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Fortnightly Magazine

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Our Inspiration

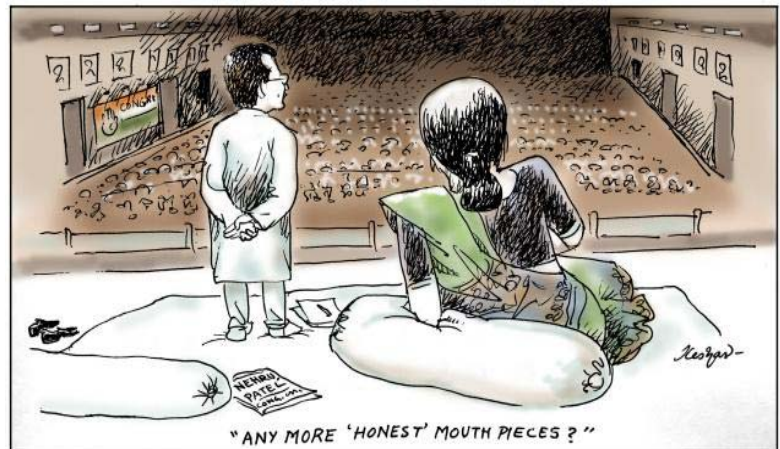
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"ANY MORE 'HONEST' MOUTH PIECES?"

Courtesy: The Hindu



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O Arjuna, one who in this world does not apply the procedures prescribed and established by the vedic scriptures; that person living in sin wastes their human life captivated by sense gratification.
 – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 16)

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“Every Indian is proud to know how the world is accepting and getting attracted towards Yoga.”
 -Narendra Modi

“The Narendra Modi government has brought to an end to the policy paralysis of the UPA Government and given a new direction to good governance.”
 -Amit Shah

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti : 16th January, 2016

Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti is a Sikh festival that commemorates the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. It is a religious celebration in which prayers for prosperity are offered.

Guru Gobind Singh was born in the year 1666 as Gobind Rai, to the ninth Guru of Sikhism, Guru Teg Bahadur (who gave his life to protect religious freedom of Hindus) and Mata Gujri, at Patna Sahib. According to Hindu calendar he was born on Saptami, Paush, Shukla Paksha, 1723 Vikram Samvat.

Noteworthy, Guru Tegh Bahadur the father of Guru Gobind Singh was publicly executed at the imperial capital Delhi in the year 1675 for protecting the Hindus against the religious fanaticism of the Mughals. Gobind Singh succeeded his father when he became a Guru at nine years of age.

Guru Gobind Singh’s teachings have a big impact on Sikhs. In his lifetime, he stood against the Mughal rulers and fought against injustice against Hindus. In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh took five men from the lower caste of society and baptized them as His Five Beloveds, endowing them with great courage and a devotion to God. It was his dedication to God, his fearlessness and his desire to protect the people from being oppressed that led Guru Gobind Singh to establish the Khalsa, a military force of saint-soldiers which he baptized.

Under Guru Gobind Singh’s guidance and inspiration, the Khalsa followed a strict moral code and spiritual discipline. It was through his courage that the people rose against the oppression of the Mughal ruler in India at the time. Aside from being a spiritual and a military leader Guru Gobind Singh was also a gifted writer who penned a large body of literary work. Before his death in 1708, he declared the Guru Granth Sahib, which is Sikhism’s Holy Scripture to be the permanent Sikh Guru.

Both Hindus & Sikhs celebrate this Jayanti and large processions come out in India on this day. People sing devotional songs during the procession and share sweets. Special prayer gatherings are also held at Gurudwaras throughout the globe. ■





Time for Sharif to act!

Nation salutes its brave sons who gave their supreme sacrifice in defending the honour of our motherland. The nation will remember the valour and heroic sacrifice of its fearless sons in the time to come. The terrorists who sneaked in the IAF base at Pathankot got a fitting reply from our brave soldiers who embraced martyrdom while defeating the designs of the intruders. The names of these heroes will remain inscribed in the hearts of the people forever. Prime Minister Narendra Modi while condemning the attack has rightly said that the enemies of humanity who can't see India's progress tried to strike at our strategic airbase at Pathankot. The nation salutes the armed forces who were able to foil the enemy's attack with their matchless bravery.

India has been a victim of terrorism for a long time. Even when the word was not known globally India was made to face its most dangerous onslaughts. India experienced it as cross-border terrorism in which many innocent lives were lost in numerous deadly attacks. Undoubtedly, these terror attacks have links with various terrorist outfits operating from Pakistan. Many of these terror outfits are banned internationally and yet they are able to operate from the Pakistani soil. As the Pakistan polity swung between dictatorship and democracy, these terror outfits gained in strength with the overt and covert support of the power centres in Pakistan. India has continuously registered its concerns on the global forums in raising the issue of terrorism. Of late and more particularly after 9/11 terror attack on US, the world has also started to recognize the grave dangers posed by terrorism to international peace and harmony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has continuously raised the issue of terrorism on almost all available forums. He has tried to draw the attention of all the world leaders towards the challenges of terrorism and brought it in the agenda of the meeting from BRICS to UN and while engaging with almost all world powers from US to Japan and UK to China.

India has never lacked when initiatives were required in building good relations with neighbouring countries. It was very much evident when Narendra Modi invited all the SAARC leaders in his swearing-in ceremony. The relation with Pakistan has never been comfortable specifically in the context of cross border terrorism which continued to be aided and abetted from Pakistan. Even after several confidence building measures, terrorism continues to haunt India from across the border. The attack on Pathankot air base is the most recent example of cross-border terrorism. The nation has not forgotten 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks when terrorists from Pakistan entered India and launched a terror attack taking many innocent lives. Even in the face of glaring evidences the authorities in Pakistan have so far failed to punish those responsible for the attack.

It may be appreciated that for the first time Prime Minister of Pakistan has called the Prime Minister of India after the attack on Pathankot airbase. But now Pakistan needs to show that it is sincerely committed to act against terrorism by punishing those linked to Pathankot terror attack.

PM Modi has strongly emphasized the need for Pakistan to take firm and immediate action in this regard. India has also supplied the information and leads which need to be acted upon by Pakistan without delay. If Nawaz Sharif acts in accordance with his assurance of prompt and decisive action against the terrorists then it will boost India-Pakistan relations and confidence between the two countries will be enhanced. It's time for Nawaz Sharif to act! ■

First defence partnership under 'Make in India' signed

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Russia on December 24 & 25 to attend 16th India-Russia annual summit. This high level annual dialogue mechanism began after 'Declaration of India-Russia strategic partnership' signed by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee and Russian President Vladimir Putin in October; 2000. The declaration was major political initiative between India-Russia relations after the cold war. Since then, regular dialogue mechanism operates at official and political levels to enhance



cooperation and follow up cooperative activities. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two -day -visit to Moscow to attend the annual summit the two countries

signed 16 pacts to expand cooperation in various sectors.

During the visit India and Russia on December 24 signed 16 agreements across various sectors – including the manufacturing of nuclear reactors, solar energy plants, railways and the first partnership in defence manufacturing.

“The agreement on manufacture of **Kamov 226 helicopter** in India is the first project for a major defence platform under Make in India,” the Prime Minister said during his joint address with Russia's President Vladimir Putin. “The pace of our cooperation in nuclear energy is increasing. We are making progress on 12 Russian nuclear reactors at two sites,” he added.

While attending a meet of business leaders from both nations, PM Modi invited

PM Narendra Modi Lays Wreath At Soviet World War II Memorial

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 24 December laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a war memorial dedicated to Soviet soldiers killed in World War II. The Prime Minister, braving cold weather, stood for a few minutes before the flame which illuminates a bronze inscription that reads “Your name is unknown, your deed is immortal” at the memorial. A Russian military band played, as PM Modi laid the wreath at the memorial. The remains of the unknown soldiers killed in the Battle of Moscow in 1941 were initially buried in a mass grave of the Shtyki Memorial at the 40th km of the Leningrad highway at the city of Zelenograd. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the battle, in December 1966, these remains were relocated to the Kremlin in the Alexander Garden in Moscow. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was designed by architects DI Burdin, VA Klimov, Yu R Rabayev and sculptor Nikolai Tomsky. ■



Russian CEOs to invest in sectors like aerospace, infrastructure and diamond, and said his government has created a favourable environment to boost economic growth.

