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Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

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Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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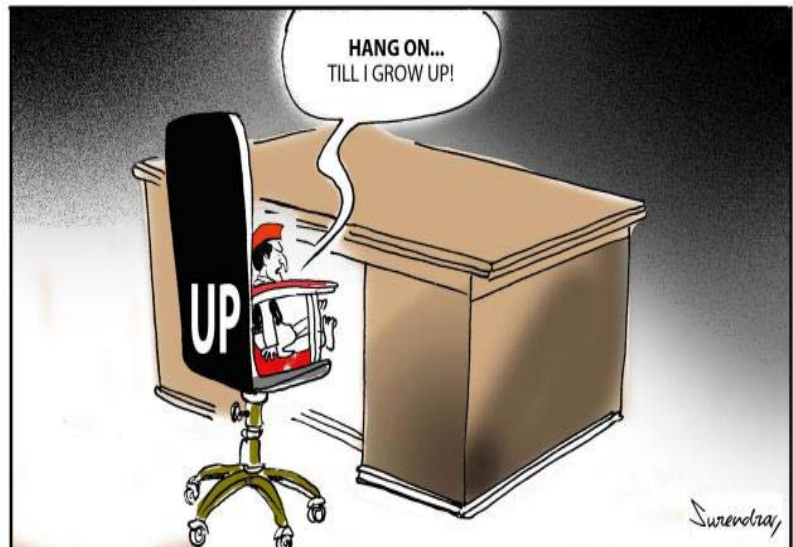
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When your spiritual intelligence overcomes this myriad of delusion at that time you will become indifferent towards all that has been heard and all that is to be heard.
–(Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 52)

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"World Environment Day- a day to bow to Mother Earth & to reaffirm our pledge to protect the Environment, making our planet cleaner & greener."

-Narendra Modi

"Whether it's naxalism, separatism or terrorism, a comprehensive integrated action plan is needed and my ministry has started work on it."

-Rajnath Singh

Ganga Dussehra : 8th June, 2014

Ganga Dussehra falls during *Dashami Tithi* of *Jyaishta Shukla Paksha* and currently falls in month of June. Ganga Dussehra is also known as *Gangavataran* which means 'the descent of the Ganga'. According to Hindu religious texts, the Ganges River originally flowed only in heaven and was residing in Kamandal of Lord Brahma. In the form of a goddess Maa Ganga was brought down to earth by King Bhagiratha in order to purify the ashes of his ancestors, 60,000 of whom had been burned under a curse from the great sage Kapila. The river came down reluctantly, breaking her fall on the head of Shiva so that she wouldn't shatter the Earth. Before coming to the Earth, the Ganga along with her brought the purity of heaven to the Earth. By the time she reached the Bay of Bengal, she had touched the ashes of the 60,000 princes and fertilized the entire region.

On Ganga Dussehra devotees worship Goddess Ganga and take bath in Ganges. Taking bath in Ganges and offering charity or Dan-Punya on this day is considered highly auspicious. It is believed that holy dip in Ganges on Ganga Dussehra day can purge all type of sins.

Devotees flock to Allahabad/Prayag, Garhmukteshwar, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Varanasi to take a holy dip. Ganga Dussehra celebrations are legendary in Varanasi. On Ganga Dussehra day thousands of devotees do Ganga Snan and participate in Ganga Aarti at Dasaswamedh Ghat. Those who live far away from the Ganges immerse themselves in whatever river, pond, or sea they can get to on this day. Usually Ganga Dussehra is celebrated one day before Nirjala Ekadashi but in some years Ganga Dussehra and Nirjala Ekadashi might fall on the same day. Ganga Dussehra should not be confused with Ganga Jayanti when the Goddess Ganga was reborn. ■





Clear mandate means time to fulfill the aspirations of the people

Democracy has been saved. India has been freed from Congress rule. Country has been freed from the clutches of a family. Mature democracy has delivered a mature mandate. In the message that mandate has sent it is clear that people think about the country. People starting to think about the country are a very good indication. The people after thinking, understanding, seeing, examining and testing have handed majority to Bharatiya Janata Party and Shri Narendra Modi. History has been created. A day like this had not come in the journey from 'deepak' to 'kamal'. People have ushered in good days for nationalistic ideology. Good days have come for the country. It is in the mind of the people. People want to see good days.

Nation has shown such a democratic affection to BJP for the first time. In this election all India expansion of BJP has taken place. Coalition experiment has also been a huge success. Nation has not left any room for BJP to say that enough strength has not been given to it. Nation has given enough opportunities to BJP.

The present time is full of challenge. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has not wasted a single minute after taking oath. He has also cautioned the members of his ministry. He has made them aware of the expectations of the people. People have accepted the political acumen and diplomatic skills of the Prime Minister on the very first day of oath ceremony itself. This message of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has gone to the entire world. In which direction will he work has been made amply clear by his initiative. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gifted a shawl for the mother of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shri Nawaz Sharif. After that Shri Nawaz Sharif presented a sari for Shri Modi's mother from Pakistan. Here the issue is not about 'shawl' or 'sari' but about mother and this cannot be done by anyone else. Remembering mother before initiating a discussion about motherland is an Indian tradition and by initiating it Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave a hint about his culture. To keep in mind about maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries and to show that India is capable of leading its neighbouring countries is not easy.

World has accepted good beginning with SAARC countries as unique initiative.

A light of hope has been ignited in the heart of the people with the coming of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Modi government will have to come upto the expectations of the people. While cautioning about many things Shri Modi has asked his ministers to pay attention to work culture. He has asked them to work more. Ministry has started its work on expected lines.

Nation is standing on the heap of problems. But there is no problem of which solution cannot be found. Even after 67 years of independence India has not been able to reach where it should have been by now.

India's hope has been awakened. The number of people thinking about nation has increased. Whether it is the issue related to defence deals, borders of the country, issues related to Jammu & Kashmir, China or about our internal security, our governments have not paid attention to them in past.

In a country, problems will be there but honest attempts should be made to find solutions to these problems. Today many problems like unemployment, starvation, price rise, corruption, black money are before the nation. To find solution to these problems honest efforts should be made which has not been done till now.

We know that problems continuing for many years cannot be solved in a single

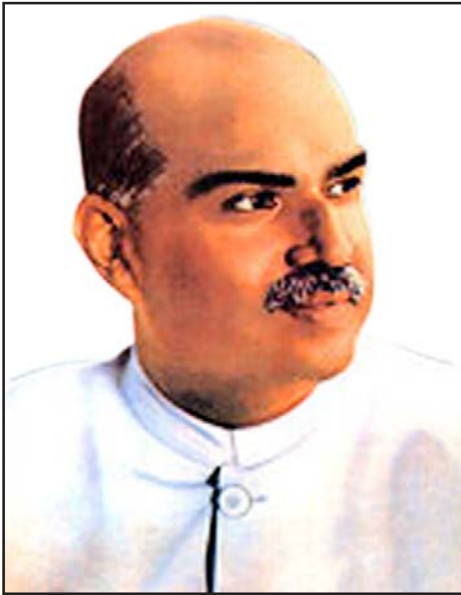
day but if the direction of efforts remains correct, people will accept it. People have now started to say that the days of honest efforts have come.

Mundeji was a messiah of farmers and poor

The death of senior BJP leader of Maharashtra and cabinet minister Shri Gopinath Munde is a big blow to both organization and the government. Mundeji had started his political career from Maharashtra from the 'diya' of Janasangh. He was connected to the grassroots and a symbol of struggle. He had started party work from far flung villages. The untimely demise of Mundeji who had become an identity of Marathwada has shocked the nation. From zila panchayat to rural development minister, he was MLA for five times. He was Deputy Chief Minsiter in the BJP-Shiv Sena coalition government in Maharashtra. He was a popular leader among the dalits and OBCs. He was popularly called as 'Saheb'.

