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*One with an uncontrolled mind cannot have spiritual intelligence, one devoid of spiritual intelligence never meditates on the Ultimate Truth and for one who never meditates on the Ultimate Truth there is no peace and for one destitute of peace where is happiness?*  
 – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 66)

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"Am extremely delighted to know that BJP membership drive has crossed 4 crore mark! I congratulate Karyakartas for their efforts."

-Narendra Modi

"Our membership drive has crossed 4crore (40 million) mark with the support of karyakartas & enthusiastic public."

-Amit Shah

## Vasant Panchami : January 24, 2015

Vasant Panchami, also known as Saraswati Puja, Shree Panchami is a major Hindu festival held on the fifth day of Magha marking the start of spring season. On this day Hindus worship Devi Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music, art and culture. For Sikhs, in the Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar, on the day of Vasant Panchmi, musicians start the music by singing Basant Raga. This practice continues up until the first day of Vaisakh.

Vasant Panchami is the first spring themed festivals in Hindu culture. It initiates the spring festive cycle and heralds its summation that occurs with Holi. The seasonal aspects of the festival are more significant in Northern India due to the sharper contrast between the winter and the spring, however the festival's religious and cultural significance are emphasized across all regions of the country.

In ancient Indian literature, Vasant Panchami is associated with Shringar Ras and the festival was celebrated in this tradition. Celebrations today still honor Kamadeva, his wife Rati and his friend Vasant (the personification of spring). In modern times, however, Vasant Panchami is more commonly associated with Maa Saraswati, the goddess of learning, wisdom, knowledge, fine arts, refinement, science and technology. People worship Goddess Saraswati to attain enlightenment through knowledge and to rid themselves of lethargy, sluggishness and ignorance.

Vasant Panchami is celebrated every year on the fifth day of the bright half of the Indian month of Magha. It is celebrated as Saraswati Puja primarily over eastern parts of India like Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar & Assam, Chhattisgarh, as Sri Panchami in Bengal and as the Festival of Kites in Punjab and Haryana.



Happy  
Basant Panchami



## Now it's Delhi's turn to get BJP government

The people of Delhi are going to elect a new government. As the Election Commission announced the date for the elections political activities have intensified manifold. On 7<sup>th</sup> February Delhi will go to polls and on 10<sup>th</sup> February the results will be out. After a gap of around one year a new government is going to take charge of Delhi. People have still not forgotten the way government was formed last time and the manner in which their aspirations were belied. People of Delhi were robbed of their votes and cheated by the practitioners of falsehood and deception. BJP had emerged as the largest party in the elections last time but could not form the government as Aam Aadmi Party contrary to their own claim took the support of Congress to form the government. The Kejriwal government which ran away in 49 days pushed Delhi in the regime of chaos and anarchy. People responded to this in the Lok Sabha elections when BJP made a clean sweep winning all the seven seats while AAP and Congress drew a blank.

BJP has declared former IPS officer Kiran Bedi as its chief ministerial candidate for Delhi. It has created a lot of enthusiasm and hope in Delhi. People are looking at BJP with lot of expectations. A large number of leaders are joining BJP to serve the country. Shazia Ilmi, Krishna Tirath and Binod Kumar Binny have joined BJP spearheading the campaign of the party. In a rally held in Ramlila ground in Delhi large number of people participated where Prime Minister Narendra Modi while pointing to the remarkable achievements of his government in the centre promised development and corruption free government in Delhi also. While recently around 900 colonies have been regularized an innovative scheme of providing LED bulbs to reduce electricity bills has been launched. Promising to build a house for every one living in slums by 2022 Shri Narendra Modi has drawn a new blueprint for the Delhi of future. Rejecting those who believe in anarchy and chaos he appealed to the people to elect BJP for a bright future. It was in the context of these commitments to the people that Kiran Bedi, a person of impeccable credentials and a person who is known for her performance has been declared chief ministerial candidate of the BJP. People from all walks of life are welcoming this decision and coming out in large numbers to support BJP candidates.

The faith of the people is getting reinforced in BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with every passing day. It is not that faith is being reinforced in the PM alone but it's getting restored in the political system and politicians. Politics had earned a bad name in the last ten years of scams, corruption and the loot of public funds. Now people have a feeling that there is a government which is committed to deliver and working overtime to take the country forward on the path of development through its commitment of good governance. People have responded to the good works and BJP governments have been elected in Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand. In Jammu & Kashmir also BJP could get 25 seats which was a surprising swing in the favour of BJP. Everywhere BJP is getting tremendous support in the country, it has emerged as a new hope for the people and in Narendra Modi they see a leader who can meet their aspirations. BJP National President Amit Shah is taking party to new heights by strengthening the organizational set up and bringing party at par with the requirements of the politics of development where BJP karyakartas are seen as pillars of strength in the society. So the people are reposing their faith in BJP and wherever elections are taking place BJP is forming the government. After Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand now it's the turn of Delhi to get a BJP government. ■

# I will provide you with 24 hours supply of electricity and a house for every slum dweller in Delhi : Modi

**P**Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi kick started BJP's campaign for the upcoming Delhi Assembly Polls at the Abhinandan rally at the Ramlila Maidan on 10 January, 2015.

Promising 24/7 electricity

punish those who wasted this year for you," he added.

The Prime Minister further shared his dream of building a house for every slum dweller in Delhi as India completes 75 years of Independence in 2022.

Criticizing the Congress

Delhi people did not get water."

Stating that the Union government has ushered a new politics and it is only thinking about development, Shri Modi added, "We took up the Jan Dhan Yojana. Years ago banks were nationalized but their doors did not open for the poor. 11 crore bank accounts opened under Jan Dhan scheme against target of 7 crore till Jan 26."

Taking on Aam Aadmi Party, he added, *Aye din andolan karne ki unki mastery hai, unko wo kaam dijiye, humari mastery sarkar achhi chalane mein hai, humko wo kaam dijiye.* "Those who have mastery in sitting on streets and dharnas

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to Delhi on the occasion, Shri Modi said, "I promise you that I will provide you with 24 hours supply of electricity. Option of portability of electricity services will be provided in Delhi on the pattern of mobile phone services."

He said, "I will make a corruption-free system from top to bottom. Your dream is my dream. Give me opportunity, I will fulfill the dream. Elect a government with a complete majority and

party, Shri Narendra Modi said, "Did you ever see a poor person standing inside a bank during Congress' regime? It clearly shows who used to work for rich and who is working effortlessly to address issues of the poor of nation, enough of politics. What did the common people get? Poverty increased despite slogans to end poverty. Haryana and Delhi had Congress governments but their leaders gave conflicting statements and

**On the occasion the Prime Minister felicitated BJP's three new BJP chief ministers of Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Haryana – Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Shri Raghubar Das and Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, respectively - and praised Minister of State in PMO Shri Jitendra Singh for the work he did ahead of the election in Jammu and Kashmir.**

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are not experts at governance. We can run a good government, give us this work." Further Shri Narendra Modi said, "Have you seen leaders who say, yes, I am an anarchist? If you want that please go with Naxalites, do not do this in Delhi."

The PM further added, "AAP ne jhooth bolne ka record banaya hai, jhooth bolne mein unhe koi nahin hara sakta." "There are 'masters' of lies who will be defeated by public only. People have been spreading lies that after BJP comes to power, retirement age would be 58 instead of 60. It seems there is a factory of spreading lies in Delhi by some. And those who spread lies will be rejected by people. Modi is not someone who will stab others in the back. Do not trust the lies they keep

### Amit Shah; "most successful president of the party ever" : Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was all praises for BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, calling him the "most successful president of the party ever". The prime minister credited Shri Shah - for taking the party in the right direction.

spreading."

The PM also extended his greetings to people of Jammu and Kashmir for reposing their faith in democracy and voting in large numbers. He said, "BJP has achieved a historical success in the valley, I am grateful to people of the State."

The rally had most of the BJP's recent success figures, which include BJP National

President Shri Amit Shah, the man who is praised for BJP's success in different parts of the country, and the newly coroneted Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Haryana, and Jharkhand.

We are a party that fulfils our promises: Amit Shah

Addressing the rally, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said, "The year 2014 will be known as 'Vijay Varsh' for BJP in the history of nation. We raised many issues and made promises during election campaign, now that we have formed government in Centre, we are working on all of them. The fuel prices have come down for more than ten times in 7 months, ever since BJP came to power. We are a party that fulfils our promises."

He further added, "Make in India is giving impetus to manufacturing and employment sectors. We have set up a separate Ministry to emphasize on skill development."

