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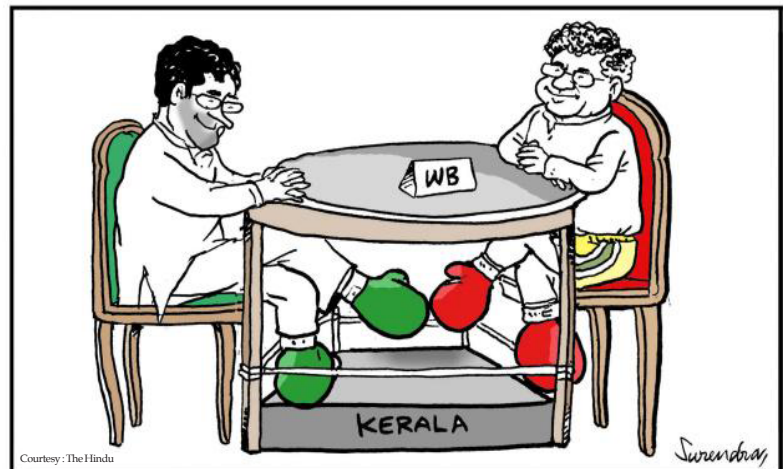
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*Therefore without attachment, without interruption, perfectly perform prescribed actions; since by performing prescribed actions a person achieves the highest good.*

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 19)

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"India's economic progress can't only depend on a few cities. Ours is a big nation. This initiative makes villages centres of growth."

-Narendra Modi

"Congratulating NDA Allies, BJP workers, organization officials, respective CMs and the people of the state over unprecedented success in assembly bypolls of Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh."

-Amit Shah

## Holi : March 24, 2016

**H**oli is an ancient Hindu festival with its cultural rituals celebrated by Hindus all over the world. It is celebrated at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day (Purnima) of the lunar month Phalgun (February/March). This festival is mentioned in various Puranas, Dasakumara Charita, and by the famous poet Kalidasa. The celebration of Holi is also mentioned in the 7th-century Sanskrit drama, Ratnavali. The festival of Holi caught the fascination of European traders and British colonial staff by the 17th century.



Days before the festival people start gathering wood and combustible materials for the bonfire in parks, community centers, near temples and other open spaces for Holika dahan a day before the Holi. On top of the pyre is an effigy to signify Holika (Holika dahan) who tricked Prahalad into the fire. Inside homes, people stock up on colour pigments, food, party drinks and festive seasonal foods such as gujiya, mathri, malpuas and other regional delicacies. Children and youth spray colored powder solutions (Gulal) at each other, laugh and celebrate, while elders tend to smear dry colored powder (Abir) on each other's face. The festival has many purposes. First and foremost, it celebrates the beginning of the new season, spring. In 17th century literature, it was identified as a festival that celebrated agriculture, commemorated good spring harvests and the fertile land. Hindus believe it is a time of enjoying spring's abundant colours and saying farewell to winter.

Holi festivities mark the beginning of new year to many Hindus, as well as a justification to reset and renew ruptured relationships, end conflicts and accumulated emotional impurities from past. Like Holika Dahan, Kama Dahanam is celebrated in some parts of India. The festival of colours in these parts is called Rangpanchami, and occurs on fifth day after Panchami (full moon). Holi frolic and celebrations begin the morning after Holika bonfire. There is no tradition of holding puja (prayer), and the day is for partying and pure enjoyment. Children and youth groups form armed with dry colours, coloured solution, means to fill and spray others with coloured solution (pichkaris), balloons that can hold coloured water, and other creative means to colour their targets. ■



## Functioning of parliament is crucial for success of our democracy

The budget session of the parliament has started with the president's address. The president Pranab Mukherjee has rightly echoed the sentiments of the people of India who expect parliament to function and deliver in the national interest. The parliament is temple of our democracy and ensuring its successful functioning is the responsibility of every political party and the members of both the houses. The experience of the last session is still fresh in the minds of the people and the obstructionist approach of the Congress on one issue or the other not only blocked many initiatives of national interest but also stalled many important legislations. In our parliamentary democracy the difference of opinion is a welcome sign but this difference should not become so rigid that the functioning of democracy becomes impossible. The spirit of democracy lies in sorting out differences and moving ahead but those refusing to move ahead also get exposed before the people and the people are supreme in democracy. The parliamentarians and political parties should heed to the concerns raised by the president and come together in parliament for healthy debate and discussion.

The BJP led NDA government is working for the all round development of the country with the sole mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. Many new initiatives have been taken which have started yielding results. The government is committed for the development of poor, prosperity of farmers and employment of the youth. There are many schemes to eradicate poverty and give social security to the poor section of the society. The financial inclusion scheme 'Jan Dhan Yojana' is yielding results and Direct Benefit Transfer scheme has been extended upto 42 government schemes. In almost every sector fast transformation is taking place with the help of high speed changes on unprecedented scale. On every front fast pace of development is visible as a new era of hopes dawns on the people of India. The farmers who are becoming beneficiaries of schemes like 'more crop, per drop' and 'crop insurance scheme' becoming bolder in their approach in embracing advanced methods of agriculture. Make In India, Startup India, Mudra, Skill India etc. have created new hope for our young people who are now having huge opportunities open before them and seeking to reap maximum benefits from these schemes. The tie-up with foreign nations on different fronts as a result of the bold initiatives taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created a new global image of India and people across the world are showing their faith in Indian economy. A positive environment may be felt everywhere and the country is seen marching ahead on the path of progress.

The parliament represents the aspirations of the people of India. The debate and discussions taking place in parliament symbolize strength of our democracy and faith of our people in democratic institutions. Its successful functioning is crucial for success of our democracy. Parliament reflects the supreme will of people. President Pranab Mukherjee has rightly said that the democratic temper calls for debate and discussion and not disruption or obstruction. Obstructionism has never been acceptable in India and those indulging in such activities have been made to pay by the people of India. While the government has been constantly striving for smooth and constructive conduct of parliamentary business, the opposition particularly Congress has failed to reciprocate on several occasions.

Congress needs to take corrective measures this time as the budget session is very important for the nation and to ensure that the country keeps marching ahead the parliament should function as per the aspirations of the people. ■

## Democratic temper calls for debate and discussion, and not disruption of obstruction : Pranab Mukherjee

Parliament reflects the supreme will of the people, President Pranab Mukherjee on 23 February 2016 called upon all MPs to discharge their responsibilities in a spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. In his customary address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament he outlined government's agenda in the coming financial year; he also declared that the government will constantly strive for smooth and construction conduct of Parliamentary business "Our Parliament reflects the supreme will of the people. Democratic temper calls for debate and discussion, and not disruption of obstruction.

"My government will constantly strive for smooth and constructive conduct of Parliamentary business. I urge all Members of Parliament to discharge their solemn responsibilities in a spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation. Let us all collectively endeavour to build a flourishing and prosperous India," he said.

The President remarks assume significance in the context of repeated disruption of business on various issues, loss of time of Parliament and the stalling of legislative business in Rajya

Sabha where the government lacks majority.

"Let noble thoughts come from all directions, should be the spirit behind the debate in this temple of democracy. Being a member of this great institution bestows great honour as well as important responsibilities," Mukherjee said.



On national security

Asserting that the government is fully committed to firmly dealing with all challenges concerning the security of the country, the President said terrorism is a global threat and strong counter-terrorism measures are necessary worldwide to eradicate it.

"Let me congratulate the security forces in successfully foiling the recent attack at the Pathankot airbase by terrorists. Firm and effective steps will be taken to deal with any situation arising out

of cross-border terrorism," he said.

He said the government believes in a secure and prosperous future for the neighbourhood while committing itself to the principle of 'the world is one family'.

The President said the government is committed to

forging a "mutually respectful relationship" with Pakistan and in creating an environment of cooperation in combating cross-border terrorism.

"My government is committed to forging a mutually respectful relationship with Pakistan and in creating an environment of cooperation in combating cross border terrorism," Shri Mukherjee said while referring to the government's foreign policy.

He said the government believes in a secure and



prosperous future for the neighbourhood while committing itself to the principle of 'the world is one family'.  
'Development for all'

Elaborating on the focus of the government 'development for all' beyond just the economic advancements that dominate headlines, the President said the country must ensure that the poor and deprived were truly empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives. "Development for all means that backward sections of society are equally valued and are genuine stakeholders in the country's

**'Development for all' also meant development of the entire world which was why India has to be a responsible member of the global comity of nations helping humanity solve major challenges such as terrorism, climate change and financial instability.**

progress. Development for all implies that we tackle the pollution, traffic, and garbage problems that plague our cities," he said.