Pushing for upping economic ties, PM Modi and President Putin have agreed to institutionalize the CEO's Forum, with two meetings every year, one to be held in India and the other in Russia.

"As I look to the future, I see Russia as a significant partner in India's economic transfer and in shaping a balanced, multi-polar world," he said.

In his address, President Putin said, "India a great power carrying out a balanced and responsible foreign policy." Shri Narendra Modi wrapped up his two day-visit to Russia with an address to 3,000 members of the Indian community at Moscow's Expocentre.

Talking about India-Russia ties at Expocentre, the Prime Minister said "Political relations, trade relations is one thing. Our ties go beyond that."

Underscoring India's growing role in the international fora, PM Modi said, "Earlier India used to be a spectator. Today whenever the world takes a decision, India has a role to play... The world has now accepted what India has been saying on terrorism."

Earlier, at a joint media

conference with President Putin, PM Modi announced the agreements signed between the two nations. "The agreement on manufacture of Kamov 226 helicopter in India is the first project for a major defence platform under Make in India," he said.

President Putin said Russia plans to build at least six new nuclear power units in India over the next 20 years.

"Nature has destined us to work together. From hydrocarbons, our cooperation is moving to the hardest form of carbon -



Putin Gifts PM Modi Gandhi's Notes, 18th Century Indian Sword
Russian President Vladimir Putin presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi a page from the diary of Mahatma Gandhi and an 18th century Indian sword. President Putin presented the items to PM Modi while hosting the latter for a private dinner on Wednesday evening. "President Putin presented to the Prime Minister a page from the diary of Mahatma Gandhi. The page contains Gandhiji's handwritten notes" the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. Vladimir Putin also gifted Prime Minister Modi a late-18th century Indian sword from Bengal province that features intricate silver artwork which belonged to the Najafi Dynasty.

In the joint media conference, both leaders said "we are working on logistics. Our Green Corridor project has taken off. The International North South Transit Corridor through Iran will significantly reduce transportation time and cost. We are moving forward on the India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Agreement. This will also benefit us in Central Asia."

diamonds," PM Modi said at the CEO's Forum. Russia, he said, is keen on investing in Mumbai-Delhi industrial corridor.

The two leaders have agreed to institutionalise the CEO's Forum, with two meetings every year, one to be held in India and the other in Russia. The volume of current bilateral trade between the two countries is

...Continued on page 9

PM Modi inaugurates Afghanistan's new Parliament in Kabul

A section in Afghanistan's Parliament premises named 'Atal block'

After his visit to Russia Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi arrived Kabul on December 25. In Kabul he inaugurated the Parliament building which was constructed by India at a cost of \$90 million. The Parliament building project was started by India in 2007

session of both houses of the Afghan Parliament after inauguration. PM Modi said that "nurseries and sanctuaries of terrorism" must be shut. "Terror and violence cannot be the instrument to shape Afghanistan's future or dictate the choices Afghans make," he said.



"India is here to contribute not to compete; to lay the foundations of future, not light the flame of conflict," the PM told Afghan lawmakers.

Earlier, PM Modi inaugurated Afghanistan's new Parliament built by India. He said that he was "deeply touched" that a section in the Parliament premises was named 'Atal block' after former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee who turned 91 on December 25.

Upon his arrival in Kabul from Moscow on morning of 25 December, Prime Minister Shri Modi was welcomed with a warm hug by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at the Presidential Palace. The two leaders later held delegation-level talks, discussing a wide range of issues, including on security.

Shri Modi also met Afghanistan's Chief Executive Officer Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and former President Hamid Karzai. ■

as a mark of friendship and cooperation to help rebuild Afghanistan. On the occasion he said that Afghanistan "will succeed only when terrorism no longer flows across the border", in a strong message to Pakistan which is often accused by Kabul of sponsoring the Taliban insurgency.

He was addressing a joint

PM Modi added, "There are some who did not want us to be here. There were those who saw sinister design in our presence here... But we are here because you had faith in us."

India has invested around USD two billion in aid and reconstruction in Afghanistan and trained scores of officers in the war-torn country.

PM's stopover visit to Pakistan

While departing from Afghanistan on December 25 Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted "Looking forward to meeting PM Nawaz Sharif in Lahore today afternoon, where I will drop by on my way back to Delhi." Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stayed in Lahore for about two hours to wish Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif 's birthday while his way back to Delhi. PM Sharif and his family received Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the airport in Lahore.

The move was widely appreciated by intelligentsia world-wide. The Modi stopover in Lahore is being seen as departure from stereotypical protocol-driven diplomacy. PM Modi also participated in wedding of Sharif's granddaughter on the day.

External Affairs Ministry tweeted "After blessing the bride, PM departs Raiwind accompanied by PM Sharif who will see him off."



...Continued from page 7

around \$10 billion and both sides are aiming to take it to \$30 billion over the next 10 years.

PM Modi held talks in the morning with President Putin to start the annual summit. The talks between the two countries have been taking place alternately in Moscow and New Delhi since 2000.

Earlier today, PM Modi visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a war memorial dedicated to Soviet soldiers killed in World War II.

He also visited Russia's National Crisis Management Centre or NCMC. A multi-level coordination centre, NCMC processes information from across Russia and monitors industrial facilities, crowded areas, tsunami threats and other natural disasters.

Assuring Russia that it is India's "principal partner" in the defence sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the two strategic partners are working together for joint manufacture of advanced defence equipment in India under the 'Make in India' initiative. "Russia has been India's foremost defence partner through decades, accounting for a majority of our defence equipment... Even in the current environment, despite India's improved access to the world market, Russia remains our principal partner," PM Modi told Russian news agency Itar-Taas.

The Prime Minister said, "Indians will never forget the Russian support that we got when we needed it the most."

Last night, President Putin hosted a private dinner for PM Modi and held a tete-e-tete in Kremlin, during which the two leaders touched upon issues of mutual interest. "The meeting was fruitful," PM Modi tweeted later. ■

Indian security forces foil terrorists attempt to dismantle strategic assets in Pathankot Air Force Station

The Indian security forces gun down six terrorists at Pathankot in Punjab. On receipt of intelligence inputs of a likely attempt by terrorists to infiltrate into military installations in Pathankot area, Air Force Station Pathankot was put on heightened alert status.

Swift response by the Station resulted in pinning down of the terrorists in a limited area, preventing their movement towards the

On his talk to Pakistan PM , Shri Modi strongly emphasized the need for Pakistan to take firm and immediate action against the organizations and individuals responsible for and linked to the Pathankot terrorist attack. Specific and actionable information in this regard has been provided to Pakistan.

culprits of the Pathankot air base attack. It was first time Pakistan Prime Minister immediately dialed his Indian counterpart and vowed to take action.

On his talk to Pakistan PM , Shri Modi strongly emphasized the need for Pakistan to take firm and immediate action against the organizations and individuals responsible for and linked to the Pathankot terrorist attack. Specific and actionable information in this regard has been provided to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif assured Prime Minister Modi that his government would take prompt and decisive action against the terrorists.

Thwarting the terrorists's attempt to dismantle the Air base according to media report five Indian security forces bravely fighting lost their life. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi saluted the Armed Forces for successfully defeating the designs of the terrorists, and paid homage to the jawans who were martyred during the operation.

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar congratulated the forces and said "They have done an excellent job containing these highly motivated terrorists". ■



sensitive Technical zone where bulk petroleum and weapon storage areas were located and also where aircrafts were parked. After 15 hour battle a well coordinated effort by all security agencies including the Army, NSG, local police and Indian Air Force (IAF) succeeded in neutralizing the terrorists. The airbase

remained operational throughout and flights operated to and from the airfield during the period of engagement with the terrorists.

Immediately Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif talked over phone to his Indian counterpart Shri Narendra Modi and promised action against the

'Stand Up India' – a boost to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and Women

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 6 approved the "Stand Up India Scheme" to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch, on an average one for each category of entrepreneur. It is expected to benefit at least 2.5 lakh borrowers.

