

# KAMAL SANDESH



**UTTAR PRADESH FED UP WITH RAHUL GANDHI, AKHILESH YADAV**

Vol. 12, No. 05

01-15 March, 2017 (Fortnightly)

₹20



**MASSIVE VICTORY FOR BJP IN MAHARASHTRA AND ODISHA**

**CLEAR MANDATE IN FAVOUR OF BJP IN MAHARASHTRA CIVIC POLLS**

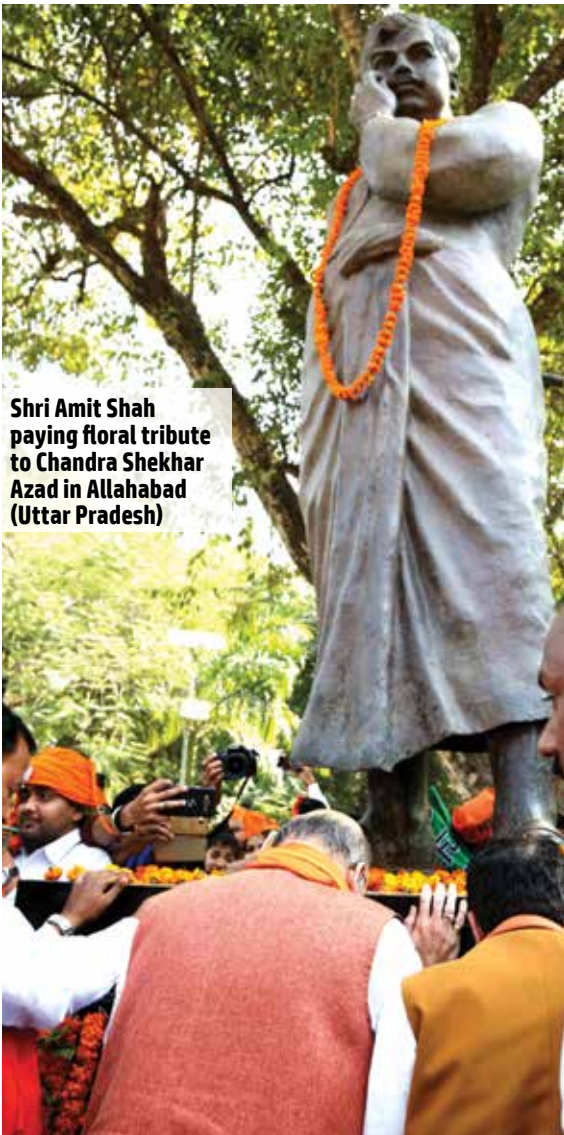
**MASSIVE WIN FOR BJP IN ODISHA**

**ISRO SETS WORLD RECORD, LAUNCHES 104 SATELLITES IN A SINGLE FLIGHT**

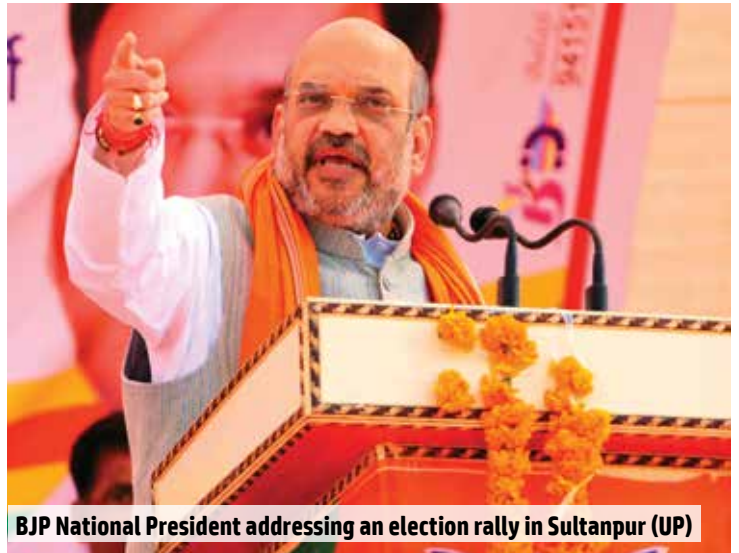




**Road show of BJP National President Shri Amit Shah in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh**



**Shri Amit Shah paying floral tribute to Chandra Shekhar Azad in Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)**



**BJP National President addressing an election rally in Sultanpur (UP)**



**Shri Amit Shah addressing an election rally in Deoria (UP)**



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**twitter**



**@AmitShah**

SP & BSP have destroyed UP. With forming of government on March 11, 2017 BJP will bring Acche Din in UP.

**@Dev\_Fadnavis**

People from all across the State have shown faith on us, our party and on the agenda we are taking ahead.



**@sarbanandsonwal**

We emphasised upon increased people-to-people contact, cultural exchanges & economic activities to facilitate growth & prosperity.



**facebook**

Extremely thankful to the sisters & brothers of Maharashtra for reposing their faith in BJP & in politics of development & good governance.



Through hardwork, determination & work on the ground, BJP is now a strong force both in urban & rural Maharashtra. Congrats to Karyakartas.

— **Narendra Modi**

Congratulations team ISRO ! You have made us proud again. 104 satellites in one go is a spectacular achievement.

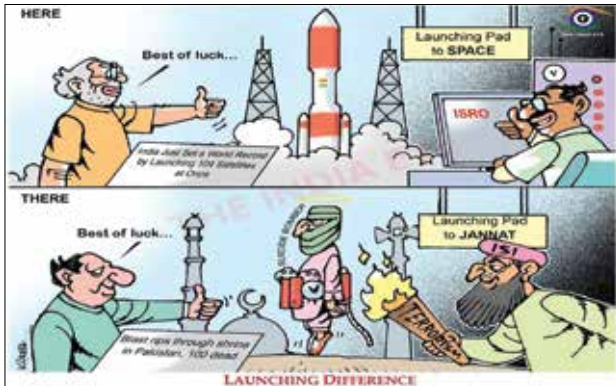


— **Nitin Gadkari**

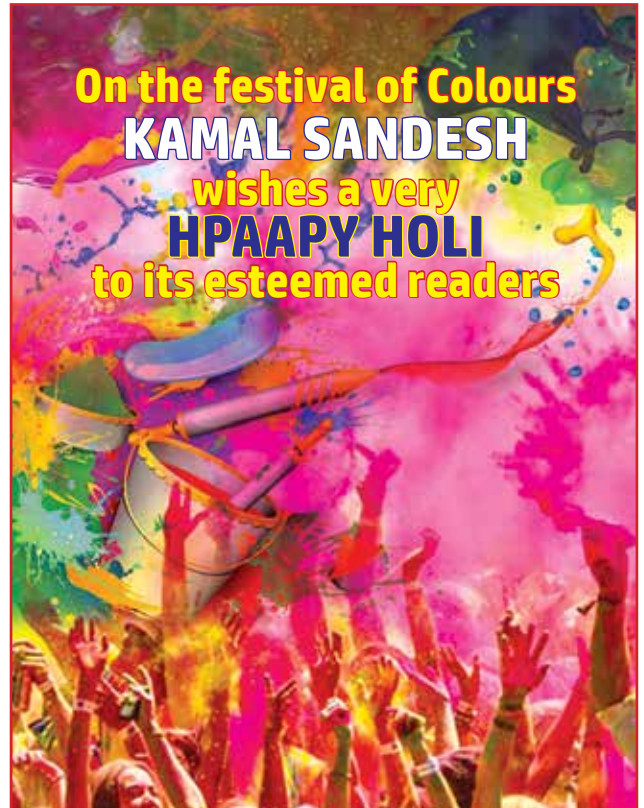
BJP's panchayat poll victory in poor Odisha districts shows support for note ban.



— **Dharmendra Pradhan**



Courtesy: Social Media



# Lotus blooming from panchayat to parliament

**A**s polling is progressing in different phases in Uttar Pradesh SP-Cong-BSP leaders are developing cold feet. In the face of stinging questions being asked by the people over the backwardness of the state the SP-Cong-BSP are banking on the divisive caste and communal politics. As these leaders are evading the questions of development and good governance people are coming out in large numbers to teach SP-Cong-BSP lessons which they will never forget. Uttar Pradesh which is demographically the largest state in India should have been a front ranking state in growth and development but it has today become a front ranking state in corruption, misrule, dacoity, loot, rape and economic backwardness. The cyclic rule of SP-BSP and Congress led UPA rule at centre has completely ruined the state and it's high time that people have to act so that the state is rescued from the clutches of self seeking, corrupt, dynasty oriented politics. BJP has emerged as a new hope which people are supporting overwhelmingly everywhere in the state.

In the middle of UP elections the people in Odisha and Maharashtra have given a new message to the people in the state. In Odisha where until now BJP remained a small player in the state politics, a huge shift has

IN THE MIDDLE OF UP ELECTIONS THE PEOPLE IN ODISHA AND MAHARASHTRA HAVE GIVEN A NEW MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE. IN ODISHA WHERE UNTIL NOW BJP REMAINED A SMALL PLAYER IN THE STATE POLITICS, A HUGE SHIFT HAS MARKED ITS MASSIVE RISE.

marked its massive rise. In the panchayat and zila parishad elections BJP has won huge support of the people giving a severe jolt to the ruling BJD. Similarly in Maharashtra BJP has won eight out of ten prestigious municipal corporations which went for elections. In BMC also it has got spectacular support from the people and won just two seats less than Shiv Sena. Not only this, the performance across the state in zila parishad and panchayats surprised the observers. No one could have dreamt of such a massive shift at grass root level. Similar trends may be deciphered in the local body elections that were held in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and some other states. This trend is cutting across the states as BJP is gaining massive ground support where it had not been a major player earlier and consolidating immensely where it is in power. It clearly marks a break from the past as the politics of development, good governance and performance takes precedence over corruption, scams, loot, power struggles, nepotism and dynasty politics. Those who have played vote bank politics and divisive politics of caste and religion are now biting the dust in elections that are being held from ground level to parliament.

BJP President Shri Amit Shah has repeatedly emphasised on the need of strengthening the party from panchayats to parliament. At the same time special efforts were made to expand the party in the states having less political presence. The hard work of the party is

now paying back and people are extending overwhelming support to BJP. The pro-poor, pro-farmer, pro-OBC, pro-Dalit, pro-women and youth oriented policies have created immense faith in the deprived and marginal sections of the society. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as a leader who is trusted and loved by poorest of the poor in the country. Not only this people from across various sections of the society see him as a charismatic visionary who is committed to deliver the system from the stranglehold of corrupt, scamsters, money launderers and power brokers. It is under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi that India is rising from its slumber and ready to fulfil its aspirations of a developed, strong and vibrant nation. The kind of public support BJP is attracting in its rallies clearly shows that UP is not an exception to the national trend. People are set to vote for politics of development, good governance and performance. ■

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# Clear Mandate in favour of BJP in Maharashtra Civic Polls

SHIV SENA, CONGRESS AND NCP REDUCED TO MINOR PLAYERS IN THE STATE



## NARENDRA MODI THANKS PEOPLE FOR THEIR FAITH IN POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

**D**t is a clear mandate in favour of the BJP in the recently concluded 2017 civic polls in Maharashtra. Except for Thane, the BJP won every city corporation easily, while in Mumbai it is just two seats behind Shiv Sena. Of the 1,268 municipal seats, the party won 628, more than tripling its 2012 tally. There could not be a better affirmation of support for the party in power at the State as well as its Chief Minister, who sphere headed the campaign from the front. Besides fielding competitive candidates in places where the party had a strong base, the BJP's strategy to field new and young faces yielded strong returns. The Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party were reduced to minor players in most of the corporations.

