



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Subscription

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

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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.

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By performing prescribed activities King Janaka and others certainly realized complete perfection; likewise you should perform as well considering for the sake of benefiting the welfare of the world.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 20)

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“Budget2016? will ensure a qualitative transformation in our villages & in the lives of farmers, women & marginalized sections of society.”

-Narendra Modi

“If we want to make the nation free from Congress, we need BJP and our electoral symbol Lotus in every direction of the country.”

-Amit Shah

Chaitra Yatra at Tara Tarini : March 29, 2016

The Chaitra Yatra at Tara-Tarini also known as Chaitra Mela is observed in the month of Chaitra. It is one of the biggest fairs, taking place in India during the Hindu month of Chaitra (i.e. mid March-mid April according to the English calendar) and a huge congregation takes place at the Tara Tarini Shakti Peetha in Ganjam district of Odisha. It is believed that the Tara Tarini Shrine is one of the oldest pilgrimage centers of Mother Goddess and is one of the four major ancient Shakti shrines in India. The Hindu religious texts recognize four major Shakti Peethas at Bimala (Pada Khanda) inside the Jagannath Temple, Puri; Tara Tarini (Sthana Khanda), near



Berhampur; Kamakhya (Yoni khanda), near Guwahati; and Dakshina Kali (Mukha khanda) in Kolkata. Puranas believe that there are 51 sacred Shakti Peethas and 26 Upa Peethas originated from the limbs of Mata Sati's corpse in the Satya Yuga after the Daksha Prajapati's Yajna.

Lakhs of devotees, sadhus, Sanyasis and Shakti Upasakas come from various corner of the world in order to take a dip in the holy Rushikulya River and have darshan of the twin Goddess Maa Tara Tarini. Grand congregations take place on the famous Tuesdays falling in the month of Chaitra.

The Chaitra Mela is significant for several reasons - Chaitra Mela is the longest fair celebrated at any Shrine in India which takes place for a period of one month. The four Tuesdays of the month are considered to be the most auspicious days to get Siddhi. Therefore, lakhs of devotees congregate during these days. Another unique feature of the Chaitra Mela is the mass feast by the devotees spread across the Shrine where thousands of people make food under open sky as an offering to the goddesses upon fulfillment of their wishes. This oldest form of Puja still survives at this shrine.

Another traditional form of Bhakti which is seen here is the mass tonsuring of Hair of newborn babies during this auspicious period to protect the newborns from all evils and ensure their well-being with Chaturbarga Phala (i.e. Dharma-Artha-Kama & Mokshya) throughout their life. ■



Prosperous village, developed India

The budget for the year 2016-17 presented in the parliament has rightly won all round applauses for prioritizing the sectors which hitherto remained neglected. It is a welcome sign that agricultural and rural sector has become the focus of the government. India is a country of farmers and taking measures to strengthen the economy of more than six lakh villages is really a very huge task. It's a big challenge but the real development of India lies in meeting this challenge. For the first time the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has shown the commitment to address the core sector of Indian economy and brought smiles on the millions of faces. The budget true to the economic philosophy of BJP draws heavily from the fundamental principles of Antyodya and 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'. It has for the first time stated that the road to happiness in India passes through the agricultural fields of the farmers and in the development of the rural sector.

Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presented the budget which India needed the most at the time when the entire world was facing economic slowdown and gloomy market conditions. Amid such a challenging global scenario the Finance Minister has taken a bold decision to further reduce fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent. Not only this, fundamentals of economy have been kept strong along with huge allocations to agricultural and rural sector. These allocations show a vision for the future roadmap of India. It is about irrigation facilities, creating rural roads and other infrastructures, increasing farming income through innovative projects like 'per drop, more crop' and 'soil health cards'. The schemes like crop insurance scheme along with social security scheme initiated by Modi government have given new confidence and security to common people in India. The budget proposal of health insurance further strengthens the hands of the people in rural areas who are supposed to get urban facilities through Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Rurban Mission. The rural electrification programme under Deendayal Upadhyaya Grama Jyoti Yojana covering all the villages and commitment to give 24x7 electricity will open new doors of development for villages in India. The Prime Minister has resolved to double the income of farmers by 2022 and this budget is aimed to achieve that target.

The budget has been upheld as pro-poor and pro-farmer by everyone. The development of India is dependent on the development of rural India where majority of people live. The approach of the governments hitherto has been to focus on urban sector which led to imbalances in economy and neglect of rural sector resulting in agrarian distress and farmers' suicides. The lack of vision with regard to agriculture, farmers and rural sector made agriculture unprofitable with large number of people giving up farming and migrating to urban centres for jobs. There is a need to change this scenario with pro-farmer and pro-poor policies if we want to see India moving on high growth trajectory. The policy of 'trickle down' approach has failed to bring smiles on the faces of the deprived sections of the society, now the development will have to start from grass root level. The investment in rural and agricultural sector will not only bring smiles on the faces of millions of the people, it will also strengthen the foundation of our economy and pave the path for overall high growth in the economy. The economy can only move forward when we empower the most underprivileged and deprived people in the society. Only by empowering and increasing the purchasing capacity of the rural sector we can work for the golden future of the country. As Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and BJP President Shri Amit Shah have emphasized several times that this government is committed to the poor, dalits, tribals and deprived sections of the society, this budget makes that commitment a reality for everyone to see.

'Our focus is on the villages, poor, farmers, women and the youth'

My heartfelt thanks to Finance Minister Sri Arun Jaitley ji for this budget. Our focus is on the villages, poor, farmers, women and the youth. The budget has plans for ambitious schemes to bring in a qualitative change in their lives.

This budget presents a comprehensive , time bound action plan for poverty alleviation. Several measures have been outlined to double the income of the farmers. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana is one of them where a substantial allocation has been made to ensure water to every farm.

All of us know the importance of power and road infrastructure . There is a vision in this budget to connect every village to road by 2019. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been allocated substantial funds to connect the rural India by roads. Besides there is a clear plan to provide electricity to every village by 2018.

It will give an impetus to rural economy and bring about positive changes .If you ask a poor man, he will clearly share his dream. Owning a house is his biggest dream. Everyone from a middle class or neo middle class wants to own a house. How are we



going to help them realize this dream? This is not possible without the help of the government. That's why provisions have been made this time to give impetus to the housing sector and ensure a house to general household.

People who are living in rented house have also got increased rebate in Income Tax over House Rent. Those who are earning up to 5 lakhs will have to pay lesser tax.

There has been a lot of politics over the poor. You will be amazed to know that if a poor lady who cooks food for her children using a Chulha faces adverse impact on her and her children's health. Experts say that the smoke of that chulha , is equivalent to the smoke of 400 cigarettes per day. We have to help people below the poverty line and that's why we have decided to provide free gas connection to such people.

5 crore families who use

chulha for cooking will get freedom from smoke. Poor will get health benefits and environment will protected as well.

Our government is also taking important decisions in health sector. At times, an ailment can destroy life of a poor family or a middle class family or a neo middle class family. We have presented schemes for senior citizens who are in dire need of help.

Our country should be safe, our citizens should feel safe and our forces should be equipped with modern defence equipment and our soldiers should get One Rank One Pension post retirement. This budget has made provisions for boosting defence manufacturing and providing the armed forces with modern and potent equipment.

You might have seen that in infrastructure a provision of more than 2 lakh crore Rupees has been made. This will benefit our forces who are guarding our borders.

The youth of the country is moving ahead. In order to provide him employment opportunities we are going to come out with two new initiatives, 'formalizing the informal' and 'employing the unemployed.'

My Mantra is Start Up

India, Stand Up India. To provide a favorable ecosystem for startups, the budget has provided plans in the taxes. Our Dalit and Tribal youth now wants to become an entrepreneur. He doesn't want to be Job Seeker anymore but a Job Creator. In order to make him realize his dream, the government has decided to establish an entrepreneurial hub.

The youth of the country should be able to face global challenges and should get opportunities in education . But due to archaic laws and regulations, education has suffered a lot and in order to improve it 10 public and 10 private institutions will be raised to global standards after selection through a challenge route. These institutes will be provided financial aid as well. This is a great initiative in educations sector. Once there will be an environment of competition among higher education institutes, you can imagine what impact will it bring.

Primary education is equally important. Till now, the governments have been focusing on expansions of primary education which was also important but in order to combat today's challenges qualitative change is also required with expansion. Children in far flung villages should get education, they should get qualitative education, this is our focus. And this budget presents priorities to such qualitative issues.

Our government has always stood for having faith in our people. We should not doubt our country's citizens. Income tax department officials should also have a sense of respect towards our public and that's why a common citizen should be made free from complicated processes that he faces. Traders and professionals who are facing such problems should be made free from it. A common man who earns livelihood will be free from processes involving presumptive tax payment on turn over.