Speaking about black money, Shri Shah said, "We said we will bring back black money, we cleared proposal of setting up SIT. The issue of black money is a complex and

### The importance of social media

Many held BJP flags adding to the colourful sight. A small white tent for Karyakartas and IT professionals was erected at one corner of the ground from where photos of the rally and important quotes were being posted on Facebook and Twitter swiftly by the Karyakartas. The idea was to provide instant updates to those who follow the party on social networking sites.

not entirely in the hands of India."

Taking on Opposition, Shri Shah said, "If opposition thinks they can restrict the development of nation by hindering smooth functioning of Parliament, they are wrong."

Lashing out at AAP, the BJP National President said, "AAP has made record is speaking lies, and nobody can break their record. Do they still travel on the Metro? Was that a 'natak' only for one day? AAP has made record is speaking lies, and nobody can break their record."

On the occasion Haryana CM Shri ML Khattar said Delhi and Haryana are inseparable. The development of Delhi is not possible without Haryana and Haryana's progress is not possible without Delhi."

Addressing the gathering

Maharashtra CM Shri Devendr Fadnavis said I say it with confidence, that if there is a BJP government in Delhi, you will see a changed Delhi. In the next 2 years, just in Mumbai, we are going to make investments worth Rs. 1 lakh crore, with the support of the central Government. If you want development, choose a BJP government. I will change Mumbai; you will also see a changed Delhi."

Among others Union Ministers Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Shri Piyush Goyal, Shri Jitendra Singh, Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Haryana Chief Minister Shri ML Khattar, Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Raghubar Das, Delhi BJP Prabhari and BJP National Vice-President Shri Prabhat Jha, Delhi BJP President Shri Satish Upadhyay and other senior leaders of BJP were present on the occasion. ■

### Modi water bottles

Almost every person in the crowd either wore a cap, hat, scarf or T-shirt with the party's official colours on it. The labels on mineral water bottles distributed to the media and the crowd were replaced with stickers of Shri Modi.

Bearing his photo, a white coloured lotus - the party's symbol - and a message "Chalo chale Modi ke saath" (Let's walk together with Modi), the 500 ml bottles with blue and green caps was a unique attempt by the party.



### A sea of saffron-green caps and scarves

It was a sea of saffron and green caps, scarves and T-shirts at Ramlila Maidan. It was a sea of saffron and green caps, scarves and T-shirts as tens of thousands of people of all ages gathered at the Ramlila Maidan to listen to Shri Narendra Modi. Almost every person in the crowd either wore a cap, hat, scarf or T-shirt with the party's official colours on it. Many held BJP flags made of paper and cloth, adding to the colourful sight. Meanwhile, bus stands, sidewalls of flyovers, and trees leading to and around the venue had posters of the rally along with huge party flags.

### Modi's dream for Delhi

While he took a dig at Sheila Dixit led Congress Government and AAP by talking about the 49 days' AAP government, and the failed promise on electricity, Shri Modi pitched his dream of making Delhi a state with round-the-clock electricity. He promised to make Delhi a generator-free state. He assured that the BJP would make Delhi a place where people could select their electricity provider, like one chooses their mobile service provider. The other dream that Shri Modi carried was to make Delhi a place where everyone has a shelter by 2022.

### 11 Cr opened bank accounts till 10 January under Jan Dhan Yojana

Pointing out to the situation of poverty created in the country, Shri Modi questioned the crowd:

Have you ever seen a poor person visiting a bank during the Congress regime?" A unison reply of "No" came from the gathering.

Shri Modi said, "I feel proud in saying that around 11 crore people have opened bank accounts till 10th January under Jan Dhan Yojana. It is very clear who is working for the rich of the country and who is working for the poor of the country."

## Panna Pramukhs' Sammelan in Delhi

# BJP will win Delhi elections : Amit Shah

**B**haratiya Janata Party National President Amit Shah on 17 January 2015 urged party Karyakartas to diligently work on 'panna pramukh' strategy to succeed in Delhi Assembly elections and added that the saffron party will fight the elections with great fervor.

"If all the 'panna pramukh's do their work diligently and contact all the voters assigned to them daily, then nobody can stop us from winning the elections. By using this method of contacting people we have grown from a small party to a party ruling a nation like India. We have urged 'panna pramukhs' to make list of all key voters in their list, doctors, engineers, people running NGO's and other prominent people are the key voters, ensure that we meet all such people," Shri Shah said while addressing a rally in the national capital.

"We will fight elections on our ideology and unity, we will fight elections with great fervor with which we have been fighting since the days of Jan sangh," he added.

'Panna pramukh' is a party worker who will contact with voters on each page of the electoral list. BJP had adopted this strategy in December last year during

### BJP Delhi holds 'panna pramukh' meetings in 24 Assembly seats

To connect with the electorate ahead of Assembly elections in the national capital, Delhi BJP implemented its "panna pramukh" strategy by holding meetings at 24 constituencies. Under the "panna pramukh sammelan" programme, suggested by BJP National President Shri Amit



Shah, the party will nominate one worker to come in contact with voters.

A statement issued by the party said each worker or "panna pramukh" was given responsibility for voters on each "panna" (page) in the electoral rolls. Senior party leaders including MPs, MLAs and Councillors joined the workers at these *sammelan* and went in the meetings to encourage partymen, the statement said. Noteworthy, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh' "panna pramukh" strategy allowed for deep and direct engagement with voters, and was among the crucial elements of the BJP's remarkable electoral performance in recent years.

During a meet at Narela, BJP National Vice President and Delhi BJP Prabhari Shri Prabhat Jha said that in the last one year BJP MLAs worked under very tough situations in an uncertain political atmosphere and yet were able to get approvals for development schemes. He said, "A great responsibility is on our workers and "panna pramukhs" to take the message of development work done by our MLAs and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to every home."

BJP-Delhi President Shri Satish Upadhyay, while addressing "panna pramukh" Karyakartas at RK Puram in south Delhi, said that these meetings have given the party an opportunity to go in for a comprehensive election campaign. "Through them the leaders have got an opportunity to come in touch with grass root workers and when our workers will meet voters face to face the party will gain strength," he added. ■

“Panna Pramukh Sammelan” programme.

Shri Amit Shah further said that he is confident that his party will win with an absolute majority in the upcoming polls.

“We know that BJP will form a government in Delhi because during Lok Sabha elections we won all the 7 seats in Delhi, we know the mood of the people and the people in the national capital have high expectations from BJP. We don’t want our victory in the Delhi elections to be a onetime affair, we want to see BJP government in Delhi for the next 25 years,” he said.

Shri Shah said, “The BJP will win the Delhi elections for sure. Our competition is not with any other party - our competition is only with ourselves.

The BJP worker needs to fight his own languor; once that is successfully defeated, we will only experience victory and no one will be able to beat us”.

“We must resume our strategy of reaching each voter by visiting his house. As a student of politics, I feel that the people of the city only have the lotus in their minds. They have some expectations from us and they want us to work according to that,” he added. ■

## Kiran Bedi joins BJP and named BJP’s CM candidate in Delhi

**F**ormer top cop Smt. Kiran Bedi on 15 January 2015 joined BJP and offered to contest Delhi elections saying she would dedicate her services to the party to see that a strong, stable and corruption-free Government was installed in the National Capital.

Smt. Bedi took the BJP membership in presence of party president Shri Amit Shah, Union Ministers Smt. Arun Jaitley and Shri Harsh Vardhan, Delhi BJP Prabhari Shri Prabhat Jha and State unit president Shri Satish Upadhyay.



On the occasion Smt. Bedi announced

that she would work for the success of the party in the Delhi polls and use her 40 years of ‘experience’ as administrator and social worker to deliver on the aspirations of people in the city. The former police officer, who was a prominent face of Anna Hazare’s anti-corruption movement, said she was in politics as she was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “I am here because of his inspirational leadership... Prime Minister inspired me to join politics”, she said, adding there was “revival of

### Kiran Bedi – An inspiring career

#### India’s first woman IPS officer - 1972

Been in Delhi since 1974 – started as probationer in IPS  
Led the Delhi Police Parade for Republic Day 1975

#### Ramon Magsaysay award

For leadership in government service and effective innovations in crime control, drug rehabilitation and humane prison reforms.

President’s Gallantry Medal for act of bravery in Delhi

First woman police advisor to Secretary General, United Nations

Won inter-state national tennis championship for Delhi in 1978

#### Social Work in and around Delhi

Set up 8 Nashamukti kendras in the city – deaddiction, crime prevention work Social development work in slums/resettlement colonies in and around Delhi – Yamuna Pushta, Bawana, Karala, Sultanpur Majri, Jehangirpuri

#### Education

IIT Delhi (Dept of Social Sciences) – Ph.D.