In Mumbai, the Shiv Sena has, for the first time since it came to power nearly 25 years ago, seen a close competitor in the BJP. Now clearly, the BJP has become the central pole of Indian politics, a position the Congress occupied for a long time.

In the recently concluded Maharashtra Municipal, Zila Parishads and Panchayat Elections the BJP made massive gains throughout the state. The BJP won eight Municipal Corporations i.e. Ulhasnagar, Nashik, Pune,

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi thanked the people of Maharashtra for their faith in the politics of development and good governance. In a series of tweets, he praised BJP workers, particularly Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and state party president Raosaheb Danve Patil, for tirelessly working for the people.

Noting that the overwhelming blessings in Maharashtra came after Odisha, he thanked each and every Indian for continuously placing their faith in BJP. "It has been a great start to 2017! First the unprecedented support in Odisha & now the overwhelming blessings from people of Maharashtra," he tweeted.

The PM said BJP is unwavering in the resolve to serve Maharashtra with unparalleled diligence, transparency & taking the state to even greater heights.

Shri Modi said through hardwork, determination and work on the ground, BJP is now a strong force both in urban & rural Maharashtra. Congrats to Karyakartas. He added BJP is unwavering in the resolve to serve Maharashtra with unparalleled diligence, transparency and taking the state to even greater heights.

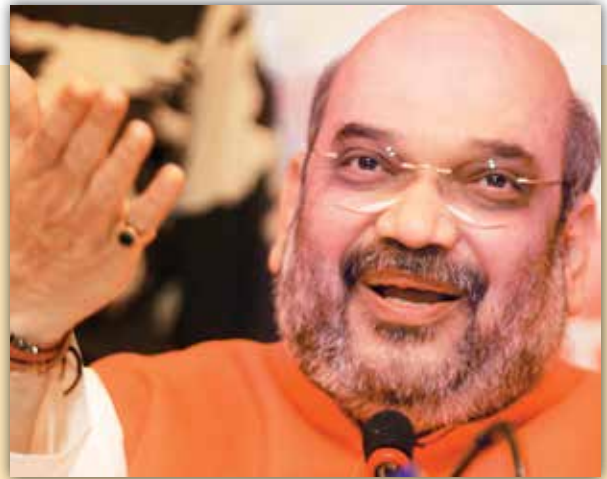


Pimpri-Chinchwad, Solapur, Akola, Amravati and Nagpur and in Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the party did very well and was only two seats behind Shiv Sena for which results were declared on 23 February, 2017. After the announcement of results, the BJP Karyakartas celebrated its impressive show as vijay utsav across the state.

The party also performed very well in Zila Parishads and Panchayat. The BJP won at least 470 seats, more than double of its 2012 tally of 205 across Maharashtra while the Shiv Sena won 215; it won 227 seats in 2012. During these elections, Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis himself spearheaded the campaign and decided the candidates and strategy of the party.

In the 227-member BMC, the BJP took its tally to 82 from 31 in 2012. The Shiv Sena got 84 seats, up from 75. The Congress tally went down from 52 to 31. The BJP also expanded its base and captured Pimpri Chinchwad, despite fierce competition from the NCP.

The biggest loser in Maharashtra was the Congress which saw its 2012 tally of 264 seats fall to an incredible 99. Such was the disappointment that Sanjay Nirupam, the party's Mumbai President resigned from his post. The MNS too had an extremely poor showing winning just 16 seats across Maharashtra; it had won 112 in 2016. Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party(NCP), on the other hand, won 108 seats. It had won 265 in 2012.



### AMIT SHAH CONGRATULATES MAHARASHTRA BJP FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE

BJP National President Amit Shah congratulated the Bharatiya Janata Party team in Maharashtra after it notched spectacular victories, bagging eight of the 10 major civic bodies and it's excellent performance in Mumbai.

BJP President lauded Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and BJP state President Shri Raosaheb Danve for the party's unprecedented success in the BMC and other civic bodies' elections. "I heartily congratulate the people of Maharashtra for supporting the BJP's policy of development and reposing faith in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas' agenda," Shri Shah tweeted.

MAHARASHTRA CIVIC ELECTION RESULTS 2017										
	Mumbai	Pune	Thane	Ulhasnagar	Pimpri-chinchwad	Nagpur	Nasik	Solapur	Akola	Amravati
BJP	82	96	23	32	78	108	63	49	48	45
Shiv Sena	84	10	67	25	9	2	35	21	8	7
Congress	31	10	3	1	0	29	6	14	13	15
NCP	9	40	34	4	35	1	7	4	5	0
MNS	7	2	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Others	14	4	4	16	6	11	4	14	6	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>227/227</b>	<b>162/162</b>	<b>131/131</b>	<b>78/78</b>	<b>128/128</b>	<b>151/151</b>	<b>122/122</b>	<b>102/102</b>	<b>80/80</b>	<b>87/87</b>
Jila Parishad 2017										
BJP	Shiv Sena	Congress	NCP	MNS	Others	Total				
409	273	308	360	0	168	1518				

### BJP IS CAPABLE OF WINNING MAJOR STATES ON ITS OWN



Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley too hailed the party's astounding win in Maharashtra saying the results confirms that the party is capable of winning major states on its own. He also hit out at Congress for its dismal show. "In Odisha, Congress got squeezed out of contest. In Maharashtra, it got pushed to 3rd or 4th place in most cities. Results of local polls in Odisha and Maharashtra have shown that BJP is capable of winning major States on its own," said Shri Jaitley.

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh spoke to CM Shri Fadnavis to congratulate him on the BJP's exceptional performance and said the BJP activists have helped expand its base across the state.



Union Urban Development Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said the BJP's victory in civic body elections reflect peoples' faith in BJP leadership. Thumping victory of BJP reinforces peoples' faith in PM Shri Narendra Modi and CM Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Shri Naidu said.

Union Minister for Surface Transport Shri Nitin Gadkari also applauded the party's spectacular victory in the state civic elections.



### POLL VICTORY A RESULT OF ACCEPTANCE OF OUR AGENDA OF TRANSPARENCY

Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, while congratulating workers for the BJP's performance in Mumbai, said BJP had won clear majorities in elections for eight out of ten civic bodies in Maharashtra.

"BJP's win in Maharashtra civic polls is a result of people's acceptance of our agenda of transparency," he said. Shri Devendra Fadnavis credited the results to PM Narendra Modi's guidance. "I thank the people of Maharashtra; it's an unprecedented victory. PM Shri Modi has started the trend of transparency in India.



### BJP SWEEPS ZP AND PANCHAYAT POLLS

Besides securing a landslide victory in Maharashtra municipal corporation elections 2017, BJP also won big in 25 Zilla Parishad and 118 Panchayat Samitis. Like the urban areas the BJP also done very well in the rural areas all across the state. There also seems to be a resounding acknowledgment that people support the twin themes of development and transparency, the planks on which the BJP executed its election campaign.

Out of total 1514 seats in Zilla Parishad, BJP has emerged victorious in 370 seats, NCP bagged 317 seats, Congress has won 277 seats, Shiv Sena in 240 and independents managed to bag 127 seats. The Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti elections across Maharashtra state was held in two phases. Phase 1 was conducted on February 16 for a total of 855 seats for the Zilla Parishad while the Panchayat Samiti polls covered 1,712 seats on the same day. The phase 2 of Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Elections were held on February 21 in which a total 191 Zilla Parishad seats and 382 panchayat Samiti seats went to the poll. In Panchayat Samiti election the BJP also got majority of seats in the state.

This huge victory is on the agenda of transparency," he said.

Thanking the electorate, he said, the people reposed complete in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies of development for all. ■



# Massive win for BJP in Odisha

## BJD LOSES SUPREMACY, CONGRESS WIPED OUT FROM STATE

**O**n an unprecedented result, the BJP has performed exceptionally well in the just concluded Panchayat & Zila Parishad elections in Odisha. The Bharatiya Janata Party wrote history with 850% growth after the five-phased elections in the state. BJP's improved performance comes as a severe jolt to BJD that clean swept the Panchayat Polls last time in 2012. After the conclusion of the final phase, the BJP tally has rose significantly to all time high and shaken the very root of CM Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal in the state. The BJP's surge also pushed Congress to the third position in Odisha. Now, it has become clear that the BJD has lost its supremacy in the state and it is the beginning of the end of BJD rule in Odisha.

In the fifth phase of the Odisha Panchayat elections 2017, the ruling BJD has won 68 Zilla Parishad zones of the 150 zones which went to polls in this phase. The BJP has bagged 56 Zilla Parishad seats, while the Congress managed to capture 12. While the BJD maintained it's thin lead in all the five phases, but the BJP made heavy inroads in the state.

The BJP has won 306 seats out of the 848 seats which went to polls in the five-phased Panchayat elections. The party has improved it's tally around a whopping 850 percent as compared to the 2012 elections.

### PANCHAYAT ELECTION

Of the total 853 seats, BJP bagged 306 seats - an increase of 850% as compared with its tally of just 36 seats in 2012. It has added 270 seats to its previous tally. On the other hand, ruling BJD has won 460 seats as against its victory on 651 seats in 2012, losing 191. Congress has bagged just 66 seats against the 126 in the previous elections, losing 60.



### PM THANKS THE PEOPLE OF ODISHA FOR REPOSING THEIR FAITH ON BJP



Congratulating the BJP Karyakartas and voters Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "I thank the people of Odisha for reposing their faith and unprecedented support to BJP in the local polls and congratulate Odisha BJP Karyakartas for their hard work."

### AMIT SHAH THANKS ODISHA BJP FOR GOOD PERFORMANCE IN PANCHAYAT POLLS



BJP National President Shri Amit Shah congratulated party workers for the BJP's success in the panchayat elections in Odisha. "I thank the BJP workers and congratulate the people of the state for the unprecedented success of the party in the panchayat elections in Odisha," Shri Shah tweeted.

## PEOPLE IN ODISHA HAVE MADE UP THEIR MIND TO GET RID OF NAVEEN PATNAIK GOVERNMENT: BASANT PANDA

*After the Panchayat election victory, Odisha BJP President Shri Basant Panda in a telephonic interview with Associate Editor of Kamal Sandesh, Ram Prasad Tripathy, said BJP's victory could have been better had BJD not indulged in largescale violence and misuse of official machinery. He said the people want change and they want to get rid of the misrule of the BJD government. Excerpts;*

**BJP got a massive mandate in the recently completed Odisha Panchayat Elections. What factors have been responsible for this huge victory?**

I think two vital factors are responsible for BJP's victory. First, to strengthen the party base in the state, the BJP, under the guidance of our National President Shri Amit Shah Ji had done a membership drive very successfully and reached every polling booth in the state. Following the membership drive, the leaders and party Karyakartas have been working relentlessly to raise the local development issues concerning the poor and needy at the panchayat level and the poll results reflect that the people have reposed their faith in BJP's agenda of development. Secondly, from its inception the Union government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji has been giving special emphasis for the development of Odisha. Modiji hiked the budgetary allocations several times for faster Railway connectivity in Odisha and approved several mega projects for the development of the state. Additionally, people liked the corruption free and development oriented governance of Modi Ji at the centre. Starting from welfare schemes for the poor, farmers, women, youth and backward, Modi ji took several historic decisions like OROP, surgical strike against Pakistan and demonetization. Here, people supported these decisions enthusiastically. Through this mandate, people have only reposed their faith in the leadership of the PM and approved all his policies.

