



Kamal Sandesh
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**

Subscription

**Annual Rs. 100/-
For 3 years Rs. 250/-**

Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

Publisher and Printer : Printed by Dr. Nandkishore Garg for Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36, F.F. Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and Published by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg, New Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

CONTENTS

PM Narendra Modi visits Japan

India & Japan will move ahead with new confidence.....	7
Motivate five Japanese families to visit India each year.....	9
'Japan and India shared a spiritual partnership'	11
"Yeh fevicol se bhi zyada mazboot jod hai"	12
Ten highlights from Modi's visit to Japan.....	13

PM launches Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.....

Articles

Land of the rising sun and of opportunities

By Balbir Punj..... 21

100 days of Modi Sarkar: 10 significant developments

By Saswat Panigrahi..... 23

Others

BJP National President's Pravas..... 16

PM interacts with students on Teachers' Day..... 19

Australian PM's visit to India..... 20

State Reports

Odisha, Jammu&Kashmir, Kerala..... 27

West Bengal..... 28

Golden words from Aadhyatam..... 30



Courtesy : The Hindu



; % I oZ=kufHkLugLrRrRi xl; 'kkkk'kkke~ A
 ukfHkuUnfr i }S'V rL; iKk ifr'BrkAA~AA

One who without attachment is every respect, neither rejoices nor curses obtaining correspondingly good or evil; he is established in perfect knowledge.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 57)

Q
U
O
T
E
S

“We may see the beginning of a new journey between India & Japan, which will draw strength from our past progress, and will move ahead with new confidence and energy”

-Narendra Modi

“People of J&K must end decades-old dynastic rule and give mandate to the BJP so that the State is brought at par with other States of the country”

-Amit Shah

Onam : September 07, 2014

Onam is a Hindu festival, celebrated with a great enthusiasm throughout Kerala between August and September. Onam is the most popular festival of Kerala. This is celebrated for a period of ten days. Every year this festival falls on the Malayalam month of Chingam - between August and September and also known as the harvest festival of Kerala.

Onam is one of the most ancient festivals which is still celebrated with a great devotion. Onam marks the

homecoming of King Mahabali, a legendary king, who ruled Kerala in ancient times. That period was believed to be the golden age of Karala, people were happy, free from harm and complete harmony and prosperity was there. This golden age ended when lord Vamana (an avatar of Lord Vishnu) pushed King Mahabali, deep into the earth. Satisfied by Mahabali’s honesty and generosity, the lord granted him a wish that he can visit his kingdom and dear subjects once in a year.

Onam is celebrated for ten days - Atham is the first day and Thiruvonam is the final day of the celebration. People wear new clothes, decorate their houses and put flower carpet called ‘Pookalam’ in front of their houses, to welcome the King Mahabali. Special pujas are offered in the temples in early morning and younger members take blessings and gifts from the elder members of the family. During Onam traditional rituals are performed followed by a lavish feast with twenty-one homemade curries and sweet payasam on plantain leaf.

Spectacular Carnivals of elephants, fireworks, boat races, music and the famous Kathakalli dance are traditionally associated with this festival.





A Government of the people, by the people, and for the people

100 days have passed. People are witnessing the progress and the pace of development in India. They are now assured that the credibility of India will increase. But the opposition particularly Congress is looking at BJP led NDA government with their blinkered vision. The reality is that Congress is in shock. SP is worried. Lalu is in hospital. Mayawati and Nitish Kumar are blaming communalism. Till recently the opposition was thinking that these people will not be able to run the government but now they are astonished. The reality is that all ministers and MPs including the Prime Minister are working on the positive line of development. BJP led NDA government is moving towards novel ideas while addressing fundamental social problems.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the day of his oath taking ceremony to 15th August has utilized every minute of every day for the nation. The most important thing that has happened in the last 100 days is that the decline in the credibility of Indian politics, politicians and political parties has been arrested and the faith of the Indians is getting restored. Indians dipped in pessimism, negativity and distress have changed their thinking now. The lost faith has been restored. The role of the faith in democracy is important.

The union cabinet was formed on 26th May and BJP led NDA government started functioning from 27th May itself. By constituting SIT to bring back black money the nation was assured that the curtain from the black money will be removed.

In the oath taking ceremony of Modi government the message was sent that we want better relations with our neighbours. He began it with his trip to Nepal and Bhutan. Steps were taken with Pakistan for dialogue. But when Pakistan talked with separatists India made it clear that this process cannot move further. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that we will not show eye to anyone nor will we bow our heads but we will talk with others on the terms of equality. For the first time Pakistan came to know that the old ways are not going to work anymore. If dialogue is to take place then it is only with India and not with the separatists. If Pakistan is violating the ceasefire on the border then India will give a fitting reply. India has said it in clear terms that if you violate then there will be no dialogue. The dignity of India has increased from these incidents.

The Congress President is now raising the issue of price rise. She has no idea that the entire ministry is committed to control the price rise. We want to ask Smt. Sonia Gandhi whether the price of onion and potato not brought under control? Has the price of wheat, rice, oil, flour and pulses risen? Has the price of tomato not been brought under control? The price rise in the country has been brought under control. On the other side has the price of petrol not been reduced for two times in one month? First time the price was cut by Rs. 2.86. For the second time price of petrol was reduced by Rs. 1.82. Is it not an achievement for BJP led NDA government to reduce the price of petrol by Rs. 4.68 in one month? The reduction of the price of LPG cylinders by nineteen rupees per cylinder is an achievement in itself. What Soniaji and her party will say on these issues? Had there been a good and fair opposition in the country it would have congratulated the PM in Japan for his successful trip. Alas, the opposition could have done this! All the opposition parties including Congress will have to understand that Shri Narendra Modi is not the Prime Minister of BJP but of the entire country.

Narendra Modi has also taken care so that the dignity of border, parliament, constitution and army is not undermined. Today a common man of India can give suggestions to Prime Minister on mygov.nic.in. India belongs to everyone.

Editorial...

What the Congress can say? During their rule they polluted the Ganga and no one knows where the money went which came for cleaning the river. Prime Minister has himself said that Ma Ganga has called him. After that a workplan has been made for cleaning the Ganga. Five ministries have been asked to work on it.

Some people used to think about the plan of Smart City but Narendra Maodi has taken steps to realize this dream.

Change in the work culture of secretariats and government departments is taking place. Cleanliness drive has been emphasised. To pay special attention towards cleanliness was not only talked about but work has been started on it. Congress is failing to digest the announcement of starting cleanliness drive from 2nd October the day of Gandhi Jayanti. Prime Minister by saying about finding ways out for the problem of toilets for girls in schools from the ramparts of the Red Fort tried to touch the social problem.

The announcement to pay special attention to the half of the population (girls-women) of India is related to Indian *samsakar*. Narendra Modi who proved to be an able administrator of Gujarat is trying to run the government with skill and acumen. He said that if the 125 crore people of the country will move one step further then the entire country will move 125 crore steps ahead. Everyone's cooperation is required for development. He also appealed to the opposition in the country to come together for development.

The country has appreciated the decision to bring an end to Planning Commission which has become a liability for the nation and to replace it with new institution as per the current needs.

By enabling the poor of the country to open accounts in the bank under Jan Dhan Yojana they were brought in the level where they were not able to reach for years. Narendra Modi has got hold of the mind, soul and original nature of India. He said that my government is committed to the poor. He wants to change the fate of the impoverished poor of the country. Jan Dhan Yojana is an effective step in that direction.

In the rural areas launching of hi-speed internet facility has been announced. Along with this through the platform of Digital India the facilities of telemedicine and education is planned. The bill for the appointment of judges which the Congress government could not bring for last twenty years the Modi government got it introduced and passed in both the houses of parliament within two days. The decision to allow FDI in defence and railways in big ways is historic.

It has been decided to focus on pilgrimage and tourism. The announcements which were made in Rail budget are getting fulfilled. 57 new trains which were announced in the budget have been started from 1st September.

Narendra Modi government not only makes announcements but also fulfills them. India has refused to sign in the WTO the Global Trade Pact which was pending for a long time. India was not ready to sign this pact without having any solution on Public Stock Holding for food security.

The role in BRICS was successful. Modi himself stole the show. All the five countries agreed to open the Headquarter of BRICS Bank in Shanghai and India is to head it for the first time.

The skill which External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj displayed during Iraq crisis was seen by the country. Entire country appreciated the manner in which the Indians were rescued from the kidnappers.

When the Finance Minister of India Shri Arun Jaitley placed the general budget before the country the general people found themselves in it for the first time. General budget was for everyone – poor, rich, youth, women, farmers, labourers including entrepreneurs. The country appreciated the efforts of Shri Arun Jaitley. The general budget was for the people of India. The media appreciated it without any reservations.

If we write about the decisions taken in 100 days then a lot will have to be written. For any government first hundred days are ordinary ones. But it was not an ordinary thing to win the trust of the nation in these hundred days. The beginning shows the things to come in the future. The faith which the BJP led NDA government has won in hundred days is extra ordinary. The government earlier used to remain aloof from the people and people also used to remain away from the government. But this is the success of the Modi government that it got connected with the people and people also got connected with the government. Today people are feeling proud of Modi government. They have a feeling that the one chosen by them is proving himself on every parameter.