Delhi University – Law Degree

Punjab University, Chandigarh – MA Political Science

Government College for Women, Amritsar – BA English (Hons)



hope" after May (Lok Sabha results), last year.

In his address, Shri Shah said Bedi's entry into the BJP would strengthen the Delhi unit of the party, its election campaigns in the coming days, installation of a new Government and in fulfilling the aspirations of people in the National Capital.

BJP on 19 January named Smt. Kiran Bedi, a former IPS officer, as its Chief Ministerial candidate for the February seven Delhi Assembly elections. Making the announcement after a meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Board, party president Shri Amit Shah said the decision of fielding 65-year-old Bedi was "unanimous". He said BJP will contest the crucial polls for the 70-member Assembly under Bedi's leadership. She will contest from the Krishna Nagar seat in East Delhi, considered a BJP stronghold.

The Parliamentary Board meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, External Affairs Minister Shri Sushma Swaraj among others.

Smt. Bedi thanked the party for reposing faith in her. "I had already expressed my readiness to contest from any seat. The entire Delhi is close to my heart. We will develop a good Delhi," she said. ■

Former AAP MLA Vinod Kumar Binny joins BJP

Former Aam Aadmi Party MLA Shri Vinod Kumar Binny on 18 January joined the Bharatiya Janata Party along with former BSP deputy mayor and councilor Shri Vir Singh, former bureaucrat Shri Devki Nandan and former Congress leader Shri Ram Kailash Gupta. A former MLA from Laxmi Nagar, Shri Binny had quit Aam Aadmi Party last year.

He is the third former associate of Arvind Kejriwal who joined BJP. Interacting with media persons Shri Binny said, "Arvind Kejriwal duped people when he said he will waive off electricity bills. When we asked him to begin his administrative work by fulfilling this promise, he told us that it was not possible and we are all fools". Shri Binny also said that Kejriwal had "fooled" many other leaders like me and Shazia.



Former AAP leader Shazia Ilmi Joins BJP

Former Aam Aadmi Party leader Ms Shazia Ilmi joined the Bharatiya Janata Party on 16 January. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah welcomed Ms Ilmi into the party in BJP National Headquarters with a bouquet of flowers. Later at a press conference



in Delhi where she was welcomed into the party by Delhi BJP President Shri Satish Upadhyay, the journalist-turned-political activist said, "There is indeed a new political discourse in this country and we must all be a part of it." Recalling her past with the AAP, she said, "There have been many reasons why I parted ways from AAP," while adding that BJP stands for good governance and development.

Former UPA Minister Krishna Tirath joins BJP

Smt. Krishna Tirath, a Dalit leader who served as a minister in the former UPA government, joined BJP. Smt. Tirath (59) became the third prominent personality in the recent days to join BJP after Smt. Kiran Bedi and Smt. Shazia Ilmi. Smt.



Tirath, who had served as a minister in Delhi government and later as a union minister in the Manmohan Singh government, was welcomed in the BJP fold by BJP National President Shri Amit Shah with a bouquet of flowers. She was accompanied by Delhi BJP in charge Shri Prabhat Jha and Delhi BJP president Shri Satish Upadhyay. Smt. Tirath was a member of Delhi Legislative Assembly between 1984-2004 and MP from North West Delhi constituency from 2004 till 2014. Smt. Krishna Tirath said that I have been feeling suffocated in the Congress party since long and the way in which Shri Narendra Modi Government has worked, with honesty and new style of administration during the last 7 months, has influenced me. ■

# Diaspora's strength can be driving force for India : PM

From Our Correspondent

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 08 January said every NRI is like a "shakti" and if the strength of the entire diaspora can be consolidated, it could become a driving force for India's progress. Addressing the inauguration of the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in

to clean River Ganga, and said 40 percent of India lived by and survived on the river. He said he was sure all NRIs would be inspired to contribute to this cause.

Shri Modi said the world is ready to "embrace India" and cited as an example the fact that his proposal at the

Shri Modi said he had met representatives of 50 countries since assuming office in May last year, and he could say with confidence that all nations rich or poor across the world today feel that their goals and objectives can be met in partnership with India.

He said the then prime



Gandhinagar, Gujarat the world's largest annual gathering of people of Indian origin, Shri Modi said that he has fulfilled his promise to the diaspora of merging the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards.

He exhorted the diaspora to come and contribute to India's success in any way possible, including knowledge, expertise or skills. He mentioned in particular, the Namaami Gange project

UN to institute an international yoga day was supported by a record 177 nations and in just 100 days.

"We have a lot to give to the world, we only lack the confidence," he said, calling upon NRIs across the world to forge and take pride in a common identity and heritage, and to use this strength collectively.

He said even if a solitary NRI is present anywhere in the world, India is alive and present in that corner of the world through him or her.

minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had proposed the idea of starting a PBD and it was begun in 2003. Referring to the apparent slackening in enthusiasm during the past few years to the annual gala, Shri Modi said that "in between, little little, people did not feel like coming. Few would come and a few came because they had to come; but I would come regularly," to laughter among the crowd.

"We are extremely proud of our diaspora. They have made India global and their

strong values have endeared them wherever they have gone,” he said.

Here are the highlights of his speech:

- Indian nationals are there in over 200 countries. They have taken India there with them
- People used to leave our country in pursuit of aspiration and opportunities.
- Those opportunities are



present in India today. Times have changed very quickly

- World is seeing India with immense hope and optimism.
- **There are several opportunities waiting for you in India: PM Shri Modi to the Indian diaspora**
- The more the entire world gets to know about Mahatma Gandhi, it will be better. His teachings have the strength to guide everyone.
- The Indian community is admired all around the

world. It is not due to the money they have, but the values that they live with.

- I have met more than 50 world leaders in the short span that I have been given this new responsibility.
- All the world leaders I met expressed desire to partner with India.
- Such opportunities do not come easily in a nation's life.

• When someone living abroad finds out an Indian will be his neighbour, he's happy. He thinks his children will inculcate family values.

- The world is ready to embrace India. We have so much to offer, what is needed is confidence in ourselves.
- I put forth the idea of Yoga day in the UN and 177 countries out of 193 were keen on co-sponsoring it.
- I know there were times you did not really want to participate in Pravasiya

Bharati Divas, but I always attended.

- When there was a quake in Gujarat, there would not have been a single person of Indian origin across the world that didn't shed tears.
- When India goes through troubled times, people of Indian origin the world over feel the pain.
- There is a different strength when we meet our own people and share our joys and sorrows. It's a source of great energy.
- Everything can't be measured in pounds or dollars. Our relationship with people of Indian origin is beyond that.
- There is one more issue that I am sure you are concerned about and that is the rejuvenation of Maa Ganga.
- **PM Modi in Sanskrit:** Yastu sancharate deshaan sevate yastu Panditana. Tasya vistarita budhistailabindurivaambhasi. (Translation: A person who frequently travels to different countries and remains in the service of learned people, his scope of intelligence is very wide, just like a drop of oil which spreads over a wide area of water).
- **PM Modi proposes a quiz competition - Bharat Ko Jaano (Know India)** as he concludes his address to the Indian diaspora at the

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2015.

Earlier, Shri Narendra Modi welcomed Guyana President Donald Ramotar, South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Mauritius Vice-Prime Minister Showkutally Soodhun who were on the dais with him. He later held bilateral meetings with them.

He recalled how Indian festivals such as Holi and Diwali are enthusiastically celebrated in Guyana, that Jan 8 also happens to be the founding day of the African National Congress in South Africa and Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary Oct 2 is observed in Mauritius with even greater vigour than in India.

A PBD Kendra is also coming up in New Delhi and would be inaugurated soon for the benefit of Pravasis, he said.

Addressing the gathering overseas Indian Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj said the government is determined to work closely with its huge diaspora to "leverage each other's strengths for mutual benefit and urged professionals from the diaspora to join in efforts to develop India and "restore it to its past glory".

"A successful, prosperous and politically influential diaspora is an asset to India, much as a strong and self-reliant India would be a source of strength and

inspiration for the diaspora. This synergy acts as a vibrant bridge between us and sustains our relationship," she said. Guyanese President Ramotar, chief guest at the 13th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, urged India to play a more active role on the global stage and be the voice of the developing world.