Gopinath ji Munde not only left the people of Maharashtra including Marathawada leaderless but also an organization like BJP. Mass leaders are not made in one day. He was able to reach to the top due to continuous work and struggle of forty years. The popularity of Gopinath Munde who was placed among the top leaders can be gauged from the massive gathering in his funeral.

The elections in Maharashtra are close. Party was preparing for the elections under his leadership but something else was in the destiny. He was the backbone of the Maharashtra BJP. It is true that with the demise of Mundeji that backbone is gone. As Deputy Leader of the Lok Sabha he had started to build his all India image gradually. In the country and particularly in Maharashtra he became famous as Shetkari (farmer) leader of the poor. He fought for the rights of farmers and poor throughout his life. He was considered a bold leader in Maharashtra politics. He had the habit to speak his mind openly. He had family relations with Late Bala Saheb Thakre for years. He worked wonderfully as the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra legislative assembly. He lived for the people from the beginning till the end of his life and gave away his life for the cause of the people. The day he died in the road accident in Delhi he was going to his parliamentary constituency Beed to attend a felicitation programme. But destiny had some other plans. The place where he was to be felicitated, his last rites were performed the very next day. The divine will is beyond anyone's comprehension. Therefore we bow our head to accept this divine will and pray to the almighty to give a mass leader like him proper place in his feet. ■



~~~~~☺☺☺~~~~~  
Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

*Balidan divas*

23 June

*Shat-Shat Naman*

~~~~~☺☺☺~~~~~


BJP led NDA Govt. era begins

Following the landslide victory of BJP on 16th May, which scooped up 282 seats for the BJP and 336 for the alliance, its Legislature Party Leader Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi was sworn in as 15th Prime Minister of India by the Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee at the bustling forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 26th May, 2014. Along with Shri Modi, 23 Cabinet Ministers, 10 Ministers of State with Independent charge and 12 Ministers of State were also sworn in by the Hon'ble President. It was a historic occasion for the entire country, the BJP and for the man of the moment Shri Modi because for the first time since 1984 that any party has won a clear majority for itself. It is also the first

time ever that a party other than Congress has done so. On the other hand, the defeat for Congress is far worse than anything in its long history of dominating Indian politics: it won fewer than a sixth the seats of the BJP.

On the historic occasion the venue was packed with more than 3,500 dignitaries, including the heads of SAARC countries, including Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai, Nepal PM Sushil

Koirala, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Maldives' President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom.

Others included Vice-President of India Shri Hamid Ansari, former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh, Congress

MPs, like Vinod Khanna, Shatrughan Sinha, Hema Malini, and industrialists like Mukesh Ambani and his family members, Tatas and other eminent Industrialists who were present in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan watched Shri Modi



president Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Congress vice-president Shri Rahul Gandhi and other important political leaders. Chief Ministers of several states were also present.

Thousands of eminent citizens like the Bollywood personalities, Salman Khan, his father Salim Khan, Hritik Roshan, Vivek Obeori, Bollywood couple Anupam and Kirron Kher, Bollywood filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, music composer-turned-politician Bappi Lahiri, Poonam Dhillon and actors who are also

taking the oath of office and secrecy in Hindi and millions glued to TV sets to witness the historic oath taking ceremony of the new Prime Minister and his council of ministers who carried hope, aspiration and dreams of 125 crore people of the nation.

The who's who of Indian politics, media, entertainment and business world were also present in good numbers. The presence of heads of many States is nothing short of a great diplomatic victory for India. The frenzy around the oath taking ceremony even travelled beyond



the boundary of India as well.

After a hard-fought victory, Shri Modi tried to balance his cabinet keeping in view of the factors of caste, religion, region and gender with those of talent, experience, youth and national aspirations unleashed by him during his nationwide campaigning.

Among the Cabinet Ministers who took oath just after PM Shri Narendra Modi were BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri Arun Jaitley, former National Presidents Shri M Venkaiah Naidu and Shri Nitin Gadkari, former Karnataka CM Shri DV Sadananda Gowda, former MP Chief Minister Ms. Uma Bharti, former Deputy Chairperson of Rajya Sabha Smt. Najma Heptulla, former Maharashtra Deputy CM Shri Gopinath Munde, former Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, former Uttar Pradesh Minister Shri Kalraj Mishra, former Union Minister Shri Ananth Kumar, former Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, former Union Minister Ms. Maneka Gandhi, senior TDP leader Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Shiv Sena leader and former Union Minister Shri Anant Geete, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Ms Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Narendra Singh

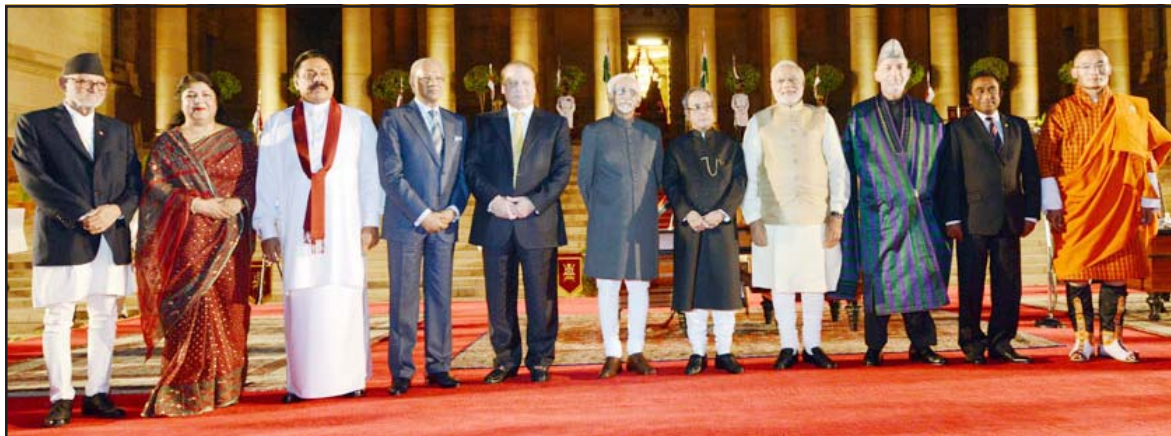
Tomar, former Odisha BJP President and Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram, Bihar BJP MP Shri Radha Mohan Singh, former Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, BJP National Vice-President Smt. Smriti Irani and Delhi BJP President Dr. Harsh Vardhan. Smt. Smriti Irani, 38, was the youngest BJP leader inducted by Shri Narendra Modi as Cabinet Minister.

The Ministers of State (MoS) who took oath included General (Retired) Shri Vijay Kumar Singh, Gurgaon MP Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, former Union Minister Shri Santosh Gangwar, Goa BJP leader Shri Shripad Naik, BJP National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Assam BJP President Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar, party's National Treasurer and MP Shri Piyush Goyal, Jammu and Kashmir BJP leader Dr. Jitendra Singh, BJP Spokesperson Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Karnataka BJP leader Shri GM Siddeswara, Ghazipur MP Shri Manoj Sinha, Ganganagar MP Shri Nihalchand Chauhan, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party President Shri Upendra Kushwaha, Tamilnadu BJP president and Kanyakumari MP

Shri Pon Radhakrishnan, Arunachal Pradesh BJP MP Shri Kiren Rijju, Faridabad MP Shri Krishan Pal Gujjar, Muzaffarnagar MP Shri Sanjeev Baliyan, Gujarat MP Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava, Maharashtra BJP MP Shri Raosaheb Dadarao Danve, BJP MP from Raigarh in Chhattisgarh Shri Vishnu Deo Sai and Jharkhand MP Shri Sudarshan Bhagat.