Once again, I congratulate Shri Arun Jaitley ji and I assure my countrymen that this budget is a budget of your dreams. This budget has presented the commitment of government towards realizations of your dreams. ■

My dream is to see farmers double their income by 2022 : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said he dreams of seeing farmers' income getting doubled by 2022 when the country completes 75 years of its independence. Addressing a big gathering of farmers during a 'Kisan Rally' in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on February 28, 2016 Shri Modi highlighted various initiatives undertaken by his government for their welfare.



Stating that while most of the governments wait for the election year to roll out welfare schemes and incentives for farmers, Shri Modi said it was not the case with his National Democratic Alliance government.

"Farmers look towards governments after God and it is imperative on us to ensure that the farmers are looked after well," he said.

"I exhort all state governments that they should work on the road map before them and I am sure that my dream and your dream will succeed," he added.

Elaborating on his dream, Shri Modi said by 2022 when India completes 75 years of its independence the income of the farmers would be doubled. He then asked farmers whether his dream would be realised. Shri Modi said it was not a very difficult target.

Citing the example of Madhya Pradesh, a BJP-ruled state, he said though it did not figure in the top five states of agriculture, now there was a complete turnaround in the agriculture sector.

He said he had not come here to criticize any government. "But I want everyone to be on the same page on the issue of farmer welfare," he said in an apparent dig on the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh. The Prime Minister also described the service, manufacturing and agriculture sectors as the backbone of the Indian economy. ■

Union Budget envisages all-around development of India

Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presented the General Budget for the year 2016-17 on February 29, 2016 on the floor of the Lok Sabha. Unveiling the Budget, he said I have listed 'nine pillars' including tax reforms, governance reforms, promoting ease of doing business and ensuring fiscal discipline that will transform India. This Budget will also focus on infrastructure investment, financial sector reforms, fiscal discipline and tax reforms to reduce compliance burden. Shri Jaitley said this Budget will fulfill the aspirations of the farmers, the poor and rural India. It will focus on empowerment of rural areas and bring the poor farmers and villagers into the mainstream of development.

Here are the highlights of the Union Budget 2016-17 :

Personal Finance

- ▶ No changes have been made to existing income tax slabs
- ▶ Rs 1,000 crore allocated for new EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) scheme
- ▶ Govt. will pay EPF contribution of 8.33% for all new employees for first three years
- ▶ Deduction for rent paid will be raised from Rs 20,000 to Rs 60,000 to benefit those living in rented houses.
- ▶ Additional exemption of Rs. 50,000 for housing loans up to Rs. 35 lakh, provided cost of house is not above Rs. 50 lakh.
- ▶ Service tax exempted for housing construction of houses less than 60 sq. m
- ▶ 15 per cent surcharge on income above Rs. 1 crore

Fiscal deficit

- ▶ Fiscal deficit seen at 3.9 per cent of GDP in 2015/16
- ▶ Will meet the challenging fiscal target of 3.5 per cent of GDP
- ▶ Remain committed to meeting medium term fiscal deficit target of 3 per cent of GDP
- ▶ Current account deficit below 1.3 per cent of GDP

Growth

- ▶ GDP growth seen at between 8 per cent and 8.5 per cent y/y
- ▶ Aiming double digit growth rate

Inflation

- ▶ Expects consumer inflation to remain close to 5 per cent by March, opening room for more monetary policy easing
- ▶ Monetary policy framework agreement with the RBI clearly states objective of keeping inflation below 6 per cent
- ▶ "One of the achievements of my government has been to conquer inflation. This decline in my view represents a structural shift."

Social

- ▶ Rs. 38,500 crore for Mahtma Gandhi MGNREGA for 2016-17
- ▶ Swacch Bharat Abhiyan allocated Rs.9,500 crores.
- ▶ Hub to support SC/ST entrepreneurs
- ▶ Government is launching a new initiative to provide cooking gas to BPL families with state support.
- ▶ LPG connections to be provided under the name of women members of family: Rs 2000 crore allocated for 5 years for BPL families.
- ▶ 2.87 lakh crore grants to gram panchayats and municipalities - a quantum jump of 228%.
- ▶ 300 urban clusters to be set up under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission
- ▶ Four schemes for animal welfare.

Disinvestment

- ▶ Government targets Rs 410 billion from stake sales in companies

- ▶ Total stake sale in 2015/16 seen at Rs 695 billion

Market reforms

- ▶ Propose to merge commodities regulator with SEBI
- ▶ To bring a new bankruptcy code
- ▶ Government will move to amend the RBI act this year, and provide for a monetary policy committee
- ▶ To set up public debt management agency
- ▶ Proposes to introduce a public contract resolution of disputes bill
- ▶ To establish an autonomous bank board bureau to improve management of public sector banks

Policy reforms

- ▶ To enact a comprehensive new law on black money
- ▶ Propose to create a universal social security system for all Indians
- ▶ To launch a national skills mission soon to enhance employability of rural youth
- ▶ To raise visa-on-arrival facility to 150 countries from 43
- ▶ Allocates Rs 346.99 billion for rural employment guarantee scheme

Taxation

- ▶ To abolish wealth tax
- ▶ Replaces wealth tax with additional 2 per cent surcharge on super rich
- ▶ Proposes to cut to 25 per cent corporate tax over next four years
- ▶ Corporate tax of 30 per cent is uncompetitive
- ▶ Net gain from tax proposals seen at Rs 150.68 billion
- ▶ proposes modification of permanent establishment norms so that the mere presence of a fund manager in India would not constitute a permanent establishment of the offshore fund, resulting in adverse tax consequences.

Expenditure

- ▶ Plan expenditure estimated at about Rs 4.65 trillion
- ▶ Non-plan expenditure seen at about Rs 13.12 trillion

- ▶ Allocates Rs 2.46 trillion for defence spending
- ▶ Allocates Rs 331.5 billion for health sector
- ▶ If revenue improves, hope to raise budgeted allocations for rural job scheme by Rs 50 billion

Investment

- ▶ Propose to do away with different types of foreign investment caps and replace them with composite caps
- ▶ To allow foreign investment in alternative investment funds
- ▶ Public investment needed to catalyse investment

Subsidies

- ▶ Food subsidy seen at Rs 1.24 trillion
- ▶ Fertiliser subsidy seen at Rs 729.69 billion
- ▶ Fuel subsidy seen at Rs 300 billion
- ▶ We are committed to subsidy rationalisation based on cutting leakages

Health

- ▶ 2.2 lakh renal patients added every year in India. Basic dialysis equipment gets some relief.
- ▶ A new health protection scheme for health cover upto 1 lakh per family.
- ▶ National Dialysis Service Prog with funds through PPP mode to provide dialysis at all district hospitals.
- ▶ Senior citizens will get additional healthcare cover of Rs 30,000 under the new scheme
- ▶ PM Jan Aushadhi Yojana to be strengthened, 300 generic drug store to be opened

Education

- ▶ Scheme to get Rs.500 cr for promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST
- ▶ 10 public and 10 private educational institutions to be made world-class.
- ▶ Digital repository for all school leaving certificates and diplomas. Rs. 1,000 crore for higher education financing.
- ▶ Rs. 1,700 crore for 1500 multi-skill development centres.

- ▶ 62 new navodaya vidyalayas to provide quality education
- ▶ Digital literacy scheme to be launched to cover 6 crore additional rural households
- ▶ Entrepreneurship training to be provided across schools, colleges and massive online courses.
- ▶ Objective to skill 1 crore youth in the next 3 years under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna
- ▶ National Skill Development Mission has imparted training to 76 lakh youth. 1500 Multi-skill training institutes to be set up.

Energy

- ▶ Rs. 3000 crore earmarked for nuclear power generation
- ▶ Govt drawing comprehensive plan to be implemented in next 15-20 years for exploiting nuclear energy
- ▶ Govt to provide incentive for deepwater gas exploration
- ▶ Deepwater gas new disc to get calibrated market freedom, pre-determined ceiling price based on landed price of alternate fuels.

