parity under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ■

125th birth anniversary of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar

'Samrasta Sammelan' in Haridwar Congress ignored Ambedkar's contributions : Amit Shah

BJP national president Shri Amit Shah criticized the Congress for failing to regard, remember and reward the chairman of Constitution Drafting committee, first Law Minister and social reformer Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar in its 50-odd years of rule in the country.

Shri Shah was the chief guest at the 'Samrasta Sammelan' organised as part of Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary in Haridwar on 14 April, 2016. Shri Shah attributed the country's unity and diversity remaining intact to the contributions by Ambedkar and Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel.

"It is ironical that while these two legendary statesmen provided the Constitution to the country and



unified 500-odd dynasties, the Congress failed to give them the due credit or recognition. It was the Janata Dal-led National Front government that awarded Bharat Ratna to Baba Sahib in 1990.

Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is at Ambedkar's birthplace Mhow to pay tribute to him. Has any Congress Prime Minister or the government ever recognised and observed Ambedkar's anniversary?" he said. He added the Congress always played vote bank politics in Ambedkar's name and was now leveling false charges against the BJP that was celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of the great Dalit leader.

"The BJP through 'Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday' has given a new development vision and dimension to rural India on Ambedkar's birth anniversary," he said. Shri Amit Shah added that if India were to become a world leader, it could not ignore poor and backward sections of society in development. "This is the mantra the BJP is focusing on to realize Ambedkar's dreams and ideals.

The Congress is a family-centric party while the BJP represents all sections of society. It works for all round development and unified India," said Shri Shah.

Shri Shah also said that the country could not progress sans the development of the villages. "The BJP is committed to provide basic

facilities to the last man in the villages. Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday is not just a programme but the pulsating mantra for the party”.

He took a dig at the Opposition, saying that they were just paying lip-service while the BJP government was engaged in translating the legend's dreams on the ground. “This helped the villagers from the remotest of the villages to move ahead,” he said. Giving details of the village-transforming projects the Narendra Modi Government has taken up, Shri Shah said, “Rs. 9 lakh crore has been allocated for rural development this year, something which has no parallel. While Rs 20,000 crore has been allocated to complete 89 irrigation projects Rs 22,000 crore will be spent during the year on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna against Rs 8000-9000 crore spent during the UPA dispensation.

By 2018, 15000 villages would have electricity supply and by 2020, they would be connected through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna.” Referring to Mudra Yojna, he said that loans of Rs1 lakh crore have been given to Rs2.5 crore people for self-employment, adding that the target is help 5.5 crore people by the next year.

Shri Shah said that the NDA Government believed in agricultural growth ushering in dignified lives of the rural poor. “The UPA Government's policies aggravated rural distress,” he said.

The BJP president also highlighted the recent works undertaken by the Centre and BJP-ruled states towards development of memorials associated with Dr. Ambedkar.

Referring to London as Babasaheb's ‘Shiksha bhoomi’, Shri Shah spoke of the efforts made by the Centre and Maharashtra government to develop a memorial there.

Earlier, the BJP leader garlanded the statue of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar at Kadachh Mohalla in Jwalapur along with Haridwar MP Shri Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank, Ranipur legislator Shri Adesh Chauhan, city legislator Shri Madan Kaushik, State President Shri Ajay Bhatt and district party president Shri Suresh Rathore. ■

Amit Shah appoints five new State Party Presidents

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah appointed five new state party Presidents on 08th April 2016. Former Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa returned as State President in Karnataka, while for electorally crucial Uttar Pradesh, Lok Sabha MP Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya has been named as State President.



Shri Maurya comes from a backward community and a very poor family. He sold newspapers and tea for a living. He was a Full Timer and as Swayamsevak associated with RSS, for over 14 years. Presently he represents Phulpur Lok Sabha constituency, once associated with Jawaharlal Nehru.



Shri K Laxman, Musheerabad MLA, and prominent Kappu leader has been made Telangana BJP President after the incumbent Shri Krishna Reddy completed his two terms.



Among other states, BJP named Union Minister Shri Vijay Sampla, a Dalit leader, as President of Punjab state unit.



Former MP and BJP General Secretary Shri Tapir Gao has been made BJP State President of Arunachal Pradesh. He belongs to the scheduled tribe community.



Noteworthy, Shri Maurya, Shri Yeddyurappa and Shri Sampla are currently LoK Sabha MPs. While, Shri Tapir is a former MP and Shri Laxman a sitting MLA in Telangana. ■

Corruption at its peak in Tamil Nadu : Amit Shah

Branding the present AIADMK government as the most corrupt-ever in Tamil Nadu, BJP national president Shri Amit Shah said that corruption was at its peak in the state. He said that there was no proper tendering process for any scheme in the state and projects were awarded based on bribes.

Shri Shah was in Mannarpuram , Tamil Nadu on 13 April, 2016 to introduce the candidates of the party and its allies for the coming elections. The meeting venue saw a huge turnout of common people and party Karyakartas.

Shri Shah criticized both Dravidian parties and the Congress for corruption. "Be it the DMK, the AIADMK or the Congress, all of them were mired in corruption cases such as 2G, Aircel-Maxis, and disproportionate assets. But there were no corruption charges against the BJP governments in 14 states."

Accusing the AIADMK government of betraying the people by not allowing mixing of ethanol in petrol and diesel, he said, "By permitting mixing of ethanol with petrol and diesel across the country, the central government helped sugarcane farmers to increase their income. However, the Tamil Nadu government was betraying

the people by making liquor with ethanol."

He criticized Jayalalithaa for taking credit for welfare measures such as the Rs2,000-crore flood relief for people of the state the subsidy of Rs27 on rice. "Like Uday, schemes such as medical and accident insurance for Rs330 did not reach the people because of the non-cooperation of the state government.

Claiming that the Narendra Modi government at the center was taking steps to bring welfare schemes to people even in the remotest parts of the country, Shri Shah said the Jayalalithaa government remained a stumbling block to taking the schemes to the people.

"The Narendra Modi government is working on schemes to strengthen Tamil Nadu, but when it comes to implementation there must be a government which should take them to the people. This government is one which should be definitely thrown out. So I appeal to you to vote for BJP-led NDA to bring about a change in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Shri Shah said the BJP was keen on improving its performance in the state. Highlighting that fact that the NDA bagged over 19 per cent votes in the parliamentary elections, he said the aim

should be to improve the vote share in the state rather than thinking about winning or losing the elections.

Earlier addressing a press conference in Tiruchirappalli flanked by three Union ministers Shri Shah also charged the state government with non-cooperation over implementation of central schemes including UDAY, aimed at helping debt-ridden state power discoms.

"UDAY, for instance, is meant to reach consumers but the Tamil Nadu government is not coming forward to implement it," he said.

Same was the case with the proposed AIIMS, he said in an apparent reference to the proposal to set up one of the units of the premier health institute in the state, but which is yet to take off.

Projecting NDA as an alternative to AIADMK and DMK, Shri Shah said, "The Narendra Modi government is committed to the welfare of villages, the poor and labour class. I am confident the people of Tamil Nadu will give priority to NDA in the polls." Earlier, Shri Shah met party candidates for the May 16 polls, besides those of other NDA constituents IJK and Akila Indiya Makkal Kalvi Munnetra Kazhagam. He expressed hope that BJP will put up a good show. ■

PM pays floral tributes to Babasaheb Ambedkar 'Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday Abhiyan' launched

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on April 14 offered floral tributes to the architect of India's Constitution, Babasaheb Ambedkar on his 125th birth anniversary, at his birthplace in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.