Shri Mukherjee said 'development for all' also meant development of the entire world which was why India has to be a responsible member of the global comity of nations helping humanity solve major challenges such as terrorism, climate change and financial instability.

He said the government is focused on poverty eradication, farmers' prosperity and massive employment generation.

"The overriding goal for my government is poverty eradication," he said, adding the poorest of the poor were entitled to the first charge on the nation's resources.

'Setting up of e-platform for farmers'

The Government is setting up a national online agriculture market platform to connect 585 regulated wholesale markets to ensure fair remunerative prices for the farmers, the President said.

Addressing the joint sitting of Parliament, he said, 'Kisaano ki Samridhi' (the well-being of farmers) is vital to India's prosperity.

"To provide the best market price to farmers, the unified National Agriculture Market is working towards setting up a common e-market platform to connect 585 regulated wholesale markets, thereby making India, One Food Zone, One Country, One Market."

Shri Mukherjee said the government has taken several steps for welfare of farmers, like Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna, which is the biggest ever government contribution to crop insurance with the lowest ever premium rates for farmers.

He said soil health cards will be issued to 14 crore farm holdings by March 2017.

The 20-page speech was heard in rapt attention by members in the central hall of Parliament whenever he spoke of the government's achievements and new announcements.

Below are the highlights of his speech:

- I am confident that your deliberations will live up to the task reposed in us by our fellow citizens
- Going forth, we will all be partners in progress and development of our great country
- Our development philosophy is captured in 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' - the fundamental tenet which guides my government
- My government in particular is focused on 'Garibon Ki Unnati', 'Kisano Ki Samridhi' and 'Yuvaon Ka Rozgar'
- My Government has launched 3 new social security and pension schemes
- Government is committed to provide housing for all
- Overriding goal of my government is poverty eradication. Gandhi Ji had said "Poverty is the worst kind of violence"
- Well-being of farmers is vital to the nation's prosperity
- Government is committed to the

- philosophy of 'per drop, more crop'
- Highest urea production was achieved in 2015
- Government realises the role of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries sectors
- Rural development is one of our top priorities
- Jan Dhan yojna has gone beyond mere opening of bank accounts to becoming a platform of poverty eradication by offering basic financial services and security to the poor
- Direct Benefit Transfer has so far been extended to 42 schemes funded by my government
- Pahal has become the largest cash transfer programme of its kind in the world with nearly 15 crore beneficiaries
- 26th November- the day on which the Constitution was adopted - is now celebrated as Constitution Day to deepen constitutional values amongst citizens of the country
- 20,000 madrasa children are undergoing skill training under 'Nayi-Manzil' scheme in the country
- The government has recently launched farmer friendly PM 'Fasal Bima Yojana'
- India continues to be highest milk producing country with a growth rate of 6.3%
- Youth are the future of the country and ensuring employment for them is our top goal
- We are driving job creation through an integrated step of initiatives - Make In India, Startup India, Mudra, Skill India etc.
- States governments are being encouraged and supported to simplify processes and invest in infrastructure to improve investment climate
- Government's aim is to create a Shikshit, Swasth and Swachh Bharat (educated, healthy and clean India)
- Government committed to mutually respectful ties with Pakistan, in

- creating environment of cooperation, combating cross-border terror
- Government firmly believes economic development and environmental protection can co-exist
- Happy to inform that we successfully eliminated Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus well before global targeted timeline of December 2015
- We have strong focus on holistic healthcare, strengthening Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy
- My Government has launched the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
- During the last year, 342 camps were conducted, aids and assistive devices

**The government has envisaged increasing the renewable energy capacity manifold to 175 GW by 2022. Today under my Government, solar power is affordable and accessible to thousands of people. In the year 2015, India witnessed the highest ever. generation of electricity.**

- distributed to over 1.7 lakh persons with disabilities
- My government firmly believes economic development and environmental protection can co-exist
- As part of the Namami Gange Programme, my government is implementing several projects in 118 cities
- The government has been unsparing in punishing those who are found guilty of corruption
- The government has envisaged increasing the renewable energy capacity manifold to 175 GW by 2022
- Today under my Government, solar power is affordable and accessible to thousands of people
- In the year 2015, India witnessed the highest ever generation of electricity

- The government introduced dynamic and comprehensive reforms in Coal sector and conducted transparent auction/allocation of over 70 coal blocks
- Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 was amended and auction of mines has commenced
- My Government has initiated several ambitious measures for improving sanitation standards at railway stations and trains
- Highest ever increase in rail capital expenditure was achieved in 2015
- The Government is also working on a

**We must ensure that the poor and deprived are truly empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives. Sabka Vikas means that backward sections of society are equally valued and are genuine stakeholders in the country's progress.**

new civil aviation policy with thrust on connectivity to small cities

- Domestic air passenger traffic has registered a substantial growth during the year
- Setting up world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing across the country remains a priority for my Government
- The country recorded the highest ever software exports during 2015
- Varanasi and Jaipur have been declared as the first two Indian cities to be part of the UNESCO Creative Cities network
- GDP growth has increased making India the world's fastest growing economy among large economies
- Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have decreased. India recorded highest ever foreign

- exchange reserves in 2015
- Government's concerted efforts to tackle menace of black money have started yielding results
- The government launched Gold Monetization Scheme and Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme in Nov 2015 to ensure productive utilization of idle assets
- Defence procurement procedure has been streamlined with a focus on indigenously designed, developed & manufactured weapon systems
- Working to ensure that our Armed Forces will be equipped with the most capable and sophisticated armaments in the world
- My Government has continued to pursue a bold and proactive foreign policy
- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the world is one family. My Government is committed to this principle
- We reached out to the world, both on land and sea
- Government played a proactive role in addressing climate change by launching International Solar Alliance
- My Government is focused on Sabka Vikas, beyond just the economic advancements that dominate headlines
- We must ensure that the poor and deprived are truly empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives
- Sabka Vikas means that backward sections of society are equally valued and are genuine stakeholders in the country's progress
- Parliament reflects the supreme will of people. Democratic temper calls for debate and discussion and not disruption or obstruction
- Government will constantly strive for smooth and constructive conduct of Parliamentary business

## Congress reduced Assam to among five poorest state of the country : Amit Shah

**B**JP National President Shri Amit Shah on 10 February, 2016 hit out at Congress and alleged that illegal influx from Bangladesh was affecting the job prospects of locals in Assam and said if BJP is voted to power, it would stop the entry of immigrants into the state.

Shri Shah who was in Kokrajhar, Assam to attend the 13th anniversary of Bodoland accord signed during the NDA regime in 2003, said, "The process of detecting and deporting illegal immigrants has started."

He also announced the BJP's electoral alliance with Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF) for 2016 assembly polls said that BPF chief has sought a Rs. 1000 crore package for development of Bodoland Territorial Council.

"I can assure that BJP government will give much more than what BPF Chief Hagrama Mohiliary has asked for," said Shri Shah while launching a frontal attack on ruling Congress party said, "In last 15 years development has taken a back seat in Assam. Despite being endowed with natural and human resource Assam remains a backward state."

Pointing out that Assam was among five richest states of the country when it got independence; he regretted that Congress, which ruled the state for majority of time, has reduced the state among five poorest state of the country. He also reminded that in 1962 then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had abandoned Assam in the wake of attack from China.



"It was due to our soldiers that Assam is still part of India," he said.

Referring as to how 42 per cent population of the state doesn't have safe drinking water and more than one crore population of the state is surviving below the poverty line, Shah also slammed the ruling Congress party for not doing anything to solve the problem of unemployment.

"When Congress came to power in 2001 there were 9 lakh unemployed youths in the state. In 2016 it has grown

to 23 lakh," said Shri Shah asking the people to give a chance to BJP-BPF to rule the state.

He claimed that states ruled by BJP, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have 24x7 electricity, roads, hospitals and drinking water. "Assam has one of the highest maternal mortality ratio. The state has also recorded 19000 cases of crime against women which is also highest in the country," said the BJP president who also addressed a mammoth public rally of BJP workers in central Assam's Nagaon district.