The expected date of reaching the target of at least 2.5 lakh approvals is 36 months from the launch of the Scheme.

The Stand Up India Scheme provides for:

- Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Creation of a credit guarantee mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).
- Handholding support for borrowers both at the pre loan stage and during operations. This would include increasing their familiarity with factoring services, registration with online platforms and e-market places as well as sessions on best practices and problem solving.

The "Start up India Stand up India" initiative was announced by the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on 15th August, 2015. The Stand up India component is anchored by Department of Financial Services (DFS) to encourage greenfield enterprises by SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs.

The details of the scheme are as follows:

- Focus is on handholding support for both SC/ST and Women borrowers.
- The overall intent of the approval is to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to these under-served sectors of the population by facilitating bank loans repayable up to 7 years and between Rs. 10 lakh

to Rs. 100 lakh for greenfield enterprises in the non farm sector set up by such SC, ST and Women borrowers.

- The loan under the scheme would be appropriately secured and backed by a credit guarantee through a credit guarantee scheme for which Department of Financial Services would be the settler and National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC) would be the operating agency.
- Margin money of the composite loan would be up to 25%. Convergence with state schemes is expected to reduce the actual requirement of margin money for a number of borrowers.
- Over a period of time, it is proposed that a credit history of the borrower be built up through Credit Bureaus.

The "Start up India Stand up India" initiative was announced by the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on 15th August, 2015. The Stand up India component is anchored by Department of Financial Services (DFS) to encourage greenfield enterprises by SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs. ■

PM unveils plaque for foundation stone for new helicopter manufacturing unit of HAL in Tumkur district

4000 families will directly or indirectly get livelihood due to this new manufacturing unit,says PM

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on January 3 unveiled a plaque for the foundation stone of a new helicopter manufacturing unit of Hindustan Aeronautics

limited in Tumkur district in Karnataka.

The Prime Minister recalled former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's

and is not of the latest technology.

Shri Narendra Modi said the Union Government has decided to lay stress on manufacturing of defence equipment. He said the

helicopters manufactured in Tumkur will serve soldiers stationed in remote locations. The Prime Minister said that the first helicopter built in this unit should take flight by 2018. He added that 4000 families will directly or indirectly get livelihood due to this factory. He recalled Dr.

Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision for industrialisation in India, as a means to empower the poor and downtrodden, and said this manufacturing unit is also a step towards fulfilling that vision.

The Governor of Karnataka Shri Vajubhai Vala, the Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah, Union Ministers Shri Manohar Parrikar, Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Shri Ananth Kumar, and Union Minister of State Shri G.M. Siddeshwara were present on the occasion. ■



limited in Tumkur district in Karnataka.

PM unveils plaque for foundation stone for new helicopter manufacturing unit of HAL in Tumkur district Tumakuru, Karnataka, Manufacturing, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Defence. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the manufacturing unit coming up in Tumkur would not be an ordinary one, but one which would make the whole world take notice.

PM unveils plaque for

famous slogan - "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan." He said that in the last fifty years, a lot of progress had been made in agriculture, and the country is now self-sufficient in food grains.

He said the Indian Armed Forces were second to none, and now the time had come to ensure that the weapons and equipment they carried and used were also the best in the world. For this, he said, India needed to end dependence on imported weaponry, which is expensive

NDA govt. set off a mission to provide electricity to 18,000 villages

India has set off on an ambitious mission, a mission to provide electricity to 18,000 villages which are still in darkness after almost decades of independence. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech announced that all remaining villages shall be electrified within 1000 days. Rural Electrification is happening at a rapid pace, and is being done in an unbelievably transparent manner. Data on villages being electrified is available to the public through a mobile app and a web dashboard. While we can observe only electricity reaching the villages, it is also important to note that it is accompanied by dreams, aspirations & upward mobility in life for the people residing in villages.

It is difficult to forget that one of the largest power outage in our history happened in India in July 2012, leaving 62 crore people in darkness. Such darkness engulfed the nation, even as more than 24,000 MW of generation capacity lay idle due to lack of fuel like coal and gas. The entire sector reached a vicious cycle of inaction and policy paralysis with surplus generation capacity and massive unutilized investments at one end while large power cuts for the consumer on the other end.

When the NDA Government came to power last year, as many as 2/3 of coal based power plants (66 out of 100 coal plants tracked by Central Electricity

Authority) were having critical coal stocks meaning less than 7 days of coal stock. Recovering from such a dire situation, today not a single power plant in the country is facing critical coal stock level.

While working hard to provide electricity to all, the Government has made clean energy a priority. It has set ambitious target to achieve 175 GW energy through renewable sources of energy, which include 100 GW of solar energy.

The new Government has focused on holistic and long term structural improvements in the sector, with a focus on achieving 24X7 power for all. The health of the power sector is borne out by the growth numbers. As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), electricity grew at 9% in October while Coal India Limited's output rose 9% in Apr-November. In 2014-15, Coal India has increased coal production by more than the increase in the last four years combined. As a consequence, imports plummeted 49% in November vs last year. The growth of generation from coal based stations during 2014-15 was 12.12%, which is the highest ever. The crisis arising from cancellation of 214 coal blocks by Hon'ble Supreme Court was turned into an opportunity through transparent e-auctions, all of whose proceeds go to States especially the less developed States in East India.

A capacity addition of

22,566 MW was achieved in the last year which is the highest ever. The peak shortage has reduced from 11.9% in 2008-09 to 3.2%, the lowest ever. Energy deficit during the current year has also reduced from 11.1% in 2008-09 to 2.3%, the lowest ever in the history of India.

On transmission front, there used to be a lot of constraints in supplying power from surplus states to deficit States. Efforts were made to expeditiously synchronize the Southern Grid leading to 'One Nation, One grid, One Frequency'. The Available transfer Capacity (ATC) during 2013-14 was only 3,450 MW which has been increased by 71% to 5,900 MW this month.

Powering India's Growth Coal, Scheme, Development, Rural Development, Electricity, LED, UDAY

In terms of fixing the weakest link in the power value chain, UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) has been rolled out to tackle past, present and potential future problems of the sector. UDAY was developed through a bottom up approach with extensive consultations at the highest levels of States (CM, Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, DISCOM MDs etc.), Bankers, regulators etc. While addressing DISCOMs' debt trap, UDAY delineates a path for sustainable operational improvement for DISCOMs. Government is also taking a number of initiatives to reduce cost of power. This is expected to

result in all the DISCOMs becoming profitable by 2018-19. A budgetary hard-stop under UDAY provides a permanent resolution to DISCOM issues and combined with a collaborative approach, focus on improving efficiency and reducing cost of power, distinguish UDAY from previous attempts to reform the sector.

Areas like energy efficiency have seen dynamic growth with more than 75% reduction in LED bulb prices and distribution of more than 4 crore bulbs in less than one year. The target of replacing every single bulb with an LED bulb is on track with 77 crore bulbs to be distributed by 2018.

The domestic and streetlight LED bulb programmes will help reduce the peak-load demand by nearly 22 GW, save 11,400 crore units of electricity annually and bring about a reduction of 8.5 crore tons in carbon dioxide emissions every year. Setting up 22 GW capacity may have been hailed as a monumental achievement but it takes a different perspective to appreciate the avoidance of such investments while preserving the environment. ■

Foundation Stone of Delhi-Meerut Expressway laid

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 31st December unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway at Sector-62 in Noida.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled the role of Meerut in the 1857 uprising for freedom from British rule, and said that this Delhi-Meerut Expressway would provide freedom from



pollution. Noting the people's aspirations for development, the Prime Minister said good roads were one of the first pre-requisites for development. He said this expressway will spur development in western Uttar Pradesh. He recalled former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision for connecting India through the Golden Quadrilateral project, and through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

The Prime Minister touched upon other development schemes launched by the Union Government, including the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, to ensure proper irrigation facilities for farmers.