Ambedkar was born in

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other dignitaries on the occasion. Modi took a look at the grand memorial and spent over 15 minutes there

The Prime Minister later launched the "Gramoday se Bharat Uday" Abhiyan at a

that the Gramoday to Bharat Uday Abhiyan from 14th to 24th April, 2016 would focus attention on the development work to be done in villages. He said this year's Union Budget is dedicated to farmers and villages. He said development initiatives should be focused on rural development.

Mentioning some of the development initiatives being undertaken by the Union Government, the Prime Minister said 18,000 unelectrified villages are being electrified with a 1000 day deadline, and progress towards this goal could be seen by the people through the GARV App. He said digital connectivity is



Mhow cantonment town of Madhya Pradesh on April 14, 1891. The state government has built a grand memorial at his birth place.

Shri Narendra Modi became the first Prime Minister of the country to pay a visit to Ambedkar's birth place, Mhow." The Prime Minister was accompanied by

Public Meeting in Mhow on April 14. The Prime Minister said it was his privilege to be in Mhow on this auspicious day.

He recalled that Dr. Ambedkar had fought against injustice in society. His was a fight for equality and dignity, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said

essential in villages.

The Prime Minister mentioned the objective of doubling farmers' incomes, and said purchasing power of rural people has to increase as this will power India's economy. He said Panchayati Raj institutions should be made stronger and more vibrant. ■

National Perspective Plan of Sagarmala project released by PM Modi



The first Maritime India Summit in Mumbai, besides resulting in business agreements for Rs 82,905 crore investments, played a key role in highlighting the role of port led development for faster and sustainable economic growth. The National Perspective Plan of Sagarmala project, which was released by the Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi on April 14, underlined Governments seriousness in boosting port led infrastructure development.

The summit provided a platform for participation, engagement and interaction from 42 countries. More than 5000 delegates from around the globe participated in the Summit. The 3 day exhibition organized during the Summit

also drew enthusiastic response from 197 exhibitors including 81 international companies, 80 Indian private sector companies and 36 Government owned entities.

13 thematic sessions and 3 special sessions on various aspects of maritime sector were organised in which more than 80 eminent speakers from across the globe deliberated and shared their vision and experience and interacted with the audience. The thematic session on Maritime Nations highlighted the global nature of the shipping industry and the importance of co-operation & collaboration between maritime nations.

The focus sessions on maritime States brought to fore the investment opportunities in various

maritime States and Union Territories of India. In addition, there were sectoral seminars on shipbuilding and ship repair, skill development through maritime education, inland waterways development, cruise shipping and lighthouse tourism, fisheries development and maritime security, which saw serious deliberations.

An exclusive CEOs Forum of select industry leaders, chaired by Hon'ble Minister S,RT&H, was held to deliberate on the potential and growth opportunities of the Indian Maritime Sector. The enriching discussions, suggestions and learnings from various similar developments in many countries will help Ministry of Shipping in implementing a sustainable roadmap for the

sector. Union Shipping Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, interacted with over 100 foreign delegates and ensured them the ease of doing business in India.

The session on the Partner Country Republic of Korea, highlighted the strengths of Korea as a Maritime Nation especially in Ship Building, Maritime technology, Port led Development, Maritime Financing and Maritime Security.

The Summit has also provided a unique platform to forge new partnerships with other countries. On the side-lines of this Summit, high level bilateral meetings were held with 12 participating countries.

The Summit showcased around 240 projects which present investment opportunities during the next five years. The investment potential of these projects is around \$ 66 Billion (Rs. 4.34 lakh crores).

The Ministry of Shipping has established an Investment Facilitation Cell in Indian Ports Association to follow up on these opportunities with potential investors and ensure that the announcements and intent expressed during the summit materialize into actual projects and investments.

Maritime Heritage Museum A top draw



One of the top attractions at the Summit was the Maritime Heritage Museum, built in the form of a container ship with interiors resembling a Spanish Galleon.

The museum depicts the 5000 years rich maritime heritage of India, right from the earliest port at Lothal to the modern days of shipping in the form of artefacts, replicas, photographs, maps and navigation equipment. ■

Inflation in negative zone for 17th month, at -0.85 pc in March

Wholesale price-based inflation remained in the negative zone for the 17th month in a row at (-)0.85 per cent in March.

The March wholesale price index-based inflation was higher than (-)0.91 per cent in February. In March last year, it was (-)2.33 per cent.

This is the 17th straight month since November 2014 when deflationary pressure persisted. Food inflation stood at 3.73 per cent in March compared with 3.35 per cent in February, showed official data released on 18 April 2016.

Inflation in vegetables came in at (-)2.26 per cent in March while the same in pulses was high at 34.45 per cent. Onion and fruits saw easing of prices, with these sub-indices falling by 17.65 per cent and 2.13 per cent, respectively.

The inflation print in the fuel and power segment was (-)8.30 per cent, and for manufactured products, it read (-)0.13 per cent in March.

The January WPI inflation has been revised lower to (-)1.07 per cent from the provisional estimate of (-)0.90 per cent.

The Reserve Bank mainly looks at retail inflation data while firming up its monetary policy stance. Retail inflation in March fell to a six-month low of 4.83 per cent.

RBI earlier this month cut the key policy rate by 0.25 per cent and projected retail inflation to be around 5 per cent this fiscal. ■

PM launches e-NAM - the e-trading platform for National Agriculture Market

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on April 14 addressed a gathering of farmers at the pilot launch of e-NAM - the e-trading platform for the National Agriculture Market.

21 mandis from 8 States have joined e-NAM from April 14.

He said this initiative will usher in transparency which will greatly benefit the

- ▶ eNAM proposes to integrate 585 regulated wholesale markets or APMCs under one electronic platform by 2018. It will allow farmers to sell their produce to highest bidders.
- ▶ Farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere.
- ▶ Results in increased number of traders and great competition.
- ▶ Ensure open price discussion and better returns to farmers



farmers.

Shri Narendra Modi said this is a turning point for the agriculture community. He said the agriculture sector has to be looked at holistically, and it is only then that maximum benefit of the farmer can be ensured.

The Prime Minister explained to the farmers, various initiatives that have been taken, and what more can be done to raise agricultural incomes. The basic purpose of eNAM is to ensure transparency in buying and selling of agricultural commodities. But this may not happen anytime soon. "This is a big game changer certainly. We are glad eight states have the mandis and some more have already amended their APMC Acts and are ready to come on board. eNAM will actually be an answer to price volatility farmers often face," says B. Basavraj of Karnataka Pradesh

Gram Growers Association. "It is a tool to create a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online," explained Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh. eNAM will leverage the physical infrastructure of mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level.

The mechanism proposes to integrate 585 regulated wholesale markets or APMCs under one electronic platform by 2018. It will allow farmers to sell their produce to highest bidders.