The BJP president said that the Gogoi-government is yet to submit completion certificate of majority of the central government schemes. "Even UPA government had stopped funds in some projects as the state did not submit the utilization certificates. There must be a government here which can implement the schemes of Centre, not quarrel with the centre," he said. Apart from BJP National President, Union Minister for Sports Welfare Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and other senior leaders were present on the occasion. ■



## BJP led NDA wins seven seats out of 12 in by polls

The Bharatiya Janata Party won four seats and the others NDA partners won three seats and bettered the opposition in the recently concluded by-elections held for 12 seats across eight states. Uttar Pradesh's ruling Samajwadi Party (SP) was the worst sufferer. The SP lost two of the three seats it held in Uttar Pradesh – one each to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress. The BJP



also snatched two seats from the Congress – one each in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

The BJP was the winner in Maihar (Madhya Pradesh), Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) and in Hebbal and Devadurga in Karnataka.

Bihar's Harlakhi seat was retained by NDA partner the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP). The Shiv Sena won from Palghar in Maharashtra, Punjab's Kharoor Sahib constituency went to the Shiromani Akali Dal and the ruling TRS crushed the Congress in Narayankhed in Telangana. In Tripura the CPI–M won from Amarpur but the BJP took the second spot.

In BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh, Shri Narayan Tripathi snatched the Maihar constituency from the Congress by over 27,000 votes. He quit the house after joining the BJP.

BJP's Shri Kapil Dev Agarwal was declared

elected from Muzaffarnagar. He defeated Chittaranjan Swaroop of the SP by about 6,000 votes.

BJP's Shri Y.A. Narayanaswamy won from the high-profile Hebbal in Bengaluru North, Karnataka, defeating C.K. Abdul Rahman Sharief (Congress) by 19,149 votes. The loser is the grandson of former union minister C.K. Jaffer Sharief.

In the reserved Devadurga constituency in Raichur district, Karnataka BJP's Shri K. Shivana Gouda Nayak won by 16,871 votes over A. Rajashekhara Nayak of the Congress.

In Bidar, the BJP came runners-up. In all three places of Karnataka, the Janata Dal (Secular) was a poor third.

In Bihar, the RLSP's Sudhansu Sekhar was

declared elected from Harlakhi, defeating Congress candidate Mohammad Shabbir by over 18,000 votes. The election was necessitated by the death of RLSP legislator Basant Kumar Kushwaha a few hours ahead of the oath-taking ceremony of the new Bihar assembly in November 2015. Sudhansu Sekhar is Kushwaha's son.

BJP takes second spot in Tripura

Tripura's ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) retained the Amarpur seat, where the BJP edged out the Congress to take the second spot, indicating the marginalization of the Congress in the state.

CPI (M)'s Parimal Debnath defeated BJP's Ranjit Das by 10,597 votes. Whereas the Congress's Chanchal Dey got only 1,231 votes, and stood fourth. The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura took the third place with 1,623 votes.

## People repose faith in politics of development : Narendra Modi



After the by election victory of BJP led NDA across the country Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that it showed people's faith in politics of development.

"Happy to see the victory of BJP and allies in by polls in northern, southern, eastern, western and central parts of the country. I express gratitude to the people," he tweeted.

"Appreciable effort by NDA. People across India reposed faith in politics of development, development and development," the PM posted.

It's a mandate against "negative politics" of Congress and its allies : Amit Shah



With BJP and allies clinching seven out of 12 seats in the by-elections, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah hailed the victory as the people's preference for 'politics of development' over the 'vote bank' politics of the opposition.

"I thank people for reposing faith in politics of development over vote bank politics. Congratulations to our workers, BJP state units and all allies over impressive performance in the by-polls," Shri Shah said in a statement. He said it was a mandate against the "negative politics" of the Congress and its allies. "People will continue to teach them a lesson."

Congratulating NDA Allies, BJP workers, organization officials, respective CMs and the people of the state over unprecedented success in assembly by polls of Bihar, UP, Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh,

BJP president Shri Amit Shah said that this success is the victory of the development policy, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' and good governance of BJP.

BJP President, Shri Amit Shah said, this victory is the mandate given by the people against all the baseless propaganda, criticism and negative politics of opposition to obstruct government's development works by blocking the Parliament, and people have shown the real truth to such anti-development groups via this victory.

Shri Shah said, there is an anger in public against negative tendency of obstructing country's development and economic progress of Congress & its associates, and the people will continue to respond properly in the same manner in coming days.

BJP President Shri Amit Shah said that the people's court has dismissed the ongoing unrestrained and baseless allegations of the Congress and reposed faith in BJP by expressing their allegiance to the development and good governance. He said, those, who carry the ideology of anti-poor, anti-developmental negative politics, needs to make serious introspection.

## BJP wins Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation mayoral poll

Bharatiya Janata Party won the mayoral by-election of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC), Uttar Pradesh on 16, February 2016. BJP candidate Shri Ashu Verma was elected mayor of the GMC. He defeated Samajwadi Party candidate Sudhan Rawat and Congress' Lalman Singh. The by-poll was necessitated due to the death of mayor Teluram Kamboj in August 2015.

12 candidate were in the fray but the main contest was between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Smajawadi Party. Late Teluram Kamboj was elected as a Mayor in the year 2012 after defeating his nearest Samajwadi Party candidate.

Noteworthy, BJP's Shri Ashu Verma won the mayoral by-election defeating Samajwadi Party's Sudan Rawal by 45,228 votes. ■

## PM unveils operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 18 February unveiled the operational guidelines for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana at a massive farmers' rally in Sehore in Madhya Pradesh.

Explaining the benefits of

to take benefit of this scheme.

The Prime Minister outlined several other initiatives that have been taken by the Union Government for the welfare of farmers. He mentioned the steps taken to clear the pending dues of the

produce.

The Prime Minister also mentioned other major initiatives taken in the agriculture sector, such as the soil health card scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, organic farming, and ensuring adequate availability of urea.

Shri Narendra Modi congratulated the farmers of Madhya Pradesh, and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, for the State's excellent performance in the agriculture sector.

The Prime Minister also gave away soil health cards, and settlement certificates for insurance claims to select beneficiaries.

Aiming at doubling farmers' income by 2022, a common digital platform integrating 585-odd agricultural markets which enables farmers to sell their produce anywhere across the country for better price realisation would be launched on April 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in the farmers' rally in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh. ■

this comprehensive crop insurance scheme to the farmers, the Prime Minister said it can provide a solution for the farmers problems, in times of difficulty. He said care had been taken to eliminate the shortcomings of previous crop insurance schemes, and create trust among farmers with regard to crop insurance. He said technology would be used extensively with this scheme to ensure early settlement of claims, and exhorted farmers

sugarcane farmers, which had mounted to many thousands of crore rupees.

Speaking about the Digital India movement, the Prime Minister said welfare of the farmers is at the core of this initiative.

He announced the launch of the digital platform - National Agriculture Market - from the 14th of April, 2016, on the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. This would enable farmers to get a better price for their





# 'Rural soul and urban amenities'

## PM launches National Rurban Mission

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the National Rurban Mission from Kurubhat, in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh on 21

February 2016. that the important Rurban mission was being launched not from New Delhi, but from Kurubhat, in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh. He said that Government was

the state's Naxal-hit Rajandgaon district, Shri Modi said her efforts to make her village open defecation free was a big sign of changing India.

To build toilets at her residence, she had sold-off her 8-10 goats and then urged villagers to build lavatories too.

"An elderly woman of 104 years who stays in a remote village, does not watch TV or read papers, but the message of building toilets under clean India mission somehow reached her. She sold off her goats to build toilets at home and also encouraged others from the village to build toilets," Shri Modi said.

Four clusters of villages in Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Bastar and Kabirdham districts of the state will be developed in the first stage of the Rurban Mission that intends to bridge the rural-urban divide by bringing civic and infrastructural amenities to villages.

### Unveils plaque for Foundation Stone of housing under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque for the Foundation Stone of housing projects to be constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.



February 2016.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister described the Rurban Mission as one which would enable cluster based development - with a "rural soul and urban amenities." He said this scheme would complement the Smart Cities initiative by creating Smart Villages. The Prime Minister described Rurban clusters as centres of economic activity, which would spur growth, and improve the quality of life in nearby villages.

The Prime Minister said the country is taking a new direction of development. He said one example of this was

now being brought to the doorstep of the villages and the tribal communities.

The Prime Minister congratulated villages and communities of nearby areas for achieving Open Defecation Free status.