**What will be BJP's next course of action? Do you think the same mood of the people will be reflected in the coming polls?**

Now BJP will focus on the 2018 Urban Polls and the 2019 General Elections. We will focus on enhancing the organizational strength of the party and will also develop leadership qualities



among our Karyakartas. We are confident that in both the Urban Polls and the 2019 General Elections, the party will emerge victorious. The people want change and they want to get rid of the Naveen Pattnaik Government's misrule.

**There are reports that the BJD workers allegedly indulged in largescale violence during the elections. What message do they want to give through these acts?**

Owing to largescale defeats, the BJD workers on the ground appear frustrated. Hence, they murdered a prominent BJP worker Bullu Pradhan in CM Naveen Patnaik's Assembly constituency, Hinjili near Berhampur city in Ganjam District. Apart from it six BJP workers have also been killed in the last 10 days and several are hospitalized after sustaining injuries. The BJD government wants to terrorize the opposition through these acts of violence. But they will not succeed. I think, BJP's victory could have been better had BJD not indulged in largescale violence and misuse of official machinery.

**Panchayat election results show that the Congress Party is almost wiped-out from the state. What is the future of Congress in Odisha? Do you foresee a possible BJD-Congress alliance to stop the BJP?**

The people have rejected the BJD in the Panchayat elections. They got an alternative in the form of BJP. People have supported the BJP for its ideological consistency and development oriented policies. The verdict shows, the diminishing role of Congress in today's political scenario. It is no more a force in the state. I cannot rule out the possibility of Congress and BJD joining hands. But, people of Odisha, through their mandate, have spoken it loud and clear. The days of BJD's misrule are numbered and change is bound to happen in Odisha.

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## PEOPLE REINSTATED THEIR FAITH IN BJP



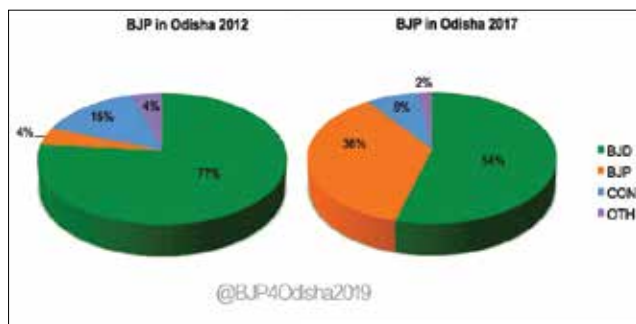
Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram after the comprehensive Panchayat election victory in Odisha said, “The people of Odisha have reinstated their faith in BJP and its leadership. We are thankful to the people for exercising their franchise and making a remarkable decision by giving a huge victory to the BJP.”

## IT'S BEGINNING OF THE END OF BJD RULE



Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan** expressed his gratitude to the people of Odisha for their unprecedented support to the BJP which is closely following the ruling BJD in the ongoing three-tier Panchayat polls.

He said the current trend is clearly reflecting people's antipathy for BJD which is gradually losing ground and the state started accepting BJP as their alternative choice despite the BJD flexing its muscle and money power. He said the voters have shown a mirror to the BJD and it's the beginning of the end of BJD rule in Odisha.



## BJP'S TALLY IS AROUND NINE TIMES OF THE SEATS IT HAD WON IN 2012



BJP National General Secretary and In-Charge of Odisha Shri Arun Singh said the final tally of BJP is around nine times of the seats it had won in 2012. Shri Narendra Modi's popularity, effective implementation of Central Government schemes in the state and failure of Naveen Pattnaik government in the last 17 years of its rule are the major factors behind BJP's unprecedented performance, he said.

successful in wielding control over 16 ZPs as against the 28 it had so far, losing 12. Congress, which ruled over two ZPs, too lost one. Result of five ZPs is not clear so far.

Noteworthy, the BJD which is ruling Odisha for the fourth consecutive term is now facing tough challenges from the BJP. To beat anti-incumbency, Odisha Chief Minister tried to whip up popular sentiments by raising the Mahanadi water dispute with Chhattisgarh by organizing protests and Jal Satyagraha, but it seems it didn't pay off for the party.

On the other hand, the BJP not only managed to take its numbers up, but also made inroads in the strongholds of the BJD. Due to the rise of the BJP, the BJD lost ground in over 100 Zilla Parishad constituencies.

Odisha BJP spokesperson Shri Sajjan Sharma said, “We are raring to go. If you were surprised by the success of BJP in panchayat polls, then be ready for more surprises in 2019 polls”. ■

#Odisha Panchayat Poll 2017 Final Result - @BJP4Odisha2019			
Party	2012	2017	Gain/Loss
BJP	36	306	+270
BJD	651	460	-191
INC	126	66	-60
OTH	38	17	-21
Total	851	849/851	@BJP4Odisha2019

## ZILA PARISHAD

BJP's performance has been equally impressive in the zila parishads. Of the total 30 zila parishads, BJP has won eight. It did not have any zila parishad in its kitty in the 2012 election. BJD, on the other hand, has been

# Foodgrain production goes up in 2016-17

**D**ue to the Union government's visionary policy initiatives and good monsoons foodgrain production in India has grown by 8.1 per cent to 271.98 million tonnes in 2016-17, as per the 2nd advance estimates released by the ministry of agriculture & farmer welfare. The output expected this year would be 15 per cent higher than the average production of foodgrain recorded during the last five years (2011-12 to 2015-16). Production of wheat, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds are expected to touch new records-

**Rice:** Total production of rice is estimated at record 108.86 million tonnes which is a new record. This year's rice production is higher by 2.21 million tonnes than previous record production of 106.65 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. It is also higher by 3.44 million tonnes than the five years' average Rice production of 105.42 million tonnes. Production of rice has increased significantly by 4.45 million tonnes than the production of 104.41 million tonnes during 2015-16.

**Wheat:** Production of Wheat, estimated at 96.64 million tonnes is also a record. This year's wheat production is higher than the previous record production of 95.85 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. Production of Wheat during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.03 million tonnes than the average wheat production. The current year's production is higher by 4.36 million tonnes as compared to Wheat production of 92.29 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.

**Coarse Cereals:** Total production of coarse cereals is estimated at a new record level of 44.34 million tones, higher than the average production by 3.00 million tones. It is higher than the previous record production of 43.40 million tonnes achieved during 2010-11 by 0.94 million tonnes. Current year's production it is also higher by 5.82 million tonnes as compared to their

production of 38.52 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.

**Pulses:** As a result of significant increase in the area coverage and productivity of all major Pulses, total production of pulses during 2016-17 is estimated at 22.14 million tonnes which is higher by 2.89 million tonnes than the previous record production of 19.25 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. Production of Pulses during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.50 million tonnes than their Five years' average production. Current year's production is higher by 5.79 million tonnes than the previous year's production of 16.35 million tonnes.

**Oilseeds:** With an increase of 8.35 million tonnes over the previous year, total Oilseeds production in the country is estimated at record level of 33.60 million tonnes. It is higher by 0.85 million tonnes than the previous record production of 32.75 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14. The production of Oilseeds during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.34 million tonnes than the five year's average Oilseeds production. The current year's production is significantly higher than the production of 25.25 million tonnes during 2015-16.

**Sugarcane:** Its production is estimated at 309.98 million tonnes which is lower by 38.46 million tonnes than the last year's production of 348.45 million tonnes.

**Cotton:** Despite lower area coverage during 2016-17, higher productivity of Cotton has resulted into higher production of 32.51 million bales (of 170 Jute & Mestakg each) as compared to 30.01 million bales during 2015-16.

**Jute & Mesta:** Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.06 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower than their production of 10.52 million bales during the last year. ■





## MISSION TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

**Coronary Stent cost capped and down by 80%**

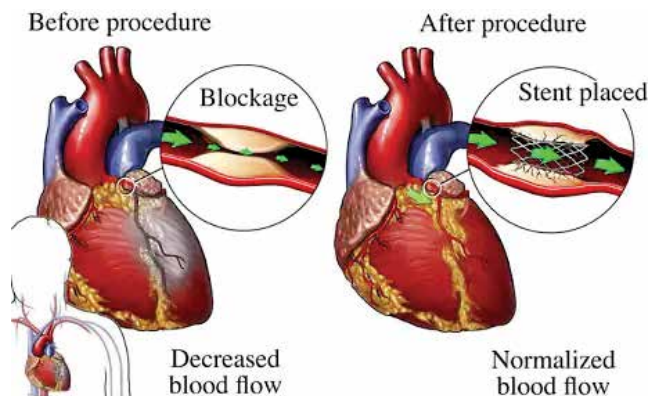
A HEART WARMING DECISION FOR ALL CARDIAC PATIENTS IN THE COUNTRY, SAYS SHRI ANANTH KUMAR

**P**ursuing Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Affordable, Quality Healthcare for All, Government of India has issued the notification for fixing the ceiling prices of coronary stents, informed Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananth Kumar on February 14. The step would bring down the cost of coronary stents, currently hiked by about 380%, the Minister added. The decision brings down rates by 80% has come as a big relief for heart patients.

Shri Kumar informed that now the ceiling prices of Bare Metal Stents (BMS), having 10% market share, has been capped at Rs. 7,260 and Drug Eluting stents (DES), having 90% market share, at Rs. 29,600. These prices are exclusive of VAT and other local taxes. The Minister further stated that since most of the States have 5% VAT on stents, the MRP of BMS and DES would be Rs. 7,623 and Rs. 31,080. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the prices within 60 days as required, he added.

Informing that the step is a major decisive action on the unethical margins charged at each stage in the supply chain of coronary stents, the Minister stated that the new prices are not likely to make much adverse impact on industry. The average MRP in the market for BMS was Rs. 45,000 and for DES Rs. 1,21,000. This has been reduced to Rs. 7,623 for BMS and Rs. 31,080 for DES. Thus, based on price reduction, patients will get average benefit of 80-90 thousand per stent resulting into a gross relief of Rs. 4450 crores in one year.

Shri Kumar informed that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare included Coronary Stents in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2015 (NLEM, 2015) on 19th July 2016 and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers incorporated Coronary Stents in Schedule I of the Drug Prices Control Order (DPCO), 2013 on 21st December 2016.



Shri Kumar informed that the Ministry, after reviewing the recommendation of Ministry of Health, had directed the NPPA to hold multi-stakeholder consultations with industry and industry associations.

The Minister laid stress that the landed price/manufacturing cost of imported BMS is Rs. 5415 and for DES is Rs. 16,918, hence the ceiling prices have been set taking into account the ethical profit margins and R&D costs of each member of the supply chain of coronary stents.

Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) are major cause of death in India, about 25% of total deaths. Out of these, 90-95% CVD deaths happen due to coronary artery diseases. As per the report of National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, prevalence of CAD in India is about 61.5 million as per 2015 report. As per Health Ministry report, more than 3.5 lakh procedures were done in 2015 which used 4.73 lakh stents. In 2016, the figure of cardiac stent must have been above 5 lakhs. Presently market size of India made stents is roughly 30%. The Minister thus stated that the new ceiling prices will promote 'Make in India' in a big way and seeing the huge number of patients and future requirement, foreign companies will also try to make in India for cutting costs and remain competitive. ■

# TAMRA Portal and Mobile Application launched

## IT WILL ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



**U**nion Minister of State (Independent charge) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal has launched TAMRA Portal (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) and its Mobile Application, developed by the Ministry of Mines on February 15. It was simultaneously launched across 12 mineral rich States. Shri Goyal also made an important announcement that the Government is planning on bringing amendments to mining rules to bring transparency in award of exploration and mining licences for the 100 identified off-shore mineral blocks soon.