It will initially aim at integrating 21 mandis in eight states - Uttar Pradesh (six), Gujarat (three), Telangana (five), Rajasthan (one), Madhya Pradesh (one), Haryana (two), Jharkhand (one) and Himachal Pradesh (two). (With inputs from IANS) ■

India was born Secular

-By K R Malkani

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

-Al-Biruni

Indian secularism was not a favour done to Muslims or to anybody else. It was only a modern expression of the age-old Indian tradition that all religious paths are equally valid, that the State has no religion and that nobody may be discriminated against on grounds of religious belief.

Some Muslims have the feeling that the Indian State has a Hindu character and that, to that extent, it is not quite a secular State. For example they do not relish All India Radio beginning the day's programme with bhajans. They do not fancy bhoomi-pujans and chanting of hymns at foundation-laying ceremonies. When we launch a ship by breaking a coconut and not by breaking open a bottle of champagne, as is the British custom-they think Hindus are being religious and not secular. Some of them even object to the statues of Yaksha and Yakshi outside the Reserve Bank Building in New Delhi's Parliament Street.

Some objections are based on misunderstanding. India is a democratic country. And

this democracy is overwhelmingly Hindu. It is, therefore, inevitable that the Hindu life-style should manifest itself in all aspects of Indian life. This is not communalism at work: it is, rather, a case of a working democracy.

A people's culture is part of their life. Secularism does

the leader of the Opposition and other political leaders jointly attend Church of England services in Westminster Abbey. This is part of Britain's national tradition. British Catholics and Jews do not view it as Anglican communalism.

Muslim Indians should also accept the Kalash and the

A people's culture lends colour and flavor and music to all its activities. It is to be understood and appreciated, and not excluded in the name of a colourless, tasteless and odourless concept of secularism. Whenever the British government orders fresh elections, the Prime Minister, the leader of the Opposition and other political leaders jointly attend Church of England services in Westminster Abbey. This is part of Britain's national tradition. British Catholics and Jews do not view it as Anglican communalism.

not mean that they have to strip themselves of their culture when dealing with public affairs, like the snake which sheds its skin with the seasons. A people's culture lends colour and flavor and music to all its activities. It is to be understood and appreciated, and not excluded in the name of a colourless, tasteless and odourless concept of secularism. Whenever the British government orders fresh elections, the Prime Minister,

coconut, the conchshell and the kum kum as part of our colourful national heritage. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai understood this situation very well when he urged Nehru to ban cow slaughter, since 'that is what the people want'. He went on to say in good humour that if he became PM he would do such popular things that people would forget all about Nehru. Dr. Zakir Hussain was also only respecting national tradition

...Continued on page 15

Dr. BR Ambedkar : A visionary scholar

As the nation celebrates 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on 14 April 2016 the people remember him as chief architect of the Indian constitution, a social revolutionary and a *Dalit* thinker.

Babasaheb represents a multifaceted personality contributing immensely to enrich various facets of national life. Apart from earning a number of doctorates from prestigious Columbia University and the London School of Economics for his study and research in law, economics and political science

he wrote fearlessly on various issues as an academician and as a political activist. His writings may be broadly divided into various parts, viz. the writings of a political activist, an academician, a nationalist, a spiritual leader and so on. As a political activist and as a mass leader, Babasaheb was raising issues far ahead of his times, hence

a radical approach was required to galvanise support for his agenda of social reform so as to bring the issue of caste discrimination and untouchability in the central focus. While as an academician he tried to frame scholarly and well researched

responses on the burning issues of the day which remain relevant even today.

Babasaheb was born on 14 April 1891, in a Mahar family then staying at Mhow, now in Madhya Pradesh. His family originally hailed from the town of Ambavade in the

Ratnagiri district of modern-day Maharashtra. As a school going child he had to face various kinds of discrimination owing to low status of Mahars in the caste hierarchy but he remained undeterred in his resolve to pursue higher education. As a student from Elphinston College he was granted a scholarship of twenty five rupees a month from the Gaikwad ruler of Baroda,



Babasaheb was born on 14 April 1891, in a Mahar family then staying at Mhow, now in Madhya Pradesh. His family originally hailed from the town of Ambavade in the Ratnagiri district of modern-day Maharashtra.

Sahyaji Rao III for higher studies in the USA. He went to USA for his doctoral studies and obtained degrees in economics and political science. On his return he joined service of Baroda state government and also started as a social activist fighting against caste discrimination and untouchability then widely prevalent in Indian

society. His activism and scholarly espousal of the cause of the deprived and oppressed sections soon saw him emerging as a political leader of national stature.

So far Babasaheb writings in India have been selectively read within a particular framework showing him a champion of deprived and oppressed sections of Indian society. He is seen as a chief architect of Indian constitution who laid the foundation of liberal democracy in the country expecting the state to take welfare measures in the interest of weaker sections of the society. But other side of his personality remains unexplored. The academician

The academician and thinker in him, his advocacy for exchange of population at the time of partition, his concerns for preserving cultural contours of Indian civilization, his decision to embrace Buddhism not only as a political act but as a result of a honest spiritual quest, his rejection of Islam, Christianity and Marxism and his reading of India's past – and many more such other dimensions of Babasaheb's personality still awaits to be studied, researched and explored.

and thinker in him, his advocacy for exchange of population at the time of partition, his concerns for preserving cultural contours of Indian civilization, his decision to embrace Buddhism not only as a political act but as a result of a honest spiritual quest, his rejection

of Islam, Christianity and Marxism and his reading of India's past – and many more such other dimensions of Babasaheb's personality still awaits to be studied, researched and explored.

As a nationalist Babasaheb always attempted to keep national interest at the foremost. His relentless championing the cause of deprived and depressed sections of the society has resulted in his image being stereotyped around certain issues mainly looking at him as a *Dalit* icon and relegating his other contributions to background. Babasaheb was a mass leader, political and social thinker, academician, scholar and above all a

nationalist rooted in the cultural ethos of Indian civilization. While the country feels indebted for his immense contributions in the nation building process, many other aspects of his multifaceted personality remains yet to be explored. ■



...Continued from page 13

when, on his election as President of India, he called on the Shankaracharya of Shringeri Math to pay his respects. Mahatma Gandhi was not being communal when he talked of Satya and Ahimsa, he was only invoking the national ethos.

Some new-style secularists were surprised that Nehru was given a Vedic funeral. They forgot that Nehru had gone through all the religious ceremonies appropriate to a man of his caste and class.

He was not only 'Pandit' to everybody from Cabinet colleagues down to butlers, he hardly ever missed a Kumbh Mela in his life. It was Nehru who insisted on putting the Dharma Chakra in the national flag. When Feroze Gandhi, a Parsi by birth, married his daughter, Nehru had the marriage solemnized according to Vedic rites. Feroze was also given a Hindu funeral. It is true that Nehru described himself a 'pagan'; but so is every Hindu!

In doing all this, Gandhi and Nehru were not being communal; they were only being natural, national. They knew there was no contradiction in being Hindu and secular. As Balasaheb Deoras of the RSS puts it "India is secular only because it is Hindu". ■

Mamata fighting EC, not political parties : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 17 April, 2016 said that West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, who has accepted defeat in the assembly elections, is fighting the battle with the Election Commission and not with other political parties.