Infrastructure

- ▶ Investment in infrastructure will go up by Rs 700 billion in 2015/16 over last year
- ▶ 65 eligible habitats to be connected via 2.23 lakh kms of road. Current construction pace is 100 kms/day
- ▶ Shops to be given option to remain open all seven days in a week across markets.
- ▶ Rs. 55,000 crore for roads and highways. Total allocation for road construction, including PMGSY, - Rs 97,000 crore
- ▶ India's highest-ever production of motor vehicles was recorded in 2015
- ▶ Total outlay for infrastructure in Budget 2016 now stands at Rs. 2,21,246 crore
- ▶ New greenfield ports to be developed on east and west coasts

- ▶ Revival of underserved airports. Centre to Partner with States to revive small airports for regional connectivity
- ▶ Plans to set up national investment infrastructure fund
- ▶ Proposes tax-free infrastructure bonds for projects in roads, rail and irrigation projects
- ▶ Proposes 5 "ultra mega" power projects for 4,000MW each
- ▶ Second unit of Kudankulam nuclear power station to be commissioned
- ▶ Will need to build additional 100,000km of road
- ▶ 100 per cent FDI in marketing of food products produced and marketed in India
- ▶ Dept. of Disinvestment to be renamed as Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management
- ▶ Govt will amend Motor Vehicle Act in passenger vehicle segment to allow innovation.
- ▶ MAT will be applicable for startups that qualify for 100 per cent tax exemption
- ▶ Direct tax proposals result in revenue loss of Rs.1060 crore, indirect tax proposals result in gain of Rs.20,670 crore

Agriculture

- ▶ Total allocation for agriculture and farmer welfare at Rs 35,984 crores
- ▶ 28.5 lakh hectares of land will be brought under irrigation.
- ▶ 5 lakh acres to be brought under organic farming over a three year period
- ▶ Rs 60,000 crore for recharging of ground water recharging as there is urgent need to focus on drought hit areas cluster development for water conservation.
- ▶ Dedicated irrigation fund in NABARD of Rs.20,000 cr
- ▶ Nominal premium and highest ever compensation in case of crop loss under the PM Fasal Bima Yojna. ■

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on Budget:

"I thank and congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley for keeping farmers, poor and rural India at the centre of union budget." "This budget will help strengthen Modi's aim of bringing poor and villagers into the mainstream of development," Shri Shah added.



He said "the Modi government budget reflects all those things which make the dream of bringing the country on the track of development & Sabka Saath; Sabka Vikas. The budget determines to make farmers' income double in next 5 years. It's committed to provide irrigation for each and every inch of the farming land. The government has shown its commitment to 100% electrification of villages by 1st May 2018. ■

One of the best budgets so far : Advani

I have seen many budgets being presented in Parliament. The one that Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presented in Parliament is certainly one of the best so far, for which I heartily commend him.



Budget 2016-17 has the potential to give a big boost to India's economic growth with employment generation, while reducing social imbalances that have marred our country's development since Independence. Most heartening is its strong emphasis on the neglected task of revitalisation of agriculture and rural development, since more than two-thirds of India's population continues to live in rural areas. The Budget has made unprecedented provision for accelerating and modernising India's infrastructure in critical areas such as highways, railways and rural roads. The strengthened focus on health, education and housing is also most welcome. Moreover, the Finance Minister has expanded the scope of the use of digital technologies in every area of the economy and administration, which is essential for Good Governance.

At a time when the global economy remains weak, India's growth is laudable. It looks to become even brighter in the coming years.

All this shows that the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have adopted an approach that promises to make India stronger and more prosperous, while making 'Antyodaya' the central theme of economic growth. This is a befitting tribute to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in his birth centenary year. ■

Rajnath Singh on Budget

Congratulations to the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley on presenting an excellent Union Budget for 2016-17 Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh said "If the Union Budget were like annual exams for our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi then I must say he has passed the exams with flying colours. The Budget 2016-17 gives the government an opportunity to deepen the economic foundation and widen the infrastructure network of our country". He added "Strengthening rural economy and providing income security to the farmers has been given top priority in this year's Budget. Introduction of Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana coupled with the allocation of Rs 20000 crore to improve irrigation facilities in India will boost the farm sector." Highest ever target of Rs 9 lakh crore as agri loans to farmers and highest ever allocation of Rs 38500 crore to MNREGA is bound to benefit rural economy. Increasing the allocation of funds to Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana to Rs 19000 crore is a big step to boost rural infrastructure. ■



BJYM National convention vows to combat anti-India forces

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) National Convention was held from March 4 to 6 in Mathura-Vrindavan at Shanti Seva Dham in which large numbers of youth

and India First) were passed in the meeting. Political resolution moved by BJYM National Vice-President Shri Swadesh Singh has appreciated Shri Narendra Modi led government's pro-

Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Sanjeev Baliyan.

On the eve of National Convention BJYM national executive was also organized in which Union Minister of



participated.

The convention was inaugurated by BJP National President Shri Amit Shah.

On the occasion BJP General Secretary Shri Anil Jain, BJP National Vice President & Uttar Pradesh Party in-charge Shri Omprakash Mathur, BJYM National President Shri Anurag Thakur, Uttar Pradesh BJP President Shri Laxmikant Vajpayee and BJP National Secretary Shri Shrikant Sharma were present.

Two resolutions (Political

poor and pro-people policies.

Other one named 'India First' condemned anti-Indian activities in the JNU campus.

The session of convention was also addressed by HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani, Environment Minister (I/C) Shri Prakash Javadker, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Raman Singh, Madhya Pradesh Chief minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and

State for Railways Shri Manoj Sinha, BJP National General Secretary Murlidhar Rao, BJP National Vice President Shri Vinay Shashtrabudhe were present. Concluding Session was addressed by Union Finance Shri Arun Jaitley along and National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ramlal.

The Convention resolved to combat anti-national forces. At the end of convention a march was also organised. (FOC) ■

Visit every house, ask if people would tolerate 'anti-national' slogans : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said that BJP will form the next government in the upcoming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. He said that BJP was all set to form the next government in Uttar Pradesh in 2017. He said the people were anxiously waiting for a BJP government in the state because they were fed up with the castiest policies of



the SP and the BSP and the lack of development.

The BJP president was in Uttar Pradesh on 26 February, 2016 to inaugurate the renovated BJP office and said that he was confident of the party getting a comfortable majority after the Assembly elections. He said the base of the BJP was rapidly growing and every district in the state would have its own office by the end of this year.

Addressing workers in Lucknow, he said though I did not wish to discuss politics on the occasion, I did wish to ask questions on the issue of nationalism. "I want to ask the Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi if he believes that the slogans raised in JNU amounted to being anti-national or were a part of freedom of speech. The Congress must clarify its ideological stand on this issue," he

said.

BJP national president Shri Amit Shah asked party workers to visit every house in Uttar Pradesh to inform people about the alleged "anti-national" slogans that were raised on Jawaharlal Nehru University campus and enquire if they would tolerate the same.

Shri Shah also asked Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi to clarify whether the slogans amounted to being anti-national or not even as he read out four of them – "Afzal hum sharminda hain, tere qatil zinda hain; Bharat teri barbadi tak jang jari rahegi; bharat tere tukde honge; har ghar me Afzal paida hoga". "At JNU, Rahul Gandhi had said there was a ban on freedom of expression. I again ask Rahul Gandhi to clarify whether these four slogans are anti-national or against freedom of expression.

He said that since the past six days he had been posing these questions to Mr Gandhi but the latter refused to reply and clear the air. Shri Shah called upon party cadres to raise this issue in every village so the people get a clear picture of Congress' controversy.

"I specially want to ask the Congress whether those raising slogans favoring Afzal Guru and Bharat ke tukde honge should be treated for sedition or not," he stated, adding that anti-national sloganeering will not be tolerated.

The BJP president said he had been raising the question for the last six days, but Rahul was maintaining silence. He asked the party workers to raise the issue in every village and said that such slogans would not be supported in democracy.

Shri Shah asked media persons to ask the same question to Rahul again and again. "Rahul Gandhi must tell the nation the

ideological base of his party," he said, adding that he was raising JNU issue because it was related to "nationalism".

The BJP president said his party's stand was very clear. "The BJP and its government are committed to take strict action if such slogans are raised in any part of the country. BJP never supports such slogans," Shri Shah said.

Shri Shah said his party will form the next government in Uttar Pradesh after Assembly elections in the state next year. "Forming the government in UP with absolute majority is BJP's target. Party workers will again play a key role in achieving the goal, just like they had done in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls when BJP had won 71 out of 80 seats in UP," he added.

Shri Shah said BJP has decided to have its own party office in all districts across the country by December 2017. "Land for these offices will be purchased by December, this year... Land has been acquired for party office in around 40 districts so far and development work will begin in around 200 districts across the country by April," he added.

The new party offices will be equipped with advanced facilities, including libraries with books on political ideologies, social media rooms and rooms for comfortable stay of party workers. Shri Shah said that SP and BSP government had ruined Uttar Pradesh and speedy development would take place only when the BJP came to power. He said that the BJP was the only party that did not indulge in vote bank politics and always framed broad based policies that benefitted all. ■

BJP will emerge victorious at the assembly polls in Gujarat and also the 2019 national elections : Amit Shah

The Bharatiya Janata Party National president Shri Amit Shah expressed confidence that the BJP will get a massive victory in 2017 assembly polls in Gujarat. Shri Shah, who last month got re-elected as party National President for a fresh three-year term, was addressing a meeting of party leaders and workers in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 27 February, 2016 who had gathered here from across the state.