The government which connects with the soul of the people becomes a people's government. Modi government is gradually becoming a people's government. It is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people ■

India & Japan will move ahead with new confidence and energy : Narendra Modi

Breaking all protocol the Prime Minister of Japan Mr. Shinzo Abe received the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi in Kyoto on his historical visit to Japan on 30th

nationalist image of the both have also played crucial role in developing personal chemistry, which is significant in bilateral diplomacy. On his arrival in Japan and respecting the

and convergence of views.

On the occasion the two Prime Ministers spoke about the ancient cultural and religious links between the countries, which were not known widely.

They felt that the commencement of Prime Minister Shri Modi's visit in Kyoto, the old capital city and an important centre of Buddhism, highlighted these important spiritual foundations of India-Japan relations. They both keenly looked forward to visiting the ancient Toji Temple, which was a symbol of this link. The MoU between Varanasi and Kyoto, signed earlier in the evening in their presence, was yet

another reflection of working together to foster cooperation to address contemporary challenges on the strength of their shared heritage.

Prime Minister Abe spoke with great enthusiasm and strong conviction about India and the importance of India-Japan relations for Japan and the region. Prime Minister Shri Modi described Japan as one of India's closest and most important partners and spoke about his own admiration and affinity for Japan and his high hopes from the relationship.

The discussions covered



August. Mr. Abe travelled from Tokyo to Kyoto to personally receive the Prime Minister. Which made Shri Modi's Japan visit historic. Shri Modi's ability to sell brand India and accomplishment of generating commitment of 3.5 trillion Yen from Japan has got wider publicity. Some strategic experts also tried to analyse the power game to counter China through this visit. It is also true that both in India and Japan Shri Modi and Mr. Abe have got stable and full majority governments after a long time in the respective democratic milieu. Strong

tradition Indian PM Shri Narendra Modi also fed fish at the State Guest House in the presence of the Japanese Prime Minister, who hosted a dinner in the honour of Shri Modi. In the elegant setting of the Imperial Guest House in Kyoto, Prime Minister Shri Modi sat down with his host, Prime Minister Abe, at a traditional dining table for over one and half hours for an exceptionally warm and friendly conversation over a traditional Japanese meal in the same evening. Their discussion was marked by a great deal of mutual respect and admiration

economic issues, and the opportunities that both countries had to seize the opportunities presented by their respective strong political mandates to inject new momentum and energy in their economies. They spoke with great optimism about a strong and robust future for India-Japan economic partnership. Prime Minister Shri Modi observed that the relationship was far below potential and expressed hope that the two sides would strive to achieve in five years the unrealized potential of five decades.

Prime Minister Abe expressed confidence that under Prime Minister Shri Modi India's economic transformation would gather strong momentum. An economically resurgent India would, he said, be of great strategic importance to the region and the world, and an inspiration for democratic forces around the world. Prime Minister Shri Modi said that a strong India-Japan partnership was important not just for the economic benefits to the two countries, but even more as a force of good for the region and the world.

The two leaders also had an extensive and candid exchange of views on the developments in the region and the world and saw in their remarkable convergence of views a great opportunity to work together for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world.

During his stay in Kyoto Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the ancient Toji Temple. He was accompanied on the visit to this Buddhist shrine, by the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe. The Prime Minister also visited the Golden Pavilion - the Kinkaku-ji Temple - at Kyoto, where he also interacted with a number of visitors who greeted him enthusiastically.

Tokyo Declaration for India - Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership

Meeting in Tokyo on 1 September 2014, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe pledged to realize the full potential of India - Japan Strategic and Global Partnership for continuing progress and prosperity for their people and for advancing peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world and signed the Tokyo Declaration for India. Elevating the

relationship to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, they called their meeting the dawn of a new era in India - Japan relations.

Prime Minister Abe expressed his deep appreciation for Prime Minister Modi's choice of Japan as his first destination for a bilateral visit outside India's immediate neighbourhood. Prime Minister Modi described this decision as a reflection of Japan's importance in India's foreign policy and economic development and her place at the heart of India's Look East Policy. Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Abe for his deep personal commitment to strengthening India - Japan strategic partnership, the extraordinary warmth of his hospitality, and the bold vision that characterized their discussions in Tokyo.

The two Prime Ministers noted that India and Japan are Asia's two largest and oldest democracies, with ancient cultural links and enduring goodwill between their people. The two



countries are joined together by convergent global interests, critical maritime inter-connection and growing international responsibilities. They share an abiding commitment to peace and stability, international rule of law and open global trade regime. Their economies have vast complementarities that create boundless opportunities for mutually beneficial economic partnership.

Highlights of the Tokyo Declaration **Political, Defence and Security Partnership**

- Decided to continue the practice of annual summits and to meet as often as possible on the margins of regional and multilateral meetings.
- The next rounds of Foreign Ministers Strategic Dialogue and Defence Ministers dialogue

would be held in 2014.

- decided to upgrade and strengthen the defence relations between India and Japan
- Existing dialogue mechanism and joint exercises between Indian and Japanese Coast Guards will continue.
- Progress made in discussions in the Joint Working Group on cooperation in US-2 amphibian aircraft and its technology.

Global Partnership for Peace and Security in the Region and the World

- Prime Minister Modi supported Japan's initiative to contribute to peace and stability of the region and the world.
- The two Prime Ministers decided, in particular, to draw on the strength of their two countries' shared values, convergent interests, and complementary skills and resources to build a strong partnership to promote economic and social development, capacity-building and infrastructure development in other interested countries and regions.
- The two Prime Ministers condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of their perpetrators, origin and motivations.

- They also called for reinvigorating multilateral action on terrorism, including through the finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the United Nations at the earliest.
- The two Prime Ministers expressed concern over North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, including its uranium enrichment activities. The two Prime Ministers affirmed their shared determination, and called for sustained international commitment to promote Afghan-led economic development, political pluralism and capacity-building in security in Afghanistan beyond 2014
- The two Prime Ministers affirmed the urgent need for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, especially its expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, to make it more representative, legitimate, effective and responsive to the realities of the 21st century.

Civil Nuclear Energy, Non-proliferation and Export Control

- The two Prime Ministers affirmed the

'Motivate five Japanese families to visit India each year'

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressed the Indian Community in Japan on 02 August, at a reception in Tokyo. He described the visit to Japan as successful, highlighting the investment of 3.5 trillion yen that Japan has committed. He also referred to the lifting of sanctions on six Indian companies, and said this was possible only because the relationship between the two countries was based on the strong bond of trust. The Prime Minister also expressed satisfaction over the signing of the Varanasi-Kyoto Partner City MoU, and said he hoped Varanasi could emerge as a modern heritage city like Kyoto.

The Prime Minister mentioned that he had gifted the Bhagavad Gita to both the Japanese Emperor Mr. Akihito, and the Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe. Mentioning his vision of Swachh Bharat by 2019, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Prime Minister urged each family of the Indian community in Japan to motivate five Japanese families to visit India each year. He also urged the Indian community in Japan to give suggestions on governance, on the recently launched MyGov.in website.

The Prime Minister said the 21st century would certainly be Asia's century, but what shape it would take, would depend on how the relationship between India and Japan evolves, what values it promotes, and what direction it takes the world in. He urged the Indian community in Japan to appreciate their importance in this context. ■



importance of civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries and welcomed the significant progress in negotiations on the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

- They looked forward to enhanced trade and collaboration in high technology.
- The two Prime Ministers affirmed their commitment to work together for India to become a full member in the four international export control regimes: Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group, with the aim of strengthening the international non-proliferation efforts.

Partnership for Prosperity

The two Prime Ministers announced the India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership under which:

- The two Prime Ministers decided to set a target of doubling Japan's foreign direct investment and the number of Japanese companies in India within five years as an objective to be jointly achieved. They also decided to work closely towards further expanding bilateral trade relationship to the next stage.
- Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to realize 3.5 trillion yen of public and private investment and financing from Japan, including Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), to India in five years, to finance appropriate public and private projects of mutual interest including in the areas of next generation infrastructure, connectivity, transport systems, Smart Cities, rejuvenation of Ganga and other rivers, manufacturing, clean energy, skill development, water security, food processing and agro industry, agricultural cold chain, and rural development.
- Prime Minister Modi underlined his determination to further improve the business environment in India, including through tax, administrative and financial regulations, in order to boost investment. The two Prime Ministers decided to further deepen bilateral economic and financial cooperation. Prime Minister Abe welcomed the approval to establish Mizuho Bank's Ahmedabad branch.
- The two Prime Ministers placed special emphasis on Japan's cooperation for enhanced

connectivity and development in Northeast India and linking the region to other economic corridors in India and to Southeast Asia, which would catalyse economic development and increase prosperity in the region.