Addressing a huge election rally in Krishnanagar in Nadia district, Prime Minister Shri Modi said, "Mamata Banerjee is not fighting the elections with other political parties but with the Election Commission. She and her party have accepted the defeat and that is why they are not fighting with any political party but with the Election Commission."

"Standing on the verge of defeat, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has lost its mental balance. The Election Commission is an independent authority, which is praised all over the world," he added. Prime Minister Shri Modi also pulled up the TMC chief for making baseless statements instead of replying to the Election Commission's notice on time. "The Election Commission issued a notice to Mamata ji for her language and her behaviour. That was their job.

I have heard that Chief Secretary of West Bengal replied to Election Commission's notice issued to Mamata," he said.

"Your job was to reply to the Election Commission. But you replied saying that 'you will see the Election Commission after May 19'. If this has happened, it's wrong



because the Election Commission had issued notice to Mamata Banerjee, the TMC leader not Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister," he added.

"On the brink of defeat, the Trinamool has lost its senses, Mamata and her party has accepted defeat and that is why she is not fighting with political parties, but rather with the EC," Shri Modi said.

He said, "The country runs on laws and rules and if you want disobey them, then clarify before the people whether you have faith in democracy or not, whether you have faith in the country's constitution or nor not."

"Polls will come and go,

but if these institutions are destroyed, the country will not be able to be run. The EC gave notice to you and it was your responsibility to put forth your stand, your views," he said.

Reaching out to the voters, the Prime Minister further said Banerjee who has ignored the plight of the people, is focusing more on the syndicate culture. "If Mamata ji would have addressed the sufferings of the people then there would have been no need of her to threaten the Election Commission. Mamata Didi is also a part of syndicate culture. Vivekananda

flyover case is a result of this culture," he added.

"Do you know, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi lost her membership for six years because she misused her power? Whether it's the Congress or the TMC, both have similar lineage. Both have destroyed West Bengal," he further said.

Noteworthy, unfazed by a showcase notice issued by the Election Commission for violating the Model Code of Conduct during her election rally in Asansol, Banerjee had said, "She did not regret whatever she had said and would say that thousand times". ■

We are on the path of shaping an even better maritime future

By Narendra Modi

This is the first time that a global event of such a large scale is being organised by India. I extend a warm welcome to all the esteemed guests attending this event in the maritime hub of India. I am sure, this event; together with the seminars and exhibition, will showcase the emerging trends and opportunities in the maritime sector.

We all know that oceans cover more than seventy percent of the Earth's surface. We also know that oceans contain ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water. Therefore, maritime transport can be the most extensive mode of transport. It is also the most eco-friendly mode of transport. However, there is one more aspect to this fact. Which is that, oceans contain ninety nine percent of the living space on the planet. This means that our lifestyle, transport systems and trading behavior should not spoil the ecology of the oceans. Also, maritime security, freedom of navigation and safety and security of sea lanes is equally important.

The challenges of climate change have shown that even offshore human behavior can change the ecology of glaciers and oceans. This is already causing a lot of concern for island countries and coastal communities in particular. I hope this summit will deliberate on these issues while discussing economic issues related with oceans. The elimination of sea piracy, which was a big threat to international shipping a few years ago, is a

good example of how joint efforts by maritime nations can achieve outstanding results.

Friends! There is a reason why this important Summit has been organized on the 14th of April 2016. Today is the 125th birth anniversary of a great son of India who also lived and worked in Mumbai. I am referring

to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was the architect of our Constitution. He is also the architect of the water and river navigation policy in India. I offer my profound respects to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on this auspicious day. I also wish and pray that his wisdom continues to guide us in our efforts



towards nation building.

Many of us may not know that Babasaheb created two powerful institutions related to water, navigation and power. They were: The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and The Central Technical Power Board. His observations while setting up these two organizations is a testimony to his great foresight.

I quote from his address on 3rd January, 1945:

“The objects which have led to the setting up of two organizations are to advise on how the water resources can be best utilized and how a project can be made to serve purposes other than irrigation.”

Dr Ambedkar had emphasized the importance of the new waterways policy in order to lay the foundation for a regime of

prosperity for the millions of poor of our country. I am happy to state that we have embarked on the development of National Waterways in keeping with Babasaheb's vision and foresight. With a GDP growth rate of more than seven percent, India is the fastest growing major economy today. The IMF and the World Bank have indicated even better prospects in the days to come. We are taking aggressive steps to ensure that our process of growth is both fast as well as inclusive. This summit is another step to realize Babasaheb's dream of an economically strong, socially empowered and technologically equipped India.

I understand that more than 4500 dignitaries and delegates from around forty countries are participating in this Summit. I am particularly happy that the Republic of Korea is the Partner Country for this event. I thank the President of Korea and also the senior Minister, Mr. Kim Young-Suk who is present here.

Friends! We Indians are inheritors of a glorious maritime heritage. The world's first dock was built at Lothal in Gujarat around 2500 BC during the Harappan Civilisation. This dock was equipped to berth and service ships. It was built after studying tidal flows.

In addition to Lothal, there were also some other

Indian ports, which were major drivers of global maritime trade two thousand years ago. These included:

- ▶ Barygaza - which today is known as Bharuch in Gujarat;
- ▶ Muziris which today is known as Kodungallur near Cochin in Kerala;
- ▶ Korkai which is today's Tuticorin;
- ▶ Kaveripattinam which is in Nagapattanam District of Tamil Nadu; and Arikamedu which is in Ariyankuppam District of Puducherry

There are many references in ancient Indian literature and in Greek and Roman works about the vibrant maritime trade of India with Rome, Greece, Egypt and Arabia. Ancient and medieval Indian traders maintained links with countries in Southeast and East Asia, Africa, Arabia and Europe.

Friends! Since my government took over, among other things, we have laid emphasis on building futuristic infrastructure. This includes building next generation infrastructure in many sectors. Port, Shipping and Maritime infrastructure is prominent among them. It is my Government's endeavour to revive and restore India's position of eminence in the global maritime sector.

Building upon our glorious maritime tradition, we are working hard to achieve new heights in this area. In the very early days

of our Government, we announced the Sagarmala programme. This is aimed at leveraging our long coastline and natural maritime advantages. It also focuses on promoting port led development, energizing the coastal economy and infrastructure development in these areas. We particularly want to modernize our ports and integrate them with Special Economic Zones, Port based Smart Cities, Industrial Parks, Warehouses, Logistics Parks and Transport Corridors.

I must mention that our vast coastline of 7500 kilometers offers a huge investment opportunity. Apart from the length of the coastline, India's maritime potential also lies in its strategic location on all major shipping highways. In addition, we have an expansive and productive hinterland, through which flows a network of mighty rivers. Our maritime agenda will complement this ambitious infrastructure plan for the hinterland which is going on in parallel.

I call upon the global business community to partner with us to give shape to our process of port led development. I am sure, the long coastline of India along with diverse coastal regions and hard working coastal communities can become an engine of growth of India.

To enable the growth of the port and related sectors,

we have carried out several reforms and taken a number of new initiatives.