Addressing the Gujarat BJP workers Shri Shah said that I am confident that the BJP will emerge victorious at the assembly polls in Gujarat and also the 2019 national elections. "We should not get disappointed here as this is the laboratory of our ideology.

The 2012 win in Gujarat was the stepping stone for 2014 Lok Sabha win and in the same way 2017 victory will pave the way



for the win in 2019 national elections," Shri Shah asserted.

Shri Amit Shah also asked the Karyakartas to work collectively for BJP's victory in the assembly polls.

He questioned the commitment of the Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi, towards the country after his visit to JNU campus in support of students who allegedly raised anti-India slogans. "I want to ask State Congress leaders whether they endorse Rahul Gandhi's stand on the JNU issue. He visited the JNU campus and extended support to those who raised anti-India slogans. He says they have freedom of expression. I wonder in which country Rahul lives," said Shri Shah.

"When Gujarat is going for Assembly polls, it is now the responsibility of each BJP worker to follow Congress leaders wherever they go and force them to clear their stand on the JNU issue. "Till they clear their stand, you should not allow them to go among the people," he said, indicating that the party workers may launch the poll campaign well in advance.

He said, "When I was in Delhi, I saw disappointment in the eyes of BJP workers here. It really surprised me. The polls results were indeed worrisome as we lost in the panchayat polls (in rural areas). However, we captured corporations and municipalities (urban centres). I want you to shed all your disappointments and get ready for the Assembly polls." ■

Is this Nationalism?

-Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

Glancing through press cutting I came across a news item in the national Herald of 27 March, 1962, reporting a speech of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia at Allahabad. In this speech Dr. Lohia stressed the need of communal harmony and is further reported to have said that he would not like to enter into a controversy whether the Jana Sangh was a communal body or not, but he was sure that the Jana Sangh by its policies and activities was widening the gulf between Hindus and Muslims. The report as published does not elaborate the point and I do not know whether Dr. Lohia actually explained to the audience the basis of his charge against the Jana Sangh. In the absence of specific instances the criticism is uncalled for and would not be befit a leader like Dr. Lohia, who I feel would not parrot-like repeat catch-phrases used by Pandit Nehru and the comrades. Till now, he had been accusing Jana Sangh, for not championing the cause of Hindi as fanatically as he does, and for not expressly insisting on the river Brahmaputra as the boundary between India and Tibet. But this time he has harped on a hackneyed and propagandist tune.

It may be that his whole

Unity manifests itself in equality. No section of the society can demand a price for unity and if it degenerates into such an attitude, no price can inculcate a feeling of oneness in that section. The moment you think in terms of winning communities on the basis of paying them price in form of political power, you sow the seeds of separation.

speech was addressed to some of his no so liberal followers who had taken exception to his remarks made in a published letter appreciating the thoughtful sober and dynamic leadership of Sri Nanaji Deshmukh who had earlier met him and seemed to have impressed him.

Despite the fact that Dr. Lohia had been insisting on the acceptance of the fact of common ancestry and common history by all people of India it seems basically he has not been able to get rid of the erroneous outlook on the Muslim problem followed by the congress during the last four decades.

Referring to the establishment of Akhand Bharat, Dr. Lohia proposed in the course of his speech that if the people of India wanted to attract their Muslim brethren in Pakistan

there must be an amendment in the constitution making it obligatory that either the President or the Prime Minister of India should be a Muslim.

This proposal betrays a lack of appreciation of the intrinsic unity of Bharat and its people, Akhand Bharat is more a cultural concept than territorial, it is true that the achievement of this ideal is only possible through the unity of hearts of the people of India. But unity is never created or promoted by political patchwork. Unity manifests itself in equality. No section of the society can demand a price for unity and if it degenerates into such an attitude, no price can inculcate a feeling of oneness in that section. The moment you think in terms of winning communities on the basis of paying them price in form of political power, you sow the seeds of separation. The history of the last forty years bears ample testimony to the fact. In order to induce the Muslims into identifying themselves with the nation and its goal of freedom all sorts of "cheques" were offered, but we did not succeed. The motive of the Congress leaders was not bad. But they fell into the trap of the Britishers, while to the Hindu they appealed purely

in the name of national independence; they qualified their appeal to the Muslim with a number of guarantees and conditions, which did not discriminate against, but for the Muslims.

But it was discrimination all the same. It failed to enthuse the Muslims. After all there is difference between a patriot and businessman. The Congress never recognized the patriot in the Muslim but only a businessman bargaining for political power. On the other hand Jinnah formulated a new theory of nationhood. However fantastic it might have been, it filled the Muslim mass with zeal and zest for the League's ideal of Pakistan.

Jinnah did not recognise sectarian differences amongst the Muslims. If Dr. Lohia were in his place, it would have been made obligatory perhaps to have Shia or a Sunni either as the President or the Prime Minister of Pakistan, but no, Jinnah did not bother about test things. He did not even tell the people what sort of a State Pakistan would be and what would be the relationship between different units of Pakistan. He talked to them as Muslims, and the Congress also talked to them as Muslim. While Jinnah attempted to 'elevate' Muslims to the position of a 'nation', Congress approach sought to make of them simply a minority. There was in this attitude an air of

condescension, a spirit of patronization. In practice it amounted to a policy of appeasement. It was certainly not equality.

Is this Nationalism?

Even today to common variety of nationalism thinks in these terms. National integration has come to mean some solution of the jig saw puzzle to which the people of India have been reduced by the sectarian and communal politics of the last forty years.

Dr. Lohia wants constitutional provision for

The Congress never recognized the patriot in the Muslim but only a businessman bargaining for political power. On the other hand Jinnah formulated a new theory of nationhood.

reserving either the President's or the Prime Minister's post for a Muslim. But what about other religious sects? The Christians, Parsis and Jews are there. And even within the narrower and limited connotation of the word Hindu there are a number of sects. Will they not all demand reservation? And this will mean tearing after thread by thread the national texture so exquisitely woven in the course of centuries past.

We do not know about it but some people have definitely been interpreting and the whole thing is capable of creating such an impression

as if the choice of Congress nominees to the various top posts has been determined by communal consideration. The Hindu president is to be counterbalanced by a Muslim Vice President, a Christian Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and a Sikh Speaker of the Lok Sabha. To complete the circle, as it were, the opposition parties have nominated Sikh Speakership. But can the circle to this complete?

The Jana Sangh is opposed to this idea; offices should go by merit and not by Religion. To take religion into consideration will be imitating Pakistan. Pakistan has a constitution under which only a Muslim can become Head of the state. Non Muslims are second rate citizens there. In India we have a constitution where religion entails no bar to any office. Let us follow it in spirit and letter both, if we want further forces of national integration. The Jana Sangh decided to support Sri Zakir Hussain for the Vice President or Sri Hakim Singh for the Speakership of the Lok Sabha not because of their denominational attachments but because of their merit. If however, the Congress intends to institutionalise communalism by apportioning different offices on a sectional basis, it will be extremely wrong. The Jana Sangh will definitely oppose any such move.

To continue....

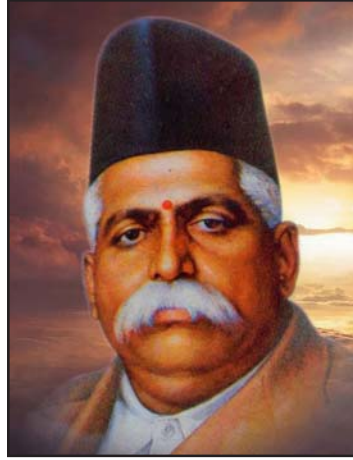
[Political Diary, 30 April, 1962]

Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar

Shat-Shat Naman!

Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (April 1, 1889 - June 21, 1940) was the founding Sarsanghachalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Dr. Hedgewar was born on April 1, 1889 in Nagpur. He was born on the auspicious day of Yugadi or Gudi Padwa, which is the Hindu New Year's Day. His forefathers had migrated to Nagpur in the early nineteenth century from Kandkurti in Andhra Pradesh. His parents were Shri Baliram Pant Hedgewar and Smt. Revati. His father was a priest and they were a family of modest means.

When Keshav was thirteen, both his parents succumbed to the epidemic of plague. He had to suffer great hardships on account of being orphaned but never did he seek any help from others as he had a lot of self-respect. Despite travails, his attention to his studies was never affected. His elder brothers Mahadev Pant and Sitaram Pant ensured that he was provided with good education. When he was studying in Neel City High School in Nagpur, he was rusticated for singing "Vande Mataram" in violation of the circular issued by the then British government. As a result he had to pursue his high school studies at the Rashtriya Vidyalaya in Yavatmal and later in Pune. After matriculating, he went to Kolkata in 1910 to pursue his medical studies. After passing the L.M.& S.