Earlier, with floral tributes to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Narendra Modi began his new political innings and eventually became the first Prime Minister to visit Rajghat before taking oath in the history of Independent India. Generally the Prime Minister's visit Gandhi Memorial at Rajghat after taking charge but this was the first occasion when Prime Minister-designate paid his respects to the Father of the Nation before taking oath. Shri Modi reached Rajghat from Gujarat Bhavan around 7.40 am and spent nearly 15 minutes at the Gandhi Samadhi. He offered floral tributes at the memorial and sat in the lawns with senior party colleagues. A number of Delhi BJP leaders, including Delhi BJP President and MP Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Delhi BJP Sangathan Prabhari Shri Prabhat Jha, former

Invitations to SAARC leaders is an impressive diplomatic start



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's handing out invitations to the heads of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation nations to be part of his swearing-in was an impressive diplomatic start with neighbours. It was the first time a Prime Minister had invited SAARC nations' head in his swearing-in ceremony. It also reflects PM Narendra Modi's wish for making SAARC an important group which can influence international politics impressively.

A former diplomat, reacting on this unique initiative of Narendra Modi, said, "Modi has managed to send across a very strong message by inviting the leaders of SAARC nations. Regarding Pakistan, one must not view this case in isolation since it is also part of SAARC. Modi has only extended his election slogan, 'Sab ka saath, sab ka vikaas', to the rest of the SAARC nations,"

"He has put new life into an organisation such as SAARC and has conveyed the message that all SAARC nations need to develop, survive and prosper together. Many have tried and painted Shri Modi in a negative manner. He was no doubt aggressive during his campaign, which was needed to effectively throw out an existing party which had been ruling since the past 10 years. The invitation to SAARC nations was a masterstroke, because in one go, he sent a message of how there is a need to develop and prosper together for the entire region."

On invitation of SAARC nations External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that Modi's invitation to the leaders of the eight-member bloc ceremony is indicative of the government's intent and commitment to build cordial, friendly and inclusive ties with the countries of South Asia.

"The Prime Minister has a vision for friendly cooperation with each of the SAARC countries. This invitation was the first step towards realising this vision. "A promising beginning has been made at the start of the new government in our engagement with each of these countries," she said.

Delhi BJP Presidents Shri Vijay Goel and Shri Vijender Gupta, former Delhi Mayor Ms Arti Mehra and the newly elected MPs from Delhi accompanied him. After that Shri Modi directly drove to Krishna Menon Marg residence of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to seek his blessings.

All elected Lok Sabha members from Delhi along with other BJP senior leaders were also present when he paid his visit.

With Shri Narendra Modi at the helm of affairs, a new era has started for the nation and BJP that for decades struggled to unite the nation under the banner of cultural nationalism

and fought against the policy of appeasement of pseudo secularists. The passion with which the BJP Karyakartas celebrated Shri Modi's swearing-in across the nation clearly shows that the party is geared up to be a perfect bridge between the aspirations of the people and the Government. ■

Indian Newspapers write...

Media in India see the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as the opening of a new chapter in Indian Democracy. In its front story The Times of India says, "Dawn of a new era", while The Asian Age runs a similar headline: "India begins Modi era".

An article on the Firstpost website argues that the election that brought the Principal Opposition BJP to power "was not just a slap in the face of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty" but also a "complete rejection of their socialistic welfare economy".

The Times of India agrees that half a century later, "Nehruvian formulas which emphasize big government can become outmoded in India". Recalling the new PM's promise of "minimum government, maximum governance", it points out that Shri Modi, as captain, has been given the opportunity to run a tight ship". "He must utilize this opportunity to the fullest" says the paper.

"Now that Shri Narendra Modi has assumed charge as the country's Prime Minister, backed by a massive mandate, he must begin and hasten the process of change which he has promised," insists The Pioneer in an editorial entitled "With core team in place, he must get cracking".

Newspapers are saying that the new cabinet which took oath has the clear "imprint" of Shri Modi. They point out that the 45 other ministers sworn in along with him are significantly fewer than the 70-plus ministers in the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. "By dramatically whittling down his council of ministers to 45 from 70 in the outgoing UPA government, Shri Modi has sent out an unmistakable signal that his administration is going to be different," The Times of India says.

The Indian Express is also of the opinion that "this appears to be a purposeful cabinet streamlined for efficiency".

According to The Business Standard, the new Prime Minister has done a "fine balancing act to give representation to various regions and caste groups".

The Times of India, meanwhile, welcomes the number of women ministers who were sworn-in. Seven out of the 45 ministers are women, with six of them in senior cabinet posts, reports the daily. "Women may only account for 11% of all Lok Sabha (lower house of the parliament) MPs but they fared better when it came to representation in the cabinet... accounting for 25%," the paper writes.

And finally, Shri Modi' supporters and BJP activists celebrated across the country after he officially signed in as the 15th prime minister of India. In Delhi, sweets were distributed as people watched the oath-taking ceremony on TV screens installed across the city, The Times of India reports.

The holy city of Varanasi, from where Shri Narendra Modi won elections with a huge margin, was also in a festive mood, the paper adds. "There is no end of celebrations in this holy city... the city once again indulged in festive mood," exclaims the daily.

Modi Cabinet's first decision: SIT on black money formed to meet apex court deadline

At its first Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 27 in New Delhi, the Centre formed a Special Investigation Team in black money case to be headed by former Supreme Court judge MB Shah. The SIT will be headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice M.B. Shah, former Judge of the Supreme Court as Chairman and Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arijit Pasayat, former Judge as Vice Chairman. The SIT has been charged with the responsibility and duties of investigation, initiation of proceedings and prosecution in cases of Hasan Ali and other matters involving unaccounted money. SIT shall have jurisdiction in the cases where investigations have already commenced or are pending or awaiting to be initiated or have been completed. SIT will prepare a comprehensive action plan including creation of necessary institutional structure that could enable the country to fight the battle against unaccounted money. The SIT should report to the court the status of work from time to time. ■

Narendra Modi buzz across the globe

Shri Narendra Modi began his tenure as Prime Minister with foreign relations assuming a high profile. Even before he was sworn in as Prime Minister he had already marked a geo-political first with Twitter Diplomacy as prominent Heads of State and Heads of Government greeted him on Twitter. The PM's invitation to the SAARC nations for his swearing-in ceremony also caught the attention of global opinion makers, international markets and the media across the world.

What Opinion Makers

around the world are saying
NaMo buzz in the
neighbourhood

Re-aligning our partnerships with key neighbours is of vital importance. With the change of regime, the Sri Lankans are already expecting a jump in their exports and trade with India to go up by 2015. The Governor for Sri Lanka's Central Bank Ajith Nivard Cabraal, in an interview to The Wall Street Journal as reported said that a 'business-friendly' Government in New Delhi would make his work 'a lot easier'. That India and Sri Lanka are set to enjoy more strengthened relationship has been affirmed by the piece of news that PM Shri Narendra Modi is quite likely to choose Sri Lanka to make his foreign visit.

At the swearing-in ceremony China was conspicuous by its absence where not even a high ranking representative of the country was present. The reason for the absence of any Chinese representative may have more to

do with the presence of Lobsang Sangay, Prime Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamsala, the Tibetan Government in exile, as stated a report in the Watch China Times. While China's reaction to India's PM may have been 'chilly' as the report describes, the newly elected

Where the UPA's lack of interest in infrastructure development and lackadaisical approach to policy formation had driven many Japanese businesses away, they are now looking to tap into the vast infrastructure creation that is required to cater to India's massive population of 1.2 billion people. As



PM has already extended an invite to Xi Jinping to visit India, an action that has no doubt been prompted by economic reasons rather than political and lie very much within the ambit of Modi's desire to further diplomacy through trade. NaMo Buzz in the land of the rising sun

Looking further East, India may forge stronger trade bonds with Japan as the Japanese entrepreneurs are already looking to notch infrastructure projects under their belts. The Japan News in its story quotes a Hitachi Ltd official saying, "Following the launch of the stable Government, infrastructure development is expected to be promoted in India."

per the report, Toshiba Corp has plans to invest ¥50 billion in the country over the next five years, primarily in thermal power turbines and other infrastructure-related projects. Creating a strong ally out of Japan is needed for geo-political reasons as much as political.