Under our 'Make in India' approach, we have taken many steps to make India a global manufacturing hub;

- ▶ Recently MOODY's has appreciated the Make in India initiative;
- ▶ We have done a lot of corrections on the front of Ease of doing business - we have jumped up 12 ranks in World Bank's ranking; A lot of simplification has happened in the processes for cross border trade;
- ▶ We have greatly liberalized the licensing regimes; This also includes the defence sector and ship building therein;
- ▶ We have taken almost sixty per cent of the defence items out of the licensing process Most of the FDI sectors are now put on automatic approval route; Shipyards are being given Infrastructure status; at par with the ports;
- ▶ Rebate of service tax on coastal shipping has been increased to seventy per cent;
- ▶ We have granted customs duty and central excise exemption on inputs used in ship building;
- ▶ A scheme of financial assistance to promote ship building has been approved;
- ▶ Customs and central excise duties have been

exempted on bunker fuel for Indian flagged container ships;

- ▶ Tax issues of sea farers have been resolved;
- ▶ A new company by the name of Indian Port Rail Corporation, has been established to focus on the last mile connectivity to ports.
- ▶ We have enacted a legislation for declaring one hundred and eleven waterways as National Waterways-1.
- ▶ We have taken up skill development activities aggressively. The results of our initial efforts are clearly visible:
- ▶ FDI inflows have gone up by 44 per cent since this government took over. In fact, the year 2015-16 has seen the highest ever FDI inflow into India; India's highest ever quantity of cargo handled by major ports was in 2015; The port efficiency parameters have shown very good improvement;
- ▶ India's fastest average turnaround time in ports was in 2015; In the last two years, our Major Ports have added 165 million tonne capacity with record additions each year;
- ▶ 94 million tonne capacity was added by these ports in 2015-16 alone which is the highest ever;
- ▶ The traffic in Major Ports has shown a healthy growth of more than four

per cent in the last two years, despite global slowdown;

- ▶ The performance of the Major Ports in the last two years has been remarkable;
- ▶ Operating Profit margins which were declining, have increased;
- ▶ In 2015-16 alone, the operating profit of the twelve Major Ports has increased by nearly 6.7 billion rupees;
- ▶ During 2015-16, Kandla Port in Gujarat breached the one hundred million traffic landmark and displayed twenty per cent improvement in efficiency.
- ▶ Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust registered a net profit of ten billion rupees helped by a twelve per cent increase in efficiency.
- ▶ Our flagship companies like the Shipping Corporation, Dredging Corporation and the Cochin Shipyard have registered higher profits as compared to the previous year.

However, this is just the beginning. We want to do more. We are enhancing our own capacities of execution and implementation. The National Perspective Plan of the Sagarmala Programme has been released today. During the last two years, major ports have awarded 56 new Projects involving an investment of more than 250 billion rupees. This will create an additional

port capacity of 317 million tonnes per annum. Our vision is to increase port capacity from 1400 million tonnes to 3000 million tonnes by 2025. We want to mobilize an investment of one lakh crore, or one trillion rupees, in the Port Sector to enable this growth. Five new ports are planned to meet the increasing demand of the Exim trade which will rise in proportion with the fast-growing Indian economy. New ports are also being developed by several coastal States of India.

The multiple measures to promote Coastal Shipping coupled with the anticipated rise in domestic production of coal, is expected to enhance coastal transportation of coal by at least four fold by 2025. We are engaging with our immediate and regional neighbours to promote shipping and maritime security. Recently India has signed a Coastal Shipping Agreement with Bangladesh which will be mutually beneficial. India is also engaged in the development of Chahbahar Port in Iran. A special purpose vehicle by the name India Ports Global Limited has been established to take up Maritime Projects overseas.

I am informed that the Ministry of Shipping is showcasing about 250 projects with investment opportunity in the Maritime Sector. These projects include various infrastructure development

opportunities in 12 Major Ports, projects in eight maritime states and other agencies. Of these, over 100 projects have been identified under the Sagarmala Programme. With more than 14,000 kilometers of navigable inland waterways in the country, there is tremendous potential for development in this sector. My Government is committed to integration in infrastructure. We are also committed to creating an enabling environment for investors and to facilitate investments with an open mind.

Friends! All this is being done to benefit the common man. This is being done to provide employment to the youth. This is particularly being done to empower coastal communities. Approximately eighteen percent of India's population lives in 72 coastal districts. It comprises twelve percent of India's landmass. Therefore, there is a need for holistic and sustainable development of coastal regions and communities. Development of coastal communities especially fishermen requires an integrated approach. As part of the Sagarmala programme, we will adopt a comprehensive approach with focus on capacity building and training, upgrading of technology and for improving physical and social infrastructure. This will be done in collaboration with the coastal states.

These initiatives will create employment opportunities of approximately ten million jobs over the next ten years. This includes four million direct and six million indirect jobs. To broaden livelihood opportunities further, we are planning to deploy modern and sophisticated fishing vessels. This would enable them to harness resources in India's Exclusive Economic Zone. In addition, we are also focusing on value addition in fisheries, aquaculture and cold chain development.

The Port Sector in India is a good mix of Private and Public Ports, with both contributing to the growth of the sector. The PPP model of development has been quite successful in this sector and has helped in bringing latest technology and best practices. Private Ports have been growing at a very healthy pace and have nearly doubled their capacity in the last 5 years. They handle around 45 per cent of the total cargo. Most of these Ports are new, with modern facilities and can match the best international Ports in terms of performance and infrastructure.

Friends! India has had a glorious maritime history. We are on the path of shaping an even better maritime future. The maritime sector not only creates and facilitates economic activities; it also connects countries and civilizations. Moreover, it is

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How Narendra Modi is getting India to save on electricity

By Manu Balachandran

The Narendra Modi government is trying to solve India's electricity problem by pushing for more efficient appliances.

Just last year, Asia's third largest economy faced a 3.6% deficit in peak-hour energy supply. Such a shortfall not only affects manufacturing and industrial productivity but also inconveniences millions of Indians, particularly during the torrid summer months. And this even as over 280 million people are yet to have access to electricity in India.

Since taking reins in May 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has focused on fixing this crisis, dabbling with everything from turning to solar power to providing financial incentives to power distribution companies.

Now, as India's power requirement is slated to grow at an average of 5.2% between 2014 and 2024, the Narendra Modi administration is increasingly turning its focus towards saving more power.

In January 2015, the government had launched the National Programme for light emitting diode (LED)-based home and street lighting. Under this, conventional lamps, which typically use more power, will be replaced by LED lamps that consume 80% less energy.

Last week, the government initiated two more similar schemes: one aimed at replacing inefficient agricultural pumps and the other replacing ceiling fans with more energy-efficient ones.

These will be implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the union power ministry that is also undertaking the LED project.

Better agriculture pumps and fans

The National Energy Efficient Agriculture Pumps Programme will replace inefficient pumps with ones that are better-rated, for free. The new ones will feature a smart control panel and a SIM card, enabling their control from homes. Currently, India's outdated agricultural pumps are estimated to consume 170 billion units of energy.

"EESL will distribute 200,000 BEE star-rated pump sets to the farmers under this programme, which will lead to 30% of energy savings by 2019. This translates into annual savings of approximately Rs20,000 crore (\$3 billion) on agricultural subsidies or a saving of 50 billion units of energy every year," a government statement said.