Earlier, the Prime Minister visited an exhibition at the venue, which showcased the implementation of development schemes, and handicrafts.

In Chhattisgarh, PM Modi touched the feet of 104-yr-old woman who sold her goats to build toilets

Felicitating Kunwar Bai from Kotabharri village at the launch of 'Rurban Mission' in



At a function in Naya Raipur in Chhattisgarh, the Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque for the laying of Foundation Stone of an Electronic Manufacturing Cluster, and released the Chhattisgarh innovation and entrepreneurship development policy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana would benefit people who cannot afford a house themselves.

He described this scheme as more than merely the construction of infrastructure; he said it is a way to help the poor realise their dreams.

He said this scheme will also generate a lot of economic activity, and urged public bodies across all States to take the lead in implementation of this scheme. He described it as a step towards fulfilment of the vision of Housing for All by 2022.

The Prime Minister, congratulated the Government of Chhattisgarh for the innovation and entrepreneurship policy, and said that in the last fifty years, countries which have laid stress on innovation have benefited, and have experienced economic prosperity.

He outlined the Union Government's initiatives such as skill development and Mudra Yojana.

Earlier, the Prime Minister unveiled a statue of Sathya Sai Baba, unveiled a plaque for the inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Sowbhagyam - Centre for Human Development, and dedicated to the service of humanity, the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centre for Child Health Care. ■

## 'Make in India' Week held in Mumbai

### Bilateral talks with Sweden, Finland and Poland



**A**fter inaugurating the Make in India Centre Expo in Mumbai on February 13 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with the Prime Ministers of Sweden and Finland and Deputy Prime Minister of Poland.

The Make in India Week was held from 13 Feb to 18 Feb for showcasing the potential of design, innovation and sustainability across India's manufacturing sectors in the coming decade.

In his talks with his Swedish counterpart Mr. Stefan Lofven, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi lauded Sweden as a significant participant under the Make in India initiative. He invited Swedish companies to forge partnerships in the fields of defence, electronic goods, medical equipment etc.

During his interaction with the Finnish Prime Minister Mr. Juha Sipila, Shri Narendra Modi invited Finland's active participation in engineering, power plants, biotech and innovation.

Putting technology to good use, the two Prime Ministers tele-inaugurated the new state-of-the-art manufacturing unit of Trivitron Healthcare in Chennai.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recalled long association of his home state Gujarat with Poland through Jamnagar during his bilateral talks with the Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Piotr Glinski. Shri Modi discussed areas of cooperation in food processing, clean energy and transportation sectors. ■

# Jinnah wanted partition on the basis of Muslims and non-Muslims

-Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

The Speeches of Sir Mohammed Zafrullah in the Security Council on the Kashmir issue contained little that might enlighten the world powers and add to their knowledge of facts. The lengthy harangue was full of invectives and threats, and did little credit to the personality of one who had the privilege and honour of being a judge of the world court. It might be that the exhibition of emotion was deliberate because Pakistan's case on Kashmir cannot be pleaded on the basis of reason and arguments. The only argument that Pakistan earlier put forward was that the majority of the people in Kashmir being Muslims, the state should be to Pakistan. It deceived those who had thought India was partitioned on the basis of Muslims and non-Muslims and that there were no Muslims in the Indian Union. If it were so there would not have been a single Muslim in India or a single Hindu in Pakistan. It is true, that Jinnah wanted partition on that basis. He might have succeeded in getting Pakistan, but not on the basis on which it was conceived. Pakistan's insistence now has shifted from its claim on Kashmir on the basis of religion to that of the right of self-determination to be given to the people of Kashmir. Without going into the question of the reasonability and necessity of

such a right it can be obviously stated that Pakistan has no locus stands in the matter. What relationship should exist between the people of India and how it should be determined is a decision which India alone in her sovereign right can and has to take. Interference by any other power cannot be tolerated. Pakistan cannot also justify its aggression on Kashmir that

Pakistan's conspiracy for stationing UN forces in Kashmir. This time, too, the Soviet delegate has unequivocally supported India's stand. Pakistan being a military ally of the West, their natural sympathies is with that country and irrespective of the merits of the case India does not get the just support that it should get from powers that claim to be the champions of the free world

**Pakistan being a military ally of the West, their natural sympathies is with that country and irrespective of the merits of the case India does not get the just support that it should get from powers that claim to be the champions of the free world wedded to democracy and justice. Their personal prejudice against Sri V.K. Krishna Menon, who had always represented us at the UN, has also been successfully exploited by Pakistan to defeat India's just cause. Thus Kashmir has so far been unnecessarily dragged into the cold war between the two power blocs.**

count. Pakistan might have failed to create any impression, but events preceding and following the Kashmir debate require a rethinking on the part of the World powers and the people in India. The strongest point in favour of Pakistan had been the support and sympathy that it had been receiving from the Western democracies. But this strength of Pakistan has not helped her, for Soviet Russia as a reaction had thought it fit to back India. Last time it was Russia's veto that foiled

wedded to democracy and justice. Their personal prejudice against Sri V.K. Krishna Menon, who had always represented us at the UN, has also been successfully exploited by Pakistan to defeat India's just cause. Thus Kashmir has so far been unnecessarily dragged into the cold war between the two power blocs.

It however seems that the Western democracies had realised that this sort of treatment of the Kashmir issue would only alienate the

sympathies of the people of India. India's support by Soviet Russia, whatever her motives are, can be exploited by the Communists in the country and the people of India made to feel that in whole world their only friend is Soviet Russia and the Western democracies are out to act against India's interests. It is on this account perhaps that the Western powers advised Pakistan to refrain from reopening the issue in the Security Council. But Pakistan did not heed their counsel. Evidently their confidence in Pakistan was misplaced.

Pakistan has not only paid scant heed to the saner advice of her allies but with a desire to black mail, entered into a conspiracy with communist China for negotiating an agreement in respect of the border between it and part of Kashmir under her occupation. That a proposal for starting such negotiations as made by Communist China was known months ago. Pakistan, however, had not accepted the proposals then. But just when the Kashmir debate in the Security Council started, Pakistan made an official announcement accepting this proposal. Evidently it was a threat to the Western World that Pakistan would join hands with Communist China if they failed her in the matter of grabbing Kashmir. It may be recalled that earlier too when Suhrawardy was Pakistan's Prime Minister, he tried to seek support from China on the Kashmir issue. But then relations between India and China at that time were different. Things have, however, changed now. There is every probability

of China and Pakistan both joining together to invade Kashmir and divide the spoils. For it is not the official announcement alone that is indicative. China on its part has seemed to oblige Pakistan by its latest protest note threatening India with armed action if she is not vacating some of the checkposts in Ladakh. The whole thing cannot be dismissed as coincidence. The fact is that China and Pakistan have both acted in liaison and intend to browbeat India.

With the same end in view Pakistan has also tried to give a practical indication of what the threat of Sir Mohammad Zafrullah of disturbing the peace of the whole region would be like, by organising riots in the two Bengalis. It is plain that riots in Rajshahi and Dacca were not results of any reaction of an agitated people, but parts of a conspiracy hatched at high level. The Pak president and the East Bengal Governor made inflammatory speeches and incited the people against Hindus. Exaggerated and false reports of the Malda incidents were published. And now it is known that there was a Pakistani hand behind some of the tragic happenings of Malda too. The manner in which the Pak Deputy High Commissioner behaved is not only objectionable but suspicious. It seems that the Pakistani authorities were out to create some trouble in India to provide an excuse for starting the well-planned program against Hindus in East Bengal. An uncalled for protest demonstration against Manohar Kahanivan was organised in

Calcutta. It resulted in some aggressive acts by the demonstrators. But the authorities in Calcutta were cautious and controlled it. But in Malda it seems that Pakistani elements were able to create trouble by instigating some simple tribal people to retaliate in defence of the honour of their women folk. The truth is that the Hindus here suffered equally, if not more. But the Pakistani press gave a distorted version of the whole incident only to serve their nefarious designs.

And now the most wonderful things are that Pakistan Government is reported to have instituted an enquiry against our Deputy High Commissioner at Dacca for his alleged communal activities at Rajshahi. All this is because the press in India has exposed the undiplomat-like activities of the Pak Deputy High Commissioner at Calcutta.

We have also the news of Naga Hostiles entering Pakistan to meet Phizo expected to reach Dacca. While on one hand Pakistan had manoeuvred their entry, on the other, she has protested against this act.