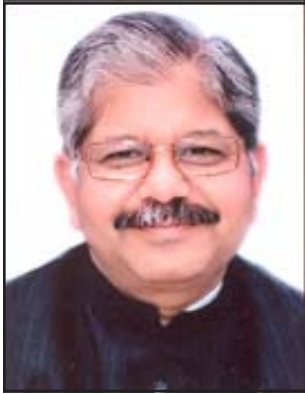
The Prime Minister said that with the abolition of interviews for Government jobs in Class-III and Class-IV categories, the Government is giving a unique gift to the youth of India on January 1st, 2016.

The Prime Minister called upon all political parties to take a resolution in 2016, that they will let Parliament function and work for the benefit of the poor. He said that the people of India have elected their representatives to discuss, debate and deliberate in Parliament, and therefore, this is their duty.

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik, Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union MoS (I/C) Dr. Mahesh Sharma and Union MoS Shri P. Radhakrishnan were present on the occasion. ■

Dharamalal Kaushik re-elected as Chhattisgarh BJP President

The incumbent BJP President of Chhattisgarh, Shri Dharamalal Kaushik was re-elected to the post on 5 January 2016. Shri Kaushik was elected as the State president for the



second consecutive time following an election process at the BJP State headquarters in Raipur. He will have tenure of three years.

The process began with the election of Mandal presidents followed by that of district presidents and finally for the State president. Along with the State president, 11 National Council members were also elected from the State which includes BJP National General Secretary Ms. Saroj Pandey, Union Minister of State for Steel Shri Vishnudeo Sai, MPs Shri Ramesh Bais, Shri Vikram Usendi, Shri Kamla Patle, Dr Bansilal Mahto, Shri Dinesh Kashyap, Shri Kamalbhan Singh, Shri Chandulal Sahu, Shri Lakhanlal Sahu and Shri Abhishek Singh.

BJP National General Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Shri Bhupendra Yadav was present on the occasion as National Observer along with fellow National General Secretary and State in-charge Dr Anil Jain to supervise the poll process.

After Assembly elections in 2013, the then Chhattisgarh BJP president Shri Ramsewak Paikra became Home Minister and had to resign as the State president. Then the party organization had made Shri Kaushik, a former Assembly Speaker as the new President for the State. ■

Nandkumar Singh Chauhan re-elected as Madhya Pradesh BJP President

Senior BJP leader and MP Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan was on 05 January 2016 declared elected unopposed as the Madhya Pradesh BJP president for a second term.

Addressing party workers, Shri Nandkumar expressed confidence that the party will win 2018 Assembly as well as 2019 general elections. "Both government and the party organization are the two wheels of a



chariot. The BJP workers' force will ensure the party's victory in 2018 Assembly polls and 2019 Lok Sabha elections," he said.

External Affairs Minister and MP from Vidisha Lok Sabha seat, Smt. Sushma Swaraj said, "The state BJP organization is among the excellent institutions in the country."

BJP's organizational election observer for the State Shri Ramdas Agrawal, declared Shri Nandkumar elected as the State BJP president unopposed. Besides, Shri Agrawal also declared elected 29 members for the BJP's National Council from the State.

"BJP workers are our strength," Shri Nandkumar said after getting elected for a three-year term.

Earlier, only Shri Nandkumar filed his nomination for the coveted post of the ruling BJP in the state on 04 January.

In a unique show of unity and unanimity, senior BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Ministers Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, former CMs Shri Sunderlal Patwa and Shri Kailash Joshi, BJP National Vice President Shri Prabhat Jha and MP Shri Krishna Murari Moghe, accompanied Shri Chauhan to the party headquarters for filing the nomination papers. ■

Satpal Singh Satti re-elected as Himachal BJP President

Incumbent Himachal BJP President and Una legislator (MLA) Shri Satpal Singh Satti, 51, was unanimously elected President of the state unit of the B h a r a t i y a Janata Party on 06 January, 2016 in Shimla. Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda, who hails from the state, was also present at the election meeting.



Shri Satti, a third-time MLA from Una, will now become the longest serving party President in the history of the party.

The name of Shri Satti was proposed by former Chief Minister Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal, three MPs and 20 legislators.

Shri Satti, known for his plain-speaking, took over from Shri Khimi Ram in February 2012, after he was inducted as a minister in the then Dhumal government and remained the president for over one year before getting a full three-year term.

The party's central observer Shri Ganeshi Lal, head of the party's disciplinary committee, also announced four names for the party's national council.

They included former minister Shri Sarveen Chaudhary, Vice-President Shri Ajya Rana, Kutlegar legislator Shri Virender Kanwar and Kasuali legislator Dr. Rajiv Sehjal.

Shri Satti expressed his gratitude to senior leaders Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal and Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.

Shri Satti spelt out his priorities and said, "I have worked hard so far and will have now have to work harder this time to strengthen the party ahead of the assembly elections. "My main goal is to oust the Congress and in that task, I will involve every party worker and leader," he said.

Shri Dhumal also congratulated Shri Satti for his election for the third time. "I believe that in the dynamic leadership of Shri Satpal Singh Satti, the state BJP unit will achieve new heights," he said, addressing party workers. He also hailed Shri

Satti's tenure during which the party won all the four Lok Sabha seats in the 2014 general election.

On the occasion Shri Nadda said the BJP would not only increase its base under Shri Satti's leadership, but also win the state assembly polls due in 2017. "BJP will not only win 2017 assembly election but also work to maintain it forever," he added.

Ajay Bhatt elected as new Uttarakhand BJP President

Leadership of Opposition in the state Assembly, Shri Ajay Bhatt was on 31 December, 2015 elected unopposed as new State BJP President of Uttarakhand. Shri Bhatt was elected unopposed as all three sets of nomination papers filed by the party leaders favoured him, Jabalpur MP Shri Rakesh Singh, who supervised the process, said.

Considered as one of the prominent leaders in the BJP's state unit,

Shri Bhatt had earlier served as Health Minister of Uttarakhand. He was elected after the three-year term of incumbent Tirath Singh Rawat expired last month.

Shri Bhatt said he would aim for victory in the 2017 Assembly elections by working together with all the party members.

He sought support of all Karyakartas in uprooting the Congress government in the state and eradicating corruption.

Shri Rakesh Singh also said five party leaders were nominated to represent the state in the BJP's National Council.

Almora MP Shri Ajay Tamta, Tehri Garhwal MP Shri Maharani Mala Rajylaxmi, former MPs Shri Balraji Paasi, Shri Manoharkant Dhyani and senior leader Shri Mohan Lal Bothiyal were nominated for the party's national council. ■



The Soul of India

By K R Malkani

“Eka Dharmarajya habe a Bharat’.

(Let there be one Dharma Rajya In Bharatvarsha.)

-Rabindranath Tagore

Religion has been the soul of India. As Swami Vivekanand put it: “In Every nation you will have to work through their methods. To every man you have to speak in his own language. If you want to speak of politics in India, you must speak through the language of religion.”

In pre-Muslim India, Hindu kings also fought wars. But the first thing the victorious king did was to go and worship the gods of the vanquished king. Gods were above and beyond kings. Even the Muslim rulers of India understood the centrality of religion in India. When the British offended the religious susceptibilities of Indians by greasing bullets with cow and pig tallow, they had the revolt of 1857 on their hands. Never again did they dare to tamper with the religion of India.

When the freedom movement started in India, it did so on a religious note. The appeal centred on Desh and Dharma. Bankim Chandra’s Vande Mataram set the tone



for the movement. And Rabindranath Tagore called for : Eka dharmarajya habe a Bharate (Let there be one Dharmarajya in Bharatvarsh).

A major reason why

When the freedom movement started in India, it did so on a religious note. The appeal centred on Desh and Dharma. Bankim Chandra’s Vande Mataram set the tone for the movement. And Rabindranath Tagore called for : Eka dharmarajya habe a Bharate (Let there be one Dharmarajya in Bharatvarsh).

Mahatma Gandhi came to stand head and shoulders above other leaders was that he saw the centrality of religion in life. Declaring

himself a ‘staunch sanatani Hindu’, he said: “Politics divorced from religion was a corpse, fit only to be burnt.” His whole idiom, from Satya and Ahimsa to Brahmacharya and Aparigraha was religious and moral.

The legitimisation of the religious content of nationalism continued for some time after Independence. The National Flag had the Dharma Chakra Inserted in its centre. The Nehru cabinet decided a rebuild the Somnath Mandir, desecrated and converted into a mosque by Mahmud Ghazni. But the general election in 1951-52 saw the entry of the term ‘secularism’ in the Indian political vocabulary for the first time.