Africa looks up to NaMo

Approaching Africa, India as is evident from the Business Daily Africa report, needs to up its game in the continent. Even though historically, the two regions share immense goodwill, the previous regime in India has been slow to tap into the vast opportunity that the region presents, a space which China is looking to fill up once more.

...Continued on page 25

Untimely demise of Gopinath Munde in road accident

From Our Correspondent

Senior BJP leader and Union Rural Development Minister Shri Gopinath Munde died of multiple internal injuries and cardiac arrest suffered following a road accident while he was on the way to Delhi Airport in the morning of June 3. Sixty-four-year-old Shri Munde is survived by wife and three daughters, one of whom is an MLA. Shri Munde, very popular leader in Maharashtra, had a victory rally scheduled in Beed and Parali, his home town. He had won the 2014 Lok Sabha elections from the Beed constituency and became the Union Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj



PM offers last respects to Gopinath Munde

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on June 3 offered his last respects and heartfelt tribute to his Cabinet colleague Shri Gopinath Munde. He placed a wreath on the mortal remains of the departed leader at the Bharatiya Janata Party Headquarters in New Delhi, in the presence of a large number of Union Ministers, party colleagues, workers, and family members of Shri Munde.

The Prime Minister also met the family members of Shri Gopinath Munde, and offered his condolences on the untimely passing away of Shri Munde.

and Drinking Water & Sanitation. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed shock at the untimely death of Shri Munde

He was cremated with full state honours in his birthplace Parli in Maharashtra. His daughter Pankaja lit the funeral pyre. Several thousands of people, including, top national and state leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party and other parties attended the funeral. The list included Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri L.K Advani among others.

Shri Munde was born into a farmer's family of Nathra village, Tehsil Parali in Beed district of Marathwada region in Maharashtra on December 12, 1949 where he had his schooling.

Soon afterwards, he plunged into student politics along with Pramod Mahajan, and was imprisoned during the Emergency of 1975-1977.

Over the years, Munde was elected five times as legislator in Maharashtra, then Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra assembly, deputy chief minister of the state, and subsequently as the deputy leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, and last week was made the union minister for rural development.

Shri Gopinath Munde was the brother-in-law of the late BJP leader Shri Pramod Mahajan. He had married Shri Mahajan's younger sister. After Mahajan's death, Shri Munde was the guardian of the Mahajan family. ■

Cabinet condoles the demise of Gopinath Munde

The Union Cabinet on June 3 met to condole the tragic demise of Shri Gopinath Munde, the Minister for Rural Development, Drinking Water Sanitation and Panchayati Raj.

The Cabinet passed the following resolution:

The Cabinet has learnt with profound sorrow about the tragic and sudden demise of Shri Gopinath Munde, the Minister of Rural Development, Drinking Water Sanitation and Panchayati Raj in a road accident in New Delhi on the morning of 03.06.2014.

A grass root politician with a mass base and an ardent advocate of democracy, Shri Munde was born in a village in Beed, Maharashtra. He received his early education in Government and Zilla Parishad schools and started his political career as a member of the Akhil Bhartiya Vidhyarthi Parishad.

Shri Munde was a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for five terms and was also the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly during 1992-95. He became the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra in 1995. He was elected as a member of the Lok Sabha in 2009 and again in 2014. Shri Munde was inducted as a Cabinet Minister in the Union Council of Ministers on 26.05.2014.

The Cabinet places on record its appreciation of Shri Gopinath Munde's services to the nation in different capacities both at the State and the National level. The Cabinet also expresses its deep sense of loss and grief on his tragic death. In his untimely demise, the nation has lost an experienced and visionary leader who was held in high esteem across the political spectrum. On behalf of the entire nation, the Cabinet extends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.



"Extremely saddened & shocked by the demise of my friend & colleague Gopinath Munde ji. His demise is a major loss for the Nation & the Government. Gopinath Munde ji was a true mass leader. Hailing from backward sections of society, he rose to great heights & tirelessly served people. My tributes to a dynamic leader whose premature demise leaves a void hard to fill. Condolences to Munde ji's family. We stand by them in this hour of grief"

-Narendra Modi



"Deeply shocked to know of Shri Gopinath Munde's demise. He was a grassroots leader and well known for his concern for poor people and farmers. Mundeji's death is an irreparable loss to the BJP. His death has left a big void in Maharashtra's political and social life. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family."

-Rajnath Singh



"In the extremely shocking and sad demise of Shri Gopinath Munde, the nation has lost a great leadership. He had come up from a humble background and built his strong base in the masses to become a national leader. He was a leader who had insight into both, organizational as well as administrative issues. As Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and also as deputy leader of opposition in Lok Sabha he has made a mark on his abilities. In his demise, I have lost a colleague, under whose guidance several like me and I myself worked for decades. It is an irreparable loss to all of us."

-Nitin Gadkari

First BJP MP from W. Bengal & former Union minister Tapan Sikdar no more



The first BJP MP from West Bengal and former Union minister Shri Tapan Sikdar, died on June 01 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences following a heart attack. He was 70.

The veteran BJP leader was suffering from kidney problems for some time and had been admitted to a private hospital off EM Bypass on May 18. Later he was flown to Delhi for treatment at AIIMS.

Shri Sikdar's body was taken to the BJP office in Delhi, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, senior BJP leader Shri L.K. Advani, Union home minister Shri Rajnath Singh and others paid their last respects.

Shri Sikdar was elected the BJP MP from Dum Dum in 1998, becoming the first party leader to win in Bengal. He was re-elected in 1999 and was made minister of State for communications and later, the chemicals and fertilizers minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. Originally hailing from Malda, Sikdar was the architect of the BJP's growth in Bengal in the 1990s as the state unit president. Sikdar had lost the Dum Dum Lok Sabha seat this time, but bagged over 2.5 lakh votes. State BJP president Shri Rahul Sinha said: "Tapan was seriously ill but still agreed to contest the election and even campaigned vigorously. His demise is a big setback to the BJP in Bengal."

'Tapan Sikdar ji's demise is extremely saddening': Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed sadness over the death of BJP leader and former union minister Shri Tapan Sikdar, and said that he will be remembered for his "rich contribution in building the BJP and his years of dedicated public service". "Tapan Sikdar ji's demise is extremely saddening. May his soul rest in peace," Shri Modi said in a tweet. ■

Narendra Modi pays tributes to Veer Savarkar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to freedom fighter Veer Savarkar on his birth anniversary, on May 28, at the Parliament. Commemorating the occasion, Shri Modi shared on Twitter that Veer Savarkar would always be remembered as a prolific writer, thinker, poet and a social reformer, and stated that the Nation remembered and saluted his tireless efforts towards the regeneration of India. ■



From Celebration to Challenge

By Arun Jaitley

The last week for many of us was a historic one. The celebration of the BJP-NDA electoral victory was still on. The swearing in ceremony of the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers became a memorable event. The presence of the SAARC leaders at the swearing in was itself a statement. The distribution of responsibility to the Ministers however brought the realization

which are posed for a slower growth compared to last year. As per the CSO estimates, released in May, the inflation continues to be rising with April figure at 8.9%. The slow-down in economic growth coupled with high inflationary pressure poses a challenge to the macro economic environment. Tax collections are at 10.1% of the GDP compared to the initial budget estimates of 10.9%.

twined but may require a different strategy.

The victory of NDA and the significant electoral setback to the Congress was on account of the reflection of two different electoral attitudes. There was a high level of dissatisfaction with the previous government. There was hope in the BJP/NDA led by Shri Narendra Modi. It is this hope which commands us to pull the country out of the present economic situation. This will involve fiscal rectitude as combination of monetary and fiscal policy. Slower GDP growth will imply lower tax buoyancy and higher fiscal deficit. We must move towards an era of fiscal discipline where we can reduce the fiscal deficit, contain inflation and improve upon our growth rates. India must prepare itself for this. We must commit ourselves to this discipline so that in order to strengthen the

The swearing in ceremony of the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers became a memorable event. The presence of the SAARC leaders at the swearing in was itself a statement. The distribution of responsibility to the Ministers however brought the realization of what lay ahead of us. For me, the last week evolved from celebration to a challenge.

of what lay ahead of us. For me, the last week evolved from celebration to a challenge. Given the responsibility of two major ministries, distribution of time to cover up the backlog of pending issues on account of code of conduct was paramount. My immediate challenge of course is the state of economy which stares at all of us.