South African Foreign Minister Nkoana-Mashabane said she was happy to join in the celebrations of the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa. She described India as her second home having spent six years as a high commissioner in India.

The government also announced a list of 15 NRIs who would be conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awards for 2015. The list includes Ramotar and

Satyanarayana Nadella, CEO of Microsoft.

The event is being held in Gandhinagar from January 7-9 to mark the centenary of the return to the country of India's "sarva sreshtha pravasi Bharatiya" or foremost Indian diaspora member, Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa.

Earlier, Shri Modi inaugurated the 'Dandi Kutir' museum located opposite the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. The three-storey exhibition, housed in a dome shaped Salt Mountain structure, traces the life and times of Gandhi.

Nearly 4,000 delegates from 44 countries attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2015. A mega exhibition spread over 1.1 million sq ft organized as part of the programme. ■

## PM pays tributes to Swami Vivekananda, on his birth anniversary

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Swami Vivekananda, on his birth anniversary.

स्वामी विवेकानन्द को उनकी जयंती पर शत्-शत् नमन

On his birth anniversary, I bow to Swami Vivekananda. He is a personal inspiration, whose

thoughts and ideals have influenced me deeply. Swami Vivekananda is revered as one of the most prolific thinkers and a guiding light who took India's message to the entire world. Let us pledge to leave no stone unturned to integrate our youth in India's progress and ensure youth-led development across the Nation. Share quotes of Swami Vivekananda and thoughts of Swami Vivekananda that influenced you. ■



## After Delhi and Bihar, a BJP government is going to be installed in West Bengal : Amit Shah

**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah, addressing a huge rally in Burdwan on January 20, alleged West Bengal Chief Minister Shri Mamata Banerjee of risking the national security for vote bank politics, and said his party's massive support wave would "drown Trinamool Congress in Gangesagar" without any trace and help form its first government in the state.

Two suspected *Jamaat-ul Mujahideen* Bangladesh operatives were killed in an accidental explosion in



### West Bengal minister Manjul Krishna Thakur joins BJP

In a big jolt to West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress ahead of the Bongaon Lok Sabha bypolls, minister Manjul Krishna Thakur on January 15 quit and joined the BJP, calling chief minister Mamata Banerjee



"unprincipled" and the party unfit for any "good and educated person". Shri Thakur, who held the refugee, relief and rehabilitation portfolio in the Banerjee cabinet, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with his son and panchayat functionary Subrata Thakur. Announcing his resignation from the ministry and the party and formally joining the BJP in the presence of its state president Shri Rahul Sinha, he and accused Banerjee of indulging in "unprincipled activities" and acting as per her whims. The condition in the Trinamool is such now that no "good and educated person can remain in that party", he added.

October last year in Burdwan. Shri Shah said the blast took place only because the TMC government was allowing Bangladeshi infiltrators in the state.

Kicking off BJP's membership drive in West Bengal, the party president Shri said: "I want to tell Mamata didi that you will not be able to win in a democratic state by unleashing atrocities. The more you torture us, the more lotuses would bloom in the state. To BJP workers, I must say, don't be afraid of TMC attacks. If they want clashes, we are ready... We are not going to breathe in peace till Trinamool is uprooted from Bengal."

Alleging that the Trinamool government had compromised with national

security for the sake of vote bank politics, he said: "About a year ago, a blast in Kolkata was hushed up by the state government. If there was a proper investigation, the explosion in Burdwan's Khagragarh would not have taken place. But, the state government was more concerned about its vote bank." He was referring to the explosion at Garden Reach in Kolkata in 2013.

"Bengal is a border state and infiltration from Bangladesh is a problem. But, here is a government which gives priority to vote bank politics over the national security. They are allowing

infiltration from Bangladesh," he said. Shri Shah also reminded people that the TMC government had opposed an NIA probe into the Burdwan blast.

Asserting West Bengal was very much on BJP's radar, Shri Shah said: "After Delhi and Bihar, a BJP government is going to be installed in the state." Targeting the state government over the Saradha chit fund scam, Shri Shah alleged that the Chief Minister was more interested saving her "scam-tainted" party leaders than developing the state. Exhorting the people to usher in "parivartan (change)", he said: "I am

constrained to say that Mamata has given a regime that is worst than even the Communists...

While Narendra Modi has taken the country forward on the path of development, TMC is taking the state backwards."

State BJP President Shri Rahul Sinha, in his address, referred to the recent incident of the Birbhum police allegedly torturing a Muslim woman. "If the TMC government is so concerned about Muslims, why did their police launch an attack on the Muslim woman just because she supported the BJP? We will stand by the victim's family." ■

## PM greets people of Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur on their Statehood Day

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur on their Statehood Day. Greeting People of Meghalaya, the Prime Minister said "My dear sisters and brothers of Meghalaya,

My greetings on your Statehood Day. I extend my best wishes for Meghalaya's development journey.

During my recent visit to the Northeast, I was fortunate to have inaugurated the first train that brought Meghalaya on India's railway map. This will add tremendous impetus to Meghalaya's progress.

I am committed to leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the dreams of Meghalaya's youngsters are fulfilled and they get opportunities to shine."

Greeting the people of Tripura, Shri Modi said

"My fellow citizens of Tripura, Warm greetings on your Statehood Day. I have very fond memories of my visit to

Tripura in December last year. I will always remember your warm nature and the excellent hospitality.

Greeting People of Manipur, the Prime Minister said

"Dear Friends,

On the Statehood Day of Manipur, I convey my greetings. I hope Manipur scales newer heights of progress in the years to come.

I can never forget the enthusiasm with which I was welcomed to Manipur during my recent visit. I was fortunate to join the Sangai Festival, which showcases Manipur's rich culture.

We are very proud of the hardwork and dynamism of the people of Manipur. We are committed to doing everything possible that will give an impetus to Manipur's all-round development."

The Prime Minister also tweeted his greetings in local languages of the three states. ■

## 'Darkness will be dispelled, the Sun will rise and the Lotus shall bloom'



*Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee remains a towering figure in Indian politics. His contribution to Indian politics and public life is immense and he is an inspiration to large number of people. The nation has also celebrated his birth day as 'Sushashan Divas' on 25th December 2014. Atalji became the first president of Bharatiya Janata Party at the time of its formation on 6th April 1980. The circumstance that led to the formation of BJP and that necessitated the parting ways from then Janata Party were unique and offered a challenge to the members of erstwhile Jansangh who had decided to merge with Janata Party in the national interest. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led the party to face the challenges of the time and restarted the process of building the new party. The Presidential Speech*

*delivered by Atalji in the National Council meeting held in Bombay (now Mumbai) on 28-30 December 1980 set tone for the new spirit of the party and announced the new found resolve of the karyakartas of erstwhile Jansangh to rededicate themselves in the service of Maa Bharati. It was a historic speech. We are publishing the Presidential Address of Atalji for our esteemed readers in a series. The fourth part of the series is published below:*

### Majority with Minority of Votes

It is evident that under this system, the people's will is not fairly reflected in the legislatures. The 'massive mandate' bragged about by winning parties is generally illusory. These parties represent only a minority of the populace. Nonetheless, by virtue of their legislative majority, momentous decisions are taken in legislatures, laws are changed, the Constitution is radically overhauled, but the majority sanction behind these changes is really missing.

### Need to Adopt a Different System

It is imperative that electoral reform is undertaken urgently. In place of the present majority system of

elections that we have, we should adopt some variation of the List System, a system that has been worked successfully by most European democracies. The biggest advantage of the List System is that it would politicise the electorate, make them think in terms of party policies and programmes and thus minimise, if not eliminate, the vitiating influence of caste and community that presently dominates the thinking of the average voter. Above all, the List System will stabilise the party system which under the present system remains in a state of perpetual flux. It will not make elections the kind of gamble they presently are. Parties would be represented in Parliament and the State

Legislatures broadly in proportion to their actual support in the people. No doubt, the Majority system has some advantages. One person representing one constituency can better attend to the developmental needs of that constituency. West Germany has tried to combine the plus points of both the Majority system and the List system and has evolved what is known as the Mixed System. It would be of advantage perhaps if we adopt the List System for Lok Sabha elections and the Mixed System for State elections.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms constituted in 1973 had recommended that an experts body should be appointed to examine the

feasibility of adopting the List system in India. It is a matter of regret that there has been no follow up on this recommendation yet. In this respect, the Janata Government also cannot be absolved of blame. The Janata Government did, however, approve of several other far reaching electoral reforms, such as public financing of elections, and had decided to discuss its proposals with Opposition Parties before initiating necessary legislation in that regard. I demand that the Experts Committee suggested by the Parliamentary Committee earlier should be set up without delay, and that the proposals drawn up during the Janata regime be implemented.