The relevant philosophy here was Sarva Dharma Sama Bhaava-equal respect for all creeds-ensuring justice for all. The importation of an alien concept has led to much misunderstanding. Hindus think that in ‘secularism’, Muslims have got something special, and they resent this ‘appeasement’.

Muslims find that 'secularism' is sound and fury, signifying nothing. They, therefore feel cheated.

The Congress party is losing elections because it has lost much of both, Hindu and Muslim votes. And it has lost them both in a big way because it has abandoned the profound call of Desh and Dharma, which alone can move the masses, whether Hindu or Muslim, and opted

a sense of indentity with the distant past and the limitless futures. It expand his ego by making his spirit significant for the universe and the universe significant for him."

It is only when the devout feel threatened that they become fundamentalist. Basically, 'fundamentalism' is a reaction against indiscriminate Westernisation and western support of autocratic regimes. In such a

metropolitan of the Delhi Diocese, says that the two schools of thought in the Bristish government of India represented by Macaulay and Duff wanted Hinduism out. Macaulay's interest was to destroy Hinduism in order to overcome Indian resistance to colonialism.

Alexander Duff's was to destroy Hinduism in order to plant Christianity in its place. The intention of both was to destroy Hinduism through English identity crisis in their souls 'the educated elite nurtured a major identity crisis in their souls for several generation.' This English education, writes Dr. Paulos, has 'culturally castrated' India. The key factor, he says, in restructuring the economy to make it strong, and restoring cultural vitality of the nation, can be nothing but the human factor and people's identity. Basically, the Sangh Parivar is a national striving in that direction.

United India having failed in 1947, and divided hostility having failed ever since, let us try peaceful and purposeful co-existence. Let Hindus in Pakistan not mind the Islamic appeal. And let Muslims in India not mind the Hindu appeal. That way we could have the best of both worlds, temporal and spiritual. We could live in peace as friendly neighbours; and we could also have our respective religious appeals. ■

(From the book "India First, Ocean Books Pvt. Ltd. 2010)

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for a place like secularism which is suspect in the eyes of both.

It is religion, says Toynbee, that "enables people to cope with the difficulty of being human, by giving spiritually satisfying answers to the fundamental question about the mystery of the Universe and of man's role in it and by giving practical precepts for living in the Universe." The function of religion is "to ritualise man's optimism, to enhance his faith in the victory of ritualise man's optimism, to enhance his faith in the victory of hope over fear." Kingsley Davis in his Human Society writes: "religion gives the individual

situation, the common Muslim can only invoke the mosque as the instrument of mass mobilisation, and as the symbol of moral authority. It is only because society feels besieged in several Muslim countries-and besieged as it is by western military, economic and cultural domination-that it throws up fundamentalism as a defence mechanism. Islamic fundamentalist, will no doubt relax and become their natural, native, national selves.

Likewise, critics need to understand the nature of 'Hindu communalism' or 'fundamentalism'. Dr. Paulos Mar Gregorios, first

Birth Anniversary: 23rd January

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Subhas Chandra Bose was born on 23 January 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province, to Prabhavati Devi and Janakinath Bose, an advocate. He had a distinguished educational career and always topped the list. He went to England and there he competed for the Indian Civil Service, standing first. But the glamour of Indian Civil Service did not hold his heart. He was burning with a patriotic zeal to serve Mother India. He resigned the I.C.S. within a year and became a soldier in the struggle for India's freedom.

He was a man of daring schemes and unflinching determination. His self-discipline and spiritual inspiration were remarkable. Destiny had cut him out for great things. He never hankered after fame, ease, comfort, money and family. He cheerfully renounced all as if to fulfill a mission for which he was born and destined.

In the beginning, he was an ardent follower of Gandhi. With the speed of lightning, he rose from one distinction to another. In 1938, he became the President of the Indian National Congress for the second time. As the President of the India National Congress, he had some sharp



differences with Gandhi. The rift between the two widened.

He resigned from the Congress and founded the Forward Bloc. He never slackened his duty towards India. The World War II had, about this time reached a critical stage. The Allies were having a difficult time. This foremost adventurer and revolutionary ran away from his home in Kolkata eluding the police.

He travelled to Afghanistan, in the guise of a Pathan. He managed to reach Germany and then Japan. He organized in Malaya his 60,000 strong I.N.A. to fight India's war of independence from outside India. He said to his soldiers, 'Give me blood and I will give you freedom.'

His stirring call to his soldiers was 'Delhi chalo'.

The exploits of the I.N.A. were on the lips of every Indian. It was India's first national army to plant the tricolour flag of India on the liberated soil of Manipur and Kohima. With the fall of Japan, he was reported dead on August 19, 1945 but the incident continues to be shrouded in mystery.

Netaji was a born leader of men. He was cast by nature in the mould of greatness. He fought the forces of evil with the straightforwardness and boldness of a missionary. His gifts were God-given. He was cut out by nature as the pre-appointed agent for great things. Few men can equal him in the absolute purity of character, consistency of principle and grim determination to see things through. He refused to be cowed down by any person.

He clung to, little caring for the consequences, to what he considered to be right, morally and ethically. "I stand for truth; I fight for truth and I shall die for truth," said Netaji in one of his memorable speeches in Singapore. He did not fear even death. "I am immortal till my work is done", he used to say. May the soul of the mighty architect of India's liberation lead us and show us light in the forward march of our country. ■

Central Government is working for the benefit and empowerment of Dalits : Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Conference of Dalit Entrepreneurs, organized by the Dalit Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) on 29 December, 2015 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled one of his "Mann Ki Baat" programmes, where he had exhorted people to talk not just about their rights, but also about their duties. The Prime Minister said that this gathering of Dalit Entrepreneurs is one which has not just talked about their duties, but has successfully fulfilled duties.

Paying tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Prime Minister said that while Dr. Ambedkar is widely hailed as the architect of our Constitution, he was also a great economist. He spoke of Dr. Ambedkar's vision of industrialization in India, saying that Dalits, who had no land of their own,

could only progress through industrialization.

The Prime Minister said financial inclusion is at the core of the Union Government's focus, which is to create job-creators, not job-seekers. In this context, he

Capital Fund for First Generation Entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister assured the Dalit Entrepreneurs that the Central Government is working for their benefit. He said the successes of the members of the gathering, could inspire anyone who faces adversity.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the newly launched Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been able to give Rs



mentioned the loans being given under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. He also mentioned the Venture

50,000 crore worth of loans to 80,000 small entrepreneurs so far and most of them from the backward castes. The government, he said, estimates that the number of Dalit entrepreneurs will double in the next two years.

The newly launched Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been able to give Rs 50,000 crore worth of loans to 80,000 small entrepreneurs so far and most of them from the backward castes. The government, he said, estimates that the number of Dalit entrepreneurs will double in the next two years.

"These are people who were once wary of even entering banks. This (scheme) enables a Dalit to stand tall in society, not as a job seeker but as a job giver,"

Shri Modi said. "These are people who were once wary of even entering banks. This (scheme) enables a Dalit to stand tall in society, not as a job seeker but as a job giver," Shri Modi said.

"A Dalit entrepreneur knows what it is like to go through the rigors in the world, unlike those

who got businesses and fortunes as inheritance," he said, adding that being from the backward class himself, he knows how it feels to be empowered against all odds.

"A Dalit goes through humiliation... ask me, I know how it feels to be humiliated. From my personal experience I can tell you, the elite still can't stand it when they see a Dalit wearing nice clothes," he said.

Shri Modi further said, "Financial inclusion is at the core of the Central government's focus.

I want the Dalit entrepreneurs to know that I am your man in Delhi. Whatever assistance you may need, this government will provide," he said. "The strength of a pyramid depends on the strength of its base. This government is working towards making the base strong."

Talking about Dr. B R Ambedkar, who he invoked multiple times in the speech, Shri Modi said Babasaheb had rightly understood that the only way for Dalit empowerment was through entrepreneurship. "A Dalit does not own land to till. So Babasaheb had rightly said that it was through industrialization and entrepreneurship that the Dalits can come up. We are trying to provide that," he said.