All this shows to what length Pakistan and Communist China can go. Despite their alliances with the different power blocs, in the international political scene, both of them can, and have joined against India. As things are, it is clear the USA will not be able to exercise any restraint on Pakistan. Similarly Soviet Russia may also fail. Apprehensions of India that military aid given to Pakistan instead of being used against a Communist country may be used

## Vinayak Damodar Savarkar Shat-Shat Naman!

to further aggressive designs against a democratic India have proved correct. It is time that the Western powers give second thought to their policy of arming Pakistan.

In India this alliance will not surprise those who had seen since 1947 the Communist Plan of India providing asylum platform to the entire fanatic Muslim Leaguers.

The conspiracy between the Communist and the Communalists has not become so very patent. The extra attention paid to the Muslim Communal elements needs no explanation now. Whether it is Jabalpur or Bhopal, the Communists have always been in the vanguard of the Communal trouble. It is a widely known fact that the Communist MLA who visited Malda was hand in glove with the Muslim trouble-shooters in the area. The writings on the wall are clear.

If these events and misdoings of the Pak authorities and Pak elements, together with the aggressive acts of the Communist China and their henchmen in India could awaken democratic forces throughout to a sense of realism and urgency, the Kashmir debate will surely make us wiser. That alone will provide the necessary will and strength to back the determination of the people to defend India's sovereignty and maintain democratic form and freedom. ■

*[Political Diary-Organiser,  
14 May, 1962]*

**V**inayak Damodar Savarkar (28 May 1883 – 26 February 1966) was a great freedom fighter, politician as well as a poet, writer and playwright. He advocated dismantling the system of caste in Hindu culture, and reconversion of the converted Hindus back to Hindu religion. Savarkar coined the term Hindutva to create a collective "Hindu" identity as a nation.

His political philosophy had the elements of utilitarianism, rationalism and positivism, humanism and universalism, pragmatism and realism. Savarkar's philosophy not only furthered unity,

it gave a unique concept of nationalism which was very much needed to guide and inspire the national movement in the country. Savarkar was also an atheist and a staunch rationalist who disapproved of orthodox Hindu beliefs and sought unity of the people on the ground of intense dedication to national cause.

Savarkar's revolutionary activities began while studying in India and England, where he was associated with the India House and founded student societies including Abhinav Bharat Society and the Free India Society, as well as publications espousing the cause of complete Indian independence by revolutionary means. Savarkar published *The Indian War of Independence* about the Indian rebellion of 1857 that was banned by British authorities.

He was arrested in 1910 for his connections with the revolutionary group India House. Following a failed attempt to escape while being transported from Marseilles, Savarkar was sentenced to two life terms of imprisonment totaling fifty years and was moved to the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but released in 1921.

While in jail, Savarkar wrote the work describing Hindutva, espousing Indian nationalism. In 1921 he was released from the jail. Traveling widely, Savarkar became a forceful orator and writer, advocating national, political and social unity. Serving as the president of the Hindu Mahasabha, he became a fierce critic of the Indian National Congress and its acceptance of India's partition.

The airport at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar's capital, has been named Veer Savarkar International Airport. The commemorative blue plaque on India House fixed by the Historic Building and Monuments Commission for England reads "Vinayak Damodar Savarkar 1883-1966 Indian patriot and philosopher lived here." We salute this great son of Maa Bharati on his punyatithi. ■





# Is this how Congress Party defines Patriotism?

By Amit Shah

**D**isappointed and frustrated over the success of the Narendra Modi government at the centre, the Congress party has now entered a phase of deep depression. The despondency in the grand old party is so acute that the Congress party has even failed to discharge its role of a responsible opposition in the country.

Given the rising frustration levels, Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi is unable to draw the distinction between pro-national and anti national activities. The unfortunate incident at Jawaharlal National University (JNU) cannot be condoned and considered pro-national by any stretch of imagination. The anti-India sloganeering and open support for terrorists at India's premier university cannot be accepted by any citizen of this country. To top it, the statements given by Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders in JNU amply demonstrates, yet again, that they have neither regards nor love for the nation or its interests.

Just to recap, the following slogans were raised by a bunch of left leaning students at the JNU campus:

- "Pakistan Zindabad"
- "Go India, Go Back

**It is indeed sad that Rahul Gandhi has been defending such students in the name of democracy. Is this Rahul Gandhi's idea of nationalism and patriotism where a motley group of students aggressively talk about breaking the nation? By terming sedition as merely students' revolution and the action taken by authorities as a harsh step to curb freedom of expression, Rahul Gandhi has shown his lack of compassion and commitment towards India's unity and integrity. I want to ask him if his support for such slogans means that he has joined hands with the separatists? Does he want to give free hand to separatists in the name of freedom of expression and wants another division of the country?**

- "Bharat Ki Barbadi Tak Jang Rahegi Jari"
- "Kashmir Ki Azadi Tak Jang Rahegi Jari"
- "Afzal Ham Sharminda Hain Tere Kaatil Zinda Hain"
- "Tum Kitane Afzal Maroge, Har Ghar Se Afzal Nikalega"
- Afzal Tere Khoon Se Inqalab Ayega"

It is indeed sad that Rahul Gandhi has been defending such students in the name of democracy. Is this Rahul Gandhi's idea of nationalism and patriotism where a motley group of students aggressively talk about breaking the nation? By terming sedition as merely students' revolution and the action taken by authorities as a harsh step to curb freedom of expression, Rahul Gandhi has shown his lack of compassion and commitment towards India's unity and integrity. I want to ask him if his support for such slogans means that he has joined hands with the separatists? Does he want to give free hand to separatists in the name of freedom of expression and wants another division of the country?

This incident at the JNU is nothing but a conspiracy to turn this premier institution of country into a hotbed for separatism and terrorism and

bring it bad name. I want to ask Rahul Gandhi that given the seditious activities at the JNU campus, should the central government have remained a mute spectator? Would inaction of the central government been in the interest of the nation? Are you not encouraging anti national forces by supporting such shameful anti-national activities?

During his visit to the JNU

emergency's assault on freedom and democratic rights. The traits of Hitler's persona are in Congress party's DNA and BJP does not need the Congress to lecture it on value of nationalism and democracy. Our political conduct and morals are inspired by India's rich culture, heritage, centuries of values and ethos while India's constitution guides our governance

were martyred. Is this Rahul Gandhi's nationalism and patriotism that he defends those who raise slogans in favour of Parliament attack mastermind Afzal Guru and support separatism in Kashmir? I want to ask Rahul Gandhi if this is how he has offered his tribute to the 10 soldiers including Lance Naik Hanumanthappa, who lost their lives while defending the nation at the icy heights of Siachen Glacier, by openly supporting anti national activities at JNU?

As a result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts, after the BJP government came to power, we are finally seeing success in controlling the anti-India sentiment in the Kashmir valley. But instead of supporting the government in this crucial task, the Congress party is not only defending but encouraging such shameful activities at JNU. The support for anti-national sloganeering at JNU by those who subscribe to the Leftist ideology cannot be accepted at any cost in the name of freedom of expression and progressive thought.

On behalf of 1.25 billion Indian citizens, I seek responses to my questions from Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi and demand that Rahul Gandhi should apologies to the nation for his support to forces inimical to India's interests. ■

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campus, Rahul Gandhi compared the current government at the centre with Hitler's Germany. Before leveling such a ridiculous charge, Rahul Gandhi perhaps forgot that the only period in independent India where such a comparison can be drawn was in 1975 when Mrs. Indira Gandhi imposed emergency. Emergency not only crushed freedom of expression but also ensured that Indira Gandhi's political opponents were simply thrown into prison. It is rather ironical that Left leaders, who are today finding support from Rahul Gandhi, were also victims of

philosophy. I want to know from Rahul Gandhi if the 1975 emergency defines Congress party's democratic values and doesn't he find a parallel between Smt. Indira Gandhi and Hitler?

A number of Indian soldiers have been martyred over the years in their untiring effort and display of utmost courage to defend the country's borders and keep a check on terrorists in Kashmir. During the 2001 terrorist attack on the country's Parliament, six Delhi Police personnel, two personnel from Parliament's security and one gardener

## New rail projects to benefit economy in a big way

**T**he Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved seven new rail projects, including six railway lines and a railway bridge, together worth Rs.10,700 crore, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The new rail lines are expected to benefit the industry and passengers in a big way – the economic survey last year noted that a Rs.1 increase in railway output increases the output in the economy by Rs.3.3 because of its multiplier effect.