- Prime Minister Modi briefed Prime Minister Abe on his initiative for Smart Cities and renewal of heritage cities, including the city of Varanasi. Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's willingness to support this objective.
- The two Prime Ministers look forward to the completion of the Joint Feasibility Study on High Speed Railway system on Ahmedabad - Mumbai route.
- The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress in the ongoing flagship projects of India-Japan economic partnership, such as the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC) and committed to accelerate their implementation. Prime Minister Modi invited Japanese investments in the development of new smart cities and industrial parks along these corridors. Appreciating Japan's contribution to the development of urban mass rapid transport system in India, Prime Minister Modi sought Japan's association with Ahmedabad Metro Project.
- The two Prime Ministers also welcomed enhanced cooperation on utilizing highly efficient and environmentally-friendly coal-fired power generation technology and progress on cooperation in Clean Coal Technology (CCT).

Joint Press Briefing in Tokyo

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Joint Press Briefing with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said 'I am delighted to be in Japan. After assuming the office of Prime Minister, I had taken a decision that my first bilateral visit outside South Asia would be to Japan. It is my great fortune that Prime Minister Abe gave me the opportunity to fulfil my desire within 100 days of assuming office.

This is a reflection of the fact that India considers Japan among its closest and most reliable partners and that India's relations with Japan is of the highest priority for my Government. This is not only because Japan is a vital partner for India's transformation, but also because India and Japan

as two peace-loving and democratic nations can play an influential role in shaping the future of Asia and the world.

He said, I am deeply grateful to Prime Minister Abe, an old friend, for his extraordinary hospitality and warmth both in Kyoto and Tokyo. His special gestures are a reflection of his special love for India and his belief and confidence in India and our bilateral relations. I greatly value his friendship. I am also touched by the warmth and enthusiasm that I have experienced in meeting a wide cross section of people here. I am excited about the boundless possibilities for our cooperation.

I am not only greatly satisfied with my discussions with Prime Minister Abe, but the meeting has greatly increased my confidence, excitement and optimism about India-Japan relations.

Prime Minister Abe has spoken about our discussions. You also have the joint statement and the fact sheet with you. I want to speak to you more about how I view this relationship and this summit.

Today we have taken an important decision to elevate the relationship from Strategic and Global Partnership to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership. This is not just a play of words, but a decision that reflects the solemn responsibilities of our two governments and two countries he said. Shri Narendra Modi said it is a strategic partnership because:

- Japan will play an increasingly important role in India's economic transformation and development. Prime Minister Abe has pledged a qualitatively new level of Japanese support and partnership for India's inclusive development, including transformation of India's manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. He has announced his intention to realise 3.5 trillion Yens, or USD 35 billion, or Rs. 2,10,000 crores, of public and private investment and financing to India over the next five years. I am deeply grateful to him and the people of Japan. He has expressed strong support for my vision of India's development and has committed support in all areas of

'Japan and India shared a spiritual partnership'

PM's keynote address at welcome reception hosted by Japan-India Association and Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League

Addressing the reception hosted by Japan-India Association and Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League PM Shri Narendra Modi on 02 August said the deep bonds that India and Japan share are not just because of the efforts of the two Governments, but because ordinary people have "nurtured this sapling and

turned it into a strong tree. In his address at a welcome reception hosted by the Japan India Association and Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship league, the Prime Minister said Japan and India shared a spiritual partnership, and noted that the Japan-India Association is 110 years old – in fact, older than any other such association in Japan.

The Prime Minister said the enthusiasm to learn Hindi is increasing in Japan, and Yoga is also becoming popular. He also remarked how he had received a letter from the association urging him to speak in Hindi when

he comes to Japan.

Shri Modi referred to a gentleman aged over ninety, who had once worked with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, and still recalls incidents associated with Netaji. The Prime Minister said he had asked the Indian Ambassador in Tokyo, Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, to depute a professional team with this gentleman for a month, so that a video recording could be made of his interviews.

The Prime Minister also suggested expanding links between people's representatives. He suggested creation of a Young Parliamentary Association and a Women Parliamentary Association; and visits from representatives of state legislative assemblies from India, and local government representatives from Japan. The Prime Minister urged representatives from Japan to visit cities other than Delhi.



development.

- India's progress and development is not only a big economic opportunity that will benefit both countries, but it will be strengthening democracy globally and contribute to stability and prosperity in our region and the world.
- Second, our relations are not confined to economic cooperation, but it is comprehensive and broad-based. We have agreed today to intensify our political dialogue and cooperation. We intend to give a new thrust and direction to our defence cooperation, including collaboration in defence technology and equipment, given our shared interest in peace and stability and maritime security. We have also decided to expand our cooperation in advanced technology, science and technology, people-to-people exchanges, educational exchanges, etc.
- A successful India and a successful Japan will be of benefit to both countries. Even more, the relationship will be a force of peace, stability

and prosperity in Asia and the world.

It is global because:

- We are the two oldest democracies in Asia and among its three biggest economies. Our relationship is not only regional in its framework, but will have a global impact. This is because if the 21st century is an Asian century, then Asia's future direction will shape the destiny of the world.
- India and Japan will work for a peaceful and prosperous world drawing upon the message of Lord Buddha and in partnership with all countries of this region and beyond.
- We are also intensifying cooperation on non-proliferation, UN reforms, space security, cyber security and in regional forums of this region, such as East Asia Summit.
- Equally important, we will forge a partnership for development in other regions and interested countries across the world.

The relationship is special because:

- The importance and priority that we will both give this relationship will see a qualitative increase.

- We will work with a much higher level of commitment to translate our boundless potential into concrete progress. We have agreed to instruct our negotiators to work expeditiously to conclude the negotiations at an early date so that we can further strengthen our strategic partnership.

- Japan's decision to remove several Indian entities from the Foreign End Users List, our MoU on defence exchanges and our intention to work out an agreement for collaboration on defence technologies reflect the new level of mutual trust and

“Yeh fevicol se bhi zyada mazboot jod hai”

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi termed his Japan trip as very successful and hoped that India's infrastructure will improve and the country will become clean with the help of USD 35 billion promised by Japan over five years, the highest amount ever.

Winding up his official programme on his five-day visit, he expressed gratitude to Japan for reposing trust in India and demonstrating its friendship with a quip “yeh fevicol se bhi zyada mazboot jod hai (this bond is stronger than that of fevicol)”.

“This visit has been very successful,” Shri Modi said at the Indian community reception hosted in his honour. “There has been talk about billions and millions. But there has never been talk of trillions,” he said, referring to 3.5 trillion Yen (\$35 billion or 2,10,000 crore) promised by Japan to India through public and private funding over the five years for various works, including building of smart cities and cleanup of the Ganga. “This is a big achievement. My biggest happiness is that Japan trusted us,” he said at his last official programme after a hectic day of events and meetings.

Referring to signing of a MoU under which Varanasi will be cleaned up and developed learning from the experience of Japanese ‘smart city’ Kyoto, Shri Modi said, “we can learn from each other”.

“I was born in Gujarat but these days I am at the service of Varanasi (in Uttar Pradesh). Kyoto is also a very small city and they have large number of temples like in Varanasi. But they have modernised while preserving heritage,” the Prime Minister said. He noted that 17 structures in Kyoto were in the Unesco World Heritage list, which was not a mean thing he said.

commitment to deepen our strategic partnership in all dimensions.

- Agreements – health, roads, clean energy and women’s development and the Kyoto-Varanasi partnership agreement – also demonstrate the diversity and depth of our relationship and its human dimension.
- It also recognises the ancient foundations of our modern partnership, the long history of cultural links and the unwavering goodwill and affection between our people. No relationship in India commands the level of public consensus as our relations with Japan does.

In conclusion, the Indian Prime Minister said, “I would like to again thank Prime Minister Abe for his friendship and hospitality and for his bold vision for this relationship. I am confident that we may see the beginning of a new journey, which will draw strength from our past progress, and will move ahead with new confidence and energy. I am confident that we will harness the full potential of this relationship very soon”. ■

Ten highlights from Modi's visit to Japan

1. Japan has promised to give \$35 billion to India through public and private funding over the next 5 years for developmental projects, including building of smart cities and cleanup of river Ganges.
2. Both sides have signed five pacts covering defence exchanges, cooperation in clean energy, roads and highways, healthcare and women while vowing to take their relationship from strategic partnership to a special strategic partnership.
3. Japan has lifted the ban on six Indian entities including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) which was imposed in the aftermath of 1998 nuclear tests.
4. The two sides agreed to enhance their defence and strategic cooperation to a new level and also decided to speed up negotiations on a civil nuclear deal that could not be concluded now.
5. In Kyoto, a pact was signed under which Shri Modi’s Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi will be developed on the pattern of Kyoto ‘smart city’ with the help of Japan.
6. Tokyo will help India in providing financial, technical and operational support to introduce Bullet trains, a project that Modi has been actively pursuing.
7. Prime Minister Shri Modi has asked NRIs to visit India at least once a year to boost tourism.
8. Both sides have signed a MoU for cooperation in heritage conservation, city modernization and cooperation in the fields of art, culture and academics.
9. Both countries have decided to build a strong, deep and strategic relationship under the India-Japan Cooperation framework.
10. India has decided to set up a Special Management Team directly under the PMO to facilitate proposals from Japan.