A new scheme – the

National Energy Efficient Fan Programme – has also been launched, under which, energy efficient ceiling fans of 50 watts will be provided at Rs60 per month or a one-time payment of Rs1,250 (\$19). These fans are being produced by domestic fan-makers such as Usha and Bajaj.

"The government estimates that the use of these fans will lead to savings of Rs700 (\$10.5) a year on their electricity bills. This means, a consumer can recover the cost of this energy-efficient ceiling fan in less than 2 years," the statement added. The program has so far been rolled out in Andhra Pradesh in south India and Uttar Pradesh in the north.

Energy efficient appliances are often expensive, keeping many away from such products. However, these appliances are crucial to helping India curb the crisis. As a 2013 report from the World Resources Institute notes:

"India's residential sector accounts for approximately 39 percent of the country's final energy consumption. If all the appliances purchased in India over a three-year period were energy efficient, India could avoid new capacity requirements of over 25,000 MW – close to an eighth of India's total installed capacity."

(Courtesy:qz.com)

Maldives' security, stability in India's interest : PM Modi

Referring to India's Neighbourhood First policy, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on April 11 said that the security and stability of the Maldives are in the interest of India.

"The Maldives is among India's closest partners," Shri Modi said while addressing the media after holding bilateral delegation-level talks with visiting Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom over a working lunch here.

"The stability and security of the Maldives are in the interest of India," he said.

The prime minister's statement comes in the face of China's growing influence and investments in the Indian Ocean archipelago nation.

India and the Maldives exchanged six agreements in the fields of taxation, tourism, space research, defence and conservation of mosques following Monday's talks.

Referring to India's Neighbourhood First foreign policy, Shri Modi said he and President Yameen discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

"India understands its role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean and is ready to protect its strategic interests in this region," Shri Modi said.

"The prompt implementation of a concrete action plan in the defence

sector will strengthen our security cooperation," he said.

The prime minister said that development of ports, continuous training, capacity building, supply of equipment and maritime surveillance would be the main elements of the security cooperation.

"President Yameen and I are aware of the growing dangers of cross-border terrorism and radicalisation in South Asia," he said.

"Information exchange between security agencies and training and capacity building of Maldives Police and security forces is an important part of our security cooperation."

Shri Modi also said that the South Asian Satellite proposed by India would help the Maldives in the fields of education, health and tourism.

He said the agreement on cooperation in the tourism sector would boost people-to-people ties.

The agreement on conservation of ancient mosques in the Maldives would strengthen cultural ties, he said.

"President Yameen, India is a well-wisher and will match steps with the Maldives in its journey towards progress," the prime minister said.

On his part, President Yameen said that India was

the most important friend of the Maldives.

"Our ties are based on civilisational roots," he said.

"Our security is intimately linked with India's security."

Earlier, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on President Yameen in his first engagement of the day in the city.

Yameen had earlier come to India on a bilateral visit in January 2014 and was among the South Asian leaders who attended Prime Minister Modi's swearing-in in May 2014.

Though India and the Maldives completed 50 years of diplomatic ties last year and the two countries historically enjoy a close relationship, Yameen's visit assumes significance because of New Delhi's discomfiture over China's increasing investments and influence in the Indian Ocean region.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited the Maldives in November 2014 and again in October 2015 for the India-Maldives Joint Commission meeting, which was held after 15 years.

This year, Maldivian ministerial delegations to India, led by the foreign minister, defence minister, tourism minister, and foreign secretary "have further strengthened bilateral ties between India and Maldives", said a Maldives high commission statement. ■

World Bank should create a financial intermediary fund to provide concessional finance to both low and middle income countries : Arun Jaitley

Following is the Text of the Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley's Speech at the Development Committee of the World Bank in Washington D.C. on 16 April, 2016 where the Finance Minister spoke about the role of World Bank in the changed scenario among other issues. Excerpts :



Mr. Chairman,

1. I compliment the Bank for presenting a very well researched and comprehensive paper on the issue and the challenges of forced displacement the World is facing today. The conflicts in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Sub-Saharan Region (SSR) and the fragility in many other countries have the potential to increase the concentration of poverty in these regions. The World Bank Group, therefore, needs to extend financial resources, provide analytical and advisory services and play a very meaningful convening role in such situations. Further, it may be more effective and efficient to create a financial intermediary fund along the lines of Crisis Response Window (CRW) in IDA to provide concessional finance to both low-income countries and middle income countries.
2. Moving to the Dynamic Formula update, it is heartening to note that the Shareholding reforms agenda has moved forward. We discussed Forward Look during Lunch today. The unfinished task of eliminating extreme poverty, achieving development ambitions enshrined in the Sustainable

- Development Goals (SDGs) and meeting the enormous challenge of reconstruction posed by conflicts and fragility calls for the Bank Group to expand its annual lending to 100 billion dollars. For doing so, both IBRD and the IFC, would need General Capital Increase (GCI). These two institutions would also need large Selective Capital Increase (SCI) to reflect the increasing weight of Developing & Transition Countries (DTCs). These steps have to be taken in timely manner to maintain leadership position of World Bank Group in the development landscape.
3. I wish to reiterate that we must adhere to the Istanbul principles. We must accept that the time has come for raising partnership of DTCs in the IBRD and IFC to 50%. This would require that economic weight captured by GDP must remain the primary factor in the formula, with larger share of PPP based GDP of not less than 60%. IDA has enormously useful role in financing development in low income countries, but recognizing IDA contributions in IBRD/IFC share capital has adverse impact on voting share of developing countries . Therefore, it

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We have to fulfill Vajpayee's J&K dream : Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Katra, in Jammu and Kashmir on 19 April, 2016. He inaugurated the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, and delivered the Convocation Address at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

The Prime Minister exhorted the students to always remember that one of the sources of funding for this University was the donation made by poor pilgrims at the shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi. He said that the students should also take a pledge to do something for the poor.

He said that the nation is scaling new heights, and with a youthful population, there is a lot that can be achieved. He said the 21st century is the century of knowledge, and whenever there has been an era of knowledge, India has shown the way.

The Prime Minister appreciated the girl students

for performing exceedingly well academically. He also recalled the feat of Dipa Karmakar, who has become

State of Jammu and Kashmir. He also recalled the former Chief Minister of the State, Shri Mufti Mohammad



PM inaugurates Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital and Sports Complex

the first Indian woman to qualify for an Olympics gymnastics competition.

The Prime Minister later inaugurated the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Sports Complex, and addressed a public meeting. He appreciated the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, for her energetic leadership, and for the enthusiasm with which she spoke of the future of the

Sayed.

Referring to the Sports Complex, he said that sports is extremely important to build sportsman spirit in society. He also mentioned the FIFA Under-17 World Cup that will be hosted by India in 2017, and said this should be an opportunity for us to celebrate sports.

The Prime Minister recalled Shri Atal Bihari's vision for Jammu and Kashmir - Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat, and

Kashmiriyat. He said that every effort would be made to work towards the development of the State, keeping in mind this vision. Shri Modi said development alone was the answer to all problems.

“Whether it is Kashmir or Kanyakumari, Kutch or Kamrup, balanced and all-round development is the answer to all our problems.”