**Influence of Money Power must be contained**

The growing influence of money power in elections has always been a matter of concern, but lately this problem has acquired dangerous dimensions. Money not only from indigenous sources but from foreign sources as well is reported to be playing havoc with our elections. In order to contain the corroding influence of money power at the polls the following measures should be seriously considered: -

1. Election expenses should be regarded as a legitimate charge on the public exchequer. Political

parties should be given grants on the basis of votes secured by them in the preceding elections. Candidates who are able to save their security deposit should be entitled to reimbursement by the State up to the maximum limit of expenditure permitted.

2. The expenditure incurred by a party on any candidate's election should be added to the candidate's own expenses.
3. There should be a ceiling on the expenditure which political parties can legitimately incur.
4. There should be a limit also to the external props of publicity used by a party such as newspaper advertisements, posters, leaflets, etc.
5. The accounts of political parties should be subject to statutory audit.
6. As recommended by the Tarkunde Committee, the Election Commission should be a multi-member body, and voting age must be reduced from 21 to 18 years.

The Janata Government had taken the historic step of allowing all recognised political parties the use of radio and television during the elections; There is need of further extension of the facility given. A scheme of political broadcasts also, apart from election broadcasts, should be drawn up.

**Compulsory Voting**

I feel that there is a case for compulsory voting in India. We have had 7 General Elections till now, but the number of such electors who have never voted or who have been generally indifferent to elections is still legions. The 1980 Lok Sabha elections, like the 1977 elections, were contested on some very crucial issues. But out of 35.40 crore voters only 20.13 crore exercised their right of franchise. This means that more than 15 crore voters did not go to the polling booth. In several democracies voting is compulsory.

**Foreign Policy**

By making foreign policy a plaything in the game of politics, the present government has seriously undermined the national consensus that had developed on foreign policy during the last three decades.

In 1977, the Janata Party had fought the Lok Sabha elections almost entirely on domestic issues, and so, after winning the elections, emphasised the need for continuity in foreign policy. In 1980, however, the Congress (I) dragged foreign policy into the election arena and made it a major plank in these elections.

If India's relations with its immediate neighbours have suddenly turned sour, the roots of this development have to be traced to speeches delivered during the election campaign in which it was said,



*'Even small neighbours of ours are behaving arrogantly with us.'*  
Big Brother Attitude  
would not serve our  
Interests

By pursuing a policy of good neighbourliness and mutually beneficial bilateralism, the Janata Government had for the first time in 30 years succeeded in creating a climate of trust and confidence in this region.

But now by reverting to the earlier Big Brother attitude towards these neighbouring countries, the new government has in twelve months wiped off all the gains of the earlier period. The charge is baseless, even malicious, that the Janata Government, in order to win the goodwill of neighbouring countries, has sacrificed vital national interests. The Salal Agreement with Pakistan was entered into on exactly the same terms as our predecessor government wanted to secure, but could not. On the question of the division of Ganga waters, while in 1975 our treaty with Bangladesh gave India only 11000 to 16000 cusecs of water, the treaty finalised by the Janata Government ensured augmentation of water supply to 20500 cusecs.

Failure to stand up to  
Soviet Intervention in  
Afghanistan

By acquiescing in USSR's military intervention in Afghanistan, which now has become virtual occupation of Afghanistan by Soviet Russia,

the Government of India has tarnished the country's image the world over, and has isolated India completely from the neighbouring countries, the non-aligned nations and the Islamic world.

Freedom-loving Afghans, who have always been our friends, are never going to forgive us for our failure to stand up unequivocally against the Soviet intervention.

The joint statement issued at the end of Soviet President Mr. Brezhnev's recent visit to India says not a word about Afghanistan. India's silence in this regard is even more eloquent than its earlier equivocation.

No Justification for our  
Kampuchea Policy

Government's decision to recognise the Kampuchean regime propped up by the Vietnamese army is without any principled justification. This decision also has created serious misgivings about the independence of India's foreign policy, particularly in the eyes of the South-East Asian countries.

It would not be out of place to mention here that even while continuing efforts to normalise relations with China, the Janata Government never hesitated to condemn Chinese aggression on Vietnam. Aggression is aggression, irrespective of whether the victim is Kampuchea or Vietnam. India cannot afford to have double standards in such matters.

No Indo-Soviet Alignment

Independent observers cannot be blamed if they infer that Indo-Soviet friendship is getting transformed into Indo-Soviet alignment. The entire Indian people, all political parties in the country, appreciate the value of Moscow's friendship and would like to see it strengthened. During the Janata regime, despite misgivings in certain quarters, these ties of friendship did become deeper and maturer. But making Indo-Soviet ties meaningful and fruitful is one thing and allowing the impression to grow that in respect of world events, India has no strategic perception distinct from that of the USSR, is quite another.

Soviet Russia's armed intervention in Afghanistan and the reaction to this of America and its allies has precipitated in this part of the world a situation which would have prompted both India and Pakistan to forget the past and try to open a new chapter in Indo-Pakistan relations. It is a matter of regret that the leadership in both these countries has allowed a historic opportunity to slip by.

Pakistan ought to understand that the threat to its security posed by the presence of Soviet troops just beyond the Khyber Pass cannot be met simply by trying to grab arms and armaments from wherever it can.

*...to be continued*

# A Tale of Two Global Summits

By Arun Jaitley

Last week two State Governments - West Bengal and Gujarat, organized their respective global summits. I had an opportunity to participate in both of them. The West Bengal Global Summit was an effort of the State Government to attract investment in the State. West Bengal was a key industrial State. Beginning with the naxalite problem towards the end of 1960s, coupled with the policies of the Left Front Government, industry moved out of the State. Kolkata remained the principal engine of development in West Bengal's growth. The State has a successful agriculture. West Bengal has a lot of intellectual capital and in the past one decade information technology has picked up in a big way. West Bengal has to be redeveloped into an industrial center once again. My colleague Shri Nitin Gadkari, who also attended the summit, was willing to help the State in the creation of a Kolkata-Siliguri highway. If such a highway is combined with an industrial corridor, it will give a major boost to West Bengal. Creation of more townships, better infrastructure, an industrial corridor, more effective utilization of the sea resource has to be a future agenda of

**Shri Nitin Gadkari, who also attended the summit, was willing to help the State in the creation of a Kolkata-Siliguri highway. If such a highway is combined with an industrial corridor, it will give a major boost to West Bengal.**

the State.

I was particularly enthused by the fact that groups representing a cross-section of industry, both manufacturing and service sector, attended the conference. The State would now need a consistent pro-reform and business friendly steps in order to build confidence in the mind of present and potential investors. We, in the Central Government, would be extremely keen to help West Bengal to grow. The GST implementation will increase the revenues of West Bengal. Part of the proceeds of the coal block auctions will augment State's revenue. NITI Aayog is intended to further decentralize the various schemes in the hands of the State Government.

Gujarat Business Summit was a magnificent affair. The Mahatma Mandir at Gandhinagar is an extremely

impressive convention center. This is the seventh Vibrant Gujarat show being organized since 2003. The prime Minister and other Ministers of the Union Government actively participated in this year's Vibrant Gujarat. In fact Union Ministers have shown up for Vibrant Gujarat after ten years of absence. Prime Ministers, Ministers, policy makers from all over the world, large business groups - both domestic and international, were all present at the Vibrant Gujarat. Vibrant Gujarat has become the principal economic convention in the country. This year Vibrant Gujarat marketed India. A few months ago, Madhya Pradesh had organized its own investors meet. News reports indicate that Maharashtra is going to organize a similar meet in near future. My participation in the West Bengal and Gujarat meet have enthused me. The idiom, vocabulary and mind-set of the organizers was to attract investment. States in India are going to compete with each other in cornering investment. I have no doubt that the ones which consistently and uniformly pursue reforms and business friendly policies are likely to succeed. ■

*(The writer is Union Minister of Finance & IB.)*

# Welcome to the party

By Vinay Sahasrabudhe

Out of sight of the mainstream media, BJP president Amit Shah has adroitly used a routine membership campaign as a powerful tool to rebuild the BJP from the bottom up when all is going well for the party, redefining political recruitment. For the BJP, there could not have been a better time to reach out to the people and try to create a mass base from the reservoir of goodwill that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been able to create for himself. Modi has successfully brought an end to the climate of frustration and cynicism. This has helped restore popular confidence in democratic governance.