Key Highlights of the speech

- ▶ Central Government is working for the empowerment of Dalits.
- ▶ Babasaheb rightly said that industrialization will give maximum benefit to our Dalit sisters and brothers. Even I think only industrialization can benefit them.
- ▶ Government is working for your benefit and empowerment. Financial inclusion is at the core of our focus.
- ▶ We want to create job-creators, not job-seekers.
- ▶ Government is also arranging 'Venture Capital Fund' for First Generation Entrepreneurs.
- ▶ We all know Babasaheb Ambedkar was the architect of our constitution, but not many know that he was an accomplished economist too. ■

Ambedkar's 125th anniversary

Govt planning several programmes to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar



The Narendra Modi government at the Centre is planning several programmes to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of the national icon Dr. B R Ambedkar. On the agenda are ideas such as appointing scheduled caste

and scheduled tribe officers as chairpersons and managing directors of various state-run banks, organizing a national conference of entrepreneurs to disseminate Ambedkar's ideas on industrialization besides launching a digital museum and even an app.

Dr. Ambedkar was the architect of India's constitution. Therefore, having released commemorative coins and stamps honoring Dr. Ambedkar, the Centre also declared November 26 as Constitution Day and set aside the first two days of the winter session of Parliament for a discussion on the subject.

These efforts will gather force ahead of April 1, marking the culmination of the 125th birth anniversary year. About 20 ministries and departments have joined hands to implement the to-do list, which is being monitored by Shri Modi-led national committee and an executive committee co chaired by Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot. Both committees are expected to meet again soon to assess the progress that's been made. ■

Stray thoughts after the winter session

By Arun Jaitley

The Winter Session of Parliament has just concluded. The Winter Session gives rise to a few legitimate thoughts which I must share.

On Parliamentary Democracy:

Parliamentary Democracy has been India's foremost strength. Different shades of political opinions, regions, States, communities, tribes, all find their way in the decision making process in Parliament. Parliamentary protests are not unheard of in India. In extreme cases there are precedents of disturbance in the past. But the last two sessions have witnessed a clear stand of the Congress Party that Parliament shall not be allowed to function. Most of the congress leaders, in private, have expressed helplessness over the decision of their leadership that Parliament must be disturbed continuously. The moot question which arises for the Congress Party is, 'how does India legislate?' The Standing Committee mechanism which worked exceedingly well since 1993, has been weakened in the Rajya Sabha, by the House repeatedly appointing Select Committees, questioning the opinions of the Standing Committee. If this tendency continues, a successful institution of Standing Committee could be hurt. The

Government, therefore, has adopted an alternative option of a Joint Committee to consider the Bankruptcy Law. There are other options being suggested, such as to pass legislation without a Standing Committee or drafting laws in a manner to fit them into the definition of Money Bills. The latter two are not preferred options. The Congress Party leadership must seriously explore that its disproportionate and irrational approach in dealing with Parliament is hurting institutions. If Pandit Nehru can be credited in the initial years of our democracy of having laid down of healthy precedents being established, the current generation in control of the Congress Party will find a place in history of having weakened what their ancestors established. Has the country not lost out by delaying the GST since the last year's Budget Session? How far is it desirable to pass important legislations on the last day without discussion? Statistically, we have passed a law. But has Parliament applied its mind to the law? Vulgarly:

Is vulgarity the new norm of Indian politics? I hope not.

Some months ago a few Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party made statements which were not appreciated even by the Party. The Party

President cautioned them and advised them to refrain from making such statements. The result of the caution are visible.

What about the statements made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi about the Prime Minister and others, both inside and outside Delhi Assembly? If any functionary of the Government of India were to use such language, it would witness a nationwide outrage. People in positions are expected to act with restraint. They cannot be outlandish. Vulgarity is not a right available to them. The political discourse cannot be couched in vulgar language. Falsehood delivered with vulgar overtones is not a substitute of truth. Lumpenisation of public discourse can never be high point of politics. Functionaries of the Delhi Government and its supporters have lowered the level of political discourse. They rely heavily on general falsehood without ever stating the specifics. The Aam Aadmi Party's success in Delhi seems to have misled the Congress Party that vulgarity brings votes. Indian public opinion has a sense of fairness. It is time that public opinion expresses its outrage against the lowering of the level of public discourse. ■

(The writer is Minister of Finance, Information & Broadcasting and Corporate Affairs)

Yoga is a symbol of universal aspiration for health and well being : Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Conference on Frontiers in Yoga Research and its applications on 03 January, 2016 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He also unveiled the Foundation Stone for a hospital of integrative medicine.

Addressing on the

India, he also placed our timeless wisdom before the world. He had a deep understanding of the beauty of human diversity and spoke passionately for unity in our world. This is a particularly special year for the science of yoga he said.

Shri Narendra Modi said on June 21, more than a million people in 192

boundaries of their lives and unite in pursuit of a larger good. It is this spirit of unity that demonstrates the timeless science of yoga. And, it is this belief in the power of yoga and faith in humanity that I proposed this initiative in my inaugural address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014. This is a recognition that is dawning on the world. And, across cultures and geography, people are increasingly taking to yoga to redefine their lives - to find oneness between their inner self and outer world; between their existence and their environment he added.

E said the WHO fact sheet on the global burden of disease says that non-communicable diseases are the leading causes of death worldwide. In 2008, 80 percent of deaths due to these diseases were in developing countries, up from 40 percent in 1990. By 2030, low-income countries will have eight times more deaths attributed to NCDs than high-income countries.

Shri Modi said, in India, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and other Non Communicable Diseases



occasion the Prime Minister said it is a great pleasure and privilege to participate in the 21st International Conference on frontiers in yoga research and its applications. He said I am deeply grateful to Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhan Sansthan for organizing this conference. Vivekananda's vision was a synthesis of a deep reading of the Indian and Western thought, and drew its spirit from our ancient philosophy and knowledge. He not only made a unique contribution to the spiritual revival of


countries came together to celebrate the first International Day of Yoga. The overwhelming global support is a mark of Yoga's growing international popularity. It is also a symbol of the universal aspiration for health and well being. It reflects the shared global desire for balance between human and Mother Nature; and, peace and harmony between people and nations. Above all, it demonstrated once again the capacity of people from different cultures to reach beyond the familiar


are estimated to account for 60% of all deaths. These diseases account for about 40% of all hospital stays and roughly 35% of all recorded outpatient visits. We face the tragedy of productive lives cut short and families that must deal with untimely loss; the huge toll on the economy; and, the excessive burden on the over-stretched health system.

Some studies have estimated that India stands to lose about 4.58 trillion dollars before 2030 due to non communicable diseases and mental health conditions. So, we must address the question of psychological state of our existence as much as we try to advance our physical and material life. This is where the role of Yoga is paramount. Across the world, there are moving stories of transformed lives and rekindled hopes due to Yoga he added.

The PM said we are no longer satisfied with just preventing and managing diseases. People now demand promotion of wellness, which is a healthy balance of the mind, body and spirit. We now increasingly hear voices calling for holistic treatment, which means dealing not just with the immediate ailment, but with the complete person, physically, psychologically, socially, and spiritually.

Traditional Indian systems are rooted in looking at human beings in totality. They see the link between

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**Shri Modi said, in India, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes, and other Non Communicable Diseases are estimated to account for 60% of all deaths. These diseases account for about 40% of all hospital stays and roughly 35% of all recorded outpatient visits.**

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Adhi or problems at the mind level and Vyadhi or problems at the physical level. They probe deeper causes, not just look at symptoms. They treat the person, not just cure the disease. They may at times take longer to take effect, but they tend to have deeper and longer impact. And, they are without side effects. This is why we are placing emphasis on our efforts to increase awareness, acceptance and adoption of AYUSH System of Medicine he added. And, in doing so, we will create better wellness among people, rely more on local resources and reduce healthcare costs.

Shri Modi said my vision for healthcare is an integrated system that understands and builds on the best and most effective of different traditions. This is why I deeply appreciate your effort to integrate Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy and Modern Medicine by bringing prominent researchers and

doctors on one platform. Your focus on four major non-communicable diseases - Diabetes, Cancer, Psychiatric disorders, Hypertension and Cardiovascular diseases is appreciable. It addresses issues that are very close to my heart.