Informing the gathering about the salient features of TAMRA, Shri Goyal said that with an objective to enhance transparency and accountability, as a part of the Ease of Doing Business in the Mining sector, TAMRA is a step to speed up mining activity in India and facilitate all the stakeholders to track the status of the statutory clearances associated with mining blocks for getting mines to reach till operationalisation for the same. It will be an interactive platform for all the stakeholders to compress the timelines for statutory and other

clearances as it would help minimize the gestation period for commencing production.

Stressing on TAMRA's features that would enhance transparency and accountability in Mining, Shri Goyal stated that in case of delay in obtaining any clearances, TAMRA will send triggers to the concerned authority so that the remedial steps can be taken immediately by those responsible. The Ministry of Mines will also receive triggers generated by TAMRA, which will facilitate in expediting clearances in case the timelines set against each of the statutory clearances are not met. Further, the status of each of the clearances will be reflected on the portal. This portal also enables the successful bidder to give suggestions and other inputs for improving the current process of issuing Statutory clearances in the Mining Sector which would help to establish a participative and informative network among all stakeholders, the Minister added.

TAMRA Portal covers block-wise, state-wise and mineral-wise information of the mines to be auctioned, monitors various statutory clearances, and also highlights the additional resources generated through e-auction. ■



# A Many-splendoured Personality

**I BALA SAHEB DEORAS**

**D**EENDAYAL Upadhyaya came from a poor family and was brought up by his maternal uncle. In school days he was known as a brilliant student and stood first in almost every examination. But even during his brilliant career he was also known for his social outlook.

Normally a bright student who rises from poverty on the strength of his intelligence often becomes self-centred. He keeps thinking that he would make money and achieve position in the society. But Deendayalji did not belong to this category. He not only mixed with friends of all types but even considered it his responsibility to see that those of his friends who lagged behind in studies could pass the examination.

It is said that while he was staying in Kanpur as a student in the hostel of the Sanatan Dharma College he actually conducted a class of those students who got zero marks in all subjects and helped them to pass.

## FORTUNATE COINCIDENCE

It was Deendayalji's very nature to think of devoting his life to some social cause. It was, therefore, a fortunate coincidence that at this juncture he came into contact with the workers of the Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh and accepted the work of the Sangh as the mission of his life. He left everything else to devote himself to the work of the Sangh, and in a short time became a full-time Pracharak.

He proved such a devoted and successful Pracharak that branches of the Sangh sprouted wherever he went. The Swyamsevaks were attracted towards his qualities and came under his cultural influence. More and more people came to notice his sterling qualities and it was not long before he was given the responsibility of Joint Provincial Pracharak of Uttar Pradesh. This



responsibility he shouldered with great success for a number of years.

## SCHOLAR AND AUTHOR

Pandit Deendayal was not only brilliant of intellect, he was also scholarly by habit. He read widely and had a flair for writing. When people around him noticed this quality, efforts were naturally made to put it to use. He was given the responsibility of a weekly journal as its editor. Naturally his studies and his writing progressed, and the result was his two

very popular biographical books on Chandragupta and Shankaracharya.

Thus, all workers came to look upon Pandit Deendayal as a good worker, a thinker and a writer. It is clear that this successful image was the result of his sterling qualities. As a successful worker of the Sangh he gathered people to himself, took them along on his path, and influenced them. Whoever came into his contact became his friend for ever. Deendayalji was never seen to be angry. Not that there were no occasions for annoyance. Many times people made mistakes, but Deendayalji just told them to correct mistakes, and forge ahead. He was one of those saints who magnified even small virtues of other people and considered his own qualities secondary.

The great spread of the work of the R. S. S. in Uttar Pradesh is mainly due to the work done by Pandit Deendayalji. His personality was a special blend of some innate qualities and some cultural influences imbibed on coming into contact with the Sangh.

## POLITICAL KARMA-YOGI

It was with such a rounded personality that Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya had entered the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. The Jana Sangh had come into being when in certain circumstances Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

came to the conclusion that a separate political party was the need of the hour.

On forming the party he began to look for workers and found Deendayalji. Deendayalji also may have thought that the formation of the new political party was necessary in the circumstances prevailing in those times and so he entered this party. His versatile organisational capacity and his devotion to the cause were easily noticed by Dr. Mukherjee. As the number of party workers was small in those days Dr. Mukherjee naturally came into contact with them. These contacts with Deendayalji so impressed Dr. Mukherjee that within a year he entrusted the responsibility of all-India Secretaryship to this young and comparatively inexperienced worker. This shows the high degree of his confidence in Deendayalji.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya fully lived up to this confidence reposed in him. He discharged his responsibilities with great ability. In the beginning the Jana Sangh was just an object of curiosity for the people. People used to laugh at it and during elections they used to ask not how many seats the Jana Sangh won but how many deposits were saved. It was in this atmosphere that Deendayalji worked as the General Secretary of the party, built it up, created a band of workers and inspired them to work. He worked with ideal such selfless devotion that he could be cited as the ideal Karma-yogi described in the Geeta.

### **JANA SANGH'S POWERFUL IMAGE**

After the passing away of Dr. Mukherjee the entire responsibility of organising the party fell on Deendayalji. It was after Dr. Mukherjee's death that Jana Sangh became an all-India Party. It was due to Pandit Deendayalji that the party acquired an all-India outlook. If there is any one person to whom the credit for creating the image of the Jana Sangh—an image so powerful that some People have started talking about

the Jana Sangh “taking over” - - goes, it would be Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. Once when Shri Y. B. Chavan was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, a Jana Sangh M. L. A., Shri Rambhau Mhalgi, made a speech on the Five-Year Plan. In reply Shri Chavan said the Five-Year Plan was not the subject of the Jana Sangh, and hence it was not necessary for him to give a reply to the speech. But now Shri Chavan will not talk of the Jana Sangh in this manner. On the other hand the Jana Sangh has now created so much fear in his mind that even after the Jana Sangh has merged in the Janata Party Shri Chavan keeps dreaming of it. This strength of the Jana Sangh and the ideology that it acquired along with the strength are an achievement of Pandit Deendayal.

### **ALWAYS ON THE MOVE**

Deendayalji read a lot, thought a lot and also wrote. The key to his being able to find time for all this in the midst of a very busy life was the caption of his speech in Calicut,

**IN THE BEGINING THE JANA SANGH WAS JUST AN OBJECT OF CURIOSITY FOR THE POEPL. PEOPLE USED TO LAUGH AT IT AND DURING ELECTIONS THEY USED TO ASK NOT HOW MANY SEATS THE JANA SANGH WON BUT HOW MANY DEPOSITS WERE SAVED.**

-Charaiveti, Charaiveti”, which means “Always on the Move”. Deendayalji found time for his reading and writing even during his journeys. For this he preferred to travel by slow train in a coupe

rather than in a four-berth compartment of a fast train. This gave him time, but perhaps this also brought about his tragic end. For it is possible that what happened to him in the end would not have happened if he had been travelling in company.

Deendayalji was a scholar of both—the old and the new. He had a comprehensive outlook. He was not one of those who thought something was good only because it was old, nor did he belong to those who accepted every new thing as beneficial for the world. He did not agree that something written in olden works a couple of thousand years ago was necessarily the eternal truth....

—*to be continued*

**(Based on speech by Late Shri Balasaheb Deoras, the then Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on the occasion of Deendayal Upadhyaya Birthday Celebrations in Nagpur on 25th September, 1977)**



# Veer Savarkar occupies unique place in the history of freedom struggle

**V**eer Savarkar occupies a unique place in the history of Indian freedom struggle. Savarkar was the one of the greatest revolutionaries in the Indian freedom struggle, Vir Savarkar was also a great orator, prolific writer, historian, poet, philosopher and social worker. He was an extraordinary scholar too. He coined Indian words for telephone, photography, the parliament, among others.

Veer Savarkar's original name was Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He was born on May 28, 1883 in the village of Bhagur near Nasik. He was one among four children born to Damodarpant Savarkar and Radhabai. Veer Savarkar had his initial education at the Shivaji School, Nasik. He lost his mother when he was only nine. He organized a gang of kids, Vanarsena when he was just eleven.

During his high school days, Veer Savarkar used to organize Shivaji Utsav and Ganesh Utsav, started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak (whom Savarkar considered as his Guru) and used these occasions to put up plays on nationalistic themes. Savarkar lost his father during the plague of 1899. In March 1901, he married Yamunabai. Post marriage, in 1902, Veer Savarkar joined Fergusson College in Pune.

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. He was also involved in the Swadeshi movement and later joined Tilak's Swaraj Party. His fiery patriotic speeches and activities incensed the British Government. As a result the British Government withdrew his B.A. degree.

In June 1906, Veer Savarkar, left for London to become Barrister. However, once in London, he united and inflamed the Indian students in England against British rule in India. He founded the Free India Society. The Society celebrated important dates on the Indian calendar including festivals, freedom movement landmarks, and was dedicated to furthering discussion about Indian freedom. In 1908, brought out an authentic informative researched work on The Great Indian



Revolt, which the British termed as "Sepoy Mutiny" of 1857. The book was called "The Indian War of Independence 1857". The British government immediately enforced a ban on the publication in both Britain and India. Later, it was published by Madame Bhikaiji Cama in Holland, and was smuggled into India to reach

revolutionaries working across the country against British rule.

In 1909, Madanlal Dhingra, a keen follower of Savarkar shot Sir Wyllie after a failed assassination attempt on the then Viceroy, Lord Curzon. Savarkar conspicuously did not condemn the act. When the then British Collector of Nasik, A.M.T. Jackson was shot by a youth, Veer Savarkar finally fell under the net of the British authorities. He was implicated in the murder citing his connections with India House. Savarkar was arrested in London on March 13, 1910 and sent to India.

After a formal trial, Savarkar was charged with serious offences of illegal transportation of weapons, provocative speeches and sedition and was sentenced to 50 years' of jail and deported to the Kalapani (Blackwaters) at Andaman cellular jail.

In 1920, many prominent freedom fighters including Vithalbhai Patel, Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak demanded the release of Savarkar. On May 2, 1921, Savarkar was moved to Ratnagiri jail, and from there to the Yeravada jail. In Ratnagiri jail Savarkar wrote the book 'Hindustva'. On January 6, 1924 he was freed under the condition that he would not leave Ratnagiri district and abstain from political activity for the next five years. On his release, Veer Savarkar founded the Ratnagiri Hindu Sabha on January 23, 1924 that aimed to preserve India's ancient culture and work for social welfare.

Later Savarkar joined Tilak's Swaraj Party and founded the Hindu Mahasabha as a separate political party. He was elected President of the Mahasabha and toiled for building Hindu Nationalism. The Hindu Mahasabha opposed creation of Pakistan. Veer Savarkar died on February 26, 1966 at the age of 83. ■



# ISRO sets world record, launches 104 satellites in a single flight

**I**n its thirty ninth flight (PSLV-C37), ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle successfully launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites in the morning of February 15, 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. This is the thirty eighth consecutively successful mission of PSLV. The total weight of all the 104 satellites carried on-board PSLV-C37 was 1378 kg.