We have inherited an economy whose GDP has grown by sub 5% for two years in a row. Mining and quarrying sectors have gained a negative growth trend. The manufacturing sector has had an abysmal performance last year. The investment cycle has been disturbed. The negative sentiment has affected trade, hotels and transportation sectors

India can ill afford this trend. This has serious social consequences since slow down comes with a decade of jobless

The victory of NDA and the significant electoral setback to the Congress was on account of the reflection of two different electoral attitudes. There was a high level of dissatisfaction with the previous government. There was hope in the BJP/NDA led by Shri Narendra Modi. It is this hope which commands us to pull the country out of the present economic situation.

growth. Reviving the growth momentum, containing inflation and altering the pattern of growth to gainful employment is today an overriding priority. There is a need to boost domestic low-cost manufacturing and hasten the pace of reforms. Price stability and growth are inter-

Indian economy which can improve the quality of life of every Indian and pull out the deprived ones from the state of poverty. Short term disciplining till we reverse the present trend will give us long term benefits. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance & Defence)

Clear verdict against communal politics

By Balbir Punj

Congress and the so-called secular parties have been seen by people for what they are: Sectarian elements promoting Islamist fundamentalism in the name of secularism. Will they own up their mistake and reform?

The real nature of an individual (and also of an organisation) shows only in a crushing defeat or a complete victory. The heat and humiliation of a total loss melts the façade of calm, composure and civility, usual under normal circumstances. A serious setback brings to fore the latent insecurities and hidden weakness in personality and exposes the 'real' substance of a person.

An absolute triumph, on the other hand, generally goes to head, unleashes raw desires, prejudices, and covert traits and unrevealed idiosyncrasies. The pretence falls and the real persona and character of the winner emerges. In short, in both situations (of total loss and complete victory) the cover-up is blown off, thus baring the 'genuine' man behind the mask. With time, the veneer, however, may get resurrected.

During the last few days, the nation has had a glimpse of this losing/winning syndrome in the wake of the Lok Sabha election. In the din of election campaign, Mr Narendra Modi was aggressive and non-sparing in his criticism of his opponents. This was to suit the occasion. But the astounding victory brought out the real Modi – humble, emotional and reverential to his elders – and

deferential to institutions he has to work with and which are the bedrock of our Republic.

Mr Modi's gestures, following an unprecedented win – touching veteran BJP leader LK Advani's feet, escorting and holding by hand the estranged and aged once senior BJP leader Keshubhai Patel in Gandhinagar, hugging his arch-rival Shankersinh Vaghela, and above all, bowing and touching the entry point of Parliament House with his forehead, have left an indelible mark on all those who were glued to television screens. It will be etched in public memory for a long time to come. His obeisance to the institution of Parliament matched his fervour for 'Mother Ganga'.

In contrast, the Congress and its leadership (mother-and-son duo) were defiant and conceited. They took almost a week to congratulate the winner, did not own up the most humiliating defeat the party has suffered since independence, and have since been looking for scapegoats. Those loyal to the Palace are busy finding fault with the leadership of Mr Manmohan Singh, his alleged failure to communicate the 'achievements' of the UPA regime to the public and his silence during the campaign.

Could there be a better

example of deception? Mr Singh was ensconced in the PMO, with the seniority and experience of Mr Pranab Mukherjee ignored, precisely for those very reasons. Mr Singh was self-effacing, lacked both political stature and leadership experience, and had no potential to emerge as a mass leader. For the Nehru-Gandhis, he was thus tailor-made for the job.

It's a settled fact that the UPA Government was run by the mother-son duo and their faceless cronies. Mr Singh was a figurehead and a mask behind which the Nehru-Gandhi cabal manipulated the system. Neither Mr Singh was supposed to, nor did he ever try to, disturb this arrangement. He held the Prime Minister's office and the Gandhyclan exercised power, at times directly or through dubious conduits.

Mr Singh's job was to keep the seat warm till the Gandhi scion was ready to take over. No wonder, in the entire Lok Sabha election campaign, Mr Singh did not figure at all. Mr Rahul Gandhi was the UPA's mascot all the way. All the UPA's 'initiatives and achievements' were attributed to him.

What explains the Congress's decimation in these polls? Apart from massive corruption, economic mess and absence of governance, the

communal politics of the Congress and its 'secular' allies also contributed to its collapse.

With Indira Gandhi's untimely death, her son Rajiv Gandhi inherited her mantle, even though at that time too there were many leaders with decades of experience and service to the Congress. He continued the conspiracy to create a communal division and project his party as the champion of each

orthodoxy and fuel terror as a necessary weapon for the so-called protection of the perceived traditions of the community. It started sinking into Hindus and secular Muslims and Christians that fundamentalist Muslims were beyond the pale of law. In a way, it was a repeat of what had happened in Punjab where Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale gave legitimacy on grounds of religion to the dangerous

positions in the Congress leadership and the Government. At another level, the most rabid communal forces got the opportunity to be arbiters of whether a practising Muslim was truly a follower of Islam or not.

The Congress's intent on appeasement failed to see that its so-called '15-point programme' to benefit the Muslims was having no effect, nor was it enthusing the community leadership. Like the Congress with its 'Garibi hatao' programme that trapped the poor in a cesspool of backwardness, the Muslim leadership wanted the community to be locked up in its rejection of modernity.

On May 16, the country indicated its determination to climb out of this trap. The welcome to the ascendancy of the Narendra Modi-led BJP cut across communities. This aspirational fever had begun to transform the Muslim youth too. Muslim-dominated districts in several States were uniformly in favour of Mr Modi and BJP candidates.

The Congress and the so-called secular parties have been seen by people for what they are — rank communalists promoting Islamist fundamentalism in the name of secularism. Will the Congress and its leadership be honest to own their mistakes, introspect and reformulate the politics? No such hope! The party and the Nehru-Gandhis were conceited in power; they are graceless in defeat. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

What the reactionary response of Rajiv Gandhi on the Shah Bano case did to the Muslim community was to sow the seeds of Islamist extremist orthodoxy and fuel terror as a necessary weapon for the so-called protection of the perceived traditions of the community. It started sinking into Hindus and secular Muslims and Christians that fundamentalist Muslims were beyond the pale of law. In a way, it was a repeat of what had happened in Punjab where Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale gave legitimacy on grounds of religion to the dangerous slogan of extremism and put the moderate Akalis on the block for not being extremist enough.

community separately.

It was Rajiv Gandhi who sought to upstage the Hindu seers and leaders on the Ramjanmabhoomi issue by his farce of opening the locked doors. Then, to get the alerted Muslim leadership with him, he went whole hog with the Muslim orthodoxy on the Shah Bano issue and amended the law to deny Muslim wives the benefits that the Supreme Court in its judgement had decreed must be paid on divorce.

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slogan of extremism and put the moderate Akalis on the block for not being extremist enough.

As in the case of Punjab, the break from Indian politics following the liberal tradition began with the consequences of Rajiv Gandhi's mishandling of the Shah Bano case. Extremist orthodoxy was enshrined as a partner in the power structure. Not only were the liberals among the Muslims cornered, but the orthodox elements also began questioning their very religious beliefs.

At one level, Muslim politicians like Arif Mohammed Khan were forced to quit

Sumitra Mahajan elected as Lok Sabha Speaker

Eight-term Member of Parliament Smt. Sumitra Mahajan was on June 6 unanimously elected Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha, becoming the second woman presiding officer of the Lower House after her predecessor Smt. Meira Kumar.