Examination from the National Medical College in June 1914, he completed one year apprenticeship and returned to Nagpur in 1915 as a doctor.

In Nagpur, Hedgewar became involved with social work and also with the Bal Gangadhar Tilak faction of the Congress Party. In the 1920 session of Indian National Congress held in Nagpur, Dr.Hedgewar was appointed as the Deputy Chief of volunteers' cadre overseeing the whole function. This volunteer organization was named as Bharat Swayamsewak Mandal and was headed by Dr. Laxman V. Paranjape (Dr. Hedgewar as his Deputy).

He and his colleagues unsuccessfully campaigned for the passage of a resolution declaring 'Poorna Swaraj (complete self-rule) as the goal of the Congress. He participated actively in the Non-cooperation movement in 1920 and undertook a brisk tour in village after village in the Central

Provinces for mass awakening. He was promptly jailed and sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment. During this time, he was also a member of the Hindustan Republican Association.

With the intention of uniting Indians and to awaken the spirit of patriotism, discipline and bravery in them, Dr.Hedgewar founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1925, on the auspicious day of Vijayadashami.

Dr. Hedgewar was a good organizer and traveled extensively throughout the country, recruiting and developing good swayamsevaks. Dr.Hedgewar left for heavenly abode on the morning of June 21, 1940 in Nagpur. His last rites were performed in the locality of Resham Bagh in Nagpur.

Dr.Hedgewar instilled a work culture in the RSS and doing away with the custom of personality following. His foresight and capability is established by the fact that the RSS today is one of the world's largest organizations. Even today, Dr.Hedgewar is a much revered figure in the Nationalist Movement of India.

RSS swayamsevaks across the world remember their icon of national resurgence, Dr Keshava Baliram Hedgewar, founder of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), on his birth anniversary.

We pay tributes to this great soul of Maa Bharati on his Anniversary. ■

Towards a new vision and approach

Union Railway Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu presented Railway budget for the 2016-17 on February 25. He said on the occasion "This is a Budget which reflects the aspirations of each and every member of the Railway family; a Budget that reflects the aspirations of the common citizens of India who have not only been writing to me, interacting with me on social media but also meeting me in large numbers to share their thoughts. This is a Budget that has been fashioned by a creative partnership: with ideas from my colleagues in Parliament, industry associations, commuter associations, media and practically all sections of the society. I would like to thank each one of you. But above all, this Budget owes its inspiration to the vision and leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."



RAILWAY BUDGET 2016 - 17



Highlights of the Railway Budget 2016-17

- Rs.8.5 lakh crore will be invested in Railways in next 5 years.
- 'Operation 5 mins', wherein passengers travelling unreserved can purchase a ticket in 5 minutes.
- Bio toilets and airplane-type vacuum toilets in trains.
- Surveillance cameras in select coaches and ladies compartments for women's safety without compromising on privacy.
- Rail tickets can now be booked 120 days in advance.
- Speed on nine railway corridors to go up to 200 km per hour.
- Wi-Fi in more stations, mobile phone charging facilities in all train compartments.
- Facility of online booking of wheelchair for senior citizens.
- Satellite railway terminals in major cities.
- Centrally managed Rail Display Network is expected to be introduced in over 2K stations over the next 2 years.
- 1All india 24/7 helpline - 138 from March 2015 ; Toll free No.182 for security.
- There is no increase in passenger rail fares.
- 917 road under-bridges and over-bridges to be constructed to replace 3,438 railway crossings; at a cost of Rs. 6,581 crore.
- Four Railway Research Centres to start in four universities.
- Details about new trains and increased frequency will be announced later in this session of Parliament after review.
- The Railway Budget envisages an investment of Rs. 8.5 lakh crore in next five years.
- The Minister suggested that the money could be raised from multiple sources - from multilateral development banks to pension funds.
- Go in for partnership with key stakeholders - States, PSUs, partner with multilateral and bi-lateral organizations other governments to gain access to long-term financing. Also, get technology from overseas. The private sector could be roped in to improve last-mile connectivity, expand fleet of rolling stock and modernize station infrastructure.
- De-congesting networks with basket of traffic-generating projects will be the

- priority
- Priority to last-mile connectivity projects
- Fast-track sanctioned works on 7,000 kms of double/third/fourth lines
- Commissioning 1200 km in 2015-16 at an investment of Rs. 8,686 crore, 84% higher Y-O-Y.
- Commissioning 800 km of gauge conversion targeted in current fiscal.
- 77 projects covering 9,400 km of doubling/tripling/quadrupling works along with electrification, covering almost all States, at a cost of Rs. 96,182 crore, which is over 2700% higher in terms of amount sanctioned.
- Traffic facility work is a top priority with an outlay of Rs. 2374 crore .
- Award of 750 km of civil contracts and 1300 km of system contracts in 2015-16 on Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC); 55 km section of Eastern DFC to be completed in the current year.
- Preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey (PETS) for four other DFCs in progress.
- Acceleration of pace of Railway electrification: 6,608 route kilometers sanctioned for 2015-16, an increase of 1330% over the previous year. ■

Action initiated on 139 budget announcements of 2015-16

Project execution

- 2015-16 - assured funding through LIC; commissioning of 2,500 kms Broad Gauge lines; commissioning of 1,600 kms of electrification, highest ever. In 2016-17 - targeted commissioning 2,800 kms of track; commissioning Broad Gauge lines @ over 7 kms per day against an average of about 4.3 kms per day in the last 6 years. Would increase to about 13 kms per day in 2017-18 and 19 kms per day in 2018-19; will generate employment of about 9 crore man days in 2017-18 and 14 crore man days in 2018-19. Outlay for railway electrification increased in 2016-17 by almost 50%; target to electrify 2,000 kms. Dedicated Freight Corridor
- Almost all contracts for civil engineering works to be awarded by March 31st 2016; Rs. 24,000 crore contracts awarded since November 2014 as against Rs. 13,000 crore contracts awarded in last 6 years; propose to take up North-South, East-West & East Coast freight corridors through innovative financing including PPP.

Page 2 of 8

Port connectivity

- Tuna Port commissioned and rail connectivity projects to ports of Jaigarh, Dighi, Rewas and Paradip under implementation; implementation of rail connectivity for the ports of Nargol and Hazira under PPP in 2016-17.

North East

- BG Lumding-Silchar section in Assam opened thus connecting Barak Valley with rest of the country; Agartala brought on to the BG network. States of Mizoram and Manipur shortly to come on BG map of the country with commissioning of the Kathakal-Bhairabi and Arunachal-Jiribam Gauge Conversion projects.

Jammu and Kashmir

- Work on Katra-Banihal section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project progressing satisfactorily- 35 kms of tunnelling out of total of 95 kms completed; Decongestion work on Jalandhar - Jammu line in full swing and doubling of two bridges to be commissioned by March 2016, while the other two bridges will be completed by 2016-17. ■

Quality of the fiscal deficit is important : Arun Jaitley



In an interview with Lok Sabha TV, Union finance minister Shri Arun Jaitley talked about the key initiatives taken by the government as part of this year's budget. Edited excerpts:

There has been a lot of speculation about the fiscal deficit target, but you have stuck to your commitment. Why?

I consulted a huge cross section of opinions on this aspect. The industry is by and large in favour of spending more. Most politicians were not really concerned if the deficit was 3.5% or 3.7% (of GDP). The economists were a divided house but the predominant opinion among them was (in favour of) a pause. But you cannot be the fastest growing economy in the world, with oil prices in their thirties, and still say, "I cannot maintain the fiscal deficit."

I think two things are extremely important. The first is not that you maintain fiscal deficit; it's the quality of fiscal deficit. The UPA also maintained a certain figure for several years but with huge cuts. There are only two ways in which you can maintain fiscal deficit: either you earn more or you spend less. They maintained it by spending less, when you spend less, you compromise on growth. Year 2015 and '16 has helped me to establish the credibility of this government; after years, the revised estimates are going to be higher than the budget estimates.

We have spent more, we have earned more and therefore the quality of this fiscal deficit of 3.9% (in 2015-16) is very high and therefore the pendulum swung towards credibility. Having got the benefit of low oil prices and various factors, when we totaled up, with some difficulty, we realized that we could make it (a deficit

of 3.5% in 2016-17). Some eminent persons whose wisdom I respect asked whether India needs a single point deficit or range? Could we say that it will be between 3.4 and 3.6, which will provide for some flexibility? I thought it was a point worth consideration, but for this year. I will stick to 3.5%.