Not long ago, the centrality of political parties in a multi-party democracy had prompted political scientists to describe democracy as “partyocracy”. But few parties realise their own importance. The world over, political parties are finding that people are losing faith in them. However, knowing that people have no choice but to select one or the other among them, parties ignored their organisational health.

There were few efforts to set their houses in order, especially in countries like India, where there are over

1,300 registered political parties, many of which rarely make their presence felt when elections aren't due. Most parties continue to confine themselves to electoral contests.

As a result, their occasional noise-making is seen as an attempt to assert their nuisance value. Propagation of dynasty being the basis of a majority, parties continue to experience an acute crisis of purpose, giving a fillip to the tendencies of machine politics.

All this has, over the years, contributed to the degeneration of parties. For many, politics became a full-

time business and winning elections, more of a technique. The dominance of money, muscle, caste and arbitrary and non-transparent candidate selection processes has contributed to the technique orientation of electoral verdicts. In several cases, electoral victories were more about the party's dexterity in mastering this technique than about the ability to win a popular mandate. Consequently, building a robust party organisation became secondary, making parties “empty vessels”, as The Economist put it.

The twin motivations of gaining power and continuing to wield it became the central agenda of political parties, making competitive compromises the order of the day.

After the end of what political scientists refer to as the third wave of democracy, the phenomenon of the “end of ideology” proved to be a great leveller, gradually doing away with the cleavages between different political parties. Little wonder then that the ideologically motivated party worker has become an endangered species, and most parties see a seasonal flood of stormtroopers, and leader loyalists rather than party

**The world over, political parties are finding that people are losing faith in them. However, knowing that people have no choice but to select one or the other among them, parties ignored their organisational health. There were few efforts to set their houses in order, especially in countries like India, where there are over 1,300 registered political parties, many of which rarely make their presence felt when elections aren't due.**

faithfuls. These factors contribute to the institutional degeneration of political parties in most democracies across the world, and India is no exception.

Seen in this context, the importance of a massive recruitment drive by the BJP under Shah cannot be overstated. There are a number of remarkable features to this campaign, the first ever conducted via cellphone. Technology has made the process highly democratic, inclusive, and extremely easy and seeker-friendly. The BJP has demonstrated how joining the party no longer depends on the recruiter's discretion. As a result, this has redefined party recruitment in a way that suits the modern era.

The BJP has called this campaign Sashakta BJP-Sashakta Bharat (Strong BJP for a Stronger India). Besides, the campaign slogan, "Saath Aaye, Desh Banaye (Come Together, Build the Nation)", also aims at restoring respect to the act of joining a political party, something people are uncomfortable with. The BJP's ambitious plans to register crores of countrymen till March 31 will be followed by a campaign to connect

with the new recruits and later, conducting largescale capacity building programmes all over the country. Engaging with the emerging aspirational classes in a productive manner and ensuring their participation in developmental and community activities remains a challenge, albeit one that is not too daunting for a cadre-based party.

The BJP seeks to induct fresh energy in party cadres, paving the way for a total organisational renewal. If things unfold as planned, it may restore the institutional primacy of political parties in a democracy.

If democracies are to

deliver good governance, they need to have smart drivers in the form of organisationally healthy political parties.

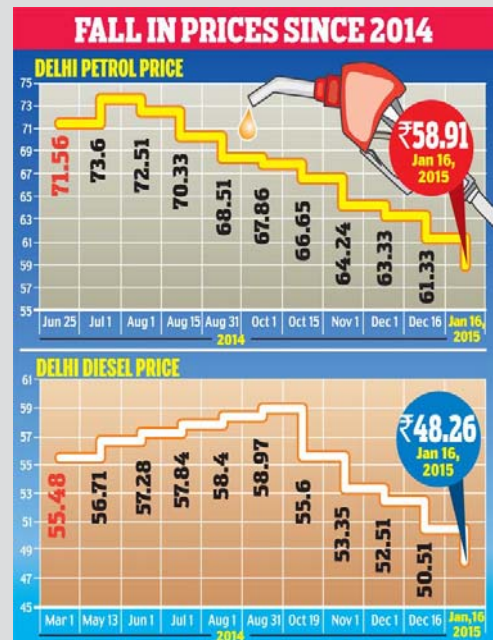
Democracies without political parties are unimaginable. Hence, empowering them through the path of greater institutionalisation is the only solution. And obviously, the way towards that is via recruiting new members, infusing new blood and promoting new ideas. New politics, after all, requires fresh approaches to the way politics is conducted. ■

*Also published in the Indian Express, Jan, 13, 2014  
(The writer is national vice president, BJP)*

## Petrol price cut by Rs 2.42/litre, diesel Rs 2.25/litre

State-run oil marketing companies reduced the price of petrol by Rs 2.42 and diesel by Rs 2.25 a litre. This is the ninth reduction in petrol prices since August and fifth in diesel since October.

In Delhi, petrol will cost Rs 58.91 a litre, the lowest in 44 months, as compared to Rs 61.33 a litre now. Similarly, diesel will cost Rs 48.26 a litre in Delhi, the lowest since April 2013, as against Rs 50.51 currently. Global crude oil prices have fallen almost 50% since June 2014, the most since the 2008 financial crisis, as supplies swelled.



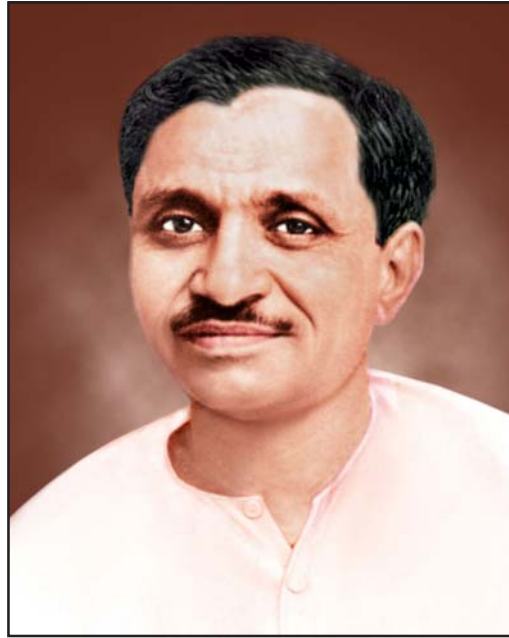
# Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay – A visionary leader and philosopher

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

**P**andit Deendayal Upadhyaya is remembered as a great philosopher who as a political activist and leader not only laid down the principles but also lived those principles in his political life. A towering personality well versed in different disciplines, he was able to give direction to national politics through his intellectual insight and deep understanding of Indian civilizational values. His ideas and philosophy while still remain relevant, his contribution as an ideologue and as a guiding force for an alternative model of governance and politics continues to define and determine the course of politics in the country. Born on 25 September 1916, he lost his parents in early childhood. As a bright student he earned many laurels and was poised for an illustrious career but he got attracted towards RSS while still a student and chose to work for common people by becoming a RSS prachark. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee was so impressed by him that he said “If I had two Deendayals, I could transform the political face of India.”

Pandit Deendayal

Upadhyaya is widely acclaimed as propounder of the philosophy of Integral Humanism. He never sought to follow a piecemeal approach to seek solutions for the problems afflicting the nation, rather he aspired to



devise a philosophy which may herald an era of integral approach. He advocated the simultaneous and integrated program of the body, mind and intellect and soul of each human being. While seeking to spiritualise the politics like Gandhi, he laid emphasis on coining the idioms of national discourse in civilizational and cultural ethos of India. He

was not in favour of adopting borrowed ideas from the west for goals of national reconstruction. He never considered either capitalism or communism as solution to problems of the human society. According to him, “A capitalist economy first acquires power in the economic field and then enters the political field, while socialism concentrates power over all means of production in the hands of state. Both these systems are against democratic rights of individuals.”

Main ideas of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay may be seen in his conceptualization of Bharatiyata, Dharma, Dharmarajya and Antodaya. By Bharatiyata he meant Bharatiya culture which unlike western thoughts sees life as an integrated whole. Bharatiyata, according to him, can manifest itself not through politics but through culture. If India has anything to offer to the world then it is the feeling of cultural tolerance and a life dedicated to duty. He further says, “From the national standpoint we shall have to consider our culture because that is our

very nature. Independence is intimately related to one's own culture. If culture does not form the basis of independence then the political movement for independence would degenerate into a scramble by selfish and power-seeking persons. Independence can be meaningful only if it becomes an instrument for the expression of our culture. Such expression will not only

universal. Yet their implementation may differ according to time, place and circumstance. The complete treatise on the rules in general and their philosophical basis is the meaning of Dharma.