The projects, which include double- and triple-laning of railway lines, will be undertaken with extra budgetary resources (institutional financing), said the government, refusing to disclose what these resources would be. The projects will be completed during the 13th five year plan period, from 2017 to 2022.

Railway minister Suresh Prabhu said, “The total cost to complete the six projects comes to Rs.10,700 crore. It will be financed by extra-budgetary resources. These projects are largely in coal-rich areas, which will fetch us better freight revenue.”

The approved projects are good news, especially for Madhya Pradesh, because two of them help to connect the state’s coal belt. These two projects, worth Rs.3,681 crore, include construction of a third

**The economic survey last year noted that a Rs.1 increase in railway output increases the output in the economy by Rs.3.3 because of its multiplier effect.**



railway line between Anuppur and Katni and doubling of the 261km Katni-Singrauli line.

The 132km Anuppur-Katni line has been approved in anticipation of a surge in coal mining in the country and substantial additional coal traffic from IB Valley in Odisha, Korba in Chhattisgarh, East Corridor (runs from Ludhiana, Punjab to Dankuni, West Bengal) and Gevra Road-Pendra Road Project (Chhattisgarh) that will be channelized through this route to the respective destinations. Doubling the 261km Katni-Singrauli railway line will extend coverage to the districts of Katni, Shahdol, Sidhi and Singrauli. It is a critical and busy section carrying coal from the northern coal fields to western and northern thermal power plants.

Among other projects are doubling of the 190km Hubli-Chickajur railway line connecting Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri and Dharwad in Karnataka at a cost of Rs.1,294 crore; construction of a third

railway line on the Wardha (Sewagram)-Ballarshah route in Maharashtra at a cost of Rs.1,444 crore; doubling of the 160km Ramna-Singrauli railway line at a cost of Rs.2,675 crore, covering the states of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh; and construction of an additional bridge and doubling project of the Rampur Dumra-Tal-Rajendrapul sector in Bihar at a cost of Rs.1,700 crore.

Asked about stuck rail projects in Tamil Nadu, railway minister Prabhu said, “The projects would be given a nod only when the state government agrees to form a joint venture company with the Indian Railways. As soon as they sign the MoU (memorandum of understanding), work on the railway project in Tamil Nadu would be initiated.”

Meanwhile, the Union cabinet on Wednesday also gave its approval to amend section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 so as to carry out “limited delimitation” in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. This would include both parliamentary and assembly constituencies falling in the district. The delimitation was necessitated after the exchange of 51 Bangladeshi enclaves and 111 Indian enclaves last year. ■

# Anti-India incident in JNU part of larger conspiracy

- By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

In 2004 a resolution was introduced in JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) council meeting seeking to condemn China for continuing to show Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory. The resolution was defeated with all the SFI, AISF and AISA council members voting against the resolution. Similarly a resolution declaring Jammu & Kashmir integral part of India was introduced and defeated in the first council meeting after JNUSU election in 2015. The JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar presided over the meeting and SFI, AISF and AISA councilors came together to defeat the resolution. The claim that they always stood for unity and integrity of the country appears a new revelation for those aware of the communist political discourse on the campus. These are not isolated incidents but a deep study of the resolutions passed and defeated in the left dominated JNUSU council will reveal the manner in which the left students groups have time and again made their ideological positions clear on the campus.

In JNU although the communists are a divided lot but they unite on electoral strategies to somehow continue their collective hold over JNUSU. While the

radical elements seek to hijack the communist agenda in the campus, the students wings of CPI and CPM struggle to gain ideological legitimacy from them. On the one hand while they unite against ABVP, their internal debates also sometime become sharp as they compete to prove their claim to be the 'real left'. This competitive radicalism sees one outfit demanding removal of AFPSA in Jammu & Kashmir, then other comes out demanding 'right to self determination' of Kashmiris. Not to be outdone the other outfit organizes programmes for 'Azadi of Kashmir'

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through arms wherein all the outfits join together to be seen in support of these kinds of radical initiatives. It has led to radicalization of ideological positions in JNU with SFI, AISF, AISA, DSU etc. attempting to outdo each other in their claim for the space within the 'real left'. The amalgamation of radical left and jihadi elements finds favour within the understanding of vote-bank politics in the campus. It has become a dangerous mixture of extreme ideologies reinforcing each others' ideological positions. It gets manifested in the celebration of killings of security forces personnel in Dantewada and in making heroes out of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhatt.

Those who are claiming that the JNUSU president was not involved should know that it's not possible for the outsiders to enter the campus without the patronage and protection of the insiders. While the so called 'cultural evening' had open support of the Kanhaiya Kumar led JNUSU, he never filed any complaint before the JNU authorities or police against the presence of masked men in the campus or against anti-India and pro-Pakistan sloganeering in the programme. He was seen supporting them and encouraging them. Some



video footages have also shown him shouting slogans with one of the main accused Omar Khalid. In fact the incident in JNU cannot be

create such situation in different campuses in the country. So by conducting proper investigation this conspiracy needs to be fully exposed before the nation.

It's unacceptable for the people that anti-India, pro-Pakistan slogans are raised in connivance with some JNUSU office bearers and the masked people shouting slogans are given not only protection but encouraged and patronized by them. Enough is enough, such incidents should be condemned in no uncertain terms.

further tarnish the image of JNU in people's mind. It is time for the communist parties to rethink their position as they cannot escape from the overall responsibility of the kind of atmosphere prevailing in JNU. Such atmosphere of competitive radicalism has emboldened such subversive elements who are seeking to make campuses like JNU across the country their recruiting ground. The manner in which a section of JNU is trying to subvert the entire issue will further isolate them in the eyes of people and fuel the anger across the country. Rahul Gandhi not being able to understand this national mood in extending support to JNU incident has created very uncomfortable situation for the Congress. No one will disagree that the country should stand united on the question of national interest and sooner this understanding dawns on all the political parties is better. ■

**Those who are claiming that the JNUSU president was not involved should know that it's not possible for the outsiders to enter the campus without the patronage and protection of the insiders. While the so called 'cultural evening' had open support of the Kanhaiya Kumar led JNUSU, he never filed any complaint before the JNU authorities or police against the presence of masked men in the campus or against anti-India and pro-Pakistan sloganeering in the programme. He was seen supporting them and encouraging them. Some video footages have also shown him shouting slogans with one of the main accused Omar Khalid.**

seen in isolation. It is not that a handful of students had come out and raised some slogans but such incidents are part of larger design to weaken India and mislead its younger generation. Anti-India forces are trying to

The people across nation are agitated and anguished. The political parties and JNU community should understand this national outrage. The attempts to somehow divert the issue by questioning the police investigation will

Brutal Attack over BJP activists by CPI(M) goons in Tripura

'If no action is taken then BJP will go ahead with statewide agitation': Biplab Kumar Deb

**O**n the night of 20 February, 2016 while activists of Bharatiya Janata party, Tripura were returning from a rally by a jeep CPI(M) goons started pelting bricks and stones on the JEEP consequently driver lost control over jeep and it fall down in 80 ft. downhill with 8 people onboard.

It was a well thought out plan to create terror among

people by eliminating BJP activists in that area to bar the flow of common people coming to the party. Total 8 activists have been seriously injured. All are admitted in Govind Vallabh Pant Govt. hospital. Police turned it into a normal accident case rather than attempt to murder as it is playing in the hands of ruling party.

This is not for the first time. Two years back during

Panchayat election the then state president of Tripura BJP Mr. Sudhindra Dasgupta was attacked in front of police by CPI(M) goons and no action was taken by the police.

Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Tripura BJP president has condemned the cowardly act and said if no action is taken by the State government then the party will go ahead with statewide agitation. ■

# Foreign Tourist Arrivals grows by 6.8%

Rs. 13,669 crores Foreign exchange earned through Tourism in January 2016

Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI) and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs)

was highest from USA (15.29%) followed by Bangladesh (11.99%), UK (11.23%), Canada (4.87%), Australia (3.97%), Russian Federation (3.71%), Germany (3.27%), France (2.98%), Sri Lanka (2.97%), China (2.74%), Malaysia (2.59%), Japan (2.38%), Rep. of Korea (1.82%), Nepal (1.76%) and Afghanistan (1.62%).