This year's nominal growth projection is at 8.6% currently and for next year, it is projected to be 11%. This year, your revenue growth has been around 17%, whereas you are projecting it at only 11% for the next year and I also draw your attention towards the fact that on the services revenue front, you are only showing 1% for next year. Could you tell us if these are slightly on the lower side. Are you being conservative and modest with these figures?

I would rather be conservative and improve. For example, I may end the current year with higher revenue, despite stressed private sector balance sheets. When prices fell to about \$30-32, then obviously I was able to pass part of the burden to the consumer and take on part as cess, etc, which I was able to spend on infrastructure. The rest came by way of additional revenue measures and maybe that luxury is not available next year because you don't know how much the oil prices will go down by, but you have to have some fair assessment on that and therefore, you assume that you collect as much as you did this year plus a little

more.

I think as far as the next year is concerned, one of the reasons that our nominal growth has been of concern is that for 15 months, the WPI (wholesale price index, a measure of wholesale inflation) has been in the negative and therefore, when you abrogate with CPI, even though your growth will be 7-7.5%, your nominal growth turns out to be 8.6% because the inflation index is very low.

So, it will all depend on what the inflation index is and therefore, we have taken a moderate 11% growth rate as far as revenue is concerned. If we are able to collect more, then of course, we will be able to reach our target very comfortably.

Is this a budget for Bharat?

First let's come to the taxes; collecting an additional Rs19,000 crore or so in a budget of Rs20 lakh crore means it is 1%. What are the items (we are taxing)? Who the people we are taxing? In fact, to the weaker and middle class, many aspects of the budget will give a relief.

Now where do you spend this money? The (previous) United Progressive Alliance (government) used to spend Rs8,000-9,000 crore on irrigation, electrification, education in rural areas; this year, we are going to spend 27,000 crore. MGNREGA will be the highest ever expenditure this year because there is a stress in the rural areas. You will have a crop insurance scheme. Both political and economic considerations converge in that direction, to help that segment of the economy (rural India).

What about other areas where there are issues?

An analysis of the economic situation has led us to spending in segments where it is needed, such as rural infrastructure. One of the (other) important aspects of this budget is Aadhaar. We'll introduce the legislation in one or two days. There are privacy concerns that the Supreme Court is looking into. If you want to be a government beneficiary in any scheme, you will need an Aadhaar card. This will

end unfair utilization of subsidies and make subsidies targeted. The savings from avoiding leakages can be utilized in the social sector or (to build) infrastructure.

This year, there is combined spending of over Rs220,000 crore on roadways (rural and highways) and railways. This will result in generation of employment and increase in investment in the sectors.

You've brought in a new scheme to deal with the mess that the retrospective tax amendment has created. Do you think it will work?

This will depend on the assessee involved in the case. The law was made during the previous government and had a retrospective effect. I was in the opposition then and had heavily criticized this. In the first budget, we said that we'll do away with retrospective taxation and we've done it. We are paying the price of what the previous government did. We first tried to solve this by law. That wasn't possible; now, I have gone another step forward and said that if an assessee wishes, we are willing to settle this without interest or penalty.

Your government has always been talking about targeted subsidies. You have formalized it and said that now you're introducing a bill linking subsidies to Aadhaar. Is this the moment where public policy is signalling that subsidies can only go to the deserving and poor?

That's how it should be. In my very first speech in Parliament, I raised this. Now when 75 lakh people have surrendered it (their LPG connections), from the benefit we've gotten from this scheme...this year, 15 million BPL (below the poverty line) families are going to get an LPG connection. We subsidise the first connection and then they will take over themselves. The target is to reach 50 million BPL families.

I also announced today I am going to test a pilot scheme (for) the fertilizer (subsidy). So the object of this legislation will be identification. I hope that there is a consensus on these issues that in India you

have many poor people, you have a limited resource, the poor are entitled to benefit from that limited resource; the rich should not benefit from that resource.

You made two announcements, which your critics describe as being ambitious. One is your disinvestment target. Although you did not reach the full target of Rs69,500 crore in 2015-16, you are proposing to raise Rs55,000 crore next year and the second announcement is about the consolidation of state-owned banks.

As far as disinvestment is concerned, this was a very difficult year. You had turmoil in the markets. The stocks which were most adversely impacted were the oil stocks, the metal stocks, the commodities stocks. We'll be able to make Rs23,000-24,000 crore from divestment this year. Though we had strategic sales in NDA-I (1999-2004) we were totally able to sell Rs27,000-28,000 crore (worth of stake in state-owned firms). In the first one and a half years (of this government), I've been able to sell more than (Rs)40,000 (crore) without any controversy. I am still continuing. Last week, we had the NTPC stake sale; probably in March, we'll have one or two more areas. We will divest.

We will also have asset divestment, a new initiative. Globally, this is called asset recycling. I've set an ambitious target. And hopefully, if the markets are not as choppy as they were this year, it (the achievement) will be probably be somewhere closer. On bank consolidation...

Will you wind up banks which are not viable?

No, it doesn't do that. The first step is, you improve the balance sheet of these banks. The balance sheet got adversely impacted because of management issues, also some sectoral issues. We've been trying to address (the issues), whether it's steel or it's power; (or) Infrastructure projects. Now the effect of all this is going to be that first bring the health back. Then, in some cases (we can merge) a weak bank and a strong bank, subsidiaries and the

parent bank. Now, these are all options. India still needs public sector banks. But, do you need so many and some of them very weak or do you need fewer in number but strong banks?

You announced an e-platforms for farmers...

So that their produce sells. See, till now *mandis* used to rule. But to change Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) Act and to convert India into a national agricultural market... In 12 states, this initiative has been taken. We will now join this with other incentives so that the rest of the states will also make changes to the APMC Act and would enter into this platform.

All the farm produce in the country such as fruits and vegetables... we are not able to store it, then process it and so it gets wasted. So, how will it reach the consumer? I have allowed 100% foreign direct investment in (food marketing) that so that money invested by anyone will benefit our farmers, their produce would be bought, it will not be wasted and they will get a better price also.

You have dedicated a separate section to job creation in your budget. Is it right to assume that your strategy seems to be to incentivize private sector, to bolster the start-up sector...

Generally, (the idea is to) depend on economic growth. The second is, for three years, I will pay the EPF (employee provident fund) contribution (that employees do). There is a third very interesting initiative that I have taken. Now you have structured retail shopping in India, so malls are open till midnight and all seven days a week. But shopkeepers under the local regulations close at seven o'clock and work only six days a week. So they must give their workers one day off, limited working hours, but have the facility of being open all seven days if he wants. This itself can create 10-12% more jobs in the retail sector. We have almost completed drafting a model legislation which we are going to request the states to adopt. ■

(Transcribed by *mint*)

6,000 unelectrified villages provided with power

Electrification has been done in 6,000 of the 18,500 unelectrified villages and the renewable energy capacity has reached 39.5 Giga Watts was disclosed in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

At the two-and-a-half hour meeting to review the progress of key infrastructure sectors in New Delhi, on March 5 Shri Narendra Modi

installed, a PMO statement said.

The Prime Minister was informed that the progress of electrification of all unelectrified villages is proceeding at a rapid pace, the statement said.

Out of the approximately 18,500 unelectrified villages targeted under the Prime Minister's rural electrification programme, about 6,000 have

off-grid solutions such as solar panels are being used to reach remote and inaccessible areas in states such as Arunachal Pradesh, the statement said. The progress in distribution of LED bulbs across the country was also reviewed. Coal India Limited has achieved a 9.2 per cent increase in production this year, as compared to an average of just 3 per cent

Officials explained that off-grid solutions such as solar panels are being used to reach remote and inaccessible areas in states such as Arunachal Pradesh, the statement said. The progress in distribution of LED bulbs across the country was also reviewed. Coal India Limited has achieved a 9.2 per cent increase in production this year, as compared to an average of just 3 per cent growth over the last 5 years, the statement said. The Prime Minister called for immediate measures to scale up the speed of providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. He was informed that 12 important tourist locations have been provided public Wi-Fi connectivity when he inquired about the progress in this area.

growth over the last 5 years, the statement said. The Prime Minister called for immediate measures to scale up the speed of providing broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats. He was informed that 12 important tourist locations have been

also took stock of the progress in 'Housing-for-All' programme and directed officials concerned to expedite its implementation, using a judicious mix of modern technology and local building materials and techniques.

Sectors such as power, coal, housing, ports and Digital India were reviewed in the meeting.

The meeting was also informed of the progress in providing mobile connectivity to villages affected by Left Wing Extremism where 1,371 towers have so far been

already been electrified, the meeting was told.

The Prime Minister was informed that the progress of the initiative is being tracked in real-time using sophisticated technology applications, including geo-tagging, it said.

With regard to renewable energy, Shri Modi was told that significant progress has been achieved towards the target of 175 Giga-Watts (GW) capacity by 2022, with the total installed renewable energy capacity already reaching 39.5 GW.