Senior Congress leader Birender Singh joins BJP

Senior Haryana politician Chaudhary Birender Singh in the presence of BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on August 29, 2014 joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after being associated with the Congress for over 40 years. In a huge blow to the Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee, Shri Singh decided to join the BJP ahead of the state assembly polls to be held later this year. Shri Singh has not moved to the BJP alone. Many youth and some prominent leaders of the congress also joined BJP along with Shri Singh.



PMJDY will bring freedom from financial Untouchability : Narendra Modi

**A record unprecedented in economic history –
1.5 crore bank accounts opened in one day**



single day. Never before in economic history would 1.5 crore bank accounts have been opened in a single day. Never before has the Government of India organized a programme of such scale – over 77,000 locations – with the participation of so many Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, Government and bank

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on August 28 declared the beginning of the end of financial untouchability in India, with the opening of an estimated 1.5 crore bank accounts across the country, in an exercise unprecedented in scale in economic history.

Formally launching the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) at a function broadcast across the nation from Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, the Prime Minister described the occasion as a festival to celebrate the liberation of the poor from a poisonous cycle. (Vish-chakra se gareebon ki aazaadi ka parv)

Expressing satisfaction at a number of records being broken, the Prime Minister said the nationwide success of the enrolment drive would give confidence not just to the officials of the Department of Financial Services and banking sectors, but

also to officers across the Union Government, that they can successfully achieve the goals that they set for themselves. “Never before would insurance companies have issued 1.5 crore accident insurance policies in a

single day. Never before in economic history would 1.5 crore bank accounts have been opened in a single day. Never before has the Government of India organized a programme of such scale – over 77,000 locations – with the participation of so many Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, Government and bank officials.” He said the success is an inspiration for achieving new heights.

The Prime Minister said that though the initial target of PMJDY was to open bank accounts for 7.5 crore families in

Highlights

Under PMJDY, Comprehensive Financial Inclusion based is proposed be achieved under the six pillars as under:

Phase I (15th August ,2014-14th August,2015)-

- Universal access to banking facilities
- Providing Basic Banking Accounts with overdraft facility of Rs.5000 after six months and RuPay Debit card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh and RuPay Kisan Card
- Financial Literacy Programme

Phase II (15th August 2015-15th August,2018)-

- Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund for coverage of defaults in overdraft A/Cs
- Micro Insurance
- Unorganized sector Pension schemes like Swavlamban

In addition, in this phase, coverage of households in hilly, tribal and difficult areas would be carried out. Moreover, this phase would focus on coverage of remaining adults in the households and students.

one year, he had exhorted the concerned officials to complete the task before the next Republic Day.

Elaborating the benefits under PMJDY, the Prime Minister said this was not a mere bank account, but had other benefits including an RuPay debit card, Rs 1 lakh accident insurance cover, and an additional Rs. 30,000/- life insurance cover for those opening bank accounts before January 26th, 2015. He said the account performance would be monitored and overdraft facility would be given. The Prime Minister said he had sent 7.25 lakh bank employees, exhorting them to help reach the target of 7.5 crore bank accounts, and bring freedom from financial untouchability.

The Prime Minister referred to the five beneficiary couples who had received account opening kits in today's event at Vigyan Bhawan, and said the ladies appeared to have dressed for a festival. He said they knew that there could be no bigger festival than the opening of a bank account for empowering women.

The Prime Minister said when banks were nationalized in 1969, it was done with the objective of bringing people into the economic mainstream. But that objective had not been achieved till date. After 68 years of independence, not even 68% of India's population had access to banking, he added. He said it is easy for the rich to get a loan at low interest rates. But the poor are forced to seek loans from money-lenders at five times the rate charged to the rich. Is it not the responsibility of the banking

Five important features of the PM Jan Dhan Yojna :

1. Under the scheme, account holders will be provided zero-balance bank account with RuPay debit card, in addition to accidental insurance cover of Rs 1 lakh.
2. Those who open accounts by January 26, 2015 over and above the Rs1 lakh accident, they will be given life insurance cover of Rs 30,000.
3. Six months of opening of the bank account, holders can avail Rs 5,000 loan from the bank.
4. With the introduction of new technology introduced by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a person can transfer funds, check balance through a normal phone which was earlier limited only to smart phones so far.
5. Mobile banking for the poor would be available through National Unified USSD Platform (NUUP) for which all banks and mobile companies have come together.

industry to provide banking access to the poor, the Prime Minister asked.

The Prime Minister illustrated his point through the example of a mother saving money and being forced to hide it somewhere within the house. He said the bank officials who had opened an account for such a mother, had been blessed today.

He said a breakthrough was required to overcome the vicious cycle of poverty and debt, and that breakthrough had been achieved. He said there were similarities between the poor getting access to mobile telephones, and getting access to debit cards. They both had the effect of instilling confidence and pride among the poor, he added.

The Prime Minister referred to the ancient Sanskrit verse: *Sukhasya Moolam Dharma, Dharmasya Moolam Artha, Arthasya Moolam Rajyam* – which puts the onus on the state to involve people in economic activity. "This Government has accepted this responsibility," the

Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said Indians had a habit of saving, and thinking about the future of their children.

The Prime Minister also distributed awards to winners of the Name and Logo contest for this scheme. He observed that those who won prizes were predominantly from non-Hindi speaking states, but had won prizes for coining a name and slogan in Hindi. This is an example of national integration, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Finance Minister said PMJDY would be taken forward in Mission Mode, and the first target of reaching 7.5 crore unbanked families would be achieved by January 26th, 2015.

The Minister of State for Finance, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, said the lady of the house had been given priority in the PMJDY. She said this scheme would touch the lives of everyone in a positive and constructive way. ■

BJP National President's *Pravas*

Kerala

BJP will be stronger in all southern states, including Kerala : Amit Shah

On a mission to help BJP find a strong foothold in Kerala, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 01 September in Thiruvananthapuram criticized



the communal appeasement politics of Congress's UDF and CPM-led LDF and alleged that they were only pursuing vote bank politics and neglecting the state's development.

Addressing a special convention of party functionaries' right from grass roots level on his maiden visit to the state after taking charge as BJP president, he said this was evident from the eagerness shown by both the coalitions for the release of Kerala-based PDP leader Abdul Nasser Madani, facing trial in Bangalore bomb blasts case.

Recalling the BJP's central slogan of "Congress-free India", he said if this goal was to be achieved fully, Congress should be defeated in Kerala also and urged party workers to gear up to face the civic elections early next year and the assembly polls in 2016 in the state, where it has consistently failed to make electoral breakthrough.

Shri Shah made it clear that his objective was to make the BJP stronger in all southern states, including Kerala and also Odisha, Assam and West Bengal and undoubtedly BJP will be stronger in all southern states, including Kerala.

Targeting both Congress and Left, he said, "When the LDF was in power, a resolution was passed by the state assembly unanimously for

Madani's release. "Going a step further, the Congress chief minister (Oomen Chandy) went all the way to Bangalore to meet the PDP leader. Madani is actually a symbol of the politics of communal appeasement pursued by both the fronts."

Shri Shah also said, "It is surprising that Congress, while boasting of being secular, was having partnership with Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in Kerala."

While failing to lead the state to development, these coalitions that alternated in power had also indulged in corruption and "scams are surfacing one by one", he alleged.

On the performance of the Narendra Modi

Government in its first 100 days, he said the policy initiatives indicated the beginning of good days ahead. If the first things that the previous UPA regime did on coming to power was to repeal POTA as part of its "communal appeasement policy", one of the first steps of the present NDA Government was to make efforts to bring back black money stashed in banks abroad. This clearly shows the qualitative difference between the two ministries, he said.

Rubbishing the opposition charge that Modi Government had failed to rein in prices of essential commodities, he said the truth was that inflation index had come down from nine to six per cent.

Another pointer of the country going in the right direction was the growth rate touching 5.7 per cent and foreign investment crossing USD 320 million as revealed by recent statistics, he said.

Referring to the foreign policy, he said the decision to call off talks with Pakistan was a right one in view of the neighbouring country having parleys with separatists in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier in the day, Shri Shah addressed the BJP state committee members and exhorted them to stay united and work for strengthening the party in all tiers.

Jammu & Kashmir

End decades-old dynastic rule and give mandate to BJP so that J&K is brought at par with other States

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah, along with party National General Secretaries Shri JP Nadda and Shri Ram Madhav, in-charge J&K Shri Avinas Rai Khanna and co-in-charge Shri RP



Singh, reached Jammu on July 24 for a two-day visit to have discussions with the local party leadership on poll preparations for the upcoming crucial Assembly elections, as also to have an on-the-spot assessment of the prevailing situation along the international border and elsewhere in the State.

The BJP has declared 44+ as its mission for the upcoming Assembly election and its senior leaders, including Ministers from the Centre and BJP-ruled States, have been crisscrossing the State for almost a month now to meet with the people and prepare ground so that the stated goal is achieved and the BJP government formed in the state for the first time in 66 years.

The BJP leaders during all these visits lambasted the NC-Congress coalition Government for its failure to deliver on any front, for rampant corruption, for trust-deficit and governance-deficit and for its failure to neutralise fissiparous and communal tendencies in the Valley. They also underscored the need for NC-Congress-free J&K.