He said Modern systems of medicine have transformed healthcare; screening, detection and diagnosis of diseases. Use of technology has reduced barriers to accessing health care, and improved our understanding of disease patterns. Breakthroughs in medicines and vaccines have helped conquer and contain many diseases. But, as our understanding of its limitation and its side effects have grown, as we have experienced the growing costs of modern medicine systems, we have begun to look beyond to traditional systems, not just in India, but in other countries as well.

Their popularity is growing. Yoga is now a global heritage. And, the world is embracing traditional Indian medicine with great enthusiasm. So, we look to you at this conference to define the path forward in the service of humanity Shri Modi said.

Among others the Governor of Karnataka Shri Vajubhai Vala, Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Siddaramaiah, Union Ministers and Yoga experts were present. ■

A New Approach to Development

One of the biggest problems for us has been that our development model has been supply-driven. A scheme has been prepared in Lucknow, Gandhi Nagar, or Delhi the same is attempted to be injected. We want to shift this model from supply-driven to demand driven through *Adarsh Gram*. There should be an urge developed in the village itself.

All we need is to change our mind set. We need to unite people's hearts. Normally MPs are engaged in political activities, but after this, when they will come to the village, there will be no political activities. It will be like family. Decisions will be taken sitting with the people of the villages. It will re-energise and unite the village.'

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched on 11th October, 2014 with the aim to translate the comprehensive vision of Mahatma Gandhi about an ideal Indian village into a reality, keeping in view the present context. Under SAGY, each Member of Parliament adopts a Gram Panchayat and guides its holistic progress giving

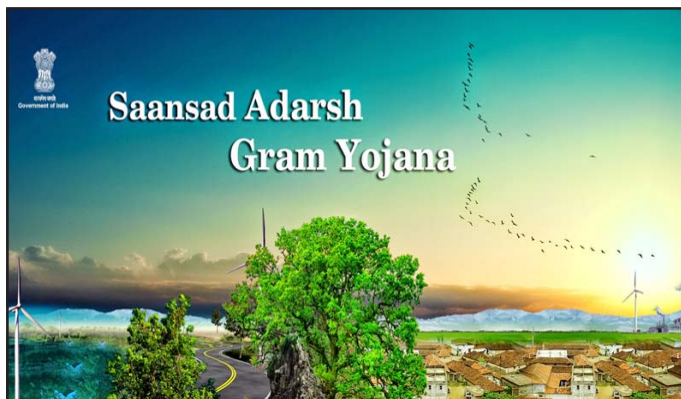
importance for social development at par with infrastructure. The 'Adarsh Grams' are to become schools of local development and governance, inspiring other Gram Panchayats.

By involving villagers and leveraging scientific tools, a Village Development Plan is prepared under the leadership of Member of Parliament. Thereafter

Each projects are reviewed in the presence of representatives of the participating line departments and the progress is updated to the state government. It is expected that each Member of Parliament will spearhead development of one Gram Panchayat as a model one by 2016, then two more by 2019 and thereafter five more by 2024. 696 GPs have been adopted by MPs across the country so far.

Each District Collector has nominated a Charge Officer of sufficient seniority to coordinate the implementation at the local level who will be fully responsible and

accountable for the implementation. Ministry of Rural Development organised training programmes for 653 Charge Officers at 9 regional locations across India. A National Workshop was organised on 23rd-24th September, 2015 at Bhopal by Ministry of Rural Development, where MPs, State Governments, District Collectors, Gram Pradhans from across all States were invited. The selected Good Practices by National Level Committee of the Ministry of Rural Development were presented through a detailed



detailed project reports are prepared and submitted by departments to the state government. State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) reviews, suggest changes and give priority allocation of resources. As of now, 21 Schemes have been amended by various Ministries /Departments of Government of India to give priority to SAGY Gram Panchayat projects.

At district level, monthly review meetings are conducted for each Gram Panchayat under the chairpersonship of Member of

exhibition so that similar good practices could be adopted in SAGY Gram Panchayats. The Ministry has also developed 35 indicators as 'Panchayat Darpan' to monitor the progress of the SAGY Gram Panchayats.

Some Success Stories:

In Laderwan village, Block Trehgam, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir, the major activity of the people is agriculture. To promote scientific agriculture, the mobile numbers of 379

their agricultural produce.

M a r a v a m a n g a l a m , situated in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu was chosen as the Adarsh Gram by the Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) , Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan. The Member of Parliament identified the potential areas for improvement and to promote rural livelihoods. Coir, leather and coconut trainings for the communities were envisaged and promoted. The MP organised several awareness

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farmers were linked with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). The KVK disseminates sms messages on weather forecasts and messages on the recommended package of practices for specific crops at critical stages of crop growth. This has been undertaken under the guidance of the Member of Parliament, Shri Muzaffar Hussain Baig. As a result, farmers now get regular agro-advisories on their mobiles. These include critical messages on scientific sowing practices, soil testing, crop protection, agronomic practices, post-harvest technologies and market information. This enables people to take informed decisions relating to crop production and marketing

programmes with the support of the District Administration and Alagappa University. He also roped in specialist training partners for imparting training to the people with the support of the Coir Board of India, Coconut Development Board of India and Central Leather Research Institute.

He coordinated with the training institutions for initiating a two months Coir training programme with the objective to educate the people in becoming successful entrepreneurs. 120 women for coir training, 112 people for leather training and 27 men for coconut Training were enrolled in the training programmes. After the trainings are completed, all

efforts will be made by the district administration and the training partners to provide financial assistance to the successful trainees for starting their own social enterprise and support their livelihoods.

The Member of Parliament Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato in his adopted Gram Panchayat of Bangurda realised that very minimal efforts were being taken with regard to health and hygiene of adolescent girls in remote and inaccessible villages in East Singhbhum, Jharkhand. There is high prevalence of Anaemia and other ailments, especially among women and adolescent girls. In order to address this, he initiated a series of health camps specifically targeted towards the adolescent girls. The health camps were organised in the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, where more than 188 adolescent girls were screened. As a result, many of the girls were found to be suffering from various gynaecological diseases, urinary tract infection and skin diseases, which hitherto, were suppressed by them owing to socio-cultural taboos.

It was also found that most of these ailments were related to unhygienic lifestyle and filthy surroundings. Interventions are underway to create awareness on personal hygiene among the adolescent girls and women. This will be a sustained intervention to be carried out regularly in the villages. ■

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed no more

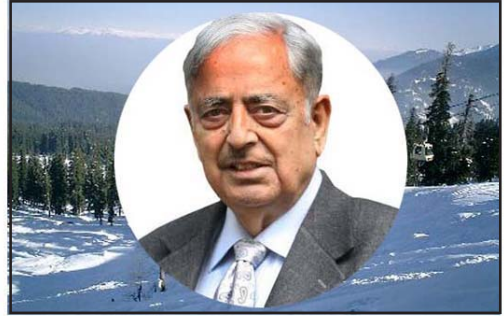
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, died in New Delhi on 07 January, 2016. Shri Sayeed, 79, breathed his last at AIIMS after remaining on ventilator for the past few days.

A Congressman till 1987, Shri Sayeed left the party and joined the ranks of V P Singh to become the only Muslim Home Minister when he was inducted into the cabinet of the National Front government in 1989.

Shri Sayeed, who was Chief Minister from 2002 to 2005 in coalition with Congress, played a leading part in PDP and BJP coming together to form the first PDP-BJP coalition government in the state.

The mortal remains of Shri Sayeed were flown in a special Indian Air Force plane to Srinagar and were buried at his ancestral village in Bijbehara in South Kashmir. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh paid tributes to Shri Sayeed at the Palam technical area before the body was flown to Srinagar.

The Central Government announced that the national flag will be flown half-mast across the country as a mark of respect to the departed leader, who has also been accorded a state funeral. He is the second J&K Chief Minister to die in office, the first one being Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who died on September 8, 1982. Shri Sayeed is survived by his wife, three daughters and a son. Jammu and Kashmir government has declared a seven-day mourning. Flags will be flown at half mast. ■



Mufti's demise leaves huge void in politics : PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 06 January, 2016 condoled the death of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed saying his demise leaves a huge void in the nation and that the leader who provided a healing touch would be missed.