Officials explained that

provided public Wi-Fi connectivity when he inquired about the progress in this area.

Reviewing the ports sector, the Prime Minister instructed officials to work urgently on improving the average vessel turnaround time at major ports, in order to bring it in line with international standards. Drastic reduction in the timeliness for border compliance and measures for boosting coastal shipping within the country, were also discussed, the statement added. ■ (PTI)

The Congress-Left bulldozer

By M Venkaiah Naidu

In JNU, as in Hyderabad Central University, gullible students are being targeted by forces inimical to the country. Let's not forget that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Displaying crass political opportunism and stooping to a new low, the Congress and the Left are using the tragic suicide of a bright young research scholar, Rohith Vemula, and the anti-national sloganeering incident at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) to malign the NDA in a venomous, slanderous campaign, and are attempting to spread unrest on a few campuses by poisoning impressionable minds. That they have failed in their diabolical plan and that a vast majority of students, thinking classes and common masses are outraged by their political machinations, has not deterred them. Without sparing a thought for the damage they are causing to the future of the students and the image of the country, these parties are acting in a most irresponsible and condemnable manner.

Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi jumped into the fray to make common cause with those who raised anti-national slogans at JNU and

Hyderabad Central University (HCU). What he did not realise was that this immature soap-operatic act of fishing in troubled waters may make for two minutes of fame but sullies his party's image, leave alone that of the nation.

Stretching the freedom of expression argument too far, Congress and Left leaders are seeking to justify anti-India slogans although it is well known that no fundamental right is absolute and the Constitution has placed

reasonable restrictions on the freedom of expression.

Some opposition parties are also deliberately obfuscating the truth and indulging in Orwellian doublespeak by creating an impression that the critics of the government are being dubbed as "anti-national". Nothing can be further from the truth. Anti-government slogans are understandable but no right-thinking person would tolerate anti-national slogans that seek to balkanise India. Dissent is agreeable, but those wanting the country's disintegration cannot be tolerated, much less supported.

While only three or four of more than 740 universities have witnessed some kind of agitation by a handful of students with ideological affiliations to the ultra-left and Maoists, the opposition is claiming that unrest is sweeping across all campuses. Opponents of the BJP are resorting to hackneyed methods of trying to create social tension and indulging in vote-bank politics. The

While only three or four of more than 740 universities have witnessed some kind of agitation by a handful of students with ideological affiliations to the ultra-left and Maoists, the opposition is claiming that unrest is sweeping across all campuses.

Congress and Left parties are responsible for promoting tension, disaffection and unrest on some campuses. For the Congress, it is politics of convenience – self-interest and that of the “first family” is above the party or nation. For the Left parties, weakening the system is part of their inflexible ideology.

Unfortunately, disproportionate publicity by a section of the media is also responsible for creating a false impression of unrest among students. It would be fallacious to dismiss the JNU incident as mere sloganeering by a handful of students. There is a need to go to the bottom of the issue. That JNU is a citadel of Marxist ideology is well known.

The Congress, which was in power for 60 years, had a vice-like grip over academic and cultural institutions. Left intellectuals, who were the beneficiaries of the Congress regime, want their hegemony to continue. Both Congress and Left leaders are intolerant of any contrary view, want to bulldoze public opinion and impose their beliefs. While they scream “intolerance”, their ideologues – be they historians, columnists or social scientists – are disdainful of any other worldview.

Rohith’s unfortunate suicide triggered a debate that was engineered to tarnish

the reputation of some leaders, including Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya. Similarly, questions have been raised about the role of certain so-called rightwing students and the university administration.

If the suicide was shocking, what followed was even more so, with political parties making a beeline for the campus in the guise of paying homage to the deceased and indulging in

and ST atrocity case against people of the ASA’s choosing. It needs to be pointed out that the plight of Dalits in general and the activities of the ASA are two distinct issues. Talking against the ASA cannot be construed as talking against Dalits.

As a matter of fact, Dalits have overwhelmingly supported PM Narendra Modi. Nothing substantiates this more than the fact that the BJP has the highest

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abominably low politics.

It is time to set the record straight. The Ambedkar Students’ Association (ASA), which is a frontal outfit of the ultra-left, is known to have indulged in fascist politics and intimidated political rivals. Police records bear clear, unmistakable evidence on this. It is worth mentioning that it did not spare even the Dalit Students’ Union. Following Rohith’s suicide, the police were denied access to his body, and were manhandled, abused and blackmailed into filing an SC

number of Dalit and backward caste MPs. Having been trounced in the last Lok Sabha elections, the Congress, which won only 44 seats, is not even eligible for main opposition status, while the communists’ strength shrank to single digits. These parties are unable to come to terms with reality and are trying to convert the tragic incident at HCU into an anti-Dalit issue.

On what grounds would the ASA justify offering namaz-e-janaza for Yakub Memon? And yet this anti-national act was organised as

a protest on the HCU campus. Placards with slogans like “How many Yakub Memons could the state kill?” and “If one Yakub Memon was killed, hundreds of Yakub Memons will take birth in each house” were held. The ASA endorsed these views and supported these activities.

Another point that needs to be made is that Dattatreya did not name any student, nor

led Rohith to take the extreme step. A similar disinformation campaign was launched that Rohith was not given his stipend. This has also been proved wrong, as reflected in the bank accounts.

The contents of Dattatreya’s letter were similar to the concerns highlighted by Congress MP V. Hanumantha Rao. In a letter written on November

was followed for Rao’s letter.

A number of students were expelled or suspended by HCU during the Congress regime and as many as 10 committed suicide during the UPA rule. Neither Gandhi nor CPM leader Sitaram Yechury found time to visit the university then. An inquiry has been set up under the chairmanship of a former judge. Let us wait for the report.

The government is determined not to allow campuses to be used for creating social tension and petty politicking. How could anybody support mischievous acts like burning the effigy of Lord Ram (in JNU), distributing pamphlets portraying Goddess Durga as a prostitute or observing “martyrdom days” for Mahishasura and Afzal Guru?

The slogans raised in HCU and JNU – “Kitne Yakub maroge, har ghar se Yakub niklega” and “Kitne Afzal maroge, har ghar se Afzal niklega” – are similar. It is important to probe whether gullible university students were being targeted by forces inimical to the country. We can ill afford to forget the fact that “eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”.

The writer is Union minister for urban development, housing and urban poverty alleviation, and parliamentary affairs. ■

The contents of Dattatreya’s letter were similar to the concerns highlighted by Congress MP V. Hanumantha Rao. In a letter written on November 17, 2014, to the HRD minister, Rao expressed concern over happenings like the “Kiss of Love” event in HCU. His letter also mentioned a rape and kidnapping attempt and that during the last four years, students belonging to marginalised communities from Telangana had committed suicide due to alleged caste discrimination. The reminders sent by the HRD ministry regarding Dattatreya’s letter were routine — the same protocol was followed for Rao’s letter.

did he call anybody casteist, extremist or anti-national. As a responsible public representative and the local MP, he forwarded a representation he received in which it was mentioned that the university had become a “den of casteist, extremist and anti-national politics”. The HRD ministry forwarded the same to the university for necessary action. False propoganda was unleashed to make people believe that the letter written by Dattatreya

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Don't use Parliament to settle political scores : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah tore into the Congress party over disruptions in Parliament and asked the opposition party to desist from using Parliament as a platform to settle political scores instead of a forum to discuss issues concerning development of country. "If

electoral battlefield. BJP workers don't fear anyone. Do do haath kar lenge (lets fight)," he said.

He asked Congress to let Parliament be a forum for development, "one that leads the country on the path to progress". "Let Parliament be a forum that enhances the

government was to fully secure the borders of the country. Today, no one can dare to behead our soldiers (on the borders) and carry them away.

They know it is Narendra Modi led NDA government that is ruling India," the BJP President said.



The BJP president asked the party workers to visit villages to strengthen the party in the state. Shri Shah thanked the people of Andhra

Pradesh for helping NDA win 17 Lok Sabha seats out of 25 in the state. The BJP president said the Opposition is "misinforming" the people about the various government measures taken in the last one and half year and highlighted the various initiatives of the Modi-government for development of Andhra Pradesh. He said the Central government has provided schemes worth over Rs. 1,40,000 crore for the state since it came to power, besides

you want to play politics, choose a state (for electoral fight). BJP is ready to pick up the challenge," Shri Shah said, addressing a huge public meeting organized by the Andhra Pradesh BJP in the Arts College grounds in Rajamahendravaram on 06 March, 2016. "Is Parliament for debates or slogan-shouting? Is it for development or to settle political scores," the BJP President said.

country's prestige," Shri Shah added.