Referring to the Rs 80,000-crore package announced for development of Jammu and Kashmir when Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was chief minister, Shri Modi said the Centre, with all its resources, was moving forward “shoulder-to-shoulder” with the state government to fulfill aspirations.

“People of the state have lot of love and affection for Atal Bihari Vajpayee who used to talk about taking Jammu and Kashmir forward on the pillars of Insaniyat, Kashmiriyat and Jamhooriyat. We have to fulfill his dream by taking everybody along and ensuring development of all,” he said.

He hoped the formation of the new government “led by a young and energetic leadership will usher in a new era of development” across the state.

“Mehboobaji does not talk about weather. She always talks about bridges, roads and development. When the leadership is so dedicated to the cause of development, then development becomes

Jammu and Kashmir, he said, can do a great service to the country with tourism. “When a tourist from anywhere in the world comes here, it does not only improve the economy of the state but the entire country. We can take initiatives to improve tourism in Jammu and Kashmir with modernization, adventure and spiritual tourism.”

Governments in the state and the Centre, he said, were committed to the creation of a modern infrastructure for tourism in the state. He said work on a rail link and road between Jammu and Srinagar was progressing at a fast pace.

imminent,” he said.

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tourism.”

Governments in the state and the Centre, he said, were committed to the creation of a modern infrastructure for tourism in the state. He said work on a rail link and road between Jammu and Srinagar was progressing at a fast pace.

“This is going to bring pleasant results in the coming days... we will get connected up to Leh in Ladakh. I believe this will compel visiting pilgrims (to Vaishno Devi) to make up their mind and travel to this side (Valley).”

Referring to his morning meeting with students at convocation of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board University, the Prime Minister said that very few people in India are aware that students from all states of the country study and live in Jammu and Kashmir. “This in itself is an identity of Jammu and Kashmir, which gives strength and a sense of pride to the country.”

“Whenever a Kashmiri youth shines in the Indian cricket team, the country feels proud,” he said, adding that the FIFA Under-17 World Cup football will be played in India in 2017. “The event will be an opportunity to bring new strength and courage among the youth of India. Though our position in football is not so good, we shall adopt this game in such a way that it creates an atmosphere for the world to see the strength and unity in diversity of the Indian youth.” ■

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:



National Council Meeting, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi

A one-day BJP National Council meeting was organized on August 9, 2014 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. The contributions made by BJP led NDA government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi were discussed and at the same time, plans were formulated to strengthen the party organization. The meeting was inaugurated by BJP National President Shri Amit Shah. Shri Shah delivered an inspiring speech. A political resolution was also passed unanimously in this meeting. BJP MPs, MLAs, office bearers and the representatives along with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, senior BJP leader Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Former BJP National Presidents Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Foreign Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, Chief Ministers of BJP ruled states, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh), Smt. Vasundhara Raje (Rajasthan), Smt. Anandiben Patel (Gujarat), Dr. Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh), Shri Manohar Parriker (Goa) were present in this

meeting. While speaking at the first national council meeting held after Lok Sabha 2014 elections, the BJP President Shri Amit Shah said that Shri Narendra Modi during his Lok Sabha election campaign had given a call of 'Congress Mukta Bharat' but India will become 'Congress Mukta' only when we make it 'BJP Yukta.'

SANGATHAN PARVA

- There has been a tradition of membership drive of BJP at the interval of every 6 years. Shri Amit Bhai after assuming the post of party president, brought amendments in the constitution of the party in the National council held at Delhi in August 2014 and gave a new look to the membership campaign. Online membership was accepted in the meeting.
- Shri Amit Shah and his entire team worked very hard day and night to achieve the ambitious target of making BJP the largest party in the world and during this period, he travelled 39,681 kilometers covering almost all the states of the country.
- As a result of these efforts, the membership increased from 2,47,32,439 crore to 12,00,55,750 crore, 5 times of its previous

numbers. The Party started more than 50 types of different programs to expedite the membership campaign.

- The transparency of the membership campaign can be understood from the fact that addresses and phone numbers of all the new members could be compiled along with the names of the new members.
- Special attention was paid to the seven electorally weak states, viz, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Odisha, Tamilnadu, Telangana and West Bengal. The results of these efforts were encouraging which indicate towards the bright future of the party.
- 5500 full time party workers played an active role in membership campaign for six months in various states.
- Special attention was given to North East States and Union Territories by organising meetings focusing them.

Mahasampark Abhiyan

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah started the Mahasampark Abhiyan (Massive Contact programme) on 01 May 2015 in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The karyakartas went from house to house after the completion of membership drive to give information about the party's history, development and achievements and also distributed a pamphlet containing details of the achievements of the government. The Sampark Abhiyan started from the residence of the Prime Minister and thereafter the team of karyakartas spearheaded this campaign by visiting the houses of the new members.

PRAVAS

- Shri Amit Shah, with a view to establish direct contact with party office bearers, party karyakartas and supporters, gave priority to tour in various states and within 20 months of his tenure by January 2016, he travelled a distance of 2,86,936 kilometers with the daily average of 484 kilometers under various party programs.
- He took decision to stop the use of chartered plane by the party office bearers for any purpose other than elections and

the National President himself followed this rule.

- The party office bearers were encouraged to stay in government guest houses instead of staying in costly hotels.
- The office bearers were encouraged for night stay to establish direct contact with the party karyakartas and the National President himself followed this suggestion as more than 80 percent of his tours also included night stays.
- The National President toured at all states of the country except Daman Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Andaman and had meetings with all MPs, MLAs, state office bearers and district heads.
- Tradition of regional meetings was re-established for emphasizing de-centralization of work in the organisation.
- A plan for tour by National General Secretary (Organisation), Joint General Secretaries (Organisation) and other prominent office bearers has been chalked out for each state.
- National General Secretary (Organisation), Joint General Secretary (Organisation) will take special care of seven states, considered weak from the organizational and electoral point of view. Each central ministers will be given responsibility of states.
- Ministers have toured for 36 hours in two constituencies other than their own constituencies.
- All the MPs have toured assembly constituencies of their parliamentary constituencies.

SAMPARK

- **Jan-Samvad** : The National President is himself available for the full day on every first and third Monday at BJP Headquarters. Any office bearer or party karyakartas can meet him without any prior appointment. This has been continuing since 6 April 2015.
- The National President conducted meetings every three months to lay special emphasis on organizational issues with the General Secretaries.

- Shri Amit Shah held a dozen meetings with the Prime Minister and six senior ministers to maintain co-ordination between the government and organisation.
- Emphasized on co-ordination with like-minded parties by maintaining continuous contacts.
- During his toures in various states allocated separate time of 2 hours to those who tried to seek appointment with the National President at Delhi.