During the visit Shri Amit Shah, urged the people of the State to end the decades-old dynastic

rule and give mandate to the BJP so that the State is brought at par with other States of the country and social, economic and political life of its people is regenerated. He made these statements while addressing a huge public meeting at Kathua (Jammu) on August 25.

On August 9 also, when he formally took over as party president in the party's national council meet, Shri Amit Shah had urged party leaders and workers to get united and work with a single-minded devotion to end the dynastic rule of the Abdullahs (Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah) and Muftis (Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and Mehbooba Mufti), as they have harmed the State's society, economy and polity and prospered at the cost of the people, the State and the nation.

It bears recalling that on March 25, 2013, Omar Abdullah had also used the floor of the Assembly to taunt the Indian Parliament by questioning its March 15 unanimous resolution on Pakistan and J&K and shamelessly said that "by repeating the words *atoot ang* (integral part) you cannot change the political status of the State". Besides, he had said, "The State had only acceded and not merged with India". The Indian Parliament adopted a resolution two days after Pakistan National Assembly adopted anti-India resolution on J&K. The manner in which Omar Abdullah questioned the Parliamentary resolution was nothing less than a manifestation of his hatred for India and everything Indian, including the Indian Constitution. Between January 2009 and March 25, 2013 and in between March 25, 2013 and till date, he committed many acts – all calculated to harm India and promote communalism and separatism.

Earlier Shri Amit Shah was accorded a very warm welcome when he reached Jammu. His visit has electrified the political scene of Jammu & Kashmir, enthused party workers and supports and rattled and shattered the unpopular and looked-down-upon NC and the Congress leadership. The kind of media attention he drew during these two days was indeed remarkable.

Shah calls on BJP Karyakartas to create Congress-free Maharashtra

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah called on his party workers to create a Congress-free Maharashtra. "For the past 15 years, we have witnessed many scams in the state due to the misgovernance of Congress. Now, we have to make a Congress-free Maharashtra and it is you people, the workers, who have to defeat the Congress," said Shri Shah .



"BJP workers should be angry about all the scams created by Congress. Till the Congress is in power in Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's slogan of 'Congress-free India' won't come true," he added.

He further said that he hoped that BJP would come to power in Maharashtra to set things right again.

"I have asked god that Maharashtra, whose administrative skills were, at one point of time, applauded all over the country, where nobody could dare to raise a finger on a single politician, and where the cooperative movement had shown a new direction to the whole country, the BJP must come to power," Shri Shah said. He will chalk out BJP's strategy for the upcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra during his visit.

Shri Shah, who arrived in Mumbai for the first time following his elevation to the position of party chief, will interact with party workers and boost their morale. BJP leaders in Maharashtra are hopeful that Shri Shah's visit will build up confidence amongst the party cadres.

Meets Maharashtra BJP leaders to chalk out roadmap

BJP President Shri Amit Shah on September 03 said the party's Maharashtra leadership to galvanise the state cadre and make a determined effort to topple the 15-year-old Congress-NCP government in the state.

Shri Shah, who attended the core group meeting at the residence of Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Shri Vinod Tawde in suburban Vile Parle, told the state leaders that the party has to fight the upcoming assembly polls to win and defeat the incumbent government. He also took details about the candidate selection process and also asked to expedite the seat sharing talks with ally Shiv sena.

"Shri Shah said the joint campaign with Shiv Sena will be worked out after the seat sharing talks are concluded. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in the state will be worked out considering his overseas official trips".

The meeting was attended by Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly Shri Eknath Khadse, former State BJP President Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar, State President Shri Devendra Phadanvis, Ms Pankaja Munde besides Shri Tawde.

The meeting lasted for over an hour. Later, Shri Shah visited late Gopinath Munde's wife Pradnya Munde in Worli and had lunch at the residence of BJP MP Ms Poonam Mahajan's home. Meets Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray

BJP national president Shri Amit Shah met Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai. On his first visit to Mumbai after taking over as BJP president, Shri Shah



drove to Matoshree, the Thackeray family residence in suburban Bandra and met Uddhav. Maharashtra BJP president Shri Devendra Fadnavis and leader of the opposition in Maharashtra legislative council Shri Vinod Tawde accompanied Shah. Earlier, Shri Shah also visited the memorial (Smriti Sthal) of late Bal Thackeray at Shivaji Park in Mumbai. ■

Don't let the child die in you : Narendra Modi



The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 5 called for education to be made a force for national character building.

In a unique interaction with students from across the country on Teachers' Day, the Prime Minister said the relevance of Teachers' Day on the birthday of Dr. Radhakrishnan needs to be reinterpreted in a changed world. He said it is essential to highlight the importance of a teacher in society, and restore respect for the teacher in our society. Only then can the teacher mould our new generation, he said.

The Prime Minister said there was a huge demand for good teachers worldwide. Can India not dream of exporting good teachers to the world, the Prime Minister asked.

Highlighting the need for educating the girl child, the Prime Minister referred to his Independence Day address and said he had spoken of building a

separate toilet for girls in every school within a year. He said this was essential to reduce the drop-out rate among girls.

The Prime Minister also expressed happiness at being asked about initiatives for education of the girl child by a female student from Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. He said, such a question, coming from a girl in Bastar, where Maoism has shed so much blood, should awaken the country.

Interacting with students and answering a range of questions posed by them, the Prime Minister referred to his recent visit to Japan, and how he was impressed by their education system.

He said in Japan, the teachers and students together keep the school clean – this is part of their character building. Can we not make it a part of our national character building, the Prime Minister asked. The Prime Minister also mentioned the emphasis on discipline, technology and

scientific temperament, in Japan's education system.

In response to a question on whether he would launch a programme on the lines of "Vanche Gujarat" (Read Gujarat) at the national level, the Prime Minister referred to the Digital India mission, and said he hoped everyone would be able to get connectivity and access to knowledge that they needed. In response to another question, the Prime Minister highlighted the importance of skill development.

The Prime Minister also suggested to eminent citizens that they should try to teach at least one period a week in a nearby school.

He said children could also contribute to nation-building by doing simple things such as striving for cleanliness, and helping to conserve electricity and water. He urged students to play hard, besides studying. He said students must enjoy, and not let the child in them die. ■

Australia trusts India - Abbott

Narendra Modi, Tony Abbott ink civil nuclear pact

India and Australia on September 5 in New Delhi inked a significant civil nuclear agreement which will allow Canberra to supply uranium to the energy-starved country even as the two countries discussed ways to enhance cooperation in key areas of security and trade.

While addressing a joint press conference with his Australian counterpart Tony Abbott, PM Shri Narendra Modi said India considers Australia a very important strategic partner and wishes to deepen the relations.

"The signing of civil nuclear agreement is a historic milestone and it will open a new chapter in our bilateral cooperation," PM Shri Modi said.

Giving details about his meet with Abbott, Modi said, "We have decided to enhance dialogue and increase security and defence cooperation."

"We will increase partnership to fight terrorism and cyber threats and strengthen economic relationship between India and Australia, PM Modi asserted, adding "We welcome investment from Australia too."

PM Modi thanked Abbott for the continuing Australian support for India's Permanent Membership in the UNSC.

He also extended wishes to Australia for the 2015 Cricket World Cup. Interacting with the mediaperons, Australian PM thanked his Indian counterpart

and said the particular day was a remarkable day in his life and in the relation between both the nations.

Abbott said he signed the nuclear agreement as Australia trusts India to do the right thing in this area.

Earlier, Abbott returned two antique Shiva statues to India in presence of PM Modi. Commenting on the aspect, Abbott said: "Restored Shiva statues to the rightful country of



their ownership."

The nuclear pact was signed after a meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Tony Abbott during which the two leaders discussed crucial bilateral, regional and international issues including the situation in Iraq and Ukraine.

India and Australia, which has about a third of the world's recoverable uranium resources and exports nearly 7,000 tonnes of it a year, launched talks on

uranium sales in 2012 after Canberra lifted a long-time ban on exporting the valuable yellowcake to Delhi to meet its ambitious nuclear energy programme.

Aimed at promoting cooperation in the field peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the agreement recognizes India's commitment to and use of nuclear energy with a view to achieving sustainable development and strengthening energy security.

"Australia can play the role of a long-term reliable supplies of uranium to India. It provides for supply of uranium, production of radio isotopes, nuclear safety and other areas of cooperation," as per the pact details.

This pact is significant given that Indian nuclear plants generate around 4680 MW of electricity, of which the 2840 MW was from indigenous uranium while 1840 MW was from imported fuel.

The two Prime Ministers directed the negotiators to conclude the Administrative Arrangements pertaining to the civil nuclear pact at an early date. According to officials, it may take upto two years for India to receive the first consignment of uranium from Australia.

The civil nuclear deal is among the four pacts signed - Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as also in Water Resources Management and sports. ■

Land of the rising sun and of opportunities

By Balbir Punj

The chemistry between Japan's Prime Minister and his Indian counterpart is expected to lead to major improvements in relations between the two countries. It also has important regional implications.