▶ The Percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January 2016 among the top 15 ports was highest at Delhi Airport (28.38%) followed by Mumbai Airport (19.59%), Chennai Airport (7.92%), Haridaspur Land check post (6.58%), Bangalore Airport (5.72%), Goa Airport (5.68%), Kolkata Airport (3.92%), Cochin Airport (3.86%), Ahmadabad Airport (3.48%), Hyderabad Airport (2.83%), Trivandrum Airport (1.84%), Gede Rail (1.51%), Tiruchirapalli Airport (1.26%), Amritsar Airport (0.82%) and Sonauli Land check post (0.76%).

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from Tourism in India in Rupees terms and in US\$ terms

▶ FEEs during the month of January 2016 were Rs. 13,669 crore as compared to Rs. 12,100 crore in January 2015 and Rs. 11,664 crore in January 2014.

from tourism on the basis of data available from Reserve Bank of India. The following are the important highlights regarding FTAs and FEEs from tourism during the month of January 2016.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs):

FTAs during the Month of January 2016 were 8.44 lakh as compared to FTAs of 7.91 lakh during the month of January 2015 and 7.58 lakh in January 2014. There has been a growth of 6.8% in January 2016 over January 2015.

- ▶ The Percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January 2016 among the top 15 source countries

- ▶ The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms during January 2016 over January 2015 was 13.0% as compared to a positive growth of 3.7% in January 2015 over January 2014.
- ▶ FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of January 2016 were US\$ 2.032 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$ 1.945 billion during the month of January 2015 and US\$ 1.880 billion in January 2014.
- ▶ The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in January 2016 over January 2015 was 4.5% compared to a positive growth of 3.5% in January 2015 over January 2014. ■

# Don't expect instant reactions from the PM

By Anirban Ganguly

Every incident in India, instead of a 'whodunit', has 'will he speak' as the leading question. 'He' here is a reference to the Prime Minister, who is called upon to 'speak' his heart and mind after any incident, event or programme. But we need to ask ourselves: Are we approaching it the right way?

While it is impossible, impractical and implausible to have 'when can the Prime Minister speak' guidelines, there are of course some considerations that one would expect the Prime Minister to look into before he makes a statement on any happening in any part of the nation. That the nation looks up to the Prime Minister's word as a defining one on a subject makes it all the more reason for the Prime Minister to be extremely careful (not cautious) about what he speaks and when he speaks.

Those who expect the prime minister's comment to come faster than a pizza reaches one's home are cut off from reality. When the prime minister speaks he must do so with all the facts at his command and his words must cool the tempers of the entire

nation – something that can't be done instantly.

Now, to come to Narendra Modi, it is admirable that he has refrained from getting into a 'fast food commentary' on every issue. He has displayed calm and poise, urging the nation to look beyond issues that divide and instead focus on the large issues of development and all-round growth. In fact, the events in Patna in October 2013 illustrate that he kept saying so even in the midst of a major threat to his life.

A news item in this

newspaper cited four key examples to prove Modi's 'silence' on 'violent ideological contests'. The statements by a Union minister were condemned by Modi but what is not mentioned is that the statement was made by the minister when Parliament was in session. Thus, any comment by the prime minister (or for that matter any minister or MP) beyond the floor of the house is a breach of privilege. With the permission to speak being the prerogative of the Chair, one is not quite sure who is being rebuked for the Prime Minister's 'late' statement.

When the issue of Church attacks was at its peak, the prime minister did something that was most statesmanlike – he met Christian leaders on Christmas eve and interacted with a cross-section of community leaders in February in which he was firm that India's diversity is India's strength and that no force can tamper with India's unity. In any case, a large number of Church attacks were proven to be cases of theft, something that happens in temples and other places of worship

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as well. (Statistical records show such cases occurring more in temples, in fact.)

In the same month, the prime minister again spoke in Parliament, to which Christian academic Valson Thampu wrote, "Last night I slept well. Because of you. I want to thank you for what you said in Parliament. And the way you said it ... every word was in the right place."

When young Rohith

What we also forget is that law and order is a state subject. It is the duty of the state government to maintain calm. Do statements by the prime minister help when a state administration is busy restoring calm? Moreover, ill-timed comments by anybody that harm the federal structure of India are clearly inadvisable.

It is worth noting that outrage and anger are very

laments Modi's silence. These designs clearly expose how outrage is not only selective but also mischievous.

On several occasions, matters where we want fast food commentary are matters that are sub-judice. In such times, do we want the highest executive office in the country to say something that influences the judicial process? Do we want a situation where the words of the prime minister colour the judicial outcome in a case? I am not sure.

It is all right to want the prime minister to speak but it is not in order to expect the prime minister to do so at an individual's whims and fancies. Let the hatred for Narendra Modi not affect our perspective on how we treat institutions.

I d e o l o g i c a l disagreements, debates and discussions have existed for centuries. The UPA years showed us what real silence is, when the prime minister was too powerless to speak and the UPA chairperson was heavily guided by politics and symbolism. Or where Twitter handles were shamelessly blocked just because the Government felt rattled. Another previous Congress government, when it spoke, trampled over the Constitution in 1975. Thankfully that is history...■

*(Anirban Ganguly is director of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and member of Policy Research Department of the BJP)*

**It is worth noting that outrage and anger are very selective. Some lives are clearly more equal than others. Did the regular 'Why is Modi silent' askers question why Modi is silent when Malda is burning? When an RSS worker was mercilessly killed in Kerala, where was the 'Can Modi speak' lot? Where was the outrage for Modi to speak when the vice-president of the Bihar BJP was mercilessly killed? Was Modi's silence used to attack him when the father of the candidate against Lalu Prasad's son was killed? When a Prashanth Poojary is killed in Karnataka, nobody laments Modi's silence. These designs clearly expose how outrage is not only selective but also mischievous.**

Vemula was killed, some leaders brazenly entered the campus to vitiate the atmosphere further. Even before the family could come to terms with the grief of losing a young son, the flames of politics shot up. Before the FIR, the verdicts were out in the studios, editorials and by political leaders. I am not sure if we want knee-jerk political statements even from the prime minister. What we want is a nuanced statement expressing grief, which was duly done in the most dignified manner at a programme in Lucknow.

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# Polavaram in Andhra Pradesh reaping the 'Jan Dhan' benefit

The scheme has made life easier for the people of this Andhra Pradesh village, one of the first in the state to have 100 per cent financial inclusion. But the local experience also throws up a few questions relevant nationally, reports Gunturi Naga Sridhar.

Fourty-year-old M Ravamma, from Polavaram, a village in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh, had a nightmarish experience two months ago. Her husband complained of chest pain and passed away before medical help could reach him. Despite the irreparable loss, Ravamma got financial support from an unexpected quarter, the insurance claim that came attached with the Jan Dhan Yojana account her husband had.

"The claim amount (of ₹30,000) was paid promptly and helped us to stabilise our life after my husband suddenly died because of a stroke of fate," recounts the mother-of-two.

It is not just insurance claims. The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2014, has helped scores of people in the village in many day-to-day transactions.

Take the case of S Edukondalu, a farmer who grows bananas. "Till about a year ago, I used to make business related payments in cash but now I am doing them in cheques," he says about his deals with traders from Vijaywada, about 80 kms away. The farmer adds that his average balance in the savings bank account, opened under the scheme, is now adequate to maintain a cheque book.

There are 3,000 people in this village, which is one of the first in Andhra Pradesh to achieve 100 per cent coverage of the Jan Dhan scheme. The scheme aims to promote financial inclusion by ensuring access to basic services such as savings accounts, credit, insurance and pension. The coverage in Polavaram was accomplished by a three-member branch of Andhra Bank in a record time. Most of the account holders were out of the banking system till now.

National impact

Not just Andhra Pradesh, but the PMJDY numbers are stunning nationally. About 20.20 crore people across the country have opened accounts under the scheme; with over a half of them operating the accounts through the RuPay cards, the

Indian version of a Mastercard or Visa debit cards.

According to the AP Hota, Managing Director and CEO of National Payment Corporation of India, the new account holders generate 27 lakh transactions per day. This figure will touch 30 lakh per day very soon, says the Managing Director of NPCI, which is the umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India.

The accounts together hold deposits of ₹32,000 crore, with an average transaction value of ₹2,000. An enquiry with the bankers show that the numbers continue to grow as people open accounts even after the banks have stopped campaigns for new enrolments.