71-year-old Smt. Mahajan, the longest-serving woman MP, was elected after a motion moved by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

and seconded by senior BJP leader Shri L K Advani was adopted by voice vote called by Protem Speaker Kamal Nath. 13 similar motions proposed and seconded by several parties in the ruling NDA as also in the opposition supporting Mahajan were also approved by the House.

Smt. Mahajan was led to the Speaker's Chair by the Prime Minister,



Shri Advani, Shri Anant Geete, Shri M Thambidurai as also a number of opposition leaders including Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, besides Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri M Venkaiah Naidu.

Born on April 12, 1943 in Chiplun of Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra, Smt. Mahajan became a municipal corporator in 1982. Starting her political life at the age of 39, Smt. Mahajan became the deputy mayor and then an MP from Indore in Madhya Pradesh. She was a Minister of State in the Atal Behari Vajpayee cabinet from 1999 to 2004, holding different portfolios of Human Resources, Communications and IT and Petroleum and Natural Gas.

An active parliamentarian, she has not only headed important committees, but has also been a keen debater and avid questioner inside the House, often seen putting ministers on the mat with her calm but firm interventions.

Smt. Mahajan won her Lok Sabha seat for the eighth consecutive time in this election by an impressive margin of 4.67 lakh votes.

A matter of great pride that a woman would preside over in this temple of democracy

Synopsis of the speech delivered by PM Shri Narendra Modi in felicitation to the speaker :

I congratulate all the parties and all the Members of this House for unanimously electing the Speaker in keeping with the great tradition of this august House. It is a matter of great pride for all of us that a woman would preside over in this temple of democracy and conduct the business of the House. Your benign guidance would go a long way in resolving the problems of the people of the nation. It is a matter of great pride for this House that you have rose from the pedestal of a corporator of Indore Municipal Corporation to become a Member of parliament for eight times during your decade long public life as a representative of the people. Your long experience of this House would prove fruitful in ensuring smooth conduct of business in this House. ■

Will ask PM to intervene if Mamata doesn't end her regime of 'anarchy and violence', says BJP



Slamming the Mamata Banerjee regime in West Bengal on law and order, the BJP dubbed it as a government of anarchy and violence and said it would seek the Prime Minister's intervention if post-poll violence is not contained.

BJP National Vice-President Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi told a news conference in Kolkata that, "It is a government of anarchy, violence and arrogance. Post poll violence is taking place with the patronage of the Trinamool Congress government. No action is taken against those who perpetrate violence".

He said, "Barring

TMC intensify attacks on BJP supporters in Bengal, many flee homes

The ruling TMC mounted more attacks on the BJP workers, this time ransacking their houses and firing at them at Jamuria in Burdwan district. As per media reports similar attacks also took place at Toofanganj in Coochbehar district in far off North Bengal. Jamuria falls under Asansol parliamentary constituency from where BJP's Babul Supriyo won in the general elections defeating TMC's labour leader Dola Sen by more than 70,000 votes. The attacks seemed to come as the ruling outfit's response to the voters' decision to support Supriyo. Bullets were recovered from the spot sources said adding the BJP workers' houses were shattered as "we had worked in the elections for the BJP." A number of villagers had fled their houses fearing more such attacks. "The Trinamool is running a Government of terror in Bengal and there is a need for all the like-minded people to come together to combat this situation" the local BJP MP who had a couple of days ago helped a number of villagers return home said. Similar attacks took place at Toofanganj in Coochbehar district of North Bengal where some BJP workers were punished by Trinamool men who threw hot, boiling oil at them for daring to work for the BJP during the polls. Curiously the attacks come close on the heels of a high-level central BJP team led by Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi visiting Bengal. The team had toured the affected areas of Sandeshkhali in Basirhat where 22 party men were injured after being fired at by the TMC for voting in favour of the BJP.

Bengal, BJP workers were not attacked in any other state in post-poll violence." Shri Naqvi warned the TMC government saying BJP would not keep quiet on violence against its party men.

During the day, a five-member BJP delegation visited Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district where 30 BJP workers were injured in firing allegedly by Trinamool Congress supporters on May 28. The team comprised BJP National Vice-President Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, BJP National Spokesperson Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Vice-president Shri SS Aluwahlia, BJP West Bengal Sah-prabhari Shri Siddharth Nath Singh and BJP MP Shri Babul Supriyo.

The team visited the injured in the hospital and spoke to their family members. "The kind of

violence prevailing in West Bengal is a matter of concern. Law and order is a state subject. The state needs to protect its citizens by virtue of establishing the rule of law," Smt. Lekhi told mediapersons.

"If this state-assisted violence continues, then BJP will seek intervention of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Union Home Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office to contain the violence if the state government is not in a capacity to contain it," Smt. Lekhi said.

The team also submitted a memorandum to Chief Secretary Shri Sanjoy Mitra and urged him to take action within next 24 hours. Shri Naqvi said the team would submit a report to the BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh after returning to Delhi. ■

Rajnath seeks report on poll violence on BJP workers in Bengal

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh sought a formal report on the armed attack on BJP workers in Sandeshkhali and the subsequent police inaction in West Bengal from a five-member delegation after the party's state Sah-Prabhari Shri Siddhartha Nath Singh apprised him about it.

Need time to put the system on track : Rajnath

BJP led NDA government was committed to resolving the security issues faced by the country, but it cannot be done in "one or two years" and more time was needed to set right the system "paralysed" under UPA rule, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said.

"I want to assure that as far as security of the entire country is concerned then whatever the government is required to do, we will do that. All efforts will be made to rid the problems through which the country is passing," Shri Rajnath, who was on his first visit to his parliamentary constituency, Lucknow after being sworn in as Home Minister, said while addressing party Karyakartas.

"But it is also true that we cannot do this work in one, one and a half or two years. The system has become so paralyzed in the previous regime that it will take time to set it right. Give us time. You have seen that comparably BJP ruled states are doing better than others," he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh expressed gratitude to the people of Lucknow for making him victorious with huge margin.

"I express gratitude to the people and party workers. I express gratitude to youths, our mothers and sisters," he said. Earlier, the Union Minister was given a grand welcome on his arrival at the Chaudhary Charan Singh airport in Lucknow. ■



...Continued from page 11

India already enjoys good trade relation with African nations such as Kenya. The report states that according to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 'Kenya's imports from India were worth 144 billion compared to 114 billion imports from China'. Indian banks are also the biggest lenders to Kenyan businesses with lending going up by as much as six times during the period 2005-2012. But as is evident from the report Shri Narendra Modi's record as an able administration and economic facilitator precedes him and it is clear that the country is looking at furthering its ties with India. As the journalist writes, "Kenya's historical ties with India, our geographical closeness, our blossoming trade and our shared double digit growth dreams mean that Kenya should be angling for a piece of India's heart." Europe sniffs a NaMo Opportunity

Shifting our focus to the European mainland, we focus on Spain that too has its eyes set on certain Indian markets. The Spanish already have a firm foothold in the Indian infrastructure sector including roads and power. According to a report in The Corner, almost all of Spain's major infrastructure companies have a presence in India. The Spanish companies have usually the upper middle-class in their sight as is evident from the nature of companies entering India like Borges through its Indian subsidiary Via and CIE Automotive in alliance with Mahindra. The Spanish businesses will no doubt be looking at further expanding the band to include the middle-class as well.