That the Modi sarkar will re-establish global confidence in the Indian growth story by pressing the accelerator was well understood overseas. Within the country, the mega vote of confidence the party won in May demolished all doubts abroad. Soon, traditional foreign critics, like some US political leaders, turned admirers of Prime Minister Narendra Modi within months of the new Government taking charge.

But even within the country, nobody expected the Prime Minister to drive so fast on foreign policy, even though the parade of foreign top dignitaries at his swearing-in may did hint at a clutch of new initiatives. The rapidity of the visits to Bhutan and Nepal changed all that. These visits carried the imprint of the man who meant business, and was different from the staid and often inane nature of such exchanges.

During both visits, Mr Modi received much warmth on account of being a Bharatiya Prime Minister who had the full backing of a billion people. Supporting his diplomatic efforts has been External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. She travelled to Nepal before Mr

Modi and has also visited Vietnam. In Delhi, she has hosted Afghan, British, French, US and German leaders as well.

The cancellation of the Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan also sent the message that this Government has steel in its handshake – no wobbly, namby-pambies that characterised Mr Manmohan Singh and that had baffled his own foreign policy establishment, as at Sharam-el-Sheik in Egypt.

Now on his visit to Japan as Prime Minister, Mr Modi has expectant Nippon corporate honchos eager to listen, beside his India-loving counterpart in Shinzo Abe.

Three influential top company CEOs have already interacted with Mr Modi in New Delhi in the last three months:

The Prime Minister has his sight far and wide and high as he talks about a Japanese commitment for 1.7 trillion dollars over five years in the various infrastructure initiatives on which his own development programme is based.

Tadashi Yanai, chairman of garment conglomerate UNIQLO, Ken Kobyashi, president and CEO of one of the largest business group Mitsubishi, Osamu Suzuki, chairman and CEO of Suzuki Motor Corporation, besides other Japanese corporate worthies.

So, Japan's corporate world has already an intimate assessment of the new Government, and more, the new leadership in New Delhi even as the Prime Minister landed.

So there is already a listening Japan Inc to analyse and respond to the package Mr Modi brings into Tokyo. The Prime Minister has his sight far and wide and high as he talks about a Japanese commitment for 1.7 trillion dollars over five years in the various infrastructure initiatives on which his own development programme is based.

The policy flip-flops of the previous Government was not little responsible for Japanese foreign direct investment slumping from two billion dollars in 2011-12 to 1.3 billion dollars in 2012-13. With 1072 Japanese companies in India, this is just peanuts.

The Prime Minister is reported to be targeting for the doubling of the Japanese

companies here so FDI could also double in five years. The prospects of more Indo-Japanese joint ventures is clearly seen as an advantage to India not only in terms of FDI but also in technology transfers, as Tokyo moves into top gear of manufacturing and construction technologies using artificial intelligence. The Prime Minister has planned this visit in great detail. It is not without reason that the bulk of the top deck of India Inc is travelling with him to Tokyo.

Signalling welcome of Japanese private capital as well as development aid to the massive infrastructure plans of the Modi-led Government, the up to 100 per cent FDI in railways was notified on the eve of the visit.

The vast plan of introducing bullet trains not just between Mumbai and Ahmedabad but also between several other major routes like Delhi-Chandigarh and Chennai-Bangalore-Mysore is being readied in Rail Bhavan. The private enterprise spokesperson, Assocham, has submitted a detailed railway mega plan: Complete separation of passenger and goods traffic with building more high speed freight corridors with industrial cities along and bullet trains connecting several twin mega cities.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency is likely to be the nodal body for the big foreign direct investment in the railway corridor projects. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train track and rolling stocks alone costing over Rs 60,000 crore. "I think this Government has made a good start and the

With the Modi Government clearly plunging for up to 49 per cent FDI in defence production, there is a good opening now for Japanese technology in defence equipment production that could have deeper implications. This is an angle that would be closely examined after the contours of Modi-Abe interaction get known.

message is clear", says Takeshiko Nakao, president of the Asian Development Bank.

The more important outcome of the visit could be a strategic line-up where India and Japan co-ordinate for ensuring that the sea trade routes in East and South East Asian sea-lanes is free from interference of any kind, especially from China.

The visit is also taking place at a time when there is 'collective unease over China's belligerence'. And this unease is despite there being several platforms for dialogue like the East Asia Forum, in which China as well as India and other Asian countries play important role along with US and Russia.

Mr Modi himself has extended a hand of friendship towards China, and a visit from President Xi to India is in planning. But with the Modi Government clearly plunging for up to 49 per cent FDI in defence production, there is a good opening now for Japanese technology in defence equipment production that could have deeper implications. This is an

angle that would be closely examined after the contours of Modi-Abe interaction get known.

How far the Prime Minister would be able to remove the historic Japanese objection to nuclear weapon production and nuclear material trade would be another area of importance in furthering Indo-Japanese collaboration.

There is a clear divide within Japan on nuclear energy programmes after what happened at Fukushima four years ago. On the other hand, Japan is the world's largest importer of rare earth materials – many of which India could supply, and some of them having a critical role to play in nuclear energy production. Japan desperately needs to free itself from dependence on China in rare earth supplies.

In key areas like nuclear supplies, rare earth imports from India, Japanese capital and technology for the high growth trajectory of the Modi Government and the central vision of Prime Minister Modi as he looks East more and more for a stable relationship of security, especially of sea lanes and open trade, the success rate would depend much on the measure of goodwill personally between the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

Mr Abe is on record even during his first stint in power in 2007 as having declared that "a strong India is in the best interest of Japan". For Mr Modi, the Japanese response would also be a message to global powers that India is re-starting a role as a global economic power. ■

(The writer is a renowned columnist)

100 days of Modi Sarkar: 10 significant developments

By Saswat Panigrahi

Ever since Narendra Modi assumed Office, he has been continuing his focus on 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance' in every step.

On September 2, Modi Sarkar completes 100 days in Office. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Council of Ministers took Oath of Office and Secrecy on May 26, 10 days after the verdict 2014 was announced.

News starved media, joined by the Congress and its cohorts are desperately searching for the report card of Narendra Modi Government as it enters 100 days in the Office.

Honestly, all an independent commentator could say for now is that the story of India has changed between before and after May 26, the day Narendra Damodardas Modi took change as India's 14th Prime Minister. He is simply focusing on fixing the 10-year-long policy paralysis of the previous UPA dispensation. His 100 days of work shows Modi Sarkar is on the right track.

Narendra Modi Government has shouldered loads of hopes and aspirations of the people. The Prime Minister looks confident to fulfill those hopes and aspirations. In the last 100 days, the nation has moved from an era of policy paralysis to an era of policy priorities. In 100 days in Office, the Narendra Modi Government has successfully prepared a roadmap for India's development.

Ever since Modi took the reins, he has been continuing his focus on 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance' in every step. Modi Government's sheet

anchor for governance 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (Together with all, development for all) has instilled a sense of confidence among the citizens. Undoubtedly, a pro-active approach has been adopted by the Government to fulfill the aspirations of the people. There has been a major shift in work culture across Ministries. A new sense of accountability has gripped the bureaucracy. There is a tremendous amount of pressures on both the Ministers and the bureaucrats to fulfill the tide of expectations of people.

The following are the 10 things Modi Sarkar has achieved in its 100 days in Office:

1. Bringing back Black Money

The first decision Modi Sarkar took after assuming Office was setting up of a Special Investigative Team (SIT), headed by former Supreme Court Judge MB Shah, to unearth illegal money stashed in tax havens. The SIT has already prepared a comprehensive action plan, including creation of an institutional structure that could enable India to fight the battle against black money.

2. Bringing economy back on track

In a bid to arrest inflation, Modi Government asked States to delist fruits and vegetables from the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC Act). This decision has protected farmers from the middle men and succeeded in preventing hoarding. This in turn has helped in taming inflation.

With inflation on check, economic growth is picking up steadily. It is important to note that Indian economy has thrown

Narendra Modi Government has shouldered loads of hopes and aspirations of the people. The Prime Minister looks confident to fulfill those hopes and aspirations. In the last 100 days, the nation has moved from an era of policy paralysis to an era of policy priorities. In 100 days in Office, the Narendra Modi Government has successfully prepared a roadmap for India's development.

up the best growth figures in two-and-a-half years. The GDP growth in April-June quarter is the highest in the last nine quarters. This is a sufficient indication that economy is turning around under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

3. Jan Dhan Yojana

Modi Sarkar has rolled out the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. The ambitious scheme aims at a comprehensive financial inclusion by opening of bank accounts of people who have been left out in the process so far. On the inauguration day, a record 1.5 crore bank accounts were opened under this scheme.

4. Infrastructural development

The focal point of the Union Budget 2014 was infrastructure, a sector which was neglected in the last 10 years under the Congress-led UPA rule. The Government has attracted large-scale investments in infrastructural sector by reviving the Special Economic Zone (SEZ), streamlining the Public Private Partnership (PPP) models and creating Infrastructural Investment Trusts (InvITs). Work for the ambitious Diamond Quadrilateral rail network – connecting major metros across the country – is in the full swing. The Narendra Modi Government has laid the groundwork for its ambitious ‘100 smart cities’ project. To develop infrastructure in rural areas, the Government has launched Syama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission and Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana. The Government is also working on strengthening and modernising the boarder infrastructure.