Change in vote percentage in Vidhan Sabha elections				
States	Vote percentage of BJP in the last election	Vote percentage of BJP in the present election	Change in vote percentage	Remarks
Maharashtra	12.2	27.8	+15.6	Chief Minister of BJP
Haryana	9.0	33.2	+24.2	
Jharkhand	20.2	31.3	+11.1 CM	Chief Minister of BJP
Jammu & Kashmir	12.5	23.0	+10.5	Dy- Chief Minister of BJP
Delhi	33.0	32.2	-0.8	BJP Lost
Bihar	16.5	24.4	+7.9	BJP Lost

Performance in Elections

Vidhan Sabha Elections after Lok Sabha victory

- BJP registered success in the elections held in six states in this period, where party won in four states and formed government but could not get the desired results in two states.
- After the break-up of the longtime alliance in Maharashtra, BJP went into elections on its own and became largest party and got the post of CM for the first time in the state.
- Party took a bold step to go all alone in elections in Haryana and achieved majority and the state got its first BJP CM.
- Gave a stable government to Jharkhand with full majority under BJP leadership which earlier faced instability
- BJP got the highest vote percentage after independence in J&K and the state got party's Deputy CM in coalition government.
- Could not get the required success in Delhi but vote percentage remained intact.
- After break-up of alliance with JD (U) in Bihar, the party contested elections on its own and despite of efforts, due to new conditions and united opposition, party could not get the required success.

Election Results:

Lok Sabha MPs : 282 (NDA 336)/543

Rajya Sabha MP s: 48 (NDA 63)/250

MLAs: Legislative Assemblies are in 31 states. There are 1025 Member of Legislative Assembly in 25 states.

From the point of view of Lok Sabha members and Vidhan Sabha members, BJP stands at rank 1

Members of Vidhan Parishad: Vidhan Parishads are in 7 states. There are 79 members in these Parishads.

Elections: In the meantime, local Bodies' elections, Panchayat elections were held in many states. BJP achieved tremendous success at various places; viz- Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala etc. Desired results could not be achieved in panchayat elections in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat. Achieved success in Vidhan Sabha bypolls and Vidhan Parishad elections.

BJP candidates became Chairman/Mayor in Municipal Corporations in Leh-Laddakh, Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Andaman Nicobar. Achieved success for the first time at many places. Opened account by winning two bypolls of Manipur Vidhan Sabha and performed exceptionally well in Panchayat elections there. Organizational preparations have been completed towards Vidhan Sabha elections in five states. Everywhere, there is a chance of increase in vote percentage. At all places, vote percentage and seats are likely to go up. The government has been formed in Arunachal Pradesh with the support of BJP.

To continue...

Why India & Arabia must join hands against terror

By Balbir Punj

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose the most appropriate gift for the Saudi king when he called on the royal personality during his two-day visit to Riyadh. The gift was a gold-plated replica of the first mosque built in India. The thoughtful gift underlined an ancient truth about this country. India has had tradition of probably the world's most secular, non-fanatic society because of its dominant eclectic Hindu faith. Warm welcome to the persecuted communities of Syrian Christians, Jews and Parsees by the reigning Hindu rulers of the yore are further illustration of the pluralistic ethos of the Hindu society. Mosque

This celebrated mosque was built in 629 AD, under a Hindu king in Kerala. This place of worship came up when the first Muslim from India visited the Holy Prophet in Arabia. It was the first mosque to be built outside Arabia and that too during Prophet Muhammad's life time. It is known as Cheraman Jumma Masjid.

In 1342-47, a well-known traveller and historian Ibn Batuta visited the settlements of Arab commoners and the

noblemen, including some native royal heads on the west coast and wrote in his travel memoirs: "Muslims are the most highly honoured people". He had travelled from the coastal port of Kozhikode to Kollam before he wrote it. It is for the present Muslim leadership, both religious and political, to reflect on why this bonhomie between Hindu rulers and commoners and Muslims changed its character in the 10th century onwards. As against the trade-led peaceful Arabs bringing Islam to welcoming west coast of India, the northwest saw violent clashes between the invading Afghan, central Asian and Persian Islamic forces and Indian kingdoms in the 10th century and onwards. Why did the widespread tolerance for the Arabs in the seventh century take an increasingly hostile turn later? Was it the rising influence of non-Arabic Islamic communities that infused an attitude of separateness within the Muslim masses that culminated in India's Partition in 1947? Look at Pakistan which was created with the slogan that Islam was in

danger in a Hindu majority state. Today, not a week passes without the world getting reports of the Sunni and Shia factions of Islam violently breaking into each other's places of worship. The other smaller Islamic communities like the Bohras, the Ismailites, the Sufis, etc, have already either been driven out or declared non-Muslims.

Mindset

Contrast this exclusivist mindset, which breeds terror, with harmony which followed after the fusion of the new faith of the converts with their preconversion culture and practices. Lightening of brass lamps in places of worship is one such ancient tradition. It is prevalent in temples and in many SyroMalabar and Orthodox churches even today. In the first mosque built in India such a lamp has been a distinct mark of Indianness in a holy place. The Indian leadership from various communities and sections, including the government and political parties, will have to deplore the tendency of promoting within the community exclusivity, ghetto mentality and alignment against national

mainstream through one act of symbolism or the other.
Mission

The Saudi royalty is one of the top targets of organisations like the ISIS. Riyadh keeps a lynx-eyed vigil on all these ISIS sympathisers, open or underground, who may be getting through the iron curtain it has built against them among the Saudi communities.

It has in recent years handed over to Indian authorities every such identified terrorist who sought cover in Saudi Arabia against the Indian government. Riyadh's warmth towards India and its present prime minister was evident during Modi's visit to the Saudi capital. However, many analysts here have raised the issue of the same Saudi royalty investing billions of its globally applauded wealth in promoting what is known as Wahaabism in many countries, especially India.

Wahaabism, analysts point out, is the prime implanter of Islamic separateness and jihadi ideology especially through lakhs of madarsas spread across the country.

The Riyadh royalty's concern for spreading true Islamic teachings is fully understood by PM Modi in his symbolic gift. Can, in return, India expect the Saudis to work with its government to eradicate the seeds of exclusivism, victimhood building and jihadi mindset? After all the Saudi royalty remains one of the main targets for the ISIS. ■

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the cleanest and cheapest carrier of global trade. Investing in maritime sector is not only investing in one's own future; but in the future of the planet and that of coming generations. However, in this sector, no country can achieve the desired results in isolation. Nations have to collaborate to realize this potential and to overcome challenges in this sector. The objective of this Summit is to provide a platform and forum for such cooperation.

- ▶ To conclude, I would like to say that:
- ▶ This is the right time to come to India;
- ▶ It is even better to come through the sea route;
- ▶ The Indian ship is well equipped for a long haul;
- ▶ Don't miss it;
- ▶ Missing it means missing a pleasant journey and a great destination.

Once you are here, I assure you that I will personally hold your hands to see that your berthing is safe, secure and satisfactory. ■

(The speech was delivered by PM Shri Narendra Modi on 14 April while releasing National perspective Plan Sagaramala Programme)

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would only be fair if a weight of not more than 10% is given to IDA contributions in the dynamic formula. Such a weight should also recognize only recent contributions to act as rightful incentive for the emerging countries to contribute in IDA and should also recognize multiplier based on burden share and generosity.

4. The Environmental and Social Standards (ESF) discussions are also extremely important for the borrowing countries. The future of investment lending hinges upon adoption of pragmatic, developmental and utilitarian standards rather than divisive and political standards. I have noted that the consultation process with the borrowing countries has been completed. These borrowing countries, including India, have provided the Bank team with a good reality check on the potential implications of the proposed ESF- II draft standards. I am sure the Bank team would be able to take this valuable feedback into consideration and would now propose the right kind of standards for consideration of the member countries. ■