While describing Dharmarajya he considers state to be one of the constituent within the nation and not above it. In theorizing thus he never intends to undermine the importance of

Dharma i.e. a "Dharma Rajya". In the definition of 'Democracy' viz. "government of the people, by the people and for the people", 'of' stands for independence, 'by' stands for democracy, and 'for' indicates Dharma. Therefore the true democracy is one where there is freedom as well as Dharma." His concept of Dharmarajya can be understood more elaborately from the following attributes which forms fundamental principles on which a rulers should act:

(1) The ruler is the upholder of Dharma, not its creator. Nor can he decide as to what Dharma is. He is responsible only for its proper enforcement. Dharma means those eternal and universal laws which are conducive to the sustenance of my life and the universe - those laws which, our Rishis have discovered through their prescience. On a small scale, they reflect in the most distinctive and fundamental characteristics of the way of life of nation on the maintenance of which depends the very persistence of a particular nation. In short, Dharma is the life process of a nation, and marks it out from other nations. It is the sacred duty of the ruler to protect this life process, i.e. Dharma.

(2) Dharma rajya is also inclusive of Gandhiji's Ram Rajya when he defines a ruler as Raja iti Ranjati. That is a

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contribute to our progress but the effort required will also give us the experience of joy".

He was completely opposed to the attempts to equate Dharma with religion. Religion while mainly meaning a mode of worship has a very limited meaning but Dharma stands for a wide term including many religions. According to him, religion means a creed, or a sect, it does not mean Dharma. Dharma is a very broad concept. It is concerned with all aspects of life. It sustains society. It sustains the whole world. That which sustains is "Dharma". The fundamental principles of Dharma are eternal and

state in the society or democracy but attempts to emphasise the pluralistic character of the society and the nation. He gives a very interesting explanation as to why a Jana Rajya (Democratic state) should also be a Dharmarajya. He says, "Let us understand very clearly that Dharma is not necessarily with the majority or with the people. Dharma is eternal. Therefore, in the definition of democracy, to say that it is a government of the people is not enough; it has to be for the good of the people. Dharma alone can decide. Therefore, a democratic government "Jana Rajya", must also be rooted in

ruler cannot claim to be a ruler in the true sense of the term unless he works for the welfare of all. (Gandhi, Lohia & Deendayal, ed. P. Parmeswaran, DRI, New Delhi, 1978, p. 40).

Antyodaya, although a word belonging to Gandhian lexicon, it is inbuilt in the ideas of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. His vision of 'education for all' and 'har hath ko kam, har khet ko pani' was seen culminating in his idea of Economic Democracy. Explaining his idea of Economic Democracy, he says, "If a vote for everyone is the touch-stone of political democracy, work for everyone is a measure of economic democracy. This right to work does not mean slave labour as in communist countries. Work should not only give a means of livelihood to a person but it should be of the choice of that person. If for doing that work the worker does not get a proper share in the national income, he would, be considered unemployed. From this point of view a minimum wage, a just system of distribution and some sort of social security are necessary." Opposing the ideas of large scale industries based development, centralization and monopoly, he advocated swadeshi and decentralization. He further said that any system which reduces the opportunity for employment is undemocratic. He advocated a system free

**He stood rock solid defending Indian civilizational values and culture in the time when the western ideas were ruling the world and many great thinkers, philosophers and leaders of that time were swept away by its torrential current. He not only stood his ground but defined Indian ethos and value system in the context of changing time and the need of the hour.**

from social inequality where the capital and power get decentralized. As a staunch opponent of both capitalism and communism he felt that the path for India was through encouraging the sectors of self employment for which a system was required wherein maximum production can be done by employing maximum hands. He was an ardent supporter of an integral village which can be self sufficient and self reliant. He had a vision of increased production, restraint consumption and equitable distribution. He was also opposed to unrestrained exploitation of nature and felt that the nature should be used as per our need and not for people's greed. Pandit

Deendayal Upadhyay message to the world are:

1. Building a strong and prosperous Indian nation on the foundation of Indian culture.
2. Dharmarajya (which guarantees freedom, equality and justice to all)
3. Sarvodaya and Antyodaya (maximum good to all),
4. Samanvaya (synthesis, not conflict, as the basis of life).

As we pay our tributes to the great philosopher, leader and activist on his punyatithi, the need of the hour is to follow his ideas and principles which are aimed at making politics a tool for service to the nation. He stood rock solid defending Indian civilizational values and culture in the time when the western ideas were ruling the world and many great thinkers, philosophers and leaders of that time were swept away by its torrential current. He not only stood his ground but defined Indian ethos and value system in the context of changing time and the need of the hour. Today we can say that he was as much right in his assertions as he was firm in his convictions. While the Marxist and Capitalist ideologies have created havoc in the world, his ideas attuned to the Indian civilizational values shows us the path to be followed in future.

We salute the great son of Ma Bharati on the occasion of his punyatithi. ■

## BJP publications should focus on BJP programmes and ideology : Amit Shah

A national meeting of the editors of BJP national and state level publications was held at BJP National Headquarters in New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> January

of the agenda of BJP. He also said that there should be clarity about the role of the publications. He also discussed about the problems faced in the process of

importance and activists draw inspirations from these memoirs. He said that meetings like these are platforms where not only dialogue takes place but an



2015. In this meeting BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, National Vice-President Shri Prabhat Jha and Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, National Organising Secretary Shri Ram Lal and National Secretary Shri Shrikant Sharma were present. In the meeting 30 representatives from 21 states participated. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah while addressing the meeting said that all the publications should give priority to BJP programmes and ideology. He said that as mouthpiece of BJP the main work of the publications should focus on propagation

publication.

Addressing the meeting BJP National Vice President and Kamal Sandesh Editor Shri Prabhat Jha said through the publications BJP activists not only get the information about the party programmes and ideology but it also makes them confident. He said that in many states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat the publications have been coming out regularly and their quality is also very good. He said that Pt. Deendayal ji, Atal ji and Advani ji were journalists in their initial life. He said the memoirs have their own

opportunity to learn is created. He said that during the pravas of national president these kind of dialogues will gain momentum.

Addressing the meeting BJP National Vice President Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe said that the publications should be used for intellectual activities and for establishing dialogues. He said that the publications should also use popular slogans and cartoons. The attempt should be made to increase participation through these. He further said that the publications

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## Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region launches 'Make in North-East' initiative

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Dr. Jitendra Singh has announced "Make in Northeast" initiative beginning with a comprehensive tourism plan for the region in Delhi on January 20. He also announced the decision to appoint a Brand Ambassador who, he said, could personify the heritage and identity of Northeast and at the same time, inspire the rest of the countrymen to "look east" and "act east".

Chairing a joint meeting of the senior officers of Ministry of DoNER and the Union Ministry of Tourism, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "Make in Northeast" initiative, inspired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's "Make in India" concept, will in the long run seek to promote exclusive Northeast expertise in areas like tea processing, organic farming, food processing, exploitation of wind power through wind mills, AYUSH, wellness therapies like spas, etc. A detailed Brochure for investors will also be prepared and released across

the country to encourage investment in Northeast, he added.

In order to develop Northeast as a destination for investors, holiday seekers and tourists, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, mega circuit and mega destination projects of Tourism Ministry in the area will also be pursued.



Soon after taking over the charge of the Ministry of DoNER two months ago, Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled, the first decision taken by him was to plan a 2015 Calendar for the Ministry of DoNER based on theme of Northeast festivals with each month displaying the traditional local festival of each region in that particular season. When circulated across the country, this annual calendar would serve as a document to introduce the tradition, culture and tourism of the region through one single

document, he added.

Revealing future plans, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, his Ministry will soon organize an event in Mumbai for interaction with representatives of film industry in order to bring awareness about the vast potential for location shooting in Northeast which can be

done with much greater ease and cost effectiveness without travelling abroad. It is strange, he observed, that the only film maker from Mumbai who had, with commitment, focused on depicting

Northeast through cinema was Late Dev Anand and therefore, the glory of visuals from Northeast locations needs to be reintroduced to the present generation of film makers as well.