The drivers

The trends lead to a simple, yet vital question: What is driving these numbers when the old financial inclusion plans thrust by the Reserve Bank of India on public sector banks, which failed to generate enthusiasm in people, as well as the bankers?

As has been the case of Ravamma, the increasing awareness about the social security being offered under the scheme has been an attraction, says Venkatappa

Rao, the 24-year-old Manager of Andhra Bank's Polavaram branch. A post-graduate in biotechnology, Rao wanted to be a scientist but now has found his calling in the banking sector. "Luckily, the claims in cases were settled very fast, spreading the message about the scheme's inherent financial protection," says Rao.

There is a huge gap in insurance for the underprivileged in the country. The insurance penetration, measured as a percentage of insurance premiums to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), stands at 3.3 per cent in India last year, according to data of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). It is the lowest level of insurance penetration since 2005.

Under the Jan Dhan scheme, the RuPay card comes with an inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹ 1 lakh for up to 90 days after the cardholder carries out a successful financial or non-financial transaction at a merchant establishment, an ATM or an e-commerce platform.

There are other drivers too. Prakash Goud, a vegetable seller in Kandi village in Sangareddy district of Telangana, is elated about the overdraft facility for ₹5,000 that comes with the PMJDY account. "This is quite a sum for me and helps in mobilising daily working

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capital for my business," he says.

Till recently, Goud had to depend on the local money lenders who would provide call money, to buy vegetables. Call money is a form of private lending where a loan is available immediately, but comes with exorbitant rate of interest. He would walk back with little returns after paying back the borrowed money to the money lender, who would charge an average interest rate of 10 per cent. But now, thanks to the overdraft facility, the vegetable seller doesn't need the call money anymore.

While in banking parlance, call money is short-term finance for periods ranging from one to fifteen days and mainly an inter-bank deal, the term is now in liberal use for the personal loans taken by individuals from money-lenders at 20-30 per cent per annum and often at even higher rates.

The overdraft facility has also come handy for other purposes such as paying school fee for kids and buying books, points out M Jyothi, a labourer whose two children are in 10th and 6th standard.

As on Jan 15, 2016, ₹166 crore has been extended by banks to the Jan Dhan account holders in the form of overdraft, a first of its kind for any model of financial inclusion. The amount given to an account holder can be up to four times the average balance he has maintained in the last six months; the overdraft has an upper limit of ₹5,000. There are some other facilities as well.

A PMJDY account holder can withdraw up to ₹2,000 using debt cards and open system prepaid cards at PoS in Tier-III and Tier-VI centres. Till late last year, the limit was ₹1,000. Banks have also been asked not to levy any SMS/message charges on the PMJDY accounts and basic savings bank deposits accounts.

The scheme's simple Know Your Customer (KYC) norms are also driving the increase in number of accounts. If one has an Aadhaar card, then no other documents are required for opening an account. If address has changed, then a self-certification of current address is sufficient.

Further, if a person does not have any of the officially valid documents, it is still possible to open an account

by submitting an identity card, with applicant's photograph, issued by Central/State government departments, statutory/regulatory authorities, public sector companies, scheduled commercial banks and public financial institution or a letter issued by a gazetted officer. What has worked

Experts point out that the strength of the model is also

By drawing them into the formal system through savings and payments first, then insurance, we get them accustomed to managing money before tempting them with credit."

PMJDY created accounts for much of the excluded population, and went a step ahead by attaching a variety of financial services such as accident and life insurance to

**PMJDY created accounts for much of the excluded population, and went a step ahead by attaching a variety of financial services such as accident and life insurance to these accounts, and sending direct benefits such as scholarships, pensions, and subsidies to these account holders. The model is integrated through business correspondents, payment banks, and point-of-sales machines so that the services are used frequently.**

another positive factor. Globally, models for financial inclusion are either driven by credit or savings. The PMJDY began as a savings-led model, even though some argue that it is actually a hybrid model in view of the overdraft service, which is a credit facility. However, the predominance of savings element qualifies the scheme to be labelled as a savings-driven.

In a recent speech, RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan extended support to the scheme when he observed: "When credit leads the process of financial inclusion, we risk lending to people who have little ability to manage money and overburdening them.

these accounts, and sending direct benefits such as scholarships, pensions, and subsidies to these account holders.

The model is integrated through business correspondents, payment banks, and point-of-sales machines so that the services are used frequently.

Any expansion of the direct benefit transfer will be easier with beneficiaries having operative accounts. Governments of Puducherry and Chandigarh have already used the system to directly transfer money in lieu of food grains through the fair price shops. The money transfer saves the government money and brings in efficiencies in the system.

Disparities

Bankers are a bit troubled by zero-balance accounts, which make up for 29 per cent of the accounts under the Jan Dhan scheme. Though the proportion of these accounts have come down from a high of 75 per cent last year, the impact of the scheme will be higher once more of these accounts become operative. Maintaining these accounts adds to the costs of the banks, who are squeezed for margins.

Also, while places such as Delhi, with higher standard of living and more earning opportunities, will have a lower per cent of zero-balance accounts, the total deposit is low. Delhi, with 29 lakh accounts, has about 1 818 crore in deposits. States with highest deposits are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan with ₹4,069 crore, ₹3,269 crore and ₹2,209 crore respectively, in their Jan Dhan accounts.

It is also a challenge to ensure that the overdrafts extended to the account holders will be collected back without any trouble. It remains to be seen if a good credit culture accompanies the interest in opening accounts from a customer point of view.

A speedier transition to a wide range of direct benefit transfers like pensions and foods subsidies could make the scheme complete as the main objective is financial inclusion. ■

# Houses for urban poor sanctioned

**Government sanctions 81,757 houses for urban poor in 7 states with an investment of Rs. 4,076 cr**

**M**inistry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation on February 18 sanctioned construction of 81,757 houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in urban areas in 7 states with a total investment of Rs.4,076 cr. Of this, the Ministry will provide total central assistance of Rs.1,226 cr @ Rs.1.50 lakh per



each house to be built for the benefit of urban poor under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (Urban).

An inter-ministerial Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee chaired by Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, Secretary (HUPA) approved the proposals received from the 7 states after detailed discussions with the respective states and after satisfying itself with availability of land for the proposed projects, the share of states and the beneficiaries. The sanctioned will be built

in 163 cities in these 7 states.

Of the total houses sanctioned under the Housing for All initiative of the Government, 58,456 houses will be built under the 'Beneficiary Led Construction' component. Under this, beneficiaries will build new houses on their own land with assistance from central and state governments. Another

23,301 houses will be built under 'Affordable Housing in Partnership' component under which state governments will provide land and the central government gives an assistance of Rs.1.50 lakh per each beneficiary.

West Bengal has been sanctioned a total of 27,830 houses in 38 cities, followed by Telangana-22,817 in 45 cities, Bihar-13,315 in 40 cities, Mizoram-8,922 in 6 cities, Rajasthan-6,052 in 9 cities, Jharkhand-2,337 in 24 cities and Uttarakhand-484 in Dehradun.

Major cities sanctioned houses are :

**West Bengal:** Haldia-1626, Habra-1621, Baduria-

1607, Barasat-1592, Rajpur Sonpur-1334, Midnapur-1332, Basirhat-1012, Jhargram-1042, Santipur-1006 and Kurseong-164.

**Bihar :** Bhagalpur-709, Biharsharif-396, Chapra-562, Hajipur-304, Khagaria-500, Maharajganj-808, Sheohar-550, Sitamarhi-500, Sultanganj-150, Jhajipur-500, Kishanganj-458 and Saharsa-1000.

**Rajasthan:** Kaithun (Kota)-912, Jahazpur-888, Jhalawar-744, kesoraipatan-760, Lakheri-688, Chaksu-608, Bhilwara-604, Kapren-320, Dungarpur-272 and Shivganj-256.

**Jharkhand-** Pakaur-215, Bishrampur-178, Bundu-102, Garhwa-199, Jamtara-132, Khunti-167, Koderma-100, Madhupur-225.

**Mizoram :** Lunglei-2450, Champhai-2417, Saiha-1590, Kolasib-890, Serchip-1013 and Mamit-562.

With these sanctions, the Government has so far sanctioned a total of 5.07 lakh houses for Economically weaker Sections in 13 states with a total central assistance of Rs.7,519 cr.

Under PMAY, government has targeted assisting construction of 2 crore houses for urban poor in 4,041 statutory urban local bodies in the country. ■