5. Abolishing GOMs, EGoMs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has abolished all Group of Ministers (GoMs) and Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoMs) which were set up during the UPA tenure. The move is expediting the process of decision-making in the Ministries and ushering in a greater accountability in the system.

6. Streamlining bureaucracy

To take administration closer to people and ensure that governance doesn't get stuck in red

Modi Sarkar has rolled out the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. The ambitious scheme aims at a comprehensive financial inclusion by opening of bank accounts of people who have been left out in the process so far. On the inauguration day, a record 1.5 crore bank accounts were opened under this scheme.

tape, the Narendra Modi Government is streamlining the bureaucracy with thrust on transparency. The Government has amended the All India Service (Conduct) Rules, 1968. The amended guidelines mandate that the bureaucrats must maintain political neutrality, take decisions and make recommendations on merit alone and take decisions solely in public interest.

7. Disbanding Planning Commission

Narendra Modi Government has disbanded the 64-year-old Planning Commission. In 1950, then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru formed Planning Commission on the line of erstwhile Soviet Union with an aim to formulating India's five year plans. But during the 60-year-

long Congress rule, the Commission was mostly used as a parking lot for cronies of the grand old party. They did nothing apart from sucking up to Congress and its Prime Ministers. Narendra Modi Government is in the process of replacing the Planning Commission with a new institution keeping in view of India's needs amid changing global economic scenario.

8. Recasting judicial appointment

In a path-breaking initiative, Narendra Government has got the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Bill passed in both the Houses of Parliament. The Bill scraps the Collegium System of appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts and established a six-member body for the appointment of the Judges. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will head the NJAC. Besides, the judiciary would be represented by two senior Judges of the Supreme Court. Law Minister and two eminent personalities will be the other members of the Commission.

9. Weeding out archaic laws

The Narendra Modi Government is working overtime to weed out archaic rules and legislations from the statute books. Most of them are laws introduced during the colonial British rule and

still prevalent in the country. These dysfunctional laws have no relevance in the present day. These are obsolete laws which only hamper governance by creating confusions. It only complicates the legislation process and stand as a hindrance within the system.

10. Bilateral diplomacy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's SAARC diplomacy was indeed a bold step towards creating an atmosphere for multilateral economic cooperation.

The common challenges that these nations face have made Narendra Modi create a common agenda of growth with mutual cooperation. During his visit to Nepal and Bhutan, Narendra Modi used the greater Hindu heritage as an instrument of foreign policy. Modi Government has given a strong message to Pakistan by calling off the Foreign Secretary-level talks after Pakistani High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit met Kashmiri separatists despite clear no from Foreign Ministry.

For the first time in India's history, New Delhi under the leadership of Narendra Modi has asserted that it can't be bullied by the pressure from the Kashmiri separatists and various lobbyists. Narendra Modi's ongoing Japan visit underlines the fact that India-Japan Strategic and Global cooperation can shift the balance of power in Asia.

100 days is too short a time to judge a Government. Let's wait and watch with patience for the India's real growth story to take shape in the days to come. ■

(The writer is a senior columnist)

BJP on 'Mission 60 plus' in Haryana Assembly polls : Rajnath Singh

Former BJP National President and Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh on August 31 asked party workers in Haryana to make an all-out effort to realise 'Mission 60-plus' in the upcoming state Assembly elections.



Shri Singh exuded confidence that BJP will once again prove the political pundits and analysts wrong by forming the government on its own in Haryana and hit out at the ruling Congress over its leaders' alleged involvement in land scams and corruption.

The tenure of the 90-member Haryana House will end on October 27 and the Election Commission hopes to complete the Assembly polls in the state before the third week of October.

With an aim to garner all 90 Assembly seats on its own, Shri Singh asked BJP leaders from the State to revise the number of their "Mission 46 plus (majority needed to form govt in Haryana) to Mission 60 plus now."

He was addressing a public gathering in Hathin in Palwal district in Haryana on the culmination of the BJP's 'Vijay Sankalp Yatra.'

He slammed the Congress, saying the party does not have any issue to raise and therefore, keeps crying hoarse over the post of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

"They do not have any issue to raise. But they always keep raising the issue of Leader of Opposition post. They must know for this, they need 10 per cent minimum seats," he said.

Mocking the Congress, he said, "Jab kad hein naheen raha, lekin pad unko chahiye (they have lost stature, but they are adamant on the post)." ■

Amit Shah announces members of Parliamentary Board, CEC, & Margdarshak Mandal

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah announced new 12-member BJP Parliamentary Board on August 27, 2014. It includes Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Arun Jaitley, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri JP Nadda, Shri Ramlal, apart from party president Shri Amit Shah and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Party General Secretary Shri JP Nadda are the new entrants to the Board.

The BJP president also announced a 15-Member Central Election Committee which includes Shri Amit Shah, Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Rajnath Singh, Shri Arun Jaitley, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri JP Nadda, Shri Jai Oram, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, Shri Ramlal and BJP National Mahila Morcha president Vijaya Rahatkar.

A body of Margdarshak Mandal was also announced by the BJP President. The Margdarshak Mandal includes Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri L.K Advani, Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri M.M Joshi. ■

PM sets up Committee to identify obsolete laws within three months

Prime Minister has approved the constitution of a Committee to carry out a review to identify obsolete laws. The newly-constituted Committee will examine all Acts recommended to be repealed by the Committee on Review of Administrative Laws, which had been appointed by the Union Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in 1998. The Prime Minister has expressed concern that out of the 1382 Acts recommended for repeal by that Committee, only 415 have been repealed so far. He has called for a focused and result-oriented exercise to systematically weed out archaic laws and rules. The Committee will also examine Acts and Rules which may have become obsolete within the last ten to fifteen years.

The Committee will be chaired by Shri R. Ramanujam, Secretary PMO. Shri V.K. Bhasin, former Secretary, Legislative Department, will be its other member. The Committee will submit its report within three months, so that a comprehensive Bill can be introduced in the Winter Session of Parliament, based on its recommendations. ■

PM condoles loss of life in floods in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has condoled the loss of life in the floods in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam. The Prime Minister has sanctioned Rs. 2 lakhs for the next of kin of each of the deceased, and Rs. 50,000 for each of the seriously injured, from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. ■

Om Prakash Mathur appointed election incharge of Maharashtra

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah appointed Shri Om Prakash Mathur as in-charge for the Maharashtra assembly elections. ■

President of India appoints new Governors

The President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Justice (Retd.) Shri Palaniswamy Sathasivam as the Governor of Kerala, Shri Kalyan Singh as the Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala as the Governor of Karnataka, Shri Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao as the Governor of Maharashtra and Smt. Mridula Sinha as the Governor of Goa. ■

ODISHA

Assess why BJP failed in elections in Odisha : JP Nadda

The three-day training camp and self-assessment session of Odisha BJP began on 05 September in Puri. Several State and district functionaries of the party attended the session which was inaugurated by BJP national general secretary Shri Jagat Prasad Nadda.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Nadda said candidates who lost in the last General Elections should assess the cause of their defeat. The results of the General Elections reflected that Modi wave swept across the country except some Eastern States including Odisha. Despite large scale corruption in various sectors and people languishing in poverty in Odisha, people voted BJD back to power. This was possible as the ruling party successfully managed to win the confidence of the electorate while the BJP failed, he said.

Shri Nadda said BJP should reach out to people and involve them in the party's programmes. The party should cash in on the corruption and scams of the ruling BJD and gain confidence of the electorate to come to power in 2019 elections.

BJP State president Shri KV Singhdeo, who presided over the session, said the main thrust of the party would be to reach out to common people and address their issues. The session is aimed at instilling confidence in the rank and file of the party's State unit which would help it perform better in the coming elections, he added.

Among others, senior BJP leaders Shri Bijay Mohapatra, former presidents Shri Suresh Pujari, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan, Smt. Surama Padhi, Smt. Sanchita Mohanty, Shri Dillip Ray, Shri Jaynarayan Mishra, Shri Basant Kumar Panda, Shri Nayan Kumar Mohanty, Shri Bhruagu Buxipatra, office bearers of State and districts units of BJP and the party's candidates in last Parliament and Assembly elections were present on the opening day of the camp.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Rajnath Singh asks Omar to identify land for rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants

In a major step towards bringing back Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland, the Home Minister on September 5, 2014 asked Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to identify land for their rehabilitation in the Valley.

The BJP led NDA Government has committed itself to the return of some 62,000 Kashmiri Pandit families with "full dignity" to their homes in the Valley and has earmarked Rs 500 crore for this in the 2014-15 Union budget. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has written to Omar Abdullah seeking help for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits.

Shri Singh suggested that the land may be identified near the native place from where they migrated and also advised that this should be done in such a manner there was adequate security in and around the area.

The Bharatiya Janata Party had in its poll manifesto promised that it would bring back Kashmiri Pandits to their homeland in a dignified manner. At present, there are about 62,000 registered Kashmiri migrant families who migrated from the Kashmir Valley to either Jammu, Delhi or to other parts of the country after the onset of militancy in the border state.