One of the important objectives of "Make in Northeast" initiative, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, will be not only to generate revenue for Northeast but also to create job opportunities to prevent the exodus of youth which is presently taking place from the region to the rest of the country. ■

## India makes financial world record as millions open new bank accounts : Guinness Book of World Records

**A**head of the January 26 deadline, the target of opening 115 million bank accounts has been formally achieved at the government's flagship Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. This financial inclusion plan has been recorded in Guinness Book of World Records. The official magazine Guinness Book of World Records on January 20, 2015 writes "The Indian government has made a big piece of financial history after it was confirmed today that its financial inclusion campaign has set a new record for the most bank accounts opened in one week". Prime Minister Shri Modi tweeted, "The unprecedented success of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is overwhelming. This is a matter of pride for the entire Nation."

In another tweet Shri

### Jan Dhan Yojana

- Under Jan Dhan Yojana every Indian family will be enrolled in a bank for opening a zero balance account. This scheme not only provides the families of India to have an account but it also offer various different profits for poor families.
- In a speech the Prime Minister stated that once the father of nation removed the social untouchability from the country. In the current world the financial untouchability is a big concern and it separates people. Thus a bank account will be the first step to eradicate the financial untouchability from the system. Looking to the scheme from an economic point of the country like India comprises of a huge population. Each of the families living in India is the part of the economic cycle. So, once the families have a bank account they get connected to the vehicle of economy. Thus when everyone will be connected the economy of the country will run at a greater pace.
- Each person getting into this scheme will be getting a Rs. 30, 000 life cover. Along with the life cover one will also get an accidental cover of Rs. 1 lakh. This will add up a value to the various lives in the country. If the person keeps the bank account active and saves some money then the account holder will be given the overdraft limit of Rs 5000 that can be withdrawn from the account.

### Pradhan Mantri Jan - Dhan Yojana (Accounts Opened As on 17.01.2015)

Disclaimer: Information is based upon the data as submitted by different banks/SLBCs

| S.No |                      | No Of Accounts<br>(In Lacs) |               |                | No Of<br>Rupay<br>Debit<br>Cards<br>(In Lacs) | Balance In<br>Accounts<br>(In Lacs) | No Of<br>Accounts<br>With Zero<br>Balance<br>(In Lacs) |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
|      |                      | Rural                       | Urban         | Total          |   |                                     |  |
| 1    | Public Sector Banks  | 493.5                       | 418.19        | 911.69         | 845.02  | 713881.17                           | 653.1  |
| 2    | Regional Rural Banks | 170.84                      | 30.29         | 201.13         | 125.01  | 145130.27                           | 149.12   |
| 3    | Private Banks        | 19.97                       | 17.61         | 37.58          | 30.37   | 59795.75                            | 24.9   |
|      | Total                | <b>684.31</b>               | <b>466.09</b> | <b>1150.40</b> | <b>1000.40</b>                                | <b>918807.19</b>                    | <b>827.1</b>   |

Modi said "We embarked on PMJDY with an aim to integrate the poor with our financial system. The comprehensive extent of its coverage is gladdening!"

Accelerating the pace of financial inclusion Shri Modi led NDA government launched *Pradhan Mantri Jan - Dhan Yojana* on August 28. In a very short span of time more than ten crore bank accounts have been opened. According to latest data total number of account has been opened by January 17 is 115040000 (Eleven crore 50 lacs forty thousands or 115.04 mn). The original target was to reach 75 mn households in this period.



Addressing the media, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley on January 20 said the Guinness World Records had given a certificate that the 'Most bank accounts

opened in one week as part of a financial inclusion campaign is 18,096,130 and was achieved by the department of financial services, Government of India, from August 23 to 29, 2014.'

The minister noted the contributions of public sector banks to the scheme. Such a large survey had earlier been done only in the national population census, he said. A survey was conducted in about 227,000 zones in rural areas and wards in urban areas over four months. Shri Jaitley said "Coverage of 99.74 per cent of surveyed households has been achieved so far. ■

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should also be used as forum for the development of the individuals. The people of these publications should also write in other publications and make their presence felt. He said this kind of forum should be made a platform for making contacts and meet each other.

While addressing the concluding session the National Organising Secretary Shri Ram Lal said the role of the publications should also be in the membership drive apart from BJP programmes and activities. He said the experience and stories related to the membership drive should also be published.

He said the photographs of the membership drive should also be published. He further said that the state publications should also publish stories taken from district level. For this a person from the district level team should be assigned the work. He said the aim of the publications should not only to increase the circulation but to prepare all the karyakartas emotionally and ideologically.

In the meeting Shri Rajnish Jain from Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Bhai Paramjeet Singh from Punjab, Shri Brahmajeet Kalia from Chandigarh, Shri Jawahar Yadav from Haryana, Shri Pravin Sharma from Himachal Pradesh, Shri Ujjwal Kumar Dhupia from Rajasthan, Shri Nimesh Joshi from Gujarat, Shri Ganesh Hake from Maharashtra, Shri Jaikrishna Gaur from Madhya Pradesh, Shri Subhash Rao from Chhattisgarh, Smt. Vinod Unniyal from Uttarakhand, Shri Ashutosh Jha from Bihar, Shri Ravinath Kishore from Jharkhand, Shri M. Rajshekhar from Kerala, Shri Pradip Chakraborty from West Bengal, Shri L. Ganeshan from Tamil Nadu, Shri Purnachandra Mallick from Odisha, Shri Jiten Sharma from Assam, Shri Anil Bhai Patel from Dadra and Nagar Haveli participated in the meeting. In addition to them all the members of BJP mouthpiece Kamal Sandesh were present in the meeting. ■

# Ayurveda — Although Ancient It Can Be Ever New

By Sri Swami Sivananda

## Domestic Medicine

It is not always that the aid of the physician is sought in our country immediately after the appearance of the first symptoms of disease. The people are able to classify the symptoms of the predominance of Vata, Pitta and Kapha respectively and apply some domestic remedies such as ginger, pepper, garlic, Neem, asafoetida and musk, whose properties are well-known to them, to check the respective fault in the earliest stage (Kriyaakaala) of the disease. This brings about the equilibrium which makes the invading agent powerless to grow in the unsuitable soil. Immunity is thus acquired in many instances. Modern Research should help to enlighten us on the rationale of these domestic remedies, some of which are not yet recorded in the text books on Ayurveda.

According to Ayurveda, there is nothing in this world which may not be used as a medicine — Na Jagati Anoushadham (Charaka). It all depends upon the capacity of the physician to discover and utilise the available material as a medicine or as an article of diet or otherwise. Modern Medicine appears to be concerned with advertisement of more and more medicines of doubtful value to cure diseases, whereas the long term purpose of the medical science should be to empty the hospitals. For this reason, Ayurveda was traditionally taught to every man and woman in India. Valuable aids to health

such as massage, sweating, oil baths, regulated exercises and walks, Asanas, manual labour, games, recreation and prayer are in Ayurveda, included in the daily routine (Dinacharya) of every citizen. Physiotherapy which promotes positive health is badly neglected in modern hospitals.

## Colossal Ignorance and Pride

Even after the advance of Science, our ignorance of the secrets of nature is colossal. Many medical practitioners do not seem to realise the vastness of their ignorance. Instead of feeling humiliated by his utter powerlessness in many situations in his daily life, the proud young doctor is full of egoism (Ahamkara), due to his materialistic mentality.

## Emotions Cause Disease

Emotions like anger, greed and hurry are potent sources of disease. Desire produces anger. Anger results in infatuation; both have their origin in Rajas (Gita). The senses, mind and intellect are the seats for these emotions.

Therefore one should develop control over these emotions which are the worst enemies of man. Otherwise, all material and spiritual knowledge will be useless — Jnana Vijnana Nashanam. In Ayurveda prevention of disease is effected through strict



discipline of man to develop self-control. Ayurveda teaches not only how to live a happy life, but also how to die a happy death with detachment, contentment and peace.

Ayurveda advocates Varnashrama Dharma, a system of organisation of the whole human life into definite self-adjusting socio-economic units, so that, all people may be happy without any strife for selfish ends and may reach the supreme goal of spiritual progress — Paramaatha. Every man has to strive his best for the full attainment of the four values or aspirations of life namely, Dharma — Virtue or duty to self and society, Artha — acquisition of wealth or power, Kama — satisfaction of desires and Moksha — liberation from the bondage or attachment. Life has thus the great purpose of progressive spiritual evolution.

I have great respect for the truly scientific research worker, untouched by commercial interests. But, I shudder to think, that a third-rate practitioner of Modern Medicine spreads into the villages of India, to replace the ennobling system of Ayurveda by materialistic and outlandish ideas quite unsuitable to our habits. It is the spirit of Ayurveda that saves the Indian civilisation. ■

*To be continued .....*

*Courtesy: Divine Life Society*