PSLV-C37 lifted off at 0928 hrs (9:28 am) IST, as planned, from the first launch Pad. After a flight of 16 minutes 48 seconds, the satellites achieved a polar Sun Synchronous Orbit of 506 km inclined at an angle of 97.46 degree to the equator (very close to the intended orbit) and in the succeeding 12 minutes, all the 104 satellites successfully separated from the PSLV fourth stage in a predetermined sequence beginning

with Cartosat-2 series satellite, followed by INS-1 and INS-2. The total number of Indian satellites launched by PSLV now stands at 46.

After separation, the two solar arrays of Cartosat-2 series satellite were deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) at Bangalore took over the control of the satellite. In the coming days, the satellite will be brought to its final

operational configuration following which it will begin to provide remote sensing services using its panchromatic (black and white) and multispectral (colour) cameras.

**IN ITS THIRTY NINTH FLIGHT ISRO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED PSLV-C37. THE TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL THE 104 SATELLITES CARRIED ON-BOARD PSLV-C37 WAS 1378 KG.**

The imagery from the Cartosat-2 series satellite will be useful for cartographic applications, urban and rural applications, coastal land use and regulation, utility management like road network monitoring, water distribution, creation of land use maps, change detection





BJP National president tweeted "Great day for India. Congratulations to @isro for creating a record by successfully launching PSLV-C37 carrying 104 satellites in one go." He tweeted further "I salute our scientists for their dedication & commitment, it is an incredible step for the country's space programme. Proud moment. Jai Hind."



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated ISRO on successful launch of PSLV-C37 and CARTOSAT satellite together with 103 nano satellites.

"Congratulations to ISRO for the successful launch of PSLV-C37 and CARTOSAT satellite together with 103 nano satellites. This remarkable feat by ISRO is yet another proud moment for our space scientific community and the nation. India salutes our scientists. Spoke to the Secretary, Department of Space and congratulated him & the entire team of scientists on today's exceptional achievement", the Prime Minister said.

to bring out geographical and manmade features and various other Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS) applications. The data sets could be used for urban planning of 500 cities under the Amrut Planning Scheme. The government initiative of 100 smart city programme in which these data sets could be used for master plan preparation and detailed geospatial data preparation for rural roads and infrastructure development.

Of the 103 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C37, two – ISRO Nano Satellite-1 (INS-1) weighing 8.4 kg and INS-2 weighing 9.7 kg – are technology demonstration satellites from India.

The remaining 101 co-passenger satellites carried were international customer satellites from USA (96), The Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1), Israel (1), Kazakhstan (1) and UAE (1).

This mission involved many technical challenges like realising the launch of a large number of satellites during a single mission within the time frame sought by

the customers from abroad. Besides, ensuring adequate separation between all the 104 satellites during their orbital injection as well as during their subsequent orbital life was yet another challenge associated with this complex mission.

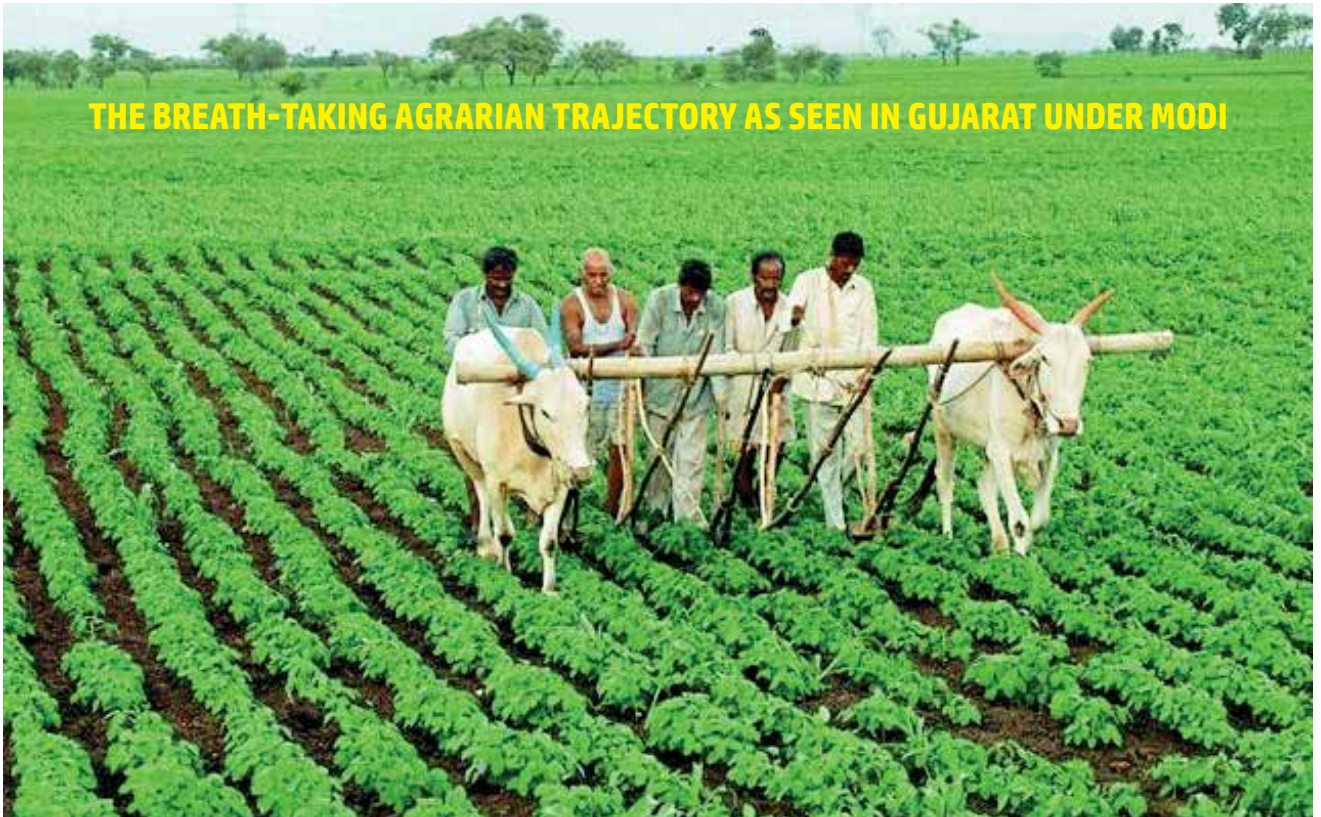
With the successful launch, the total number of customer satellites from abroad launched by India's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV has reached 180.

The Wall Street Journal wrote on successful launch of 104 satellites in single flight "India broke record for Launching Most Satellites From Single Rocket". "India's space agency launched a record 104 satellites from a single rocket as it crossed another milestone in its low-cost space-exploration program."

The Journal added "The mission reinforces India's emerging reputation as a reliable and cost-effective option for launching satellites. In 2014, ISRO put a satellite into the orbit of Mars, becoming the first Asian country to reach the red planet at fraction of the cost of a similar launch in U.S. and Europe." ■

# A double digit national farm growth to double farmer income

THE BREATH-TAKING AGRARIAN TRAJECTORY AS SEEN IN GUJARAT UNDER MODI



DR. R BALASHANKAR

“Some believe nothing can be done in Bundelkhand. But it can be made number one in UP,” said the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on Monday addressing an election rally in Oral, in Jalaun district of Bundelkhand, the most backward region in UP. This part is considered one of the most draught prone and underdeveloped regions in the entire country and that is why Shri Modi’s promise here will ring a resonance of hope when he compared it with the Kutch in Gujarat. This is no barren election rhetoric. For, as Chief Minister, before he became Prime Minister, Shri Modi has famously transformed the hopelessly parched Rann of Kutch into a land of

promise for the milling tribal population of the state.

Shri Narendra Modi has an unbeaten record of ushering in an era of double digit agricultural growth trajectory in Gujarat between 2003 and 2014, when the national average was languishing at less than two per cent. Shri Modi has also vowed to make the incomes of the Indian farmers double in the next four years. Taking cue from Shri Modi’s success story, in Gujarat, a state which was never considered an agrarian state, because of the vast Saurashtra region which used to witness massive migration, cattle and people every year because of draught, many other states like MP, Chhattisgarh and now Maharashtra have adopted the techniques which he pioneered in his state. Shri Modi’s agrarian growth strategy was built on better irrigation,



modern farming tools, easy availability of cheaper farm loans, 24-hour electricity and tech savvy marketing of farm produce. In each of these initiatives there is a large volume of innovative planning and hands on implementation. Shri Modi has been trying to replicate his experience in the entire country.

“Satellites launched by India can be used to check clandestine activities.” The Prime Minister was referring to illegal mining of mineral resources in the backward regions like Bundelkhand. Soil testing to find the health condition of agricultural land is a major step in the direction of agrarian revolution. Neem coated urea is another. Building check dams, water conservation through ponds and other water conservation methods, raising the ground water level, reducing water wastage by promoting drip irrigation, changing crop pattern studying the soil fertility, water availability and market condition are other ingredients of this approach. Then reaching technology through electrification, computerization of Panchayats, building smoother roads through Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sarak Yojna which will also help marketing and internet connectivity which has been promised to reach every village are the things that will ensure development at the grass roots level.

Never before have so many poor people become bank account holders in India. Under the Jan Dhan Yojna about 30 crore new bank account has been opened. This financial inclusion is at the centre of a dynamic agrarian economy. The government in the financial year has saved Rs 50,000 crore through direct cash transfer scheme. This with free cooking gas connection to 50 million BPL families is changing lives of millions of families. The rural job guarantee scheme has been reworked with highest ever annual allocation and ensuring the availability of farm labour. These will also limit the flight of labour to cities leaving their traditional farm labour.

How can agriculture become profitable? How can the farmer income double by the turn of this decade? Will it ensure the end of rural indebtedness and farmer suicides? Yes, all this is possible if the Prime Minister is able to replicate at the national what he achieved in Gujarat. Shri Modi has put the common man at the pivot of his economic narrative. He has placed great faith in the Indian farmer and brought agriculture to the centre stage of his growth engine. The new schemes, allocation for agrarian transformation tell this fascinating story. Rs 1.87 lakh crore is the next year allocation for agriculture and allied areas. The thrust areas in this are, MNREGA, availability of easy farm loans and better irrigation. The fund for irrigation corpus and dairy processing increased substantially. Crop insurance under Fasal Bima Yojna, along with agricultural credit yojna has

**THE NEW SCHEMES, ALLOCATION FOR AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION TELL THIS FASCINATING STORY. RS 1.87 LAKH CRORE IS THE NEXT YEAR ALLOCATION FOR AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED AREAS. THE THRUST AREAS IN THIS ARE, MNREGA, AVAILABILITY OF EASY FARM LOANS AND BETTER IRRIGATION.**

Rs 10 lakh crore which is whopping compared to past records. More credit will incentivize farm investment and propel food processing industrialization. This will ensure durability and better returns for farmers. This could also boost job

opportunity in rural India.