KERALA

BJP sees senior Left leader's role in RSS swayamsevak's murder ; Demands CBI probe

The Kerala BJP on 04 September 2014 said that a senior CPI (M) leader had played a role in the conspiracy behind the brutal murder of RSS leader Manoj of Kathiroor, Kannur by a Marxist killer gang. The BJP and RSS boycotted an all-party peace meet convened in Kannur by the District Collector saying that such meets were just a farce when the Government was not ready to announce a CBI probe into the murder.

Former State BJP President Shri PK Krishnadas said, "Nothing less than a CBI probe into the murder is acceptable as this was the result of a conspiracy hatched by CPI(M) leaders. The Marxist party's Kannur model politics of fascism and Stalinism should not recur in this land, he said".

Shri Krishnadas pointed out that Karat had during

his recent visit to Kannur said that the “Kannur Model” functioning of the CPI(M) was effective in confronting the BJP and that Manoj was murdered after this. This was proof of the involvement of the CPI(M)’s national leadership in the murder, Krishnadas said.

Accusing the CPI(M) of trying to extend its “Kannur Model” to other areas, Shri Krishnadas wanted the alleged role of Karat in the conspiracy for Shri Manoj’s murder be probed. “We are not going to confine our protests against Shri Manoj murder to Kerala. We are planning to make this a crucial issue in the national level,” he added.

BJP leaders will meet Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala to demand a CBI probe into Shri Manoj’s murder. They have already made it clear that they will approach the Centre with the demand for a CBI investigation if the Kerala Government refuses to heed to that.

Noteworthy, Shri Manoj (42), Kannur district Sharirik Shikshan Pramukh of the RSS, was brutally hacked to death by a Marxist killer gang at Diamond Mukku in Kathiroor near Thalassery. A friend of Shri Manoj, Pramod (50), was hospitalized with critical injuries. The BJP and the RSS had observed a State-wide shutdown in protest against the killing.

Kannur is infamous as Kerala’s Marxist heartland with a history of numerous incidents of murderous political violence in all of which the CPI (M) had invariably been on one side. This politics of settling scores with blood has over the time come to be known as the “Kannur Model” of the CPI (M).

WEST BENGAL

BJP will be the only viable alternative in Bengal

The Bengal BJP should grow not only numerically but also ideologically by banking on the principles upheld by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi who wants the party to break free from vote-bank politics pursued by the other outfits and concentrate on all round development of the nation, an assemblage of intellectuals and professionals who met on Friday in a brainstorming session concurred.

Keeping in tune with the road map shown by the Prime Minister and “ready to take up the challenge in 2016” Assembly elections, the State BJP is planning to widen its base among various sections of the society, party Rajya Sabha member Dr. Chandan Mitra told media persons on the sidelines of the meeting.

“Bengal had declined in every respect; from culture to economy and from education to industry in the past 36 years of Left and Trinamool Congress rule. This trend must be reversed and Bengal must be restored to its former glory. We want to arrest this decline with the help of the people from all walks of life. We want to work together with everyone who wants to change the current regime,” he said calling upon the intellectuals to prepare a road map for the saffron outfit so that the party could address the real need of the hour.

The session was attended amongst others by magician PC Sorcar, former MP Bikram Sarkar, actor Nimu Bhowmick, intellectuals like Chandreyi Alam, retired bureaucrats as also a galaxy of businessmen and professionals.

Terming the meeting as highly successful, BJP leaders said such meetings would be held “on frequent intervals and will be organized throughout the State so as to bring the people together with the BJP.”

Ruing that “instead of industrializing Bengal the political parties that ruled the State have de-industrialized it”, he said “the BJP has to take upon itself the challenge of rebuilding the State’s economy.”

Like political activities and agitations against flawed policies of a Government, intellectual movements also played a definite role in ideological expansion of a outfit, Mitra said, adding “intellectual movement is needed because it creates legitimacy in the people’s mind.” Dr Mitra summing up the speeches given by the other speakers said adding “this is the only way to build the BJP in Bengal both in numbers and in quality so that we can bring about the end of a misrule of 36 years shared by the Left and the Trinamool.”

“The message of Prime Minister Modi has to be implemented to let Bengal flourish economically, politically, culturally as well as industrially once again,” he maintained and said in West Bengal the BJP will be the only viable alternative in the near future. ■

J&K floods a 'national - level disaster'; toll over 150

The flood situation in Jammu and Kashmir was declared a “national-level disaster” by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 07 even as the Army alone evacuated 15,000 people from inundated areas across the State.

As more personnel of the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), Air Force and Army were pressed into action, the Prime Minister asked other States to also pitch in. Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh made a separate appeal to NGOs to mobilize their resources to help deal with the situation. Five additional NDRF columns and 70 boats were sent to the flood-affected areas on September 07 mornings.

The Air Force alone airlifted 850 people over the past two days; 449 were evacuated on Sunday. Chief



Minister Omar Abdullah took to Twitter to appeal to people not to panic and assured

that help was on its way. Meanwhile, after the aerial survey, Shri Modi took stock of the flood situation and relief operations in meetings with the State administration in Jammu and Srinagar. Before leaving for J&K – where he announced Rs. 1,000-crore assistance in addition to Rs. 1,100 crore already made available to the State government through the State Disaster Relief Fund – he convened a crisis review meeting with the Cabinet Secretary and other senior officials in the national capital.

The Centre also announced Rs. 2 lakh ex-gratia to the next of kin of those who died in the floods. Also, Rs. 50,000 would be given from the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to those grievously injured. Though official figure of the deaths is not available, by all accounts at least 160 people have lost their lives so far. ■



PM announces Rs.1,000 crore aid for J&K

The Prime Minister announced a special assistance of Rs.1,000 crore for the flood-hit Jammu and Kashmir besides a Rs.2 lakh compensation from the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund for the kin of the dead and Rs.50,000 for those seriously injured.

Shri Modi, who took an aerial view of the flood-affected Jammu and Srinagar regions, said the current crisis was a “national level disaster”. He assured the people of the state that they were not alone in this crisis. “I would like to assure the people of the state that it is not their crisis alone. It is a crisis for the whole country,” Shri Modi said.

The prime minister also offered to extend all possible help to the flood-affected people in the Pakistan-administered Kashmir. “India will never hesitate from doing work of humanity,” Shri Modi said, adding the government was prepared to help the people of Pakistan-administered Kashmir in every capacity.

Over 100 people have died in floods in the state due to incessant rainfall during the week. Shri Narendra Modi arrived at the Jammu airport here Sunday, specially to conduct an aerial survey of the flood-ravaged areas of the state. He was received by Governor Shri N.N. Vohra and Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah. ■

Practice of Meditation

By Swami Sivananda

A baby's eyes are riveted on a flower or a butterfly. It keeps looking at the object with unwinking eyes, eyes full of wonder, for minutes together. A mother calls her teenage daughter to go and have lunch, but there is no response. The call is repeated twice, thrice; still there is no response. The girl just does not hear, though her ears are very much open. Nor is she deaf. What could be the reason, then, for her not hearing? Her mind is immersed in a Sherlock Holmes or a Harold Robbins; her eyes are glued to the lines; her face is buried in the book.

In the dilapidated building of an elementary school, the class is on. The teacher explains something and then asks the children, "Did it enter?". There is an instant response from the backmost bench: "Only the tail has not entered yet!". The earnest voice belongs to a boy who has been all along intently watching the struggle of a rat to wriggle out of the class room through a hole in the wall. It has managed to squeeze in its body, but its tail is still not gone in. Perhaps the hole is blocked.

These are everyday examples of concentration.

Attention, concentration, meditation—these are different degrees of the same process. It is fixing the mind on a single object or idea to the exclusion of everything else.

In his book, "Concentration



and Meditation", holy Master Sivananda presents a most beautiful scene to illustrate what is meant by concentration. In this, Dronacharya tests the power of concentration of his students, the Pandavas. A basin of water is placed on the ground. Above, a clay bird is kept rotating. The archer has to hit the bird by looking at its reflection

in the water.

Drona: "O Yudhishtira, what do you see?"

Yudhishtira: "O Acharya (teacher), I see the bird to be aimed at, the tree on which it is sitting and yourself also."

Drona: "What do you see, Bhima?"

Bhima: "I see the bird, the tree, yourself, Nakula, Sahadeva, the tables and chairs, etc."

Drona: "What do you see, Nakula?"

Nakula: "I see the bird, the tree, yourself, Arjuna, Bhima, the garden, the streamlet, etc."

Drona: "What do you see, Sahadeva?"

Sahadeva: "I see the bird to be aimed at, yourself, Arjuna, Bhima, Yudhishtira, the horses, carriages, all the onlookers, several cows, etc."

Drona: "Now then, Arjuna, what do you see?"

Arjuna: "O Revered Guru! I see nothing but the bird to be aimed at."

That is concentration. Arjuna's is the power of concentration. Concentration, when developed, becomes meditation. *To be continued*

(This article is a chapter from the book, What Does Swami Sivananda Teach? by Sri N. Ananthanarayanan.)
Source: Divine Life Society