"What stood out about Mufti Sahab was his statesmanship. In his long political journey he won many admirers across the political spectrum," Shri Modi said.

"Mufti Sahab's demise leaves a huge void in the nation & in J&K, where his exemplary leadership had a major impact on people's lives. RIP," tweeted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. ■

Amit Shah condoles the death of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

The Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah condoled the death of J&K CM Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and paid glowing tributes hailing him as a statesman, staunch nationalist and a great son of India whose death has caused an irreparable loss

to the country.

"He was a rare politician, a popular CM and an efficient administrator. He ceaselessly worked for the state's development. The demise of Sayeed is an irreparable loss not only for Jammu & Kashmir but for the entire country. His death has created a void in politics which is difficult to fill," Shri Shah said. ■



Due to tireless efforts of many people the nation is making rapid progress : PM

India is a land of diversities. We celebrate a whole lot of festivals” Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said while delivering the last edition of 2015 All India Radio monthly programme ‘Mann Ki Baat’ on 27 December. He added “ One is not done with one festival, in the mean time the second one comes along. In a way one festival leaves us waiting for another. At times it feels India is one such country which has a ‘festival driven economy’. It becomes a source of the economic activities for even the poor sections of the society. Greetings from my end for a Merry Christmas to all Indians and I also wish you all a Happy New Year.”

He said “Due to tireless efforts of many people the nation is making rapid progress. 125 crores Indians are not only marching together but they are taking the country forward too. Better education, best talent and new opportunities of employment are being created. Be it providing insurance cover to citizens or providing them banking facilities, be it the ‘Ease of Doing Business’ in the world

horizon or making facilities available for new businesses, we have done it all. People from normal backgrounds who could not step inside banks can now avail loan facilities from the “Mudra” Yojana. “



“Every Indian is proud to know how the world is accepting and getting attracted towards Yoga. When the world celebrated “International Yoga Diwas” and the entire world got associated with it, we became proud of our country. Such emotions arise when we see the enormity of our nation.”

“We should all make efforts that right information,

good information and information useful to the common man should reach as many people as possible. This is also a kind of service. I too have tried to do this work from my end. I cannot do everything alone by myself.

But if I am saying then I should at least do something. Even a common man can download the Narendra Modi App and get connected to me. And I can share these small things with you through the app.” “And it is a matter of happiness for me that people share all the things with me. You too get connected with this initiative, we have to reach 125 crore Indians. How will I reach without your help? Come, let us collectively do such things of interest for the common

man in their language and inspire them to avail things which are their rights.”

He added “Start-up India, Stand-up India” brings in a huge opportunity for the young generation. My dear young friends, the government will launch the entire action plan for “Start-up India, Stand-up India on 16th January. What it will be, how it will be and why it will

be? You will be presented with a structure. In this program all the IIT's, IIM's, Central Universities, NIT's, wherever there is young generation, they will be brought together via live connectivity."

"Dear young friends, 12th January is the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. There are thousands like me who draw

their suggestions directly on the 'Narendra Modi App'. I want to gain an insight into your understanding. And that it gets reflected in the Youth Festival, for that I will give the government reasonable suggestions and information. So I will wait dear friends for your suggestions on the youth festival on the 'Narendra Modi App'."

Dilip Chauhan, from

We become so emotional about getting the statues of great men erected but become equally complacent when it comes to maintaining them. As a society, as a nation can we make it a natural tendency to respect the statues of our great men? On this 26th January let us make an effort that we will respect such great men and keep the premises clean. But this should be done by the citizens willfully.

inspiration from him. Since 1995, 12th January, the birth Anniversary of Vivekananda is celebrated as the National Youth Festival. This year it will be organized from 12-16th January in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. This is a theme based event and I have got the information that this time they have a very good theme and that is "Indian Youth on Development Skill and Harmony". I have been told that 10,000 young people will gather from all over India. A mini-India will be created there. They will share dreams together. A feeling of determination will be experienced. Can you give me suggestions regarding this youth festival? I would request the youth to send me

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, who is a visually challenged teacher celebrated 'Accessible India Day' in his school. He called me up to express his feelings.

He added "That day we started the 'Suganya Bharat' campaign. Under this campaign we will improve both the physical and virtual infrastructure and make it accessible for the "Divyang' people."

My dear countrymen, the government schemes will continue, exist and run, but it is necessary that these schemes always remain operational. The schemes should be operational till the last the mile individual has benefitted from them. They should not have a dead existence in government files.

After all, these schemes are meant for common man, the poor people.

"My dear countrymen, 26th January are the golden moment in the life of Indian democracy. This is a beautiful co-incidence that Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the maker of the Indian Constitution, his 125th birth anniversary will be celebrated this year. We organized a two day special discussion on the constitution and it was a very good experience."

"I want to give a small suggestion. On 26th January we celebrate Republic Day. Can we citizens and school and college students take up the initiative of cleaning the statue of any great men installed in our city, of cleaning the premises, we can do best of cleanliness and best of decoration on the occasion of 26th January. And I am not saying this on government lines. We become so emotional about getting the statues of great men erected but become equally complacent when it comes to maintaining them. As a society, as a nation can we make it a natural tendency to respect the statues of our great men? On this 26th January let us make an effort that we will respect such great men and keep the premises clean. But this should be done by the citizens willfully."

Concluding his 'Mann Ki Baat' he greeted countrymen for Happy New Year 2016. ■

HAPPINESS

By Sri Swami Sivananda

"At the doors of large granaries are placed traps containing fried rice (Moori) to catch mice. The mice, attracted by the flavour of the fried rice, forgets the more solid pleasure of tasting the rice inside the granary, and fall into the trap. They are caught therein and killed. Just so is the case with the soul. It stands on the threshold of Divine bliss, which is like millions of the highest worldly pleasures solidified into one; but instead of striving for that bliss, it allows itself to be enticed by the petty pleasures of the world and falls into the trap of Maya, the great illusion, and dies therein".

-Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa

Man wants happiness. He shuns pain. He moves heaven and earth to get the happiness he wants from sensual objects, and lo, gets himself entangled in the extricable meshes of Maya. Poor man! He does not know that these objects are perishable and evanescent, finite and conditioned in time, space, and causation. And what is more, he fails to get the desired happiness from them.

Sensual pleasure is tantalizing. There is enchantment so long as man does not possess the objects. The moment he is in possession of the object, the charm vanishes. He finds that



he is in entanglement.

The bachelor thinks of his marriage, day and night. He thinks he is in imprisonment after the marriage is over. He is not able to satisfy the extravagant wants of his wife. He wants to run away from the house to forests. The rich but childless man thinks he will be more happy by getting a son, goes on pilgrimage to Ramesvaram and Kasi, and performs various religious ceremonies. But when he gets a child, he feels miserable; the child suffers from epileptic fits and his money is given away to doctors. Even then, there is no cure. This is Mayaic jugglery. The whole world is fraught with temptation.

A SPECTACLE OF SORROW

A worldly man is always drowned in sorrow. He is ever struggling to get something, some money, some power, some position, and so on. He is always

anxious as to whether or not he would get it. Even when he is in actual possession of the thing he so passionately longed for, he is very anxious lest he should lose it.

A rich man has great wealth, but he has no children. And so he is pained at heart. A poor man has fourteen children, but he has nothing to eat, and so he is miserable. One man has wealth and children, but his son is a vagabond, and so he is worried. One man has riches and good sons, but his wife is very quarrelsome. No one is happy in this world.

The session judge is very discontented. He thirsts to become a high court judge. The minister is also discontented. He longs to become the premier. A millionaire is discontented; he yearns to become a Crorepati (Billionaire). The husband is discontented; his wife is black and thin; he wants to marry another wife with good complexion. The wife is discontented; she want to divorce and marry a rich, young husband. A lean man is discontented; he wants to put on fat and gulps cod-liver oil. A fat man takes antifat pills. No man is contented in this world.

To be continued

(Courtesy: The Divine Life Society)