Rabi crop sowing has seen an eight per cent rise this season. Reports say the kharif crop this season is going to be a record 297 million tone because of better rain fall. The building of better panchayat roads, 2000 kms of coastal connectivity roads and 130,000 panchayats getting high speed broadband under BharatNet will certainly improve marketing and remunerative pricing of farm products making agriculture as a profitable career option. Agriculture production is bound to leapfrog as a consequence of all these measures and the goal of food for all and complete eradication of poverty from the face of India in the near future will become a reality once these policy driven, targeted measures are executed. ■

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# Cooperation is viewed as an organization for the promotion and benefit of mutually accepted notion: Murlidhar Rao

*The BJP is a cadre-based political party. BJP has been organizing countrywide 'Maha Prashikshan Abhiyan' to strengthen the organisation. The objective of the Prashikshan Abhiyan is to deepen the ideological understanding of Karyakartas and apprise mode of functioning of the Party. As part of the Abhiyan BJP has planned to train cooperative workers of the party. BJP National General Secretary and Member of Training Committee **Shri Murlidhar Rao** talked on the issue with Kamal Sandesh's Associate Editor **Shri Sanjeev Sinha**. Shri Rao, known for his organization skill and a trenchant ideological knowledge, says that cooperation is viewed as an organizational for the promotion and benefit of mutually accepted notion or engagement by its members voluntarily. Here, excerpt of the interview is being published for our esteemed readers.*

## **First of all enlighten about Cooperative movement?**

The cooperation is viewed as an organization for the promotion and benefit of mutually accepted notion or engagement by its members voluntarily. This can be happen where resources are adequate for both parties exist or can be created by their interaction. It also permeate the social aspect of life and aims at establishing a new democratic social order based on freedom and equality, where people live in harmony, caring and sharing like a family, where there is a unity of spirit and common economic bond. Cooperatives have a role to play in alleviating different shocks, and paving the way towards recovery that is socially and economically sound and sustainable.

## **How BJP empowering the cooperative movement?**

In the interest of national economy and people's movement in alleviating the poverty among the poor, BJP is nurturing it's cadre in facilitating the cooperatives for the creation of livelihoods for its members and protection of employment. BJP Cooperative Cell has taken its own initiatives to empower the movement by providing the services in support of credit, legal advocacy, formation of groups and notion in a new direction.

## **Is there any plan with BJP for encouraging cooperative movement leaders? If so, is there any training module there?**



The BJP Prashikshan Abhiyan covers various aspects related to political leadership and social service including the Cooperative sector. A special focus is also put for training karyakartas and leaders working related to the Cooperative sector. BJP is planning to prepare a training programme covering various aspects of Cooperative area, focussed on guidelines in running such cooperative organisations, its impact on society, best practises, skills related to the sector etc. Chairpersons of cooperative societies, experts of the field etc will be involved in developing the training framework and leaders of BJP's



cooperative departments and organisations, and leaders of various cooperative bodies working under BJP and under departments of BJP ruled states will be imparted training on improving their effectiveness in the area of their work.

### **Cooperative entities are not stronger in the states other than Maharashtra and Gujarat, so what is the planning for other states?**

The cooperative movement in our country has witnessed substantial growth in many diverse areas of the economy. With a network of about 6.10 lakh cooperative societies and a membership of about 249.20 million, the cooperative movement in India has emerged as one of the largest in the world. The agricultural credit advanced through cooperatives recorded a sizeable increase from a meagre Rs. 214.35 crore in 1960-61 to Rs. 86185 crore in 2011-12 with about 17% share in total institutional agricultural credit. The share of cooperatives in fertilizer distribution is 36% and in sugar production nearly 39.7%. The cooperatives also make procurement of wheat at 24.8%. The handlooms contribute 54% and 20.3% of the retail fair price shops are in the cooperative sector. The cooperative sector provides direct and self-employment to about 17.80 million people in the country and playing a significant role in improving the socio-economic conditions of the weaker sections of society through cooperatives in fisheries, labour, handloom sectors and women cooperatives. Dairy cooperatives through 'White Revolution' have enabled the country to achieve self-sufficiency in milk production. Housing cooperatives are contributing to the construction of housing units for economically weaker sections and low income groups at affordable rates. Through fair price shops, cooperatives are supplying essential commodities to the weaker sections of society at concessional rates. Thus the cooperatives are contributing substantially in our efforts for achieving inclusive development. However, it has got successful in two major states i.e., Maharashtra and Gujarat. Due to imbalances in credit, banking structure, livelihoods, education; the other states have backed a little but it can be strengthened by creating the awareness, literacy and demand of the cooperative movement.

**Cooperative entities have become inactive to large**

### **extent. What steps are being taken for improving this situation?**

Recognising the potential and energy of the country's youth, the cooperative movement has to be driven in a new direction by identifying the critical and nation building issues which can be adopted by the youth and marginalized sections in both socially and economically.

There is large scope for the cooperative movement in eradication of the poverty in rural areas, spreading the quality education, creation of the employment in tiny and small-scale sector by using the make-in-India scheme, Skill India, MUDRA Yojana, etc.

### **What initiatives are being taken by Central BJP Government and State Governments for the empowerment of Cooperative Movement?**

As we all know that our BJP government under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi taken many initiatives for the development of the country such as providing toilets in all schools in promotion of girls education, implementation of Jan Dhan scheme, MUDRA Bank for financing 6 crore small vendors and businesses on which 61% are SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities and opened more than 14 crore bank accounts for financial inclusion in the banking sector. To ensure the LPG subsidy for the poor people, our Prime Minister implemented the DBT to reach the subsidy to targeted person directly. To strengthen the agriculture sector of the country, launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card scheme to enhance farm productivity which the Congress did not think of in the last sixty years, to see that by 2022, providing a comprehensive social security scheme for the poor and marginalised, old and those with low-income levels, Swachh Bharat Mission to see that health and hygiene issues of the poor, to develop the services provided by the Indian Railways, set up the Skill Development Ministry to enhance employability of the youth to whom we are committed to provide jobs through initiatives like 'Make in India', reservation for women in the police forces of Union Territories, generation of more than Rs 3 lakh crore by coal auction etc. As the above initiatives taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, I believe that cooperatives will also develop to provide better services to their members. ■



# Historic Budget to satisfy everyone's need but no body's greed

I GOPAL KRISHNA AGRAWAL

**U**nderlying message from the budget is that, it has abstained from window dressing with populist announcements, in spite of elections in five states, and has hit at the core of the economy where it hurts more.

FM has wonderfully touched the problematic area of the economy and has taken corrective measures having far reaching consequences. Important area, such as rural connectivity, farmers woes, youth employment, catalyzing demands, government investments, electoral reforms, higher tax compliance, lowering of taxes for individuals, reducing corporate taxes of MSME's with turnover up to 50 crores, tackling the issues for remonetisation and moving towards low transaction cost digital economy, large scale capitalization support for unorganized sector and taking steps towards ease of doing business, creating rural infrastructure and making available low cost housing and social security for the poor and left out segments of the society etc. are some important initiatives.

You name any segment in the country or any sector of the economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modiji's this budget has something for everyone. It's like a magic box through which FM has been able to satisfy everyone's need but not anyone's greed.

Government has brought down inflation from 6% in July to 3.4% in December 2016, current account deficit from about 1% of GDP to 0.3% in first half year of 2016/17 and growth in FDI growing to 36% despite reduction of global FDI flows by 5%, are all big achievements.

Though there are challenges of meeting global recession, but Government is tackling them head on. Constitutional amendment bill for GST has been passed and landmark decision for demonetisation of high value currency to curb Black money and corruption has been successfully implemented. Insolvency and Bankruptcy



Code is in place to improve overall banks health. For catalyzing demand; Government Investments is being increased to Rs 3,96,000 crores.

Governments Agenda for Budget for 2017/18 is to 'Transform, Energise and Clean India having ten clear cut road maps for growth. Basically government has committed to double farmers income by 2022, providing basic infrastructure in rural areas, creating employment for youth through education and skilling. Strengthening of Social security, housing and health facilities for the underprivileged. Infrastructure for all. Stable and stronger Institutions in the financial sector. Moving towards digital economy for transparency and lower cost of transactions. Efficient delivery mechanism for all public services, optimal & judicious fiscal management and efficient & proper tax administration. These are the road maps through which the government wants to propel growth and catalyze economy.

Our sectoral analysis brings out clearly the above facts. For tackling Farmer's Woes; a sum of Rs. 10 lakh crore is allocated as credit to farmers. Their 60day's interest on loan has been waived; NABARD fund has been increased to Rs. 40,000 crore. A dedicated micro irrigation fund has been set up with Rs 5,000 crore initial corpus; irrigation corpus is doubled to Rs 40,000 crore. And a model law on contract farming is prepared by NITI Aayog and shared with the States for implementation.

For Rural Development and Connectivity; Rs



1,87,223 crore have been allocated. A daily target of building 131 kms of road has been set. Promise to achieve 100% rural electrification by March 2018 and the government target's to bring 1 crore households out of poverty by 2019.

For Skilling and Education of the Young India; 100 international skill centres will be established with courses in foreign languages. A National testing agency is to be established for all entrance exams and focus will be on 3,479 educationally backward blocks.

Most important initiative of Electoral Reforms; starts with limiting, the maximum amount of cash donation for a political party to Rs. 2,000 from any one source. An amendment is being proposed to the RBI Act to enable issuance of electoral bonds, with maturity date. A donor can purchase these bonds from banks or post offices through cheque or digital transactions; only registered political parties can redeem these. Now it's compulsory for all political parties to file Income Tax return by December end every year.

For increased Tax Compliance; after demonetization, all deposit data is to be analysed to increase tax net. No cash transactions above Rs 3 lakh are allowed. Time period of revising tax returns is reduced to 12 months and people filing I-T returns for the first time will not come under any government scrutiny. And a Simple one-page return for people with an annual income of Rs. 5 lakh other than business income has been prescribed.

Even there is Lowering of Tax rates for individuals; Existing rate of tax for individuals between Rs. 2.5- Rs 5 lakh is reduced to 5% from 10%, therefore all other categories of tax-payers in subsequent brackets will also get a benefit of Rs 12,500.

There has been reduction in Corporate Taxes for MSME sector. In order to make MSME companies more viable, for small companies with a turnover of up to Rs 50 crore to 25%. 67 lakh companies, about ninety percent fall in this category. Lending target for Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has almost been doubled

to Rs2,44,000 crores.

Most important area of focus for economic growth is Ease of Doing Business and government has taken lot of initiatives; threshold limit for audit of business entities who opt for presumptive income scheme is increased from ` 1 crore to ` 2 crores. Similarly, the threshold for maintenance of books for individuals and HUF increased from turnover of 10 lakhs to 25 lakhs or income from 1.2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs. Time for completion of scrutiny assessments is being compressed further from 21 months to 18 months for Assessment Year 2018-19 and further to 12 months for Assessment Year 2019-20 and thereafter.

Incentive to low cost housing will provide houses to the weaker sections of the society and will boost to real state sector; Affordable housing will be given infrastructure status. A change in capital gains tax has been brought to support real estate and rate of interest on EMI has been lowered. Condition of presumptive

rent, if housing are kept vacant and not sold, will put pressure for builders to sell flats and increase availability.

### FOR SKILLING AND EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG INDIA; 100 INTERNATIONAL SKILL CENTRES WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH COURSES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

Social Security for the poor and left out segments of the society is very crucial and government has done a lot. It has stepped up allocation to Rs1.84 trillion for various schemes for women and children. There is an action plan to eliminate leprosy by 2018, TB by 2025 and reduce IMR to 29 in 2019. Legislative reforms to simplify and amalgamate existing labour laws are in pipeline to boost labour rights. Allocations to Scheduled Casts, is increased to Rs 52,393 crore. Scheduled Tribes given Rs 31,920 crore and Minority affairs allocated Rs4,195 crore.