Lashing out in particular at Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi for calling the sloganeering in JNU as "freedom of speech", the BJP President asked the crowd could slogans like "Bharat tere tukde honge...Bharat teri barbaadi tak jung jaari rahegi..." be called freedom of speech or anti-national," he asked.

"One of the biggest achievements of the NDA

"If you have to settle political scores, jump into the

Pradesh for helping NDA win 17 Lok Sabha seats out of 25 in the state.

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He said the Central government has provided schemes worth over Rs. 1,40,000 crore for the state since it came to power, besides

bringing in amendments to implement the multi-purpose irrigation project – Polavaram Project.

The BJP president also credited the Modi-government for according the project a 'national project' status and said it is a lifeline of the state, specially Rajamahendravaram region.

He extended all support to the project, saying "whatever needs to be done, the Central government will do" but said "if someone says that the entire cost of the project would be given in just a single budget then he is misinforming the people".

Highlighting the initiatives of Centre, he said the Modi-government has selected every village of the state in the pilot project to provide round the clock electricity by 2019, besides providing funds for various projects like national highway, international water way and Pradham Mantri Awas Yojana, among others.

He said the Modi-government has given the list of their initiatives in the last one and half years and asked Congress to tell the people what they have done in last 60 years.

Union Minister for Urban Development Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Andhra Pradesh state BJP president Shri Kambhampati Hari Babu, former Union Minister Ms. Daggubati Purandeswari and others were present. ■

PM advises students for spending at least 30 minutes every day with friends & family to avoid stress

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28 addressed the nation through his popular radio programme 'Mann ki Baat'.

Sachin

Tendulkar and Viswanathan Anand also joined him. Addressing the nation through 'Mann ki Baat' Shri Modi said students the importance of yoga and meditation during exam season. PM Shri Modi asked students to take interest in science and related fields. He added "We can't think of any invention without science".

He said "Parents, teachers and seniors are an invaluable support system for students during exam time: PM Modi." PM advised students for spending at least 30 minutes every day with friends and family to avoid stress. Viswanathan Anand also joined PM Modi in Mann ki Baat, asks students to stay calm

"Exams are not merely about marks. Set your targets and pursue them with a free mind, without pressure. Compete with yourself and not others."

"Sachin Tendulkar featured in PM Modi's Mann ki Baat, asks students to stay positive and focussed, conveys his best wishes to students." PM Modi appreciated students, parents and teachers for sharing their thoughts and experiences on the mobile application. He said "I am sure your mind is on the exams of your children that is starting or may have started: PM Narendra Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat'"

PM Narendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' began, Sachin Tendulkar and Viswanathan Anand joined him in special edition.

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has said that he is happy to join PM Narendra Modi on 'Mann ki Baat'.

Prime Minister's office has tweeted, "Two eminent individuals, from the fields of science & spirituality have encouraging words for students." ■



HAPPINESS

By Sri Swami Sivananda

Go wherever you may, to Gulmarg or Pahalgam in Kashmir, to Darjeeling in Simla, to Vienna or the Alps. It is all the same. You will not find any real rest. The charming scenery may soothe the retina for a second. Raga, Dvesha, jealousy, passion and greed are everywhere. You will find the same earth, the same sky, the same air, and the same water. And you carry with you the same mind. Imagination and change of place have deceived not a few. O man! Be contented. Live where you may, but discipline the mind and the senses. Meditate on the Inner self, the Antaratman, ceaselessly. Here you will find everlasting peace. Mind will stop deceiving you now.

Raja Bhartrihari, Raja Gopichand, Lord Buddha deserted kingdom and all pleasurable objects, palaces, music, children, wife, etc., to attain Atmic bliss which is everlasting. They attained immortality. They are not fools. Had there been real happiness in objects, they would have stuck to this world. The difficulty is that the worldly men with gross Vyavaharic Buddhi are not able to understand or comprehend a supersensual spiritual bliss that exists beyond the senses, mind and intellect.



Sensual pleasure and spiritual bliss

Spiritual bliss is the highest bliss. Spiritual bliss is bliss of one's own Soul. It is transcendental bliss. It is independent of objects. It is continuous, uniform and eternal. It is enjoyed by the sage only.

Sensual pleasure comes out of emotion. But bliss of the Soul is self-delight. It is the innate nature of the Atman. Pleasure is temporal and fleeting. Bliss is eternal and everlasting. Pleasure is mixed with pain. Bliss is unalloyed happiness. Pleasure depends upon nerves, mind and objects. Bliss is independent and self-existent. There is effort in attaining sensual pleasures, but there is no striving in experiencing the bliss of the Soul. The drop joins the ocean. The Jiva floats in the ocean of bliss.

Purify the mind by Japa, Satsanga, charity, control of

mind, self-restraint, selfless service, study of the Gita, the Upanishads, Yoga-Vasishtha, Bible, Koran and other religious scriptures, practice of Yama and Niyama, Pranayama, Vairagya and Tyaga. You will then get a proper instrument for meditation, a calm, sharp, subtle, one-pointed mind. Start meditation with the help of this instrument for three hours in the morning and three hours at night. Then a new kind of indescribable Ananda will dawn in you. You will be convinced of a supersensual spiritual bliss. You will have to feel this spiritual Ananda yourself. You will have to eat it yourself. Can you explain the sexual happiness to a boy of twelve ? Can you explain the happiness of sugar-candy to a boy who has not tasted the same ? No, you cannot. The boy himself must eat sugar-candy. He must, when he has grown up, taste the carnal pleasure.

Worldly men think they are quite happy because they get a few ginger biscuits, some money, and a woman. O, if they would just taste the nectar of immortality, what should be the intensity of happiness they should feel!

The body is an abode of misery and disease. Wealth brings a lot of trouble in acquiring and keeping safe.

Sorrow springs from every connection. Women (or Men) are a perpetual source of vexation. Alas! people prefer this path of misery to that of spiritual enjoyment.

Enough, enough of your tea and coffee, enough of soda and lemonade, enough of father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister and relations. You have had countless fathers and mothers, wives and children in the past. You came alone. You will go alone. None will follow you save your own actions. Realize God. All miseries will come to an end.

Though surrounded by pleasurable or painful objects to disturb your equilibrium of mind, remain immovable as a rock, receiving all things with equanimity. Be always cheerful. Laugh and smile. How can a mind that is gloomy and dull think of God? Try to be happy always. Happiness is your very nature. This is termed cheerfulness. This spirit of cheerfulness must be cultivated by all aspirants.

Keep the mind in state of moderation or happy, golden mean. Never let it run to excesses. People die of shock from extreme depression as well as extreme joy. Do not allow Uddharsha to crop up in the mind. It is excessive merriment. Mind always runs to extremes, either to extreme depression or extreme joy. Extremes meet. Extremes bring about reaction. Mind can never be calm in excessive joy. Let the mind be cheerful, but calm.

This world is a mere appearance. Mind and the senses are deceiving you every moment. You have mistaken pain for pleasure. There is not even an iota of happiness in this sense-universe. Abandon these selfish struggles and schemes for amassing wealth.

March directly to that wire-puller who is moving these toys of fleshy human bodies, who is keeping up this big show. In Him only you will find lasting happiness and perennial joy. Merge in Him by practicing daily meditation and japa. ■

Courtesy: The Divine Life Society

'How much does he know – when will he know'

By Arun Jaitley

The Congress Vice-President, Shri Rahul Gandhi, has claimed that the Prime Minister hardly consults his senior Ministers. If Shri Rahul Gandhi is to be believed, then Smt. Sushma Swaraj is not consulted on the Pakistan policy, Shri Rajnath Singh was unaware of the Nagaland accord and, presumably, I am unaware of the Budget proposals.

As one evolves from a young to a middle-aged one, we certainly expect a certain level of maturity. The more I hear Shri Rahul Gandhi, the more I start wondering "how much does he know – when will he know".

The Prime Minister should be the natural leader of the party and the Government. In the NDA it is so. The UPA was quite different. The Prime Minister is to lead by example. The present Prime Minister not only works hard and involves himself in the functioning of the various departments of the government, but inspires his team to work harder than we would have normally. Each one of us, whether the External Affairs Minister, Home Minister or myself, are responsible for each important decision taken by each of one departments. We do not by-pass the Prime Minister who is always available for consultation and guidance. After hearing Shri Rahul Gandhi, I think India has made the right choice between the Prime Minister who leads the Government and a Prime Minister who is merely implementing decisions taken elsewhere.

Shri Rahul Gandhi's views are shaped by the environment of a political party which has evolved into a 'crowd around a family'. The UPA model of governance was that if a person outside the family is the Prime Minister, he should be reduced to being a figure-head. Given a choice between a 'hands-on' Prime Minister or a 'nominal' head, I would unhesitatingly choose the former. ■