The United Kingdom too in

Modi sees a man they can do business with after the frustrating attempts to open up trade with India through trade missions failed abjectly under the UPA regime. Mark Field an MP for the cities of London and Westminster in his article for the Conservative Home writes of Modi, "Hopes are high that he will also give the green light to the liberalization of a broader range of industries in the hope of attracting fresh foreign capital and expertise in a market of 1.2 billion." In particular the English are looking towards the opening of the professional services sector that would allow UK law firms to enter Indian markets through alliances. A NaMo thaw across the Atlantic

Meanwhile, the United States been scurrying around in order to right the wrong of having ignored now PM Shri Modi till only a short while ago. The Scoop reports that a Bipartisan Congressional Resolution passed in the United States House of Representative recognised the victory of the Narendra Modi-led BJP in the Indian election. As per the report, the resolution speaks of the Congress's commitment to work with "the Modi-led government to advance shared values and interests," and to strengthen US-India partnership in the "defense, trade, and security arenas." America's haste to patch up things with the Indian PM may also have a lot to do with Russia's Vladimir Putin's growing clout. A report in the Voice of Russia claims, "If Modi stays true to his own mantra "India first," then the obvious route for India is to get closer to Russia and China". India and the Kremlin have always shared close ties, with China thrown into the mix there is a very real chance

that the US may be reduced to a non-player in the region.

Meanwhile, Allen Meltzer in his article for the journal for Hoover Institution, Defining Ideas, draws parallels between Narendra Modi and Ronald Reagan and explains why Narendra Modi won the elections on the promise of development and growth and urges the Republicans to make this their theme too. Another report in the World Tribune recognises the importance of the Indian PM extending an invitation to his Pakistani counterpart. NaMo's Twitplomacy breaks new ground

The conduct of foreign policy, under PM Narendra Modi has also seen a shift with the PM by passing stiff and formal diplomatic channels at times to take a more personal call and the action has been reciprocated. Japanese PM Shinzo Abe made a rare exception to tweet to Narendra Modi in English post his conversation with the latter.

PM Shri Narendra Modi also engaged on Twitter with several other Heads of States and Governments including Spain, Russia, Canada, South Africa, Germany, France. Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff conveyed her message in Portuguese to the Indian Prime Minister on Twitter.

With his Twitplomacy NaMo has signaled to the world that he will build new bridges through social media. This is a new dimension in international relations that have in the past been bogged down by Bureaucratic Protocols.

Shri Narendra Modi is yet to make his maiden visit abroad as India's Prime Minister but he has already captured the attention of Opinion Makers across the globe.■

Courtesy: The Niti Central

Nawaz Sharif gifts sari to Modi's mother



Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has sent a white sari for the mother of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Modi had gifted a shawl to Sharif's mother when he visited India last week. Shri Modi on thanked the Pakistan Prime Minister for the gift, which he said, he will soon send it to his mother.

"Nawaz Sharif ji has sent a wonderful white Sari for my Mother. I am really grateful to him & will send it to my Mother very soon," Modi tweeted.

After being sworn in on May 26, Modi had talked about the two having an "emotional" conversation.

Sharif, Modi tweeted, was touched by visuals of his mother offering him sweets. "The visuals touched both Nawaz Sharifji and his mother. He (Sharif) told me after seeing the visuals, his mother got very emotional," Modi tweeted. Sharif, according to Modi's tweets, visits his mother once a week.

Modi had sent a shawl for Sharif's mother after which the daughter of the Pakistani leader — Maryam Nawaz Sharif — had tweeted, "Thank u v much PM @narendramodi for the beautiful shawl for my grandmother. My father personally delivered it to her."

PM appreciates Nawaz Sharif's gracious gesture

Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Nawaz Sharif's gesture of sending a sari for Shri Modi's mother. The PM thanked Shri Nawaz Sharif and stated that he would send the white sari to his mother soon. Shri Narendra Modi tweeted: Nawaz Sharif ji has sent a wonderful white Sari for my Mother. I am really grateful to him & will send it to my Mother very soon.

Narendra Modi resigns from Vadodara Parliamentary Constituency

Prime Minister Narendra Modi resigned from the Lok Sabha seat of Vadodara and retained the Varanasi Parliamentary constituency. Shri Modi, who was elected from both, Varanasi and Vadodara parliamentary constituencies, in Lok Sabha Elections 2014, sent his resignation as an MP from Vadodara to the Speaker of Lok Sabha on May 29.

The Prime Minister thanked the people for their affection which got him victory by a historic margin. He also assured the people of Vadodara that he will leave no stone unturned in ensuring Vadodara's meteoric growth and development. Shri Modi further stated that, in his representation from the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat, he looked forward to the opportunity of serving the Ganges and working for Varanasi's development.

US President invited Modi to visit the US

The US President has invited Modi to visit the US after he called him to congratulate him on the NDA's win in the Lok Sabha elections. Shri Modi is likely to be in New York to attend the UN General Assembly in September. He will then hold a bilateral meeting with Obama. The bilateral meeting between the two leaders has been tentatively fixed between September 25 and 30.

Special Envoy of the Sultan of Oman calls on PM

The Special Envoy of the Sultan of Oman Foreign Minister Yousuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at South Block in New Delhion June 3. He conveyed the greetings of the Sultan and reaffirmed the importance of the relations with India. The Prime Minister conveyed his deep appreciation of the Sultan of Oman's gesture and said he looked forward to further strengthening the close ties between the two countries. They discussed ways to increase the trade and investment between the two countries. The Prime Minister also thanked the Sultan of Oman for looking after the welfare of 700,000 Indians living in Oman.

TELANGANA

Telangana came into existence as India's 29th state

On June 2, 2014 India's 29th state was born. For the first time outside the Hindi- and Bengali-speaking areas – two states speaking the same language have been created.

Here are 15 watershed moments that contributed to the recognition of Telangana as a separate state

1953: States Reorganization Committee advises against the immediate merger of Telangana with Andhra Pradesh.

November 25, 1955: Andhra assembly passes resolution to provide safeguards to Telangana.

November 1, 1956: Telangana merged with the Andhra state to form Andhra Pradesh.

1968-69: Massive revolt called Jai Telangana Movement launched by people in Telangana demanding a separate state.

January 1969: As conciliatory measure, the All-Party State Accord was signed. Indira Gandhi also announced packages for the region, styled an eight-point formula and a five-point formula. Court upholds the rule of job and educational quotas for Telangana. Then, the anti-Telangana stir was launched – the Jai Andhra Movement. It is important to note here that, Venkaiah Naidu and Chandrababu Naidu were in the forefront of the Jai Andhra stir. The Centre, posts the stir, yielded and nullified almost all the safeguards that had been put in place.

1969-2000: During this period, various protests were organized by agitators – both pro- and anti-Telangana – which often took a bloody turn. BJP supported the movement and participated actively for the creation of Telangana.

2001: In this year, KCR picked up the statehood for Telangana demand. He also walked out of

Telegu Desam Party and launched the Telangana Rashtra Samithi.

2004: Congress and TRS enter into a poll alliance and Congress promised a separate Telangana in the elections.

2006: Congress and TRS part ways when the demand for the separate state of Telangana is not met.

December 2009: UPA-II's Home Minister hints at the fact that the Centre is serious about the recognition of Telangana as a separate state. In this regard, the Srikrishna Committee is set up which had submitted its report in 2010.

December 2012: Home Minister announces that the decision regarding Telangana will be taken in a month.

July 30, 2013: The UPA government supported by the opposition BJP announced the formation of the separate state of Telangana.

The creation of the separate state of Telangana, after a mammoth struggle that spanned close to 60 years, also witnessed horrific incidents of violence throughout the once unified state of Andhra Pradesh. In 2010, it was reported that 73 students had committed suicide and 1,812 students attempted to take their own lives demanding that a separate state of Telangana be created.



Narendra Modi greets the people of Telangana

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Telangana and congratulated the state's first Chief Minister, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao, on the creation of the new state. The Prime Minister has tweeted as follows:

"India gets a new state! We welcome Telangana as our 29th state. Telangana will add strength to our development journey in the coming years.

Telangana's birth comes after years of struggle and sacrifices by several people. We pay our respects to them today. Congrats to K Chandrasekhar Rao Garu on taking oath as Telangana's 1st CM. My best wishes to people for the state's development journey. Centre assures complete support to the people & Government of Telangana in taking the state to newer heights of progress."