All these provisions and announcement clearly points out that the budget is pro poor, pro farmers and rural India and benefits particularly those segments of the society who have been left out from the participation in the growth of the economy over the last several years. ■

(The writer is National Spokesperson of BJP on Economic Affairs)

# BJP to form government in Manipur

**O**n the ongoing assembly elections in Manipur BJP claims to win 30 to 35 of the general seats and 10 to 12 of the seats reserved for the Schedule Tribes. The party claim that the people of Manipur want a change, and the BJP is their only choice. Manipur has 60 assembly seats. Besides the BJP and the Congress there are two recognized State parties viz., Naga People's Front (NPF) and the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA). At present the BJP has only one MLA in the assembly. Anti-incumbency and continuous unrest in state is working against ruling congress party. In the last election the BJP could not perform in the state. In the by-election on two seats riding high on anti-incumbency BJP snatched both seats from the ruling Congress.

Among the Assembly Constituencies (AC), by area, the smallest are 12-Keisamthong & 13-Singjamei AC, 2 sq. kms each and the largest one is 43-Phungyar (ST) AC, 23.8 sq. kms. By size of the Electorate, the smallest is 55-Tipaimukh (ST) AC with 17749 electors and the largest being 48-Mao (ST) AC with 53557 electors. Further, all the 60 ACs in respect of Manipur have less than 1 lakh voters in the electorate.

**MANIPUR HAS 60 ASSEMBLY SEATS. BESIDES THE BJP AND THE CONGRESS THERE ARE TWO RECOGNIZED STATE PARTIES VIZ., NAGA PEOPLE'S FRONT (NPF) AND THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (PDA).**



Manipur Assembly election will be held in two phases—4 and 8 March to elect 60 MLAs as the term of current House ends on 18 March 2017. In the last election held in 2012, the Congress won 42 seats and incumbent Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh was re-elected. In 2014, Manipur State Congress Party (MSCP) with its five MLAs joined ruling Congress.

Manipur has been facing economic blockade by United Naga Council (UNC). They have blocked NH 2 and NH 37 to denounce creation of 7 new districts from areas dominated by Nagas in Manipur. Regular strikes, hartals and threat of terrorists and frequent economic blockades have gripped the hilly state from 1980. Union home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh speaking in a public programme alleged the state's Congress government for hatching conspiracy to divert attention from its failures. "I think there is a political conspiracy to divert the attention from the failures of the Congress government here. I want to know why despite Centre extending all help, the economic blockade is still there," the minister said.

"I had told the state to sit for tripartite talks with the UNC and Centre to solve the problem. We have given the state enough central forces, but the state is not





## About Manipur Assembly

The first Manipur State Assembly was elected on adult franchise in July 1948 – the first of its kind in India. “The representative returnable from General, Hill and Mohammedan constituencies were in the ratios of 30:18:3 respectively with an additional two seats for the representatives of Educational and Commercial interests”. The whole valley of Manipur was divided into 29 constituencies. Three of them were plural constituencies. That is each voter had two votes, one for the Mohammedans and the other for the non-Mohammedans. “The special constituencies from which one Muslim and one Hindu were returned were Lilong, Mayang Imphal and Yairipok”. The Jiribam (Rajbari) (Hill area) was allotted a general seat. The whole hill area of Manipur was divided into 18 single member constituencies. The hill man residing in the valley demanded that one seat should be allotted to them in one of the valley constituencies. Accordingly, “Moirang constituency was made a special constituency from which one Hill representative and one valley representative were elected”. Therefore, the Manipur Legislative Assembly consisted of 53 seats. The State Assembly was, however, dissolved after Manipur was merged with the Dominion Government of India on 15th of October 1949. Manipur became a Part C State and the State continued to be administered by the President through a Chief Commissioner or a Lieutenant Governor who acted as his agent. There was an Advisory Council appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Commissioner. The Council met once in three months presided over by the Chief Commissioner. The Council was an advisory body and as such its advice was not necessarily binding on the Chief Commissioner. On November 1, 1956 Manipur ceased to be a Part C State. Manipur became a Union Territory under the Union Territorial Council Act, 1956. The Territorial Council consisting of 30 elected Members and 2 nominated Members was constituted on 16.8.1957. The Territorial Council was later converted into the Territorial Legislative Assembly in June 1963. The Territorial Legislative Assembly consisting of 30 elected Members and 2 nominated Members started to function from 23.7.1963. With the enactment of the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971 by the Indian Parliament Manipur was conferred full statehood on 21st January 1972 with a 60 Member Legislative Assembly

### AGE AND SEX-WISE COMPOSITION OF ELECTORATE

	Male	Female	Others	Total
18-25 years	155247	158756	0	314003
25-40	354548	378232	0	732780
40-60	295630	303333	0	598963
>60	119984	128013	0	247997

### AT PRESENT

INC (50)	AITC (0)	BJP (1)	NPF (4)
NCP (0)	LJP (0)	Vacant (5)	<b>TOTAL SEATS: 60</b>

using those forces,” Singh said after the release of the party’s Vision Document for the Assembly elections next month.

“The law and order is a state subject.... When the economic blockade began, I myself had called up him (Manipur CM Okram Ibobi Singh) several times and told him we will extend all help to lift the blockade,”

Shri Singh said.

“I want to reassure all of you here that the central government and BJP will never compromise with the territorial integrity with Manipur. In the framework agreement, even the name of Manipur is not there. So why are they spreading lies? They should pursue healthy politics,” Singh said.

“If BJP come to power, we will ensure employment generation. BJP and good governance are synonymous,” he said, adding that intellectuals of the state would also have a say in providing good governance. ■

# Amethi wants to know what Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Rahul Baba did in past 60 years: Amit Shah



**W**hen the time comes in 2019, PM Shri Narendra Modi ji would give account of every penny. But for now, let the people know what you have done for past 60 years,” Shri Amit Shah asked the Gandhi family. Roaring from the home turf of Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi, Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah launched a scathing attack against the Nehru-Gandhi clan. He said that the ‘first family of Indian politics’ is responsible for keeping Amethi backward since independence.

“Rahul baba asks Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to give an account of what he has done in past 3 years. I want to tell Rahul baba that entire Amethi wants to know what Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Rahul baba did in past 60 years. Will you give the account for past 60 years?” Shri Shah asked.

He further added, “Rahul baba should understand the difference between assembly and general elections. When the time comes in 2019, Modi ji would give account of every penny. But for now, let the people know what you have done for past 60 years. Tell people what Akhilesh ji has done in his government. Except for further deteriorating the law and order, there is no major

achievement.”

Shri Amit Shah urged the populace of Uttar Pradesh to make a sound political decision, claiming that the BJP, if elected to power, will change the fortunes of the state. “There is no employment, no development, lack of housing, transport and absence of law and order machinery. I appeal the people of Uttar Pradesh. Give us a chance. Let a government be elected which would work in coordination with Narendra Modi ji. Whatever scheme we will allot in UP, the BJP state government will ensure its implementation”, he said.

Terming the SP-Congress tie-up as alliance of two princes, he said, “Two shehzadas have united in UP. Political opportunism forced them to unite. They want to survive amid the wave of BJP. But they would be unsuccessful. People of UP should answer them back. No one can prevent BJP from forming a full majority government in Uttar Pradesh.”

The BJP President further added that the upcoming assembly election is the only opportunity to break away from nepotism and casteism in UP politics. People of UP should reject them and vote in favour of development, as envisaged by Shri Narendra Modi, he added. ■

## Uttar Pradesh fed up with Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav

**B**JP President Shri Amit Shah on 15, February in Sambhal continued his attack against Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, saying Uttar Pradesh was fed up with both of them.

Accusing rivals SP and BSP of gundagardi (hooliganism) in the state, BJP president told that the day BJP party comes to power “koi gunda Uttar Pradesh ke andar nahin bachega... sabko ulta latka kar seedha karne ka kaam yeh BJP karne wali hai (no hooligan will be left in Uttar Pradesh... the BJP will hang them upside down to set them right)”. ■



SORAON (UP)

## BJP wants rivers of ghee and milk to flow in Uttar Pradesh



**A**ddressing an election rally Shri Amit Shah slammed the ruling SP for its discrimination on the basis of caste and religion even in the distribution of laptops: “Woh aap ka dharm poochenge, aap ka dharm unko pasand nahi aayega to laptop nahi denge... woh aapki jaati poochenge, aap ki jaati pasand nahi aayi to laptop nahi denge.”

If you go to SP, Azam Khan and Atiq Ahmed are already there. If you go to BSP, Naseemuddin (Siddiqui) is already there and now Mukhtar Ansari and Afzal Ansari too have joined. Where are the people of UP supposed to go? On the one side, there is an abyss, on the other

a well. But there is no place for hooligans in BJP, Shri Shah said.

Shri Shah said, “Yeh Afzal hon, Mukhtar hon, yeh Atiq hon... BJP aayegi... mein batata hun... koi gunda Uttar Pradesh ke andar nahin bachega... sabko ulta latka kar seedha karne ka kaam yeh BJP karne wali hai”.

On the issue of slaughter houses, he said the day a BJP chief minister takes oath, an ordinance will be brought before midnight to shut down slaughter houses across UP. He said the BJP “does not want the blood of cows, buffaloes, oxen to flow in Uttar Pradesh... we want rivers of ghee and milk to flow”. ■



## In this election, people of UP should get rid of KASAB; Ka se Congress, Sa se Samajwadi Party aur B se BSP: Amit Shah



**B**haratiya Janta Party National President Shri Amit Shah held four public meetings in Sultanpur, Azamgarh and Gorakhpur districts in Uttar Pradesh, goes for poll in the sixth phase on 04 March. Raising the pitch during assembly elections rally in Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur district on 22 February, 2017 BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said development will elude the state until you get rid of this KASAB.

Shri Shah said, in this election, people of UP should get rid of KASAB. I say it again, people of UP should get rid of KASAB. Do not draw any other conclusion when I say KASAB. What I mean by KASAB is: Ka for Congress, Sa for Samajwadi Party and B for...BSP.

(Ye Uttar Pradesh ki janata is baar ke chunav mein is KASAB se mukti paa le. Main phir se bolta hun, Uttar Pradesh ki janata is baar ke chunav mein is KASAB se mukti paa le. KASAB se mera matlab

kuchch aur mat nikaliyega. KASAB se mera matlab hai: Ka se Congress, Sa se Samajwadi Party aur B se... BSP)

Until and unless KASAB is laid to rest, development and prosperity will continue to elude this state. In other words, it means that the state may have to languish further, if there is no respite from these political parties, he said.

Targeting the ruling SP, Shri Shah said the Akhilesh Yadav government had made UP the “No.1” state in cases of murder, rape, dacoity, kidnapping and extortion. He said every day in the state, 23 women are either raped or subjected to atrocities.

He told the huge gathering that the SP was aware it was going to lose the elections and had, therefore, struck an alliance with the Congress. “They have accepted defeat,” he said.

He took a swipe at Akhilesh Yadav and Rahul Gandhi, calling them SHEHZADE who appear on TV every day, both with similar clothes and smiles.

Do you know about the two SHEHZADE? I will tell you... Ek se apni ma pareshan hai aur doosre se apna baap pareshan hai. Aur dono se Uttar Pradesh pareshan hai (one has troubled his mother, the other his father, and both have troubled Uttar Pradesh), he said.

**I SAY IT AGAIN, PEOPLE OF UP SHOULD GET RID OF KASAB. DO NOT DRAW ANY OTHER CONCLUSION WHEN I SAY KASAB. WHAT I MEAN BY KASAB IS: KA FOR CONGRESS, SA FOR SAMAJWADI PARTY AND B FOR...BSP.**

Shri Shah said only a BJP government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi can develop the state. He said Shri Modi is also a Poorvanchali and Chauri Chaura is in Poorvanchal, the eastern region of UP.

Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency of the Prime Minister, is also in Poorvanchal. Therefore, development is only possible under his leadership. ■

## SP, Congress locked in 'unholy alliance'

**B**haratiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah said that the Samjawadi Party and Congress have entered in an “unholy alliance to hide their failures”.

Addressing media persons in Lucknow, Shri Shah also said that the BJP would get around 90 seats in the first and second phase of assembly elections in the state.

The last minute alliance formed between Samajwadi Party and Congress is ideologically an unholy alliance. Before forming this alliance, Akhilesh Yadav should have asked Congress as to what they think about socialist ideologue Ram Manohar Lohia. This would have given SP workers some enlightenment, he said.

Both the parties are neck-deep in corruption and to hide their failures, they have formed this unholy alliance, he added.

The BJP President also raked up the issue of forced migration of Hindu community from western Uttar Pradesh, and said that if the BJP comes to power in the state it would form anti-migration squads with District



Magistrate and district police chief being accountable for migration.

He also reiterated the BJP's promises of loan waiver to small farmers, the time limit of 14 days for the payment of dues to sugarcane farmers by sugar mills and ban on mechanised slaughterhouses. ■

## Kiren Rijiju lays foundation stone of NIDM

**T**he Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju laid the foundation stone of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) on February 7, 2017 in Delhi. Shri Kiren Rijiju said that India is a huge country and the world expects India to play a leadership role in handling disasters. The Minister said that NIDM got its recognition in the year 2003, followed by the statutory status in the year 2005 and now the role of NIDM has become even more crucial in the wake of India's vulnerability to natural disasters. He said that NIDM has come a long way due to its hard work and also expressed the hope that NIDM will reach newer heights in the future. The laying of foundation stone of NIDM is just a beginning, he added. Shri Rijiju said that NIDM is an institute of national importance. He assured that the Ministry of



Home Affairs will provide all the support to NIDM for taking the capacity building forward. ■

# Foreign Tourist arrivals to India and Foreign Tourist availing E-Visa facility during January 2017

**M**inistry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e-Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI). Accordingly, for the month of January 2017, a growth of 16.5% is observed as compared to January 2016, surpassing the previous year's corresponding growth of 6.8% observed in January 2016 over January 2015. Correspondingly, there has been observed a growth of 72% in the tourists arrived on e-Visa during January 2017 over January 2016 by registering a figure of 1.52 Lakhs as compared to 0.88 Lakhs in the month of January 2016. Clearly, the share of tourists availing e-Visa facility in January 2017 has reached a level of 15.5% as against 10.4% in the month of January 2016. This clearly outlines the steady success of e-Visa facility in quantifiable terms.

The following are the important highlights regarding FTAs & FTAs on e-Visa from tourism during the month of January, 2017.

## FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS (FTAS):

- The number of FTAs in January, 2017 were 9.83 lakh as compared to FTAs of 8.44 lakh in January, 2016 and 7.91 lakh in January, 2015.
- The growth rate in FTAs in January, 2017 over January, 2016 is 16.5% compared to 6.8% in January, 2016 over January, 2015.
- The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January 2017 among the top 15 source countries was the highest from USA (15.01%) followed by Bangladesh (14.91%), UK (11.11%), Canada (4.63%), Russian Fed. (4.46%), Australia (3.65%), Malaysia (3.15%), Germany (2.92%), France (2.89%) and China (2.54%), Sri Lanka (2.45%), Japan (2.15%), Afghanistan (1.84%), Rep. of Korea (1.61%) and Nepal (1.60%).
- The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during January 2017 among the top



15 ports was the highest at Delhi Airport (28.30%) followed by Mumbai Airport (18.23%), Haridaspur Land checkpoint (8.17%), Chennai Airport (7.32%), Goa Airport (6.51%), Bengaluru Airport (5.32%), Kolkata Airport (4.32%), Cochin Airport (3.73%), Ahmedabad Airport (3.37%) and Hyderabad Airport (2.74%), Gede Rail Land checkpoint (1.77%), Trivandrum (1.62%), Trichy Airport (1.38%), Ghojadanga land checkpoint (1.08%) and Amritsar Airport (1.02%).

## FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS (FTAS) ON E-VISA

- During the month of January, 2017 total of 1.52 lakh tourist arrived on e-Visa as compared to 0.88 lakh during the month of January 2016 registering a growth of 72.0%
- The percentage shares of top 15 source countries availing e-Visa facilities during January, 2017 were as follows:
  - UK (22.9%), USA (13.6%), Russian Fed (8.3%), China (6.3%), France (5.6%), Australia (4.4%), Germany (4.1%), Canada (3.6%), Korea (Rep.of) (3.2%) and Ukraine (2.2%), Netherlands (1.6%), South Africa (1.4%), Singapore (1.3%), Malaysia (1.3%) and Sweden (1.1%). ■



# Cabinet approves acquisition of subsidiary banks of State Bank of India

**A**s a part of streamlining the banking sector the Union Cabinet on February 15, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the acquisition by the State Bank of India of its subsidiary banks namely State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.

The Cabinet also approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.

The merger is likely to result in recurring savings, estimated at more than Rs. 1,000 crore in the first year, through a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and reduced cost of funds. Existing customers of subsidiary banks will benefit from access to SBI's global network. The merger will also lead to better management of high value credit exposures through focused monitoring and control over cash flows instead of separate monitoring by six different banks.



The acquisition under Section 35 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 will result in the creation of a stronger merged entity. This will minimize vulnerability to any geographic concentration risks faced by subsidiary banks. It will create improved operational efficiency and economies of scale. It will also result in improved risk management and unified treasury operations.

The acquisition of subsidiary banks of State Bank of India is an important step towards strengthening the banking sector through consolidation of public sector banks. It is in pursuance of the Indradhanush action plan of the Government and it is expected to strengthen the banking sector and improve its efficiency and profitability. ■

## First All Women 'INSV Tarini' inducted into Indian Navy

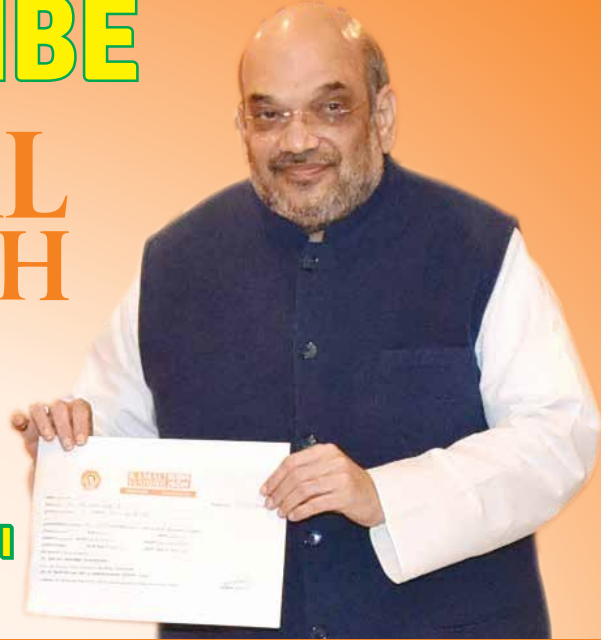
**T**he Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat Tarini was inducted, in presence of host of dignitaries at a glittering ceremony at INS Mandovi Boat Pool. Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of Naval Staff along with other senior Naval Officers were also present on this historic occasion to wish the boat and her crew in their endeavors.

The first all-women crew on board INSV Tarini will set sail in August this year to circumnavigate the globe. But for the people of Ganjam district, in Odisha the naming of the sailboat is an honour for the Tara-Tarini shrine and Odia maritime history. In Sanskrit, the word Tarini means both boat and saviour. Tara-Tarini was the traditional patron deity for sailors and merchants of ancient Kalinga, who worshipped it for safety and success at sea. Therefore, the boat draws her origin from the famous Tara-Tarini temple of Odisha. Even Tara-Tarini of Odisha is known to have historical linkages with the river Goddess Mhadei — the exclusive boat deity of Goa's Mhadei river. Both the deities have sculptural similarities and similarities in their puja system.

In order to promote ocean sailing activities and to encourage women empowerment, the Indian Navy conceptualized the idea of the First Indian All Women Circumnavigation of the Globe. A team of six women Officers led by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi was selected for this project.

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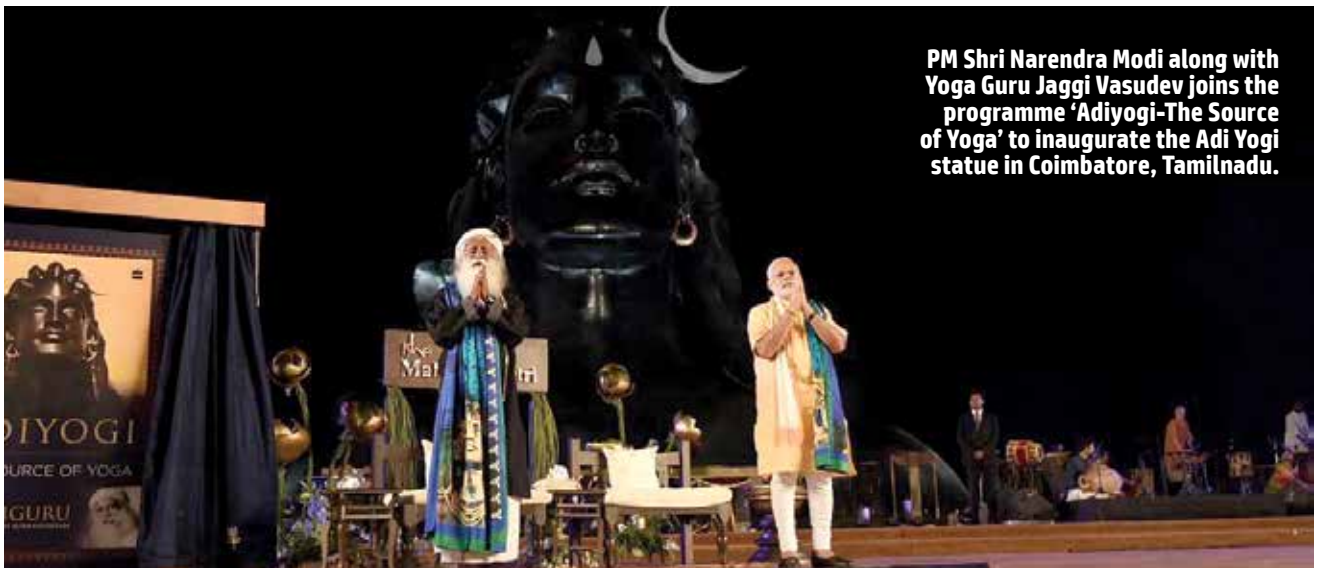
# PM Shri Narendra Modi addressing Election Rallies in Uttar Pradesh



Kannauj



Lakhimpur



PM Shri Narendra Modi along with Yoga Guru Jaggi Vasudev joins the programme 'Adiyogi-The Source of Yoga' to inaugurate the Adi Yogi statue in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.



**Prime Minister**  
**SHRI NARENDRA MODI**  
**becomes**  
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### APPEAL

You will be glad to know that BJP National President Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the membership campaign of Kamal Sandesh on 6th December 2016 at BJP National Headquarters, New Delhi. Kamal Sandesh is published as a fortnightly magazine in Hindi and English languages.

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