'School Chalen Abhiyan' to focus on quality teaching : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the 'School Chalen Ham Abhiyan' is connected with the masses. Reiterating the need to turn it into a mass movement, the Chief Minister urged the people to participate in the campaign enthusiastically. The campaign will start on June 16.

The Collectors will coordinate the activities of the campaign in the districts. It will be led by public representatives and social workers. This year, the campaign will be dedicated to "teaching quality".

Discussing outlines of the campaign with Collectors and local public representatives through videoconferencing from Mantralaya in Bhopal, Chief Minister Shri Chouhan said that is the key to a prosperous state. Along with government, responsibility of educating every child also lies with the society. The campaign will become successful only through the cooperation of the society. Villages can be adopted with special cooperation of social organizations, industrialists, businessmen and donors.

He said that no child able to go to school should remain deprived of school and must complete education up to class X after taking admission in class I. Shri Chouhan said that hostel facility should be specially provided to orphan children.

The CM said that all people, organisations, public representatives, distinguished citizens and representatives of religions should associate themselves with the campaign as motivators. Every person who is sensitive for making Madhya Pradesh an educated state can become motivator. He said that a convention of motivators will be held at development block level on June 12. Motivators with good performance will be provided



certificates. Registration for motivator can be done by giving a miss call on 0755-2570000.

So far, 71,000 motivators have joined the campaign. They will be imparted training as per campaign's outlines on June 12. Chouhan said that campaign will be launched throughout the state with Pravesh Utsav on June 16. The Chief Minister said that motivators giving academic cooperation are also welcome. Attention should also be paid to admission of children who need special attention.

He said that 'Pravesh Utsav' will be celebrated with community's cooperation. Text books will be made available as soon as children take admission. He said that every district can chalk out its strategy for ensuring cent percent admission. The Chief Minister directed the Collectors to get started whitewashing, cleanliness and repair works in the schools immediately. School land should not be encroached upon in any way.

The Chief Minister informed the Collectors that apart from *School Chalen Abhiyan*, a food security campaign is also underway in the state. Under it, names of all eligible families will be included in the scheme. For this, their forms will be filled up on June 9. Directing for effective implementation of the campaign, the Chief Minister said that no eligible family should remain deprived. A convention will be held at Janpad level on June 27 to verify eligibility slips issued to families.

The Chief Minister also discussed *School Chalen Abhiyan* with MLAs of Rewa, Mandasaur, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Neemuch, Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, Shahdol and Tikamgarh. He asked the MLAs to convene meetings in their constituencies for seeking people's cooperation.

DELHI

BJP to distribute questionnaires to know people's problems

Has your family been living in Delhi for the past five years or more? What are the main problems you face in Delhi and what steps have been taken by previous governments to solve these problems? The Bharatiya Janata Party's Delhi State unit wants to know all this and more through a seven-point-questionnaire that will soon be

distributed among people living in the city.

In a bid to connect directly with people, the party Karyakartas will distribute the questionnaire to every household and get them filled, said a statement from the Delhi BJP. "This way the party will be able to know about the priorities and problems of the people. The party will try its best to solve these problems".

From the mohalla level to the State Government level, the BJP wants to know the "distinct problems" of a colony to people's opinions on what should be the five top priorities for the future Government of Delhi.

The questionnaire will be distributed along with the 'special membership campaign' that will begin on June 15.

and Manoj Poddar, said, "The AAP Bengal has merged with our party,"

Shri Jaffery, who along with several other



WEST BENGAL

Entire Aam Aadmi Party merges with BJP in Bengal : Rahul Sinha

The West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party president Shri Rahul Sinha informed the media in Kolkata that supporters and activists of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in West Bengal have all joined the BJP.

At a press conference at the State BJP headquarters, Shri Rahul Sinha said, "The AAP has ceased to exist in Bengal with all its members deciding to formally join our party." Shri Sinha sharing the dais with AAP leaders Mehboob Jaffery

senior members joined the BJP, blamed the AAP's central leadership for the party becoming defunct in Bengal.

Shri Sinha also announced that senior Congress leader Pradip Ghosh would join the party soon. Shri Ghosh, a prominent face of the Congress in Kolkata, was seen at the BJP headquarters and when asked by the development, Shri Sinha confirmed that the Congress leader is likely to join the BJP soon. "In days to come we will present before you more such leaders joining the party," he said. Earlier, Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Derek O'Brien's brother and country's leading quizmaster Barry O'Brien along with footballer Sasthi Duley and market analyst and actor Siddhartha Chatterjee were inducted into the BJP. ■

Reaffirm our pledge in making Mother Earth cleaner and greener: PM

On the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conveyed his greetings and shared his views on environment conservation, even as he emphasized on the need to make our planet greener. The PM stated that the World Environment Day called for us to bow to Mother Earth and reaffirm our pledge to protect the Environment and make it cleaner and greener. Welcoming our culture, which encouraged living in complete harmony with the environment, Shri Modi stated that we were blessed to be part of such culture. He urged everyone to serve as Trustees, whereby we could not only utilize the natural resources for present development, but also work towards ensuring happiness for future generations. The PM further acknowledged people's participation in creating a cleaner and greener planet, along with Government efforts, and appealed to them to ensure that every step taken in daily lives would also focus on conserving the nature and natural resources. ■

Ayurveda—Although Ancient It Can Be Ever New

By Sri Swami Sivananda

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.

Diagnosis: The physician should develop an inquisitive outlook towards the less obvious signs of ill-health so as to warn the patients from getting ill. The causes of diseases are beautifully

summarized in Ayurveda into 3 groups, viz., 1. Unsuitable use of the senses—Asaalmya Indriyaartha Samyoga, 2. Faulty judgement—*Prajnaa Aparaadha* and 3. The effects of time—*Parinaama*. Research should be conducted on the incidence of the seasons (Ritus) in India and their influence on the onset of diseases and of the pharmacological properties (Rasa, Guna, etc.) of food-materials and



drugs. Today, the methods of investigation of diseases are lop-sided giving no real attention to the man as a whole. The physician who depends too much on instruments and laboratories is unable to develop the most valuable faculty of intuition. Charaka says: “*A physician who cannot enter into the innermost soul of the patient with the bright light of the lamp of his own knowledge cannot successfully treat any disease.*” (*Charaka Vimana IV-14*)

Methods of Research: We should conduct research in Ayurveda in order to make it the best system of treatment in the world. As the word Ayurveda implies, it is the Science of Life. It has no limitation of race, climate or country. Its door is open to all true knowledge from any source. The application of Modern Methods of Pharmacological technique conducted in collaboration with experienced Ayurvedic scholars is sure to result in the advancement of

both Ayurveda and Modern Medicine. Literally, pharmacological, biochemical, clinical, psychological and philosophical research should all be conducted side by side.

The methods of research in Ayurveda should not be to imitate what is done in other countries. The research should be based upon the fundamentals assumed by Ayurveda. Ayurveda has a good working hypothesis which has helped the successful practice of Ayurveda through the centuries and it is still a living force today with the Ayurvedic physician and the patient. The Siddha and Unani systems also follow the same fundamental principles and are popular with certain sections of the people.

Conclusion: Herein, I have laid emphasis on four points which are fundamental to the study of Ayurveda.

- Ayurveda is superior to modern science in some respects and can incorporate all the advances of Modern Science, but Modern Science, cannot adopt all that Ayurveda teaches, unless it accepts the existence of the soul in man as the Director of the several processes of life.
- Man is not to be treated as machine. The factor of personality is greatly responsible for the happiness or misery of the individual.
- Modern Medicine should not be extended into the villages, unless it is integrated with Ayurveda by adopting its basic principles of self-control to prevent disease
- Research in Ayurveda should be conducted by adequate personal of the right type, proficient in Ayurveda, with the co-operation of modern Scientists.

The scope of Ayurveda is endless. Although ancient, it has the capacity to grow and be ever new, Puranama cha Punarnavam (Charaka Siddhi). ■

Courtesy: The